

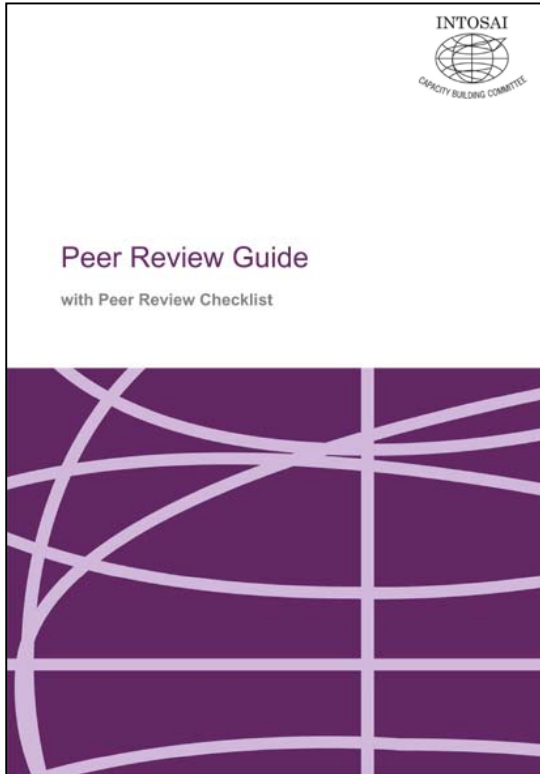
Peer Review Instrument of assessing SAIs' capacities

Peer review

No audit exercise

But

- Expertise from partner SAIs
- Learning from each other
- Solidarity among colleagues
- Honesty
- Frankness



Peer Review Guide:

Based on lessons learned and best practice examples

Practical tool as a reference for SAIs

- ➔ Key questions
- ➔ Stages of the peer review process

Stage 1 - Preliminary considerations

- Principal objectives
- Approach
- Scope
- Choice of partner SAI(s)

Stage 2 - Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

Agreement on general conditions, e.g.:

- Objectives
- Time schedule
- Steps to take
- Allocation of cost

Stage 3 - Preparation

- Peer Review team
Familiarise with legal provisions, structures, audit environment and key procedures of reviewed SAI
- Reviewed SAI
Information of staff

Stage 4 - Implementation

Fieldwork supported by

➔ Peer Review checklist (Annex to Guide)

- Catalogue of detailed questions
- Various topics identified

Stage 5 - Reporting

Presentation of

- Evidence gathered
- Conclusions and recommendations

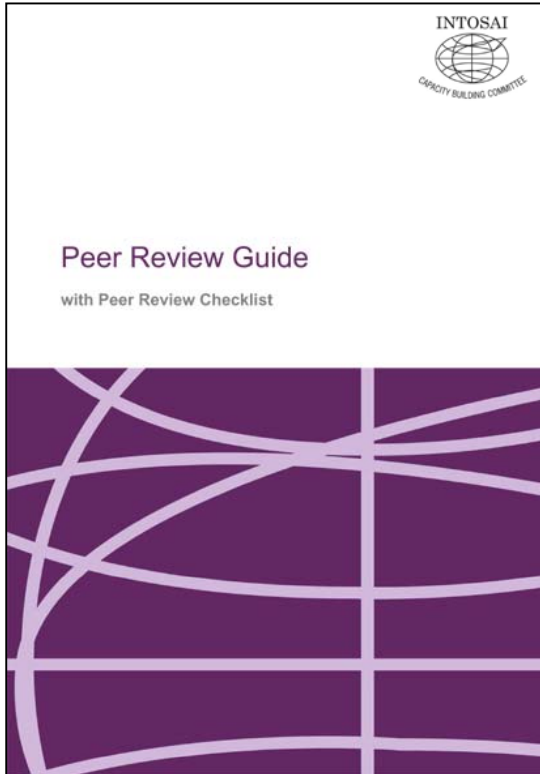
To be agreed:

- Format
- Addressees (parliament / wider public)
- Scope

Stage 6 - Follow-up and evaluation

Reviewed SAI:

- Decides extent of implementing recommendations
- May comment on findings and recommendations
- May adopt an action plan for implementing the recommendations
- May hold follow-up discussions with reviewing SAI(s) to carry out an *ex post* evaluation



Peer Review Guide

- Available in the official INTOSAI languages
(<http://cbc.courdescomptes.ma>
→ Guides & Materials)
- Adopted as ISSAI 5600
(www.issai.org)

ISSAI 20, Principle 9

“SAIs make use of external and independent advice to enhance the quality and credibility of their work.”

→ Peer Reviews as instrument



Peer Reviews answer the question

“Who audits the auditor”

Transparency and accountability

- Peer Reviews may cover functions that specifically address the SAI's transparency and accountability and thus to look into compliance with ISSAI 20
- Publication of peer review results contributes significantly to promoting the transparency and accountability of SAIs

Relations to ISSAI framework:

- Peer Reviews as tool to ensure transparency and accountability (ISSAI 20 and 21)
- Peer Reviews as tool of quality control (ISSAI 40)
- ISSAI as a whole as yardstick for peer reviews

Concluding remarks:

- Peer Reviews are conducted on a **voluntary basis**
 - ➔ decision about scope and contents is within the sole discretion of the participating SAIs
- Peer Reviews must keep in mind the **national environment** of the reviewed SAIs
 - ➔ recommendations need to fit in the national legal, political, economic and social framework

Feedback on peer reviews
and the Peer Review Guide is **welcome**
(Feedback questionnaire at the end of the Guide)

**Thank you very much
for your attention!**