INTOSAI | SCEI Supervisory Committee of Emerging Issues

NAVIGATING GLOBAL TRENDS

FUTURE IMPLICATIONS FOR SUPREME AUDIT INSTITUTIONS

2025 - 2040

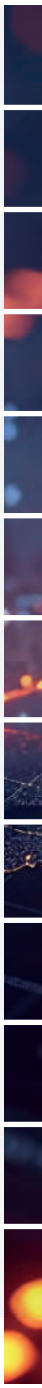
INTOSAI | SCEI Supervisory Committee of Emerging Issues

NAVIGATING GLOBAL TRENDS

FUTURE IMPLICATIONS FOR
SUPREME AUDIT INSTITUTIONS

Brasilia
2024

CONTENT



FOREWORD

This INTOSAI Foresight Report marks a significant milestone for INTOSAI, introducing a study that utilizes foresight methodologies. By anticipating policy implications and future risks, Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) not only fulfill their traditional roles in promoting good public governance and ensuring compliance with laws and planned expenditure of government resources but also significantly contribute to medium- and long-term outcomes. This proactive approach enables governments and SAIs to better prepare for uncertainties and develop policies that are more resilient and sustainable.

INTOSAI established the Supervisory Committee on Emerging Issues (SCEI) in 2012 to serve as an early warning for the Governing Board and other INTOSAI organs to highlight emerging issues affecting INTOSAI's members. This strategic initiative aims to tackle the multifaceted and emerging issues that transcend national borders, providing recommendations on the emerging challenges faced by INTOSAI and the SAIs in the context of public audits.Under Brazilian chairmanship of INTOSAI, we have worked to make the SCEI even more proactive and relevant. Recognizing the importance of foresight, we established an expert group to identify and analyze major trends that will shape our societies, governments, and the practice of public auditing in the future. The expert group drafted this report to provide insightful information to the INTOSAI Governing Board and to the Task Force of Strategic Planning, enabling them to plan actions starting today. This INTOSAI Global Trends Report is a first step in this journey to the future, considering that foresight is not about predicting it, but helping institutions and governments to be ready for it. In this context, foresight emerges as a valuable tool that allows the exploration of possible futures, identification of opportunities, and mitigation of risks in an ever-evolving world.

By keeping a vigilant eye on emerging issues, audit institutions are empowered to evolve their methodologies, enabling them to significantly enhance their capacity to contribute to public governance, promoting the sustainability and resilience of our institutions and societies.

Bruno Dantas
SCEI AND INTOSAI CHAIR

Margit Kraker
INTOSAI Secretary General

I. INTRODUCTION

The present INTOSAI Global Trends Report gathers information from reports issued by multilateral institutions and think tanks, as well as insights from all INTOSAI working bodies and Regional Organizations, including their subgroups. It primarily aims to provide approaches and inputs for INTOSAI's strategic planning but is also intended to support Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) in preparing for emerging issues, especially those SAIs with limited resources to conduct foresight initiatives.

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Global Centre for Public Service Excellence, "foresight encompasses methods and approaches such as trend analysis and scenario building to explore possible and probable futures, generating insights that enable transformative actions in the present. Foresight empowers decision makers and policy planners to use new ways of thinking about, talking about, and implementing strategic plans that are compatible with the unfolding future".[1] The goal of foresight is not to predict the future with precision but to visualize different scenarios and plan proactive actions through strategic thinking exercises.

International collaboration and the sharing of best practices among SAIs from different countries are essential for the success of foresight initiatives. Participation in international networks and discussion forums on the topic, such as those promoted by INTOSAI, facilitates the exchange of knowledge and experiences, thereby strengthening the global capacity to anticipate and respond to future challenges. This aligns with ISSAI 12, which underscores the importance of SAIs in contributing to good governance by enhancing their ability to foresee and address emerging issues. In this regard, the INTOSAI Supervisory Committee on Emerging Issues (SCEI) can also serve as a platform for interaction with external foresight centers, as well as to promote INTOSAI's global voice.

Global SAI Stocktaking Report

Before analyzing the global trends that will likely affect societies and governments, as well as the implications of these emerging issues to Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs), it is important to fully understand the SAI community as it is today.

