



21st UN/INTOSAI Symposiums strengthens cooperation between SAIs and citizens

The 21st UN/INTOSAI Symposium on *Effective practices of cooperation between Supreme Audit Institutions and citizens to enhance public accountability*, jointly organized by the INTOSAI General Secretariat and the United Nations (UN), was held in Vienna, Austria, from 13 to 15 July 2011.

About 140 representatives of 66 Supreme Audit Institutions (more than one third of INTOSAI's membership) and representatives of various international organizations, especially the United Nations (UN), as well as the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the International Budget Partnership (IBP) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), joined the lively debates led by INTOSAI Chair Terence Nombembe. For the first time a UN Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Sha Zukang, responsible for Economic and Social Affairs, participated in the Symposium.

26 representatives of Supreme Audit Institutions as well as representatives of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (UN CEPA) and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) delivered presentations. Under-Secretary-General Carman Lapointe from the Office of Internal Oversight Service (OIOS) also followed the deliberations.

The large number of participants and their extremely lively deliberations on the theme "Effective Practices of Cooperation between SAIs and Citizens to enhance Public Accountability" clearly demonstrated the tremendous interest in the demand for information exchange on citizen participation and cooperation in external public auditing.

Reiterating the importance of the Declarations of Lima and Mexico and underlining the necessary cooperation between SAIs and citizens, the debates - and finally the [Conclusions and Recommendations](#) - of the 21st UN/ INTOSAI Symposium successfully contributed to the implementation of the following five out of six Strategic Priorities, as defined by the INTOSAI Strategic Plan 2011–2016:

- Help ensure independence of SAIs
- Strengthen capacity building of SAIs
- Demonstrate the value and benefit of SAIs
- Further the fight against corruption and
- Enhance INTOSAI communication.

Furthermore, the Symposium has intensified the partnership between INTOSAI and the UN. It was agreed to elaborate a common workplan and timeframe by end 2011. Finally, INTOSAI will have the possibility to contribute to the Rio + 20 process.

