



SAi20 technical meeting – Theme 1 deliberations summary

5 February 2025

SAi20 2025 technical meeting session 1



5th February 2025



11 am – 15 pm (SAST)



Online

Theme 1: Unlocking and leveraging public infrastructure funding for equality, sustainable growth, and bringing improvement to the lives of citizens

Supreme audit institutions represented

AFROSAI-E, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Djibouti, Egypt, Germany, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Morocco, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, United Arab Emirates

Observers: Japan, Spain

Introduction and overview

The first SAi20 technical meeting for the 2025 year took place online and brought together SAIs across the G20 nations to deliberate on global issues facing us all with the aim of driving collective impactful actions that will benefit all citizens. The purpose of the technical meeting was to foster collaboration on how to assist governments in achieving their priorities while promoting good public finance management, enhanced accountability and transparency in the management of public resources.

Ms Tsakani Maluleke, Auditor-General of South Africa, and chair of SAi20 engagement group, shared opening remarks with the attendees, reminding the delegates of the importance of this platform and our collective responsibility to promote accountability, transparency and good governance in the global financial landscape. She further highlighted the importance of the chosen themes and its alignment with the G20 theme.

“South Africa assumes the G20 presidency at a time when the world is confronted by a series of overlapping crises, such as climate change, underdevelopment, inequality, poverty, starvation, unemployment, technological advancements disrupting global economies, geopolitical instability, to name a few. It is under these global pressures that the South African government has adopted the theme “Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability” for its G20 presidency”.

Theme 1 deliberations and focus

Theme 1 recognises the significance of public infrastructure funding in driving inclusive economic growth, industrialisation, employment and reducing inequality in aligning with the G20 presidency theme of “solidarity, equality, and sustainability”. Infrastructure investments in energy, telecommunications, transport networks and water supply are vital for producing goods and services, enhancing competitiveness and promoting regional integration and cooperation. Factors such as limited financial resources, poor governance, corruption and conflict have impeded effective infrastructure planning and implementation.

The meeting provided a valuable platform for sharing insights and experiences related to infrastructure funding. The meeting acknowledged that, despite the fact that each country operates within a unique context, we all encounter similar challenges. Some of the challenges related to the following (not exhaustive):

- deteriorating and/or ageing infrastructure
- inadequate planning in relation to infrastructure maintenance and other areas
- the absence of measurable pre-established criteria against which to evaluate government performance
- the necessity of remaining current with technological advancements

The meeting participants also shared insights into how these challenges are being addressed in their respective countries, along with key recommendations to governments. This facilitated robust knowledge-sharing and the development of collective solutions for greater impact.

The following were highlighted as critical to driving change in this space (not exhaustive):

- The need for “whole-life” cycle performance audits to assess infrastructure effectiveness over time
- Greater coordination between government and its agencies to enhance planning and execution
- Increased focus on public-private partnerships (PPPs) to drive greater impact and investment
- Strengthening consequence management and accountability within government to improve governance and oversight

Way forward and next steps

As the global landscape continues to evolve, the role of SAIs in fostering accountability and sustainable governance has never been more critical. The discussions during this technical meeting will shape the next phase of SAi20's agenda, which will include the compilation of a consolidated theme document. In the coming months, SAi20 members will work towards drafting a communique/declaration that translates these discussions into concrete, actionable recommendations.