The Global SAI Stocktaking Report (GSR) 2023 was published in April 2024, incorporating responses from 166 SAIs, which were triangulated with other relevant data. It provides a contemporary outlook across various areas, including mandate organization, functioning, challenges, capacity development needs, and their alignment with emerging socio-economic and political trends.[2]

The results reveal that some SAIs have been constrained by increased interference in their independence as well as by institutional and operational challenges. The GSR comes in the backdrop of concerning global trends regarding decreasing accountability and democracy. This can affect the ability of SAIs to continue their work in holding governments accountable for public spending and governance.

The GSR indicates that there is a moderately strong correlation between levels of published reports and civil liberties, suggesting that trends affecting transparency and openness could have detrimental effects on the work of SAIs.

The report also presents some positive indicators regarding SAIs around the world: SAIs continue to professionalize their audit practices by adopting the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs) and maintaining their strategic management practices. SAIs have been responsive to emerging is-

sues and have remained highly relevant during the COVID-19 pandemic.[3]

Regarding the adequacy of financial resources, 47% of the SAIs expressed difficulties. Following the COVID 19-pandemic, problems were also reported in accessing peer support and external support from external providers when SAIs are leading capacity development projects. This shows the need for INTOSAI and development partners to work together to help SAIs get back on track in providing and receiving technical and financial assistance that can improve the accountability of governments and promote trust in institutions.

The report shows that 90% of SAIs have a strategic plan and manage their work using operational plans. There has been an improvement in good practices based on strategic management principles in the SAI community. Futuring and analysis of emerging trends will further contribute to the improvement of strategic planning by SAIs and support of INTOSAI P-12 - The Value and Benefits of Supreme Audit Institutions – making a difference to the lives of citizens.

II.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE GLOBAL TREND REPORT

The objective of the Global Trends Report is to present possible implications for INTOSAI and the community of SAIs arising from major drivers of change that will continue to affect the world over the next 15 years.

Thinking strategically about possible future implications allows the INTOSAI community to envision and decide on actions that can be taken in the present, thus better prepare for the future.

The following seven megatrends covered in this report, which are the drivers of future change, have been identified through a meta-analysis of reports from various institutions with expertise in strategic foresight:

- Erosion of Trust in Institutions
- Economic Challenges and Debt
- Digital Transformation of Governments and Society
- Climate Change and the Triple Planetary Crisis
- The Widening Demographic Gap
- Global Migration
- Rising Inequalities

Each trend is presented according to the following structure: a brief explanation, key facts that support the existence of the trend, the uncertainties or factors that have the power to significantly affect the trend – either exacerbating or diminishing it – and that currently do not show a predictable trajectory, as well as the implications for governments, societies and, consequently, for SAIs.

The methodology and criteria used to identify the trends addressed in this report are explained in Appendix 1.

III.

MEGA-TRENDS AND SUPREME AUDIT INSTITUTIONS

Presented below in detail are the seven trends with significant implications for Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) in the next 15 years.

1. EROSION OF TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

Trust is integral to the functioning of any society[4]. Trust, both institutional and interpersonal, is paramount for growth, societal well-being, and governance[5]. Public trust in institutions is essencial to ensure legitimacy and support for policies and decisions. Institutional trust is difficult to build and easy to lose[6].

Although studies show that people want to trust institutions, trust is gradually declining across the globe, while conspiracy theories are on the rise. Trust can vary between institutions within the same country and among different countries. The erosion of trust in governments, political leaders, and the media is a global phenomenon, that has been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, trust in the military and police remains relatively high in some countries and low in others.

The erosion of trust in institutions is dangerous because it can lead to the erosion of democratic values and human rights. It can prompt individuals to adopt more radical, insecure and/or anti-social behaviors, such as opting for more radical political ideologies, adopting non-peaceful approaches to solving problems, agreeing to limit the human rights of other people or groups of people, withdrawing from participation in civic life, and distrusting parafinancial institutions. The erosion of trust complicates policymaking, hinders economic reform and undermines efforts to address global issues such as climate change. SAIs are similarly affected, facing, for example, more complex audit environments as a result of growing distrust in institutions threats to independence. Yet, SAIs have also an important role to play in rising the trust in institutions and in democracy through the applying evidence based practices and effectively communicating the audience about their work and their work results.

Key facts:

Global Decline in Trust: Across the globe, trust in institutions is waning. In 2022, only 50% of the world's population expressed trust in their governments, 41% in government leaders, and 62% in businesses[7].

