

Meeting	The 15th ASOSAI Assembly on 7th September 2021
Agenda Item-23	Speech of the host SAI of the 16th Assembly in 2024
Presented by	Mr Girish Chandra Murmu, Comptroller and Auditor General of India
Time for presentation	5 minutes (1.55 PM to 2 PM IST)
Word Count	1067 words

Mr Chairman, Mr Secretary General, distinguished members, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good Afternoon

1. I am thankful to all the members for entrusting SAI India with the honour of becoming the host of the next Assembly and Chairman for the period 2024-27.
2. Dear Colleagues, as you will remember, the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the member countries of the United Nations, in the year 2000, was a global agreement aimed at meeting eight measurable goals. These goals ranged from halving extreme poverty and hunger, to promoting gender equality, and reducing child mortality, by the target date of 2015.
3. Though the Millennium Development Goals were pragmatic and substantial progress were made on many of the indicators, the significant one being halving the extreme poverty by 2015. However, for remaining goals much was left wanted.
4. Gaining on the momentum generated from the MDGs and taking into cognizance the need for people-centric development, the global

consultations amongst civil society, governmental and non-governmental organizations, academia, and various stakeholders resulted in the 2030 Agenda. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its 169 targets, adopted in the 2015, provide a framework for addressing global development challenges and their interconnections in a coherent and holistic manner. 21 of these targets should have been met by the year 2020 and the rest of them scheduled to be met by the years 2025 and 2030.

5. Being home to almost 60 percent of the world's population, the global achievement of these ambitious SDGs will depend on the success of the Asian region. The recent "Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report" by the UN Economic & Social Commission for the Asia and the Pacific, highlights the risk and possible impact the pandemic has made in the region on health, social protection, negative economic growth, increasing unemployment and multidimensional poverty. The report raises the concern that our region is regressing on achieving the SDGs on critical environmental goals.
6. Dear Colleagues, as SAIs of the Asian region, through the financial, compliance and performance audits, we can become a valued partner in this journey towards the achievement of SDGs. In coming times, we need to focus on identifying what has been the achievement against targets that should have met by 2020, and gaps as well as provide timely audit advice and actionable recommendations to ensure the effective and efficient progress towards the SDG targets scheduled for the years 2025 and 2030. .
7. Dear Colleagues, during SAI India's three year term as Chair of the ASOSAI, we will focus on the areas of environment audit and leveraging of emerging technologies. First, we would work towards developing a comprehensive framework with environment audit specific definitions

and parameters for natural resource accounting dovetailing with overall framework of sustainable development. This conceptual framework is fundamental for checking whether the expenditure is creating a negative environmental return. It will facilitate inclusion of the concept of environmental return per unit of money spent in the project assessment framework. We believe this would also complement the efforts taken by the ASOSAI Working Group on Environment on topics of climate change and carbon emissions.

8. Considering the need of added urgency to ensure progress towards the 2030 agenda, SAI India regularly conducts audit on the vast and ever-evolving domain of environment audit across the federal and provincial levels of government. In the recent past, SAI India published compliance and performance audit reports covering a variety of issues related to land, water, air, waste, biodiversity, forest, wildlife, environment clearance, river rejuvenation, coastal regulation, green initiatives, environmental and sustainability issues in the management of resources etc.
9. Realizing that achievement of SDGs require cross-cutting efforts, we leverage current and advanced technologies including Data analytics, remote sensing, and GPS to make audit conclusions more realistic, precise and persuasive.
10. Dear Colleagues, as India is a signatory to the Environmental Accounting efforts of the UN, we actively promote Natural Resource Accounting as an important environmental assessment tool to estimate the value of natural resource depletion and environmental degradation due to economic activities. We have released a concept paper on Natural Resource Accounting in 2020 involving physical accounting, monetary valuation, and economic accounting. The paper envisages short, medium

and long-term goals converging with the SDGs set by the UN General Assembly.

11. Secondly, we will create within ASOSAI process and structures to address the challenges faced by SAIs in our region in dealing with Big Data with an aim to leverage on artificial intelligence, machine learning and collaborative remote access data audits. In fact these emerging technologies, will also help in augment existing audit competence as well as accelerate capacity building for performance audit, apart from regular financial certification audit. We also need to recognize that the use of IT and other advanced emerging technologies are the foundation pillars of achieving the SDGs; it becomes imperative for SAIs to integrate these tools in their auditing practices.
12. Considering the rapidly evolving technology led environment, SAI India has established state of the art training facilities, IT infrastructure and tools to make our auditors future ready. Our vast network of training facilities includes the International Centre for Information Systems & Audit (iCISA), Centre for Data Management & Analytics (CDMA), the International Centre for Environmental Audit & Sustainable Development (iCED), the National Academy of Audit & Accounts, and the 12 Regional Training Centres. Till now, we have trained 6183 auditors across the world and have been handholding many SAIs within and outside ASOSAI in emerging areas of audit.
13. We will be happy to share our learning experience, experts and facilities for capacity building among the member SAIs of ASOSAI with a special focus areas of environment, emerging technologies and natural resource accounting.
14. In this context, the exemplary initiative of SAI Russia in setting up a

Digital University (U-INTOSAI) to enrich our fraternity is noteworthy. I am sure that ASOSAI community will benefit immensely from these initiatives.

15. We look forward to the continued support and cooperation of all the members of ASOSAI for bringing the best out of us and taking the ASOSAI to greater heights.
16. Being one of the oldest civilization, with an immensely rich heritage and myriad attractions, the India is among the most popular tourist destinations in the world. I assure that your visit to India in 2024 will be a memorable experience. India is a mosaic of multicultural experiences.
17. Thank you.