



TRAINING AND INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

Opening words by Mr. Alfred ENOH,
Coordinator of the AFROSAI WGEA Secretariat

Dear Heads of SAIs,

Dear representatives of SAIs and partner organizations,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning !

It is my pleasure to welcome you all for the 6th AFROSAI WGEA Annual Meeting, in Abuja, federal capital city of Nigeria. From the Secretariat, I can say we are happy that you could make it here. We hope you all had safe and pleasant flights. And we are sorry for any inconveniences you may have experienced on your way to here.

Our annual meeting begins today with a session which is less a training than an information sharing session. This session is about the **Sustainable Development Goals**, adopted in September 2015, by the United Nation's General Assembly in New York, and known as **Agenda 2030**.

This development agenda establishes 17 Goals that each of our governments will be challenged to reach on or before the year 2030 to substantially reduce poverty, promote economic and social development while protecting the environment for future generations. This program is ambitious and will focus the attention of all countries and international organizations for the next 15 years. From now until 2030, all development strategies and programmes are expected to align to this world agenda.

Because of its importance, governments and the civil society are currently very active in making sure they don't miss the start for a successful implementation of SDGs. We thought Supreme Audit Institutions, that have the mandate to oversee all government activities and report for accountability, should also be sensitive and involved in this global process.

Notwithstanding what is being done at the level of INTOSAI, we think it is important for African SAIs to discuss on what could be their role in the implementation process of SDGs. That is the reason and purpose for this information sharing session. We hope to create an opportunity for you to discuss on the role of SAIs in implementing the SDGs and to make proposals of activities that can be carried out at national level and together as a Working Group.

So, it is more a practical discussion session than a training session as we use to do. Therefore, though some presentations will be made, you, as participants, will be the ones to ensure the success of this session, through active participation.

We tried to make arrangements for some guest speakers from the United Nations Development Programme in Nigeria and the INTOSAI Development Initiative. We will have their presentations as well as AFROSAI Regional position on this matter. This position will be presented in the next INTOSAI Congress to be held in Abu Dhabi in December this year, but we thought we had to use this opportunity to share it with you and have also your inputs.

In the afternoon, we will share an experience on how to initiate a cooperative audit. As you know, three cooperative audits are currently in a planning process on the River Nile, the Congo Basin forest and the River Niger Basin. Some other might come from our discussions. This short session is therefore meant to share information on what challenges our SAIs will face and how we can address them.

Our day will end with a meeting of the 04 research projects teams. The purpose of these meetings is to seek ways and methodology that will enable participating SAIs to effectively make a study and produce a relevant document before the next annual meeting.

I will end my opening word here, wishing all of you a good day and thanking the host SAI Nigeria for the good hospitality we enjoy here in Abuja.

Thank you. Bonne journée !