Geographical Variations: Trust levels vary significantly within and between[8] blocks of countries and even between regions within countries. For example, people living in cities and towns trust in governments more than those living in rural areas[9].

Regional Erosion of Trust: Almost in 2024, almost 9 out of 10 European Union (EU) citizens (89%) considered it is important that all EU Member States respect the core values of the EU, including fundamental rights, the rule of law and democracy.[10] However, trust in the main national institutions decreased by an average of 13.4% from the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in spring 2020 to mid-2022[11]. In Latin America, the satisfaction with democracy fell to the lowest level of 24% in 2018 to rise to 28% in 2023. Yet, it varied significantly between countries of the region in 2023, with 65% satisfaction level in Salvador and 59% in Uruguay to 8% in Peru.[12]

Intra-regional Differences: Even within economic blocks such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), trust varies widely. Only 39% of people in OECD countries report a high or moderately high level of trust in their national governments, while 44% have little or no trust. By comparison, 63% trust the police and 54% trust the judiciary. However, trust in national parliaments (37%) and political parties (24%) is much lower.[13]

Temporal Decline: Over time, trust in institutions has shown a marked decline. In the U.S., for example, the average confidence in major institutions fell

from 48% in 1979 to 26% in 2023[14]. The decline is even more dramatic when viewed over a longer period: from 1958 to 2024, for example, public trust in the government fell from 73% to 22%.[15]

Correlation with Economic Optimism: Growing mistrust[16] in institutions often correlates with declining economic optimism and increasing social discontent (e.g., expressed as 'me and my family will be better off in 5 years'[17]). For example, 65% of people worldwide believe that 'the lack of civility and mutual respect today is the worst they have ever seen'.[18]

Rise of Misinformation: Mistrust in information and disinformation grows.[19] Deepfakes make people mistrust in everything they see.[20] Targeted cyber disinformation[21] campaigns undermine public trust in authorities.[22] These and other factors, combined with people's insufficient knowledge to detect and resist them, contribute to the overall erosion of trust in institutions.

Uncertainties:

Policy Landscape: with many electoral processes ahead in the next years, the policy landscape could undergo significant changes in some countries. The elections which took placed so far showed, for example, a rise of populist political parties in parliaments in some countries, which may lead to the change of the current policies, while the re-elections of the same parties in some countries, may lead to the continuation of the current policies.[23]

Success in Addressing Challenges: It is uncertain whether the efforts to effectively address global, national, and local challenges such as climate change, global security, public health, poverty, and inequality will be sufficient to build or maintain trust as the success of these actions and their impact on public perceptions are difficult to predict.

Educational efforts: Continued investment in knowledge and skills is crucial and could increase, potentially reversing the trend of trust erosion. However, it remains uncertain whether widespread educational efforts and skills development will be sufficient to strengthen trust in institutions on a broad scale.

Implications for Governments and Societies:

Rising Costs of Governance: Governments rely on trust to reduce transaction costs (in governance, society and the economy), and to invest in reforms and programs that deliver better results[24].

Declining Civic Engagement as Part of Participatory Democracy: Growing mistrust in governments may lead to a further polarization and prompt people to reduce their participation in civic activities, e.g., in individual volunteerism, voting, policymaking and other activities at the national, regional, and local levels.

Healthcare Costs: Mistrust in healthcare systems and in governmental measures taken in response to crises (e.g., vaccination[25]) may increase the costs and burden on healthcare systems.

Trust Levels in Different Groups: Younger people tend to have lower levels of trust in governments than older citizens[26], less educated people tend to have lower levels of trust than more educated individuals[27] etc., which may require institutions to take targeted actions and measures to gain the trust of different groups.

Role of Education and Technology: A complex and dynamic world, using new technologies and facing various challenges, requires people to continuously invest in their knowledge and skills. Better knowledge of the role and value of institutions could help to reverse the trend of eroding trust in institutions.

International Cooperation at Risk: Trust in institutions plays an important role in international cooperation, trade and security. If mistrust between countries and regions increases, the stability of international cooperation could be jeopardized.

Implications for Supreme Audit Institutions:

Citizen Involvement: SAIs must ensure audit processes more transparent for citizens and engage in greater knowledge sharing and communication with the citizens.

