

## Panel of External Auditors meets in Rome



Panel of Auditors, 2017 session

The fifty-eighth meeting of the Panel of External Auditors, chaired by Mussa Juma Assad, Controller and Auditor General of the United Republic of Tanzania, was held from 30 November till 1 December 2017 at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome.

The Panel consists of Auditors General of 11 Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) who are either elected or selected to conduct the external audit of the UN Secretariat, Funds and Programmes and Specialised Agencies. This also includes two observers who remain on the Panel, for a period of three years after they rotate off the Panel.

The meeting was attended by Auditors General or their representatives from the United Republic of Tanzania, France, India, Germany, Italy, the Republic of Ghana, the Republic of the Philippines, Switzerland, Indonesia, Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

External auditors are independent of the United Nations and conduct the audits on the financial statements and managerial and performance audits. The main objectives of the Panel are to further the co-ordination 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 30 November to 1 December. The Panel discussed matters such as the relationship between External Auditors and the Governing Bodies of International Organizations audited by them.

Other matters discussed were important developments in IPSAS and new reporting standards in International Standards on Auditing as well as the auditing the preparedness 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 and the World Food Programme's (WFP) Deputy Executive Director Amir Abdulla to discuss programme challenges faced by FAO and the WFP in implementing their mandates.

Both meetings were held in paperless mode supported by the papersmart team of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in New York.

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