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**Meeting**            **57<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

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**Agenda Item-4**            **Speech as the host SAI of the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly in 2024**

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**Presented by**        **Mr Girish Chandra Murmu, Comptroller and Auditor General of India**

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**Time for presentation**        **5 minutes (3.50 PM to 3.55 PM IST)**

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**Word Count**        **570**

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**Mr Chairman, Mr Secretary-General, esteemed members of the Board, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

**Good afternoon and Greetings from New Delhi.**

1. At the outset, I congratulate His Excellency General Chanathap Indamra, President of the State Audit Commission of the Kingdom of Thailand, for steering the exemplary hosting of the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly of ASOSAI through his commendable leadership.
2. Also, I would like to congratulate and welcome the SAIs of Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Turkey who have been elected to the new Governing Board and SAIs of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan who have been elected to the Audit Committee of the

ASOSAI for 2021-2024 respectively.

3. It is a matter of great honour that ASOSAI has reposed its faith in SAI India by bestowing the privilege to our SAI for hosting the 16<sup>th</sup> ASOSAI Assembly in 2024 and Chairmanship for the period 2024-27.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

4. As we move together into the “Decade of Action”, countries are accelerating the design and implementation of innovative solutions for achieving SDGs. The health crisis, triggered by the pandemic, has now transcended itself into a socio-economic crisis, unsettling the progress made on the achievement of the sustainable development goals. With less than 10 years to go, to deliver the ambitious 2030 promise, this decade requires action to be taken by each one of us, at all levels- individual, local, regional and global, to address the challenges raised by poverty, climate change, gender inequality and SDG financing gap.
5. You will appreciate that economic slowdown triggered by pandemic have forced the governments to do more with limited resources through innovations in its processes to achieve desired outcomes. Supreme Audit Institutions can become valued partners in objectively

evaluating resources and economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of public expenditure thereby, providing insight for optimization of public finance management.

6. The Human Development Report of 1990 put people in the forefront of development debate by rightly pointing out “People are the real wealth of nations”. The Human Development Index provides an alternative single number by capturing progress in the dimensions of education, health and standard of living. This index may be useful for SAIs to assess the progress in implementing SDGs till such time data relating to targets and indicators gets stabilised.
7. Further, building on the Bangkok declaration, and acknowledging that protection of environment requires collaboration across boundaries, we look forward to work together on developing a strategy to equip member SAIs in the focus areas of SDGs, environment, emerging technologies and natural resource accounting to support and supplement national strategies and plans for sustainable development. We will strive to make ASOSAI a model organization and encourage its members to act in a spirit of global partnership.

8. We will remain in close contact with the ASOSAI Secretariat and esteemed ASOSAI Governing Board members to seek their valuable advice, opinions and ideas to bring about transformation in the audit practices of our region. We will also seek to expand collaboration with other regional group of SAIs to not only exchange the best practices but also to jointly develop capacity-building programs to develop robust audit practices.
  
9. With these words, I would like to conclude and once again thank all the member SAIs for reposing their faith in us. I look forward to welcome you in 2024 and assure all of you that your visit to India in 2024 will be a memorable experience.

Thank you