Adoption of New Technologies: To enhance transparency and interaction with citizens, SAIs should continue to explore using new technologies, including AI, digital platforms such as social media, and new products such as digital reports.

Increased Complexity of Audit Requests: Mistrust in institutions could lead to greater demand and increasing complexity of audit requests.

High Quality Audits Results: Mistrust in audit findings can have legal implications for auditors and SAIs and hinder effective governance. Therefore, the application of high quality practices and standards is paramount.

Effective communication: SAIs contribute to accountability, but in order to remain relevant and have an impact, SAIS need to effectively communicate their work at all their stages, with particular attention to the audit results.

2. ECONOMIC CHALLENGES AND DEBT

The global economy is currently navigating a complex and volatile landscape, characterized by a number of emerging trends and challenges. Key drivers influencing these dynamics include the lingering economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing international geopolitical tensions, the urgent need for a transition to sustainable economy, and the rapid emergence of new technologies.

Increased borrowing in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to unprecedented levels of public debt, posing significant risks to long-term fiscal sustainability. The recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic has been uneven, with developed countries recovering faster than developing countries, thereby exacerbating global economic inequalities. At the same time, inflationary pressures have been fueled by supply chain disruptions, labor shortages, and increased demand. Central banks and governments now face significant challenges in balancing monetary and fiscal policies to manage inflation, taxation, and economic growth.[28]

Modern economic drivers are disrupting traditional economic structures. Accelerated digitalization is reshaping economies but also poses challenges such as job displacement, cybersecurity threats, and gaps in regulatory frameworks. Emerging technologies and economic uncertainty are driving shifts in employment patterns, with a proliferation of 'gig work', short-term consulting, and temporary solutions replacing long-term employment models.

The rise of digital currencies and financial technologies is also transforming the economic landscape. While some countries have begun to embrace these innovations through official channels, significant challenges remain in areas such as regulation, supervision, legal frameworks, oversight and security. In addition, financial resources are increasingly constrained as the global economy invests in sustainable energy and resource infrastructure.[29] A notable concern is also the increase in global military expenditure[30] which reached $2443 billion in 2023, an increase of 6.8 per cent in real terms from 2022. This was the steepest year-on-year increase since 2009.

Key Facts:

Record-High Global Debt: As of 2023, global debt–including borrowing by governments, businesses and individuals–has reached an all-time high of USD 307 trillion. The global debt-to-GDP ratio stands at 336%, with developed.[31]

Slowed Global Growth: Global economic growth is projected at 3.2% in 2024 and 3.3% in 2025. This marks a slowdown from the pre–COVID-19 pandemic growth rate of 3.7% in 2017 and is lower than the 3.5% recorded in 2022. Developing countries are currently experiencing higher growth rates than developed countries, further highlighting global economic disparities.[32]

Critical Financial Inequality: As per the World Inequality Report 2022, global financial inequality has reached alarming levels, with the wealthiest 10% of the population owning 76% of the world's wealth and accounting for 52% of global income.[33]

Regional Inflation Disparities: The global inflation rate has gradually decreased over the past three years, reaching 5.9%.[34] However, there are significant regional variations, with inflation rates exceeding 10% in Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia.[35] Balancing economic growth with checks on inflation will remain a major challenge for policy makers.[36]

Fluctuating Crypto Adaption: The global Crypto Adaption Index shows fluctuating trends, with a peak in 2021, a decline in 2022, and a slight recovery in 2023.[37]

Uncertainties:

Sovereign Debt Crises: The risk of sovereign bankruptcy and economic collapse due to unsustainable foreign debt is a significant uncertainty. High debt servicing costs could negatively impact development spending, thereby reducing the quality of life for citizens.

Impact of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI): The impact of FDI on the sovereignty of national resources remains uncertain and could have profound implications for economic stability.

Variable Economic Growth: Short- and long-term economic growth will be contingent on several factors, including geopolitics, supply chain dynamics, the localization of economies, employment opportunities, technological advances and the costs of transitioning to a sustainable economy. The complex interplay of these factors contributes to significant uncertainties.

Technology Adoption Disparities: The development and adoption of new technologies will vary widely across countries, with potential dependence on a few technology providers, creating risks of oligopoly and global inequalities.

