

# SAI INDEPENDENCE DISCUSSIONS AT THE HAGUE - JUNE 2022



## Meeting : IDI and WJP

**IDI participants:** Ola Hoem, Freddy Ndjemba, Benjamin Fuentes

**World Justice Project participants:** Alejandro Ponce, Chief Research Officer; Alejandro Gonzalez, Director of Rule of Law Projects in the Mexico Office; Srirak Plipat, Regional Director Asia-Pacific; Leslie Solis, Research Director



In a busy round of discussions at the Hague, Ola Hoem, Deputy General Director, and Freddy Ndjemba and Benjamin Fuentes from the Independence Workstream of IDI met with the World Justice Project team.

They explored different areas of future cooperation between IDI and WJP. A particular focus was IDI's contribution to enhance the component of the WJP Rule of Law index related to the independence of Supreme Audit Institutions and other oversight and accountability institutions.



Moving forward, IDI and WJP will analyse possibilities to jointly advocate for the independence of SAIs in selected countries, taking advantage of the presentations that WJP carries out on its annual Rule of Law index, at a national level.

This exchange is part of IDI's strategy to advocate for SAI independence through partnership-building with relevant global actors.





## Meeting : IDI with the SAI of the Netherlands and the SAI of Lybia

**IDI participants:** Ola Hoem

**SAI of the Netherlands representatives:**

**Ewout Irrgong (Member of the Board the Netherlands Court of Audit), Ina de Haan (Senior Auditor)**

**SAI of Lybia:**

**Mr Kaled Ahmed M. Shekshek (President of the Audit Bureau of Libya), Mr. Alaeldin Mansour R. EIMasallati (Deputy of the Audit Bureau of Libya)**

In the context of the World Justice Project Forum, Ola Hoem, IDI DDG, held a meeting with representatives of the Court of Audit of the Netherlands, led by Ewout Irrgong, Member of the Board the Netherlands Court of Audit, and the Audit Bureau of Libya, headed by Mr Kaled Ahmed M. Shekshek, the Audit Bureau's President.



IDI explained the main elements of its strategy on SAI independence, highlighting the common threats and challenges that SAIs from all regions are facing. IDI highlighted that Independence does not mean that the SAIs should be isolated. On the contrary, independence implies the need for allies and partners.

IDI also emphasised that one of the main components to advocate for SAI independence consists of establishing effective partnerships with relevant global actors in order to be able to mobilise support when required by SAIs. In addition, IDI underlined the relevance of collaborating with SAIs from all regions, including those which are part of Arab Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ARABOSAI). IDI also expressed its readiness to address any independence concerns which may come to the attention of the Court of Accounts of the Netherlands within the bilateral support that it provides to SAIs in different regions.





## Meeting : IDI and General Secretariat of INTOSAI

**IDI participants:** Ola Hoem

**INTOSAI GS:** Silke Steiner, Director of the INTOSAI General Secretariat



Following IDI's session on 'Trends and Challenges for Accountability Institutions' at the World Justice Forum, Ola Hoem took the opportunity to meet with panelist Silke Steiner, Director of the INTOSAI General Secretariat. Together they discussed and analysed the most recent developments on SAI independence in different regions and country contexts, including an update on the SAI Independence Rapid Advocacy Mechanism (SIRAM) cases which have been carried out by

IDI. Both IDI and the GS agreed on the relevance on building partnerships with relevant global actors to effectively advocate for SAI independence and reiterated the need to maintain its position as a priority in their collaboration agenda.

## Meeting : Transparency International and IDI

**IDI participants:** Ola Hoem, Freddy Ndjemba and Benjamin Fuentes

**TI participant:** Jorum Duri, Horizontal accountability specialist Transparency International-Secretariat

Ola Hoem, Freddy Ndjemba and Benjamin Fuentes were pleased to meet with Jorum Duri of Transparency International on IDI and TI's many matters of mutual interest.

These include the upcoming launch of the resource kit on SAI independence which both organisations are jointly preparing in order to advocate for SAI independence within the Civil Society Organisations community. IDI and TI agree on the relevance of communicating the value and benefits of SAIs effectively, so that CSOs can be in a better position to defend the autonomy and independence of SAIs.



In addition, TI offered to facilitate the access to its partners network for the independence advocacy strategy of IDI at both the global and national level. IDI highlighted the importance to permanently exchange information and data to support both organisations' research projects. Finally, IDI and TI discussed significant opportunities for cooperation, including their potential collaboration in the 2022 International Anti-Corruption Conference.