

PRESS RELEASE

COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

**New Delhi
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UN PANEL OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS CONTRIBUTING TO TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY: CAG

The UN Panel of External Auditors is uniquely placed to contribute to the strengthening of standards of transparency and accountability in contemporary and emerging priority areas. This was stated by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Shri Girish Chandra Murmu as Chairman of the Panel while giving his opening remarks at the Sixty- first Regular Session in New York late last night. The Sixty-first regular session of the Panel is being held on 6th and 7th December 2021 as a hybrid session, hosted by the United Nations Head Quarters, New York. The meeting is being attended by representatives from Canada, Chile, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Ghana, Philippines, Russia, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Tanzania as an observer.

CAG of India emphasized that the Panel is a distinctive forum for exchanging new ideas and sharing of new methodologies in order to address the challenges ahead. Shri Murmu further mentioned that due to the Covid pandemic, like all organizations, even the UN has faced numerous difficulties and disruption of regular activities. In this context, Shri Murmu looked forward to the sessions on the impact of Covid, especially the discussions on how COVID has affected the operations of various UN entities and auditing activities. He noted that the

pandemic necessitated adoption of new auditing methods and cutting-edge technology and also augmented our capacity and expertise in the long run.

Shri Murmu concluded his opening address with the hope that the Panel delegates will deliberate upon ways to enhance organizational performance in the areas of emergency procurements, supply chain, investments, digital transformation, ESG framework, update of accounting standards, operational changes like outsourcing of services, and common back offices as a part of reforms in the UN system. He looked forward to the interactions generating meaningful solutions their effective conduct of audits in these important areas.

The Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations, the Specialized Agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency was established by the General Assembly Resolution 1438 (XIV) of 5 December 1959. It is made up of (a) the members of the United Nations Board of Auditors; and (b) the external auditors of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations and of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Comptroller & Auditor General of India is the Chair of UN Panel of External Auditors since 2020.

BSC/SS/TT