Implications for Societies and Governments:

Debt and Growth: Governments need to balance the demands of debt service with development spending. Spending and revenue will be key factors in any efforts to reduce debt burden. Monetary policy should meet the needs of economic growth during downturns. Adequate skills and reskilling of citizens needs to be ensured to enable adequate employment opportunities.

Sustainable Transitions: Policymakers will be considering the goal of economic growth alongside efforts towards sustainable production and consumption.

Public-Private Synergy: Will create conditions for greater collaboration between the private sector and governments. Governments may not be able to meet policy objectives without taking into account the private sector.

Balanced Technology Integration: A calibrated adoption of technologies will be needed to meet the requirements of economy. Policy makers will be balancing technology-driven economic growth and potential risks from the impact of the technological change.

Implications for Supreme Audit Institutions:

Public Debt Audits: SAIs may need to consider great focus on auditing public debt management to ensure accurate reporting and responsible fiscal practices.

Sustainable Economic Audits: SAIs need to be ready to audit government initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable economic development and growth.

Leveraging Technology: SAIs need to train their auditors and adapt their procedures to effectively audit the impact of digital economy and the use of digital financial instruments by governments.

Auditing Public-Private Partnerships and State-Owned Enterprises: SAIs should continue to prioritize timely and relevant audits in these areas, ensuring accountability and transparency in public-private partnerships and state-owned enterprises.

3. DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF GOVERNMENTS AND SOCIETY

Increasingly powerful general-purpose Artificial Intelligence (AI) will interact with advancements in other technologies, from quantum computing to synthetic biology. These rapid and profound advances are expected to further accelerate changes in scientific development and to offer unprecedented opportunities for efficiency, personalized services, and tackling complex problems.

New technologies are creating new virtual spaces for interaction, entertainment, education, and commerce, offering immersive experiences that transcend physical boundaries. The shift towards online platforms and digital services is reshaping the way people work, learn, and interact, with profound impacts on the lives of individuals and societies[38].

However, these developments also carry major societal risks, ultimately presenting potential threats to human values and interests. Key concerns include misinformation and disinformation, job loss and displacement, criminal use and cyberattacks, bias and discrimination, use in critical decision-making by both organizations and states, and integration of AI into weaponry and warfare[39].

Key facts:

Widespread Impacts: The rapid advancement of digital technologies is driving innovation, improving efficiency, and creating new business models, but it also presents challenges such as digital divide, data privacy concerns, and the need for continuous upskilling of the workforce.

AI and Employment: AI's impact on labor markets is complex and will alter the types of available jobs[40], their locations, and the specific skills they require. Almost 40% of global employment is exposed to AI, with advanced economies facing greater exposure but also having better capabilities to exploit its benefits than emerging market and developing economies.[41]

Online Education: Despite its growth and continued evolution, online education, which can be one of the important tools to prepare workers for technological changes, still faces challenges in accessibility, effectiveness, and security.[42]

Cyber Threats: The digital world's expansion has increased the sophistication of cyber threats and the importance of cybersecurity measures.[43]

Uncertainties:

Human Adaptation to New Technologies: The ability of humans to adapt to the rapidly evolving development of and reliance on advanced machine intelligence, both in terms of understanding the technology itself (the "Black Box Problem") as well as in creating regulatory safeguards (the "Pacing Problem").[44]

Retraining Capacity: The effectiveness of retraining programs in preparing workers for new careers, and their ability to bridge the digital divide amid rapid technological change[45].

AI Adaptation: The ability of workers, especially in less developed economies, to adapt to new AI-driven job requirements.[46]

Cybersecurity versus Civil Liberties: The balance between enhancing cybersecurity and preserving civil liberties in an increasingly digital society.[47]

Implications for Societies and Governments:

Optimize Public Service: Improving the efficiency and responsiveness of public services, such as healthcare, transportation, and social services, will improve citizen satisfaction and potentially reduce costs.[48]

Ethics and AI Regulation: The use of AI will raise ethical questions about bias, transparency, and accountability. Governments will face the challenge of developing robust regulatory frameworks to address these issues and ensure that AI systems are fair, transparent, and aligned with public and societal needs.[49]

AI and National Security: AI and new technologies will play a crucial role in national security, from improving threat detection and response capabilities to enabling more sophisticated surveillance and intelligence operations. However, this will also raise concerns about civil liberties and the potential for misuse of AI in surveillance and military applications.[50] as well as hybrid warfare that involves a blend of conventional tactics and subversive actions, such as disinformation campaigns, cyber-attacks, and the use of proxy forces.

