

## **"A significant step forward in our shared mission to harness the power of AI"**

**EUROSAI President and SAI Israel, Mr. Matanyahu Englman, Opening Address  
for the the 17th Meeting of the EUROSAI IT Working Group (24-25.9.2024)**

Dear Colleagues,

Esteemed Members of the EUROSAI IT Working Group,

As the President of EUROSAI, it is a distinct honor to address you today at the 17th Meeting of the EUROSAI IT Working Group. I extend my warmest greetings to all participants, whether you are joining us here in Oslo or virtually from across Europe.

The rapid advancements in artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies present both opportunities and challenges for our work as auditors.

As we gather to explore these themes under the banner of "Intelligent Auditor in an Artificially Intelligent State?", it is clear that our role is evolving, and we must remain at the forefront of these changes to uphold transparency, accountability, and good governance in our respective countries.

The Israeli State Comptroller's Office has long recognized the importance of Information Technology in audit practices, and it is in this spirit of innovation and collaboration that we recently joined this esteemed Working Group. We are eager to contribute our expertise, learn from the experiences of others, and collectively advance the standards and practices of IT audit within EUROSAI.

Our recent audit report on AI, along with our current leadership in a parallel audit involving several EUROSAI member countries, highlights the crucial importance of international cooperation in addressing the evolving challenges of this technology.

While AI offers remarkable possibilities, it also introduces substantial risks that we must carefully consider:

We face the daunting challenge of discerning truth from falsehood in an era increasingly marked by misinformation and fake news, which complicates our ability to verify the accuracy and reliability of information. Additionally, the potential for autonomous weapons to fall into the wrong hands represents a serious security threat, as such technologies could be misused by terrorist organizations or organized crime.

Furthermore, AI's impact on the employment market cannot be overlooked; it may displace many existing jobs while simultaneously creating new opportunities, necessitating significant adjustments and reskilling for the workforce.

These concerns underscore the need for robust frameworks and international collaboration to mitigate risks while harnessing AI's benefits.

By working together, we can develop effective strategies to ensure that AI and other technologies enhance our audit processes and uphold public trust.

I am confident that this meeting will be a significant step forward in our shared mission to harness the power of AI and other technologies to enhance our audit processes and ensure they remain robust, relevant, and responsive to the needs of our societies.

Thank you to our hosts, the National Audit Offices of Estonia and Norway, and to their esteemed Auditor Generals, Mr. Janar Holm and Mr. Karl Eirik Schjøtt-Pedersen, for organizing this important event. I look forward to the insights that will emerge from our discussions and the continued collaboration among all EUROSAI members.

Wishing you all a successful and productive meeting.

Thank you.