

Dear Chairs, Colleagues from Supreme Audit Institutions, Honorable Guests,

It is with great pleasure and privilege to welcome you all here and to open the Annual meeting of the INTOSAI working group of Public Evaluations policies and programs. On behalf of the National Audit Office of Lithuania, I would like to express gratitude to all of you for your considerable efforts to travel a long way and come to Vilnius. I am glad that so many of us gathered here to give a dedicated contribution to this meeting and I am sure that a lot of rich and inspiring ideas will be shared during the upcoming days.

One of the main topics today will be the implementation of the “Guidelines on the Evaluation of Public Policies”, which I believe is essential not only for us, as members of this working group, but for the entire INTOSAI community. I am confident that the adoption of this document is a fruitful result of constant work, intense efforts, and collaboration of all INTOSAI EWG members.

We are glad to be a part of this working group, which I found fully in line with the four core values of the National Audit Office of Lithuania: *professionalism, responsibility, cooperation, and innovation*. INTOSAI EWG encourages to maintain them by promoting scientifically justified, independent, and neutral evaluation as well as fostering the sharing of knowledge, innovative methods, and practical recommendations.

It is the first time when the meeting of INTOSAI Evaluation Working is organized not by chairs, therefore, I would like to take this opportunity and to thank Cour des comptes, the chair of this working group for the trust and confidence in the National Audit Office of Lithuania in holding this event in Vilnius. It has also been a pleasure to work together with our French colleagues in preparation for the meeting.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I realize that you are fully committed to the sessions that will follow, but I do hope you will also take time to enjoy Vilnius, with its fascinating Old Town which is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List and the striking harmony of nature and urban life. Meet our friendly people and enjoy our multi-cultural cuisine.

This brings me to the end of my opening speech. I wish you an excellent working session, inspiring discussions and sharing of valuable experiences.

*Thank you*