Invest in Reskilling: Governments and societies will likely explore investments in reskilling and training programs to prepare the workforce for new job landscapes, and to meet the demand for new skills in AI management, data analytics, and cybersecurity, among other areas.[51]

Citizen Data Protection: Ensuring that citizen data is protected from breaches and misuse will be a critical challenge, necessitating stringent data governance policies. Enhanced cybersecurity measures and public education on digital safety are essential to protect against evolving cyber threats.[52]

Implications for Supreme Audit Institutions:

SAI Digital Transformation: To keep pace with the entities they audit, SAIs need to invest in their own digital transformation, incorporating advanced technologies such as AI and data analytics into their audit processes.

Need to Develop New Skills: SAIs need to evolve their methodologies to effectively audit digital programs and initiatives. This includes developing expertise in auditing AI systems, cybersecurity measures, and online education platforms.

Building Trust: SAIs will increasingly have a critical role to play in identifying new risks related to cybersecurity, privacy, and the equitable delivery of public services, as well as in providing recommendations to mitigate these risks and build trust in societies around the world.

New Ways of Interacting with Citizens: SAIs can use new technologies to innovate the way they interact with citizens and explore new ways of involving different stakeholders in their audit work.

4. CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE TRIPLE PLANETARY CRISIS

Climate change is here, now, and intensifying[53]. Current research indicates that multiple planetary boundaries have been breached, marking the onset of a 'triple planetary crisis'[54] that includes climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Together, these crises have profound social and economic implications, affecting every aspect of life on earth.

Efforts to address this crisis are weakened by global fragmentation, competition for natural resources, economic challenges, unsustainable energy use and the persistence of climate denial.[55] These factors undermine a unified global response to this crisis[56], making it difficult to mitigate the effects of the planetary crisis or adapt to its consequences.

The social impacts of this crisis are far-reaching. Increased migration, deepening poverty, and insecure access to basic resources are becoming more common, particularly for the most vulnerable[57]. The full costs and consequences of the climate and environmental crisis are not yet known[58], but the risks are escalating.

Key facts:

Paris Agreement Shortfalls: The Paris Agreement[59] aimed to limit the increase of global long-term average temperatures to 1.5°C. Since then, consecutive climate summits have failed to deliver significant mitigation and adaptation actions or to commit the necessary financing at the global level.[60]

Rising Temperatures: We have already reached 1.2°C of global warming. There is an 80% likelihood that temperatures will exceed 1.5°C for a entire year before 2028.[61]

Economic and Social Losses: The increase in global temperatures has already led to widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people. Extreme weather, climate and water-related events caused almost $1.5 trillion in economic losses in the decade to 2019, up from $184 billion in the 1970s[62].

Escalating Disasters: Each increase in global temperature will increase the frequency and severity of extreme weather events,[63] leading to higher disaster management costs in the future.

Resource Overuse/Species Risk of Extinction: Humanity is currently using resourses at a rate at which ecosystems cannot keep up with demand. In addition, one million of the world's estimated 8 million plant and animal species are threatened with extinction.[64]

Population and Urbanization Pressures: Population growth, rapid urbanization, and poor land and resource management practices are exacerbating environmental and climate impacts, particularly in developing countries[65]. Vulnerable communities are disproportionately affected by these events and have fewer resources and cope with environmental emergencies.[66]

Uncertainties:

Financing Gaps: To meet climate goals, both adaptation and mitigation financing will need to increase significantly[67]. Challenges in other policy areas increase pressure on public finances, creating uncertainty about whether sufficient private and public funding for sustainability can be secured[68].

Tipping Points: The risk of irreversibly crossing climate tipping points is increasing rapidly[69]. It remains unclear when these tipping points will be reached and what the financial and non-financial costs of crossing them will be.

Behavioral and Technological Adaption: There is uncertainty about humanity´s ability to change behaviors or develop and implement technologies that

achieve effective adaptation and mitigation without causing further environmental harm.[70]

Long-Term Commitment to Sustainability: It is uncertain whether the global focus on long-term sustainable development[71] will have a timely and significant impact on the environmental crisis.

