
**Opening Remarks by Mr Girish Chandra Murmu, Comptroller & Auditor
General of India and the Chair of WGITA**

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

**Good Morning, Good Afternoon and Good Evening as all of us are in
different time zones**

It is a pleasure to welcome you all, and it would have been even better to meet in person. However, to ensure safety as well as wider participation of members, we were constrained to go virtual with this WGITA annual assembly of 2021.

I am delighted to inform you that the membership of our group has grown to 60, including six observers. I welcome the Commission on Audit of the Republic of the Philippines, National Audit Chamber of Sudan, Accountability State Authority of Egypt, National Audit Office of Estonia and Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic of Chile, who have joined as the new members of this Working Group. I also welcome the State Audit Office of Vietnam, EUROSAI IT Working Group and SAI Ireland who have joined as the new observers of this Working Group.

Dear Colleagues,

Today, the pandemic has necessitated Governments & Organizations involved in the delivery of public services to embrace IT-enabled Technology Platforms, to ensure their continuity of operations. We have seen a massive transformation within a short span of time in terms of provision or adoption

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of services such as e-learning, online stores, digital entertainment solutions, telemedicine, telecommuting, e-courtrooms etc. Amid this COVID-19 pandemic, the efficiency and effectiveness of almost every government's triple T strategy, of Track, Test, & Treat, is largely dependent on underlying IT-enabled technology and systems.

In short, secure and reliable IT systems are not any more the domain of large organizations but have become a prerequisite for every government & organization, irrespective of their size or scale, for ensuring their continuity of operations. In coming times, their success will be measured by their agility in the swift deployment of efficient and effective backend IT systems and solutions.

This has also entailed massive and rapid investments by governments and organizations to procure and implement IT hardware and systems. These developments will naturally result in enhanced responsibilities for SAIs in identifying emerging IT risks and making constructive recommendations to their respective governments as well as ensuring public trust in governmental IT spending.

Taking cognizance of these challenges and opportunities, SAI India has already embarked on its enterprise-wide audit process automation and knowledge management system and is increasingly embedding data analysis using advanced tools and techniques into its audit domain. As an organisation we need to converge all previous accomplishments in data analytics, IT-related initiatives, Information System audits, related skills and competency building

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to bring in synergy and efficiency in our efforts in leveraging IT and towards achieving digital transformation in SAI India.

Our Centre for Data Management and Analytics plays an advisory and facilitating role to our field audit offices in the use of Data Analytics and audit of IT systems and fostering a data-driven culture in our institution, while the International Centre for Information Systems and Audit promotes capacity building on technology related areas within our SAI as well as internationally.

Ladies and gentlemen, in this context, INTOSAI WGITA will have a crucial role to play in equipping the IT auditors of SAIs, to live up to these expectations. I am happy to note that the Working Group has been instrumental in placing high-level guidance documents covering areas such as Information Systems Audit, IT Governance, Data Mining, Cloud computing, Data Analytics and capacity building for IT Audits, within and outside of the INTOSAI Framework of Professional Pronouncements (IFPP).

To continue our excellent work under the WGITA Work Plan for the period 2020-2022, the Working Group has taken up seven projects in the area of knowledge development, knowledge sharing and capacity building in IT audit. Being the second year of the WGITA Work Plan 2020-22, in this meeting, we will review and discuss the progress of these seven projects individually.

Showing agility during the COVID-19 pandemic, this working group regularly conducted webinars ensuring the continuous sharing of knowledge and experience. The United States Government Accountability Office led webinars on its IT and cybersecurity audit work relating to the 2020 US Census

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and auditing legacy IT systems, Hungary led a webinar on “Strengthening Digital Awareness –IT Audit-Learning Audit Guidance” and India led a webinar on its Enterprise-wide Audit Process and Knowledge Management IT System, titled as One IAAD One System (OIOS), all of which stand as testimony to WGITA’s resilience.

Distinguished delegates, I thank each one of you in designing a very productive agenda which covers the Reporting Dashboard of the Working Group, the activities of the closely linked INTOSAI Working Group on Big Data (WGBD) and the newly formed INTOSAI Working Group on Impact of Science and Technology in Auditing (WGISTA). The observers and our close collaborators in the activities of WGITA, the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI), the English-speaking subgroup of the African Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (AFROSAI-E) and the Information Technology Working Group of the European Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (EUROSAI ITWG) will also share their presentations on their activities and collaboration with WGITA.

Ladies and gentlemen, this WGITA meeting will be followed by a webinar, hosted by the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia, on 2 September 2021, on the topic: “IT Audit in the Era of Industrial Revolution 4.0: Opportunities and Challenges”. IR 4.0 has created a great opportunity for INTOSAI and its Working Group on IT Audit, to equip its members with practical knowledge and work procedures for addressing these emerging IT risks. In collaboration with the INTOSAI Development Initiative, we had, in 2013, brought out the

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WGITA-IDI Handbook on IT Audit for Supreme Audit Institutions, which is now being updated.

Finally, I would like to conclude by thanking the participants who have assembled here from different parts of the world.

With these words, it is my pleasure to declare open the 30th meeting of the INTOSAI Working Group on IT Audit. I look forward to very fruitful deliberations over the next few hours.

Thank you.