

# PRAQ

The Annex to ISSAI 5600 named Peer Review Areas and Questions ('PRAQ') is a guide to the areas of an SAI's mandate, organisation and functioning which may be covered by a peer review. It also provides example questions for use in the peer review process. It is not mandatory to use this material for a peer review, but it is might be useful reference tool.

The guidance provided by the PRAQ is non-exhaustive and non-prescriptive. A peer review can cover areas not included in the PRAQ. The questions should be tailored to the SAI and/or to the specific objectives of the peer review. It may not be possible or necessary to use all the example questions. Additional questions may be required.

The PRAQ is based primarily on the principles and guidelines defined in the ISSAI framework. Additional reference material on SAI peer reviews is available on CBC website

[www.intosaicbc.org](http://www.intosaicbc.org)

The online document library includes examples of peer reviews and other valuable insights into the peer review process.

**PRAQ focuses on seven main overall themes:**

Independence

Mandate, strategy and types of activities

Management of resources

Communication and engagement with stakeholders

Ethics, transparency, accountability and good governance

Auditing standards, methodology and quality control

Audit approach

## Sub-Committee members



<http://intosaicbc.org>

# ISSAI 5600 revised

# Peer Review Guide

## Best practices and quality assurance



## ISSAI 5600

is part of the fourth level (Auditing Guidelines) of the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAI) Framework, where the Founding Principles constitute the first level, the Prerequisites for the Functioning of SAIs represent the second level and the Fundamental Auditing Principles (the INTOSAI Auditing Standards) make up the third level

AUDITING GUIDELINES  
ISSAI 5600

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

PREREQUISITES

FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

This revised guide builds on the original ISSAI 5600, in particular the initial framework of principles and examples of good practices. The structure and content has, however, undergone significant change in order to reflect the feedback and suggestions received from INTOSAI members since its adoption in 2010. New guidance on key aspects of the peer review process has also been included.

The Peer Review Checklist included as an appendix to the original ISSAI 5600 has been further developed and renamed "Peer Review Areas and Questions"

## PRAQ

The new appendix provides an updated list of possible areas to be considered for peer review and questions that might be asked.

## ISSAI 5600 then and now

chapter	present ISSAI 5600	chapter	revised ISSAI 5600
preface	preface		X
1	Introduction	1	Introduction
2	Definition	2	Definition
3	Initial consideration	3	Strategic consideration
4	Peer review agreement (MoU)	4	Partners and resources
5	Preparation and conduct	5	Memorandum of Understanding
6	Follow-up and Evaluation	6	Planning
		7	Field work
		8	Reporting
		9	Implementation of results and follow-up
	glossary of terms		X
pages	46		Guide - 29 PRAQ - 27

## Peer review according to ISSAI 5600 revised

A peer review is not an audit but an assessment and advice provided voluntarily by peers. The decision to undergo a peer review, or to be involved in the peer review of another SAI, is always voluntary. The voluntary nature of a peer review is also reflected in all contacts and exchanges between the SAI and the peer review team. The reviewed SAI is not bound to the conclusions and recommendations of the peer review team, and can decide, as appropriate and necessary, on how to use the results of the assessment.

The translations of ISSAI 5600 into official INTOSAI working languages were made by: SAIs of Belgium, Canada, Germany, Kuwait and Spain.

## ISSAI 5600 and self-assessment

Due to the nature of the peer review process and likely publicity given to its findings, the SAI could consider preceding peer review with a self-assessment and initiate remedial actions before the peer review takes place. A self-assessment can also be a useful means to help the SAI determine the focus of the proposed peer review.

## Self-assessment tools

**CBC Guide - Building Capacity in SAIs**  
developed by the former CBC Sub-Committee 1

**SAI Performance Measurement Framework (SAI PMF)**  
developed by INTOSAI Working Group on Value and Benefits of SAIs

**IT Self-Assessment (ITSA)**  
developed by EUROSAI IT Working Group

**IT Audit Self-Assessment (ITASA)**  
developed by EUROSAI IT Working Group

**ISSAI Compliance Assessment Tool (iCAT)**  
developed by IDI

**Capacity Building Needs Assessment**  
developed by IDI

**Institutional Capacity Building Framework Survey**  
developed by AFROSAI-E

**Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) Capability model**  
developed by PASAI

**IntoSAINT**  
developed by SAI of Netherlands