Implications for governments and Societies:

Climate Risks to Security: Climate change will increasingly exacerbate risks to human and national security, through more extreme weather events and natural disasters.[72]

Disproportionate Impact on Vulnerable Regions: The impacts on developing countries and poorer regions and will intersect with environmental degradation to create new vulnerabilities and exacerbate existing risks to economic prosperity, food, water, health, and energy security.[73]

Crucial Trade-Offs for Governments: Governments will be forced to make hard choices and trade-offs[74] that will affect economies and societies at an unprecedented pace and scale.

Unequal Adaptation and Resilience: Adaptation and resilience will not be evenly distributed, leaving some populations vulnerable and exacerbating inequalities.[75]

Economic Turbulence and Emissions: In addition, global economic turbulence will make it more difficult for many emerging economies and developing countries to reduce their carbon emissions, potentially hindering their development.[76]

Implications for Supreme Audit Institutions:

Advancing Environmental Audits: The increased focus on environmental auditing is expected to continue and could also lead to the development of new standards and criteria. Current topics of interest within INTOSAI[77] include the Climate Scanner, climate adaptation, climate and biodiversity, environmental accounting, energy transition, green fiscal policy tools, and sustainability reporting. SAIs could envisage a reinforced cooperation with the civil society organizations active in environmental protection to both identify risks and suitable criteria in this area.

Future Audit Opportunities: There are opportunities for future audit work in areas such as green bonds, carbon offsets, intergenerational fairness, societal impacts, natural resource management, financial contingency planning, energy transition regulatory oversight and overall government resilience.

Strengthening Public Interest Oversight: The importance of SAIs´ work in protecting the public interest is growing, particularly in relation to government responses to crises, extreme weather events, adaptation measures, and the protection of natural resources that provide critical ecosystem services.

Ensuring Responsible Resource Management: SAIs need to ensure that public resources are managed responsibly to safeguard economic prosperity, health, and well-being for current and future generations.

Reputational Risks for SAIs: SAIs face reputational risks if they fail to warn policymakers of the increasing risks posed by climate change and environmental degradation to public budgets and the value and availability of natural resources.

Resource Strain on Auditors: The strain on public resources and potential impacts on energy, communications, and transport infrastructure could limit the resources available to SAIs, posing risks to independence and effectiveness.

5. THE WIDENING DEMOGRAPHIC GAP

The demographic gap refers to the disparity in population characteristics, particularly age distribution, across different regions or countries. In the next decade, the demographic gap is expected to widen significantly due to varying birth rates, aging populations, and migration patterns. Developed countries, especially in Europe and East Asia, are witnessing a rapid increase in the number of elderly citizens due to low birth rates and longer life expectancy. Conversely, many developing countries, particularly in Africa and parts of Asia, are experiencing a youth bulge, with high birth rates and a growing number of young people. This divergence is set to shape global economic, social, and political landscapes in profound ways.

The widening demographic gap over the next decade will present multifaceted challenges for governments and SAIs around the world. Governments will need to anticipate demographic shifts and implement strategies that promote economic stability, social cohesion, and sustainable development. Proactively addressing the demographic gap will be crucial to navigating the complex interplay of aging populations in developed regions and youthful populations in developing areas.

Key Facts:

Aging Populations in Some Examples of Developed Countries:

• By 2034, older adults will outnumber children in the U.S. for the first time, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

• Japan's elderly population (65+) is expected to account for nearly 30% of its total population by 2030.

• Europe is experiencing a similar trend, with countries like Germany and Italy seeing significant increases in their elderly populations.

Youthful Populations in Some Examples of Developing Regions:

• Sub-Saharan Africa is poised to have the youngest population in the world, with a median age projected to be under 20 by 2030.

• Countries such as Nigeria and Ethiopia are expected to see their populations grow rapidly, with a substantial portion under the age of 25.

• South Asia, including countries like India and Pakistan, will also continue to have large youth populations, although growth rates will slow compared to past decades.

Uncertainties:

Technological and Medical Advances: Breakthroughs in healthcare could reshape life expectancy and quality of life, impacting demographic projections. Technological advancements in automation and AI could mitigate some of the economic impacts of an aging population but could also exacerbate youth unemployment.

