Environment and sustainability reporting

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Vivi Niemenmaa 13.10.2011
XX INCOSAI: Johannesburg Accords

• 43.8: SAIs should encourage developments in environmental accounting as well as sustainable development reporting. Active engagements with international role players such as the World Bank, United Nations Environment Programme and Global Reporting Initiative also need to take place.

• 46: (INTOSAI recommendations): Encourage the WGEA to promote and actively participate in the development of sustainability reporting frameworks for the public sector and develop guidance for SAIs on how to audit sustainability reports.
Environment and Sustainability Reporting

• Sustainability reporting
  – environmental, social and economic aspects

• Evolved in the private sector

• Referes to reporting of an organization

• Different ways to report:
  – as a part of annual financial report
  – as a separate report
  – other ways, such as web-based reporting
Assurance

• **AA1000AS**

• **ISAE 3000**
  – by IAASC (IFAC)
  – ”assurance activities other than audits or reviews of historical financial information”
  – pressure on IAASB to develop a standard on sustainability report assurance
Project Objectives

1. Introduction to the theme and state of sustainability reporting
   – special attention to public sector reporting

2. Discussion about the issue from the viewpoint of SAIs
   – as reporting likely becomes more common in the public sector, is there a role for SAIs in auditing and providing assurance of sustainability reports?

3. Provide case studies and best practices
Scoping

• Public sector
  – state, regional, local

• Reporting of organization
  – national sustainability strategies excluded
  – national environmental accounting excluded

• Cross-reference to related themes
  – environment management systems
  – environmental accounting
Methodology

1. Literature review (finished)

2. Contacts to relevant organizations

3. Case studies
   - tentative selection made
Project partners

- Canada
- Estonia
- Finland
- (Mauritius)
- New Zealand
- UK