**FIPP’s considerations on**

**SDP project 2.8**

**Consolidating and Aligning guidance on IT-audit with ISSAI 100**

In order to improve the credibility of INTOSAI’s professional pronouncements, there is a revised ISSAI Framework called as the INTOSAI Framework of Professional Pronouncements (IFPP). The new framework introduces a clear distinction between standards (ISSAIs) and guidance (GUIDs). The IFFP was decided on at INCOSAI in 2016 and needs to be fully implemented in all existing texts before INCOSAI in 2019.

The purpose of the GUIDs is to provide guidance that supports the auditors in:

* How to apply the ISSAIs in practice in the financial, performance and compliance audit processes
* How to apply the ISSAIs in practice in other engagements
* Understanding a specific subject matter and the application of the relevant ISSAIs.

This purpose is reflected in a set of drafting conventions for the GUIDs, which have been made available by FIPP.

As a general rule the texts of the old ISSAIs 5000-5999 (named *guidelines on specific subjects*) as well as the INTOSAI GOVs will in future belong to the "Subject Matter Specific Guidance" GUIDs 5000-5999. This include the texts of the previous ISSAIs on IT Audit (ISSAI 5300 and 5310).

The old ISSAIs and INTOSA GOVs have been produced by a large number of different working groups over a long period of time. Many working groups have developed texts that stretches beyond the core subject. There are therefore numerous overlaps, inconsistencies and redundancies in the texts. There is also a general need to reduce the overall volume of text and reduce the technical level of detail. The strategic development plan for the IFPP therefore reflect the general need to consolidate the texts before the old ISSAIs enters into the IFFP new category of GUIDs. It is especially important that the new definitions of ISSAIs and GUIDs that serve to draw the distinction between auditing standards and guidance are implemented consistently before INCOSAI 2019.

FIPP wishes to ensure that any existing material on IT-audit is drawn upon and used as good as possible in the new set of GUIDs in IT-audit. The ISSAI 5300 Guidelines on IT Audit as endorsed in 2016 provides important guidance to IT-auditors, which will contribute to the value and usefulness of INTOSAI’s professional pronouncements. We wish to ensure that the key messages of this and other documents on IT Audit are carried over into the new set of GUIDs. We have therefore foreseen that the first completed version of the IFPP, which will be launched at INCOSAI in 2019 may include a GUID on IT Audit.

FIPP has made the following observations on the text of ISSAI 5300:

1. The document has been developed for the purpose of providing the basis for any future supplementary guidance on IT-audit. (cf. item ## of ISSAI 5300). It is therefore the first text that will need to be addressed, before the revision or development of any other guidance on IT-audit can be initiated.
2. The text of ISSAI 5300 is of high quality and provide a better basis for the new GUID on IT audit than any other existing texts.
3. The ISSAI 5300 can however not be preserved in the IFPP beyond 2019 unless it is revised in line with the purpose and format for GUIDs and the new distinction between standards and guidance.

FIPP has further observed that a number of other documents contain material that could also be relevant for a new consolidated guidance on IT-audit. In addition to ISSAI 5310 this includes guidance on IT audit elaborated by the working group on public debt (ISSAI 5450) and could also include material from other sources within or outside the INTOSAI community.

FIPP will therefore encourage the project group considers whether key messages from other texts than ISSAI 5300 can also be consolidated into the new GUID on IT Audit.

It is one of the requirements to the new GUIDs that clearly identifies what type of audit and/or what stage of the audit process the GUID concern. The relevant concepts that can be drawn upon by the GUIDs in this regard are outlined by ISSAI 100. It is therefore also reflected in the SDP that the GUID on IT audit should be aimed at supporting IT audit work that is performed as part of the financial and/or compliance or performance audit process. The SDP therefore also reflects that it would be desirable to involve financial, compliance and/or performance auditing expertise in the project and ensure alignment with the ISSAIs.

In line with the due process (see stage 1), the next step for the WG on IT Audit is now to assemble a project group that can conduct an initial assessment that will be needed in order further define and refine the directions of the project on the GUID on IT Audit. This should include a thorough review of all relevant existing text. We would like to encourage that the project group also develops an outline of the new GUID through that process. When the initial assessment has been completed FIPP will be ready to consider a project proposal for the new GUID on IT Audit.