

# Panel of External Auditors meets in Rome



Secretary-General António Guterres

The fifty-eighth meeting of the Panel of External Auditors, chaired by Mussa Juma Assad, General Director of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, was held from 20 to 22 November 2023 in Rome, Italy.

The meeting was attended by 15 members of the Panel, who are either elected or selected to conduct the external audit of the UN Secretariat, Funds and Programme of International Development Cooperation. This also includes two observers who remain on the Panel: Finland and France, who are also members of the International Public Sector Audit and Inspection.

The Panel is the independent external audit body of the United Nations. It is composed of 17 members, 15 of whom are elected by the General Assembly and two are appointed by the Secretary-General. The Panel's members are from 15 different countries, including Algeria, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Philippines, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania, Turkey, Ukraine and United Kingdom.

The Panel's mandate is to provide independent external audits of the financial statements and managerial and performance audits. The main objectives of the Panel are to further the coordination of the audits for which its members are responsible, and to exchange information on audit methods and findings.

The Panel's Technical Group also met from 27-29 November to discuss technical matters and prepare the discussions for their Principals on 20 November to 1 December. The Panel's Technical Group also met with the International Public Sector Audit and Inspection and the Bodies of International Organizations audited by them.

Other matters discussed were important developments in IPSAS and new reporting standards in Italy, as well as the auditing of the preparedness of financial statements on Auditing of the UN and its agencies in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Panel also met with FAO's Deputy Director-General of Operations Laurent Thomas to discuss programme challenges faced by FAO and the WFP in implementing their mandates.

Both meetings were held in openess media supported by the communications team of the Department for General Conference Management in New York Assembly Hall C.

More details on the Panel's working are available at its website.