Objective and features

1. Objective

SAI PMF aims to provide supreme audit institutions (SAIs) and other stakeholders with a framework for assessing SAI performance against the International Standards for Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs) and other established international good practices. SAI PMF is a tool for comparing performance among SAIs.

2. Institutional coverage

Supreme audit institutions.

3. Technical coverage

SAI PMF measures SAI performance against ISSAIs and international good practices in six domains:

- A. Independence and Legal Framework
- B. Internal Governance and Ethics
- C. Audit Quality and Reporting
- D. Financial Management, Audits and Support Structures
- E. Human Resource and Training
- F. Communication and Stakeholder Management

4. Application method

Self-assessment, peer assessment, or hybrid assessment (self and peer).

Methodology

5. Methodology

A set of 25 indicators (of two to four dimensions each) for measuring SAI performance against ISSAIs and international good practices are present in six domains:

- A. Independence and Legal Framework
- B. Internal Governance and Ethics
- C. Audit Quality and Reporting
- D. Financial Management, Audits and Support Structures
- E. Human Resource and Training
- F. Communication and Stakeholder Management

6. Benchmarking system

Scoring of each dimension follows a set score formula, developed according to the relative importance of the criteria listed. Indicators and dimensions are scored using a numerical scale from 0 to 4, where 0 is the lowest level, and 4 is the highest. Scores broadly correspond to the level of development in the area measured by the indicator, in keeping with the practices of INTOSAI capability models.

- Score 0: The feature is not established or barely functioning.
- Score 1: The founding level.
- Score 2: The development level.
- Score 3: The established level.
- Score 4: The managed level.

7. Linkage to PEFA framework

The following aspects of the PEFA assessment are covered, but this list is not exhaustive:

- Audits capacity
- Public integrity
- Public accountability
- Aid effectiveness
- Institutional capacity building

8. Complementarity with PEFA framework

SAI PMF assessment can assist with the development of a custom program where a PEFA assessment has found weaknesses in the area. When an SAI PMF assessment is conducted pursuant to a PEFA, it would give the necessary input to PS 15 (external audit) of a PEFA assessment.

Development and use

9. Development and coordination

SAI PMF was developed by the INTOSAI Working Group on the Value and Benefits of SAIs (WGVIB) following a decision at the INTOSAI Congress in South Africa in 2010. Prior to the SAI PMF Task Team deciding to develop a new tool for assessing the performance of SAIs, the INTOSAI Performance Measurement Secretariat conducted a mapping of existing tools used within the INTOSAI and donor community to assess the performance of SAIs. Some of the tools mapped include the Institutional Capacity Building Framework (SAI), quality assurance review, SAIs maturity model, PEFA (A07), and Public Expenditure Review (A06).

The PEFA assessment has found weaknesses in the areas of:

- Evaluation
- Adequacy
- Effectiveness
- Efficiency
- Coverage
- Timeliness

10. Assessment management

The steps involved in conducting the assessment are as follows:

- Decision to conduct the assessment is taken by the head of the SAI.
- The planning phase consists of the preparation of terms of reference for the assignment, and training and awareness-raising for the assessment team.
- A detailed assessment report is prepared.
- An independent review is conducted.
- Results are shared with the SAI.

During the assessment, the team leads reviews the working papers and the work of the team, and supervises and monitors the progress of the assessment. A check on the factual correctness of the report is conducted by one or two staff from the SAI who were not part of the assessment team.

11. PFM capacity building

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12. Sequencing with other tools

While the domains and topics covered by the Institutional-Capacity Building Framework are comparable to SAI PMF, the methodology and assessment management serve different purposes.

13. PFM capacity building

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14. Tracking of changes and frequency of assessments

For repeat assessments, changes in dimension and indicator scores and explanations of these will be apparent from the reporting on the performance audit. It records the scoring and a brief explanation from the previous assessment, a note on performance change, and other factors to be considered when comparing the indicators scores over time.

15. Resource requirements

The assessment cost varies with respect to the assessment method - self-assessment, peer assessment, or hybrid assessment (self and peer).

16. Users by the government and the members of the PFM community

SAI PMF is used by developing countries as a source of credible and accurate information on the performance of SAIs.

17. Transparency

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