

**Speech for Opening Session of the 160th Anniversary of the Romanian  
Court of Accounts**  
**Bucharest, September 18, 2024**

Your Excellency, Klaus Iohannis, President of Romania,  
Honorable Mr. Mihai Busuioc, President of the Romanian Court of Accounts,  
Honorable Mr. Nicolae Ciucă, President of the Senate of Romania,  
Honorable Mr. Alfred-Robert Simonis, President of the Chamber of Deputies,  
Honorable Mr. Marcel Ciolacu, Prime Minister of Romania,  
Distinguished Speakers, Delegates, and Esteemed Guests,

As the President of EUROSAI, it is a profound honor to address you today on this historic occasion, celebrating the 160th anniversary of the Romanian Court of Accounts. This milestone is a testament to the enduring commitment of this esteemed institution to the principles of accountability and transparency.

I also wish to extend a warm welcome to our esteemed colleagues and members of EUROSAI and INTOSAI from around the world who have traveled to join this celebration. Your presence here underscores the global commitment to the principles of good governance and public accountability that we all share. It is through our collective efforts and international collaboration that we strengthen the impact of our work and foster a culture of transparency and integrity worldwide.

The Romanian Court of Accounts, founded under the visionary leadership of Alexandru Ioan Cuza in 1864, stands as a testament to the enduring principles of accountability and transparency - principles that are more essential than ever in today's rapidly evolving world. Under the guidance of Mr. Mihai Busuioc, the Romanian Court of Accounts has continued to champion these values, ensuring that its work remains robust and capable of meeting the needs of its citizens.

In today's ever-more complex world, strong public financial management is essential. The Romanian Court of Accounts has played a vital role in safeguarding public finances and promoting good governance in Romania. By undertaking audits and issuing reports, your institution helps to ensure that public resources are used efficiently, effectively, and accountably. This dedication to accountability and transparency is not only an inspiration within Romania, but also to supreme audit institutions around the world.

The theme of your celebration, "Responsibility. Relevance. Resilience," is both timely and profound. Allow me to delve into these key aspects:

### **Responsibility:**

The role of state audit institutions is crucial in being a "Voice for the Voiceless." This responsibility is exemplified through various reports that highlight issues affecting marginalized and underrepresented groups. For instance, the Israeli State Comptroller's Office has produced insightful reports on social disparities and the needs of vulnerable populations, illustrating how audits can amplify those who

lack a platform. These efforts emphasize our duty to scrutinize and address concerns that impact the broader public, thereby promoting transparency and accountability.

### **Relevance:**

In our rapidly evolving world, staying relevant is paramount. Within EUROSAI, we are spearheading a parallel audit on Artificial Intelligence (AI). Our recent audit report on AI and the ongoing international cooperation on this topic underline the critical importance of addressing both the opportunities and risks associated with AI. As AI technology advances, we face significant challenges, such as distinguishing truth from misinformation, preventing misuse of autonomous weapons, and navigating the impact on employment. These issues highlight the necessity of robust frameworks and international collaboration to ensure that AI enhances our audit processes while maintaining public trust.

### **Resilience:**

Resilience involves not only adapting to emerging challenges but also ensuring that our work remains impactful in the face of adversity. Audit reports on disaster and climate change assessments are critical for fostering social resilience and preparing for future crises. International cooperation in these areas is vital.

Additionally, making our reports accessible to the public is crucial for enhancing transparency and accountability. By doing so, we affirm our responsibility to the citizens we serve and promote values of openness and trust.

As we gather here in Bucharest, the presence of such esteemed leaders and officials reaffirms the importance of the work we do as guardians of public trust. The Romanian Court of Accounts has been a pillar of integrity and oversight for 160 years, and today's anniversary is not just a celebration of its past achievements but a recommitment to its vital role in shaping a transparent and accountable future for Romania.

The collaboration between Romania and the broader international audit community, particularly within EUROSAI, has been exemplary. I am proud to say that under your guidance, Romania continues to set high standards in governance and public accountability, serving as a model for others to follow.

In closing, I would like to extend my gratitude to His Excellency, the President of Romania, the Prime Minister, and all the distinguished officials of Romania for standing with us in Israel during these difficult days.

May we all pray for peaceful times and the safe return of the hostages and all civilians to their homes.

Dear Mr. Busioc, international collaboration promotes excellence. Congratulations on your celebration, leadership, and achievements. Thank you all.