Political and Social Responses: Government policies on immigration, family planning, and elderly care will play a critical role. Social attitudes towards aging and youth will influence policies and societal support systems.

Implications for Governments and Society:

Political Stability and Youth unemployment: High youth populations in developing countries could lead to increased unemployment if economic growth does not keep pace, potentially causing political unrest.

Immigration tensions: Increasing migration flows could lead to tensions and divisions within receiving countries, challenging social cohesion and political stability.

Economic Challenges: Governments will face significant economic challenges due to the demographic gap. Developed countries will need to address the financial burden of an aging population, including increased healthcare and pension costs. Labor shortages may also necessitate policy considerations to encourage higher participation rates among older workers and women, and possibly increased immigration to supplement the workforce.

Social Services and Infrastructure: Demand for social services will change dramatically. Aging populations will require more healthcare facilities, elderly care services, and age-friendly infrastructure. Conversely, countries with youthful populations will need to invest heavily in education, job creation, and housing to accommodate their growing numbers.

International Aid and Development: Bridging the demographic gap may require increased international cooperation and aid to support development in rapidly growing regions. Migration will become an increasingly contentious issue. Developed countries may compete for skilled migrants to bolster their workforces, while developing countries may face brain drain. Effective and humane immigration policies will be crucial to managing these flows and ensuring social cohesion.

Environmental and Climate Considerations: Younger, rapidly growing populations in developing countries will increase the demand for resources, potentially exacerbating environmental degradation. Conversely, aging populations in developed countries might consume resources differently, potentially leading to reduced environmental footprints. Governments will need to balance these dynamics in their environmental and climate policies.

Implications for Supreme Audit Institutions:

Foresight Capacity: Demographic change will require SAIs to develop foresight capabilities to anticipate the implications for public policies and to be prepared to conduct work that helps governments foresee and manage these implications.

Audit of Social Programs: The increased relevance of public policies related to health care or education is likely to bring more expectations from the societies and decision makers to better understand their efficiency and effectiveness, thus requiring SAIs to assess these dimensions.

Audit of Resource Allocation: The widening demographic gap may lead to inequalities in resource allocation, which SAIs will need to monitor closely. Audits will need to assess whether resources are being allocated equitably across different demographic groups and whether public funds are being used effectively to address demographic challenges.

Workforce Challenges: SAIs themselves may face challenges in maintaining a diverse and inclusive workforce, reflecting the broader demographic changes in society. SAIs will need to create new strategies and incentives to retain auditors and to attract talents in a tighter job market.

6. GLOBAL MIGRATION

Global migration is influenced by a complex interplay that goes beyond mere economic inequality between states. Long-term social, security, political and economic contexts all play a role. Global migration presents both opportunities and challenges for migrants and host countries and has been a significant driver of development and prosperity.[78]

Migration is the movement of people with the intention of settling temporarily or permanently in a new country.[79] Additionally, every country faces internal migration, such as the movement from rural areas to cities.[80] Voluntary migrants often seek better economic or employment opportunities, driven by education or capital, the desire to join family or friends, or the pursuit of education.[81] In contrast, forced migration involves compulsion or coercion.[82] There are many reasons why people around the globe flee to another country: Some are forced to flee war, violence, political persecution, or human rights abuses such as torture. Others flee hunger, extreme poverty, natural disasters or the climate crisis[83].

The unpredictable nature of migration flows and patterns – including their scale, timing, nature, duration, and impact – poses significant challenges for policymakers and planners. These include economic consequences such as labor flows, inflation, living standards, and government budgets, as well as ethical and security challenges and societal risks that can threaten human values and interests. Increasing global migration poses new challenges, such as defining responsibilities and measurable outcomes in strategies and implementation plans.

Global migration is a dynamic and evolving phenomenon that requires robust and adaptive governance and strategic foresight. As migration continues to shape the global landscape, the role of SAIs in ensuring accountability, transparency, and effective governance in the management of migration and its societal impacts will be more important than ever.

Key Facts:

Global Migration in Numbers:

Estimated number of migrants in 2024:[84] 281 million, which equates with 3.6% of the global population.

Proportion of people residing in their country of birth: 96.4%, meaning only one in 30 persons is a migrant.

Global number of migrant workers: 169 million.

International remittances to low- and middle-income countries: US$670 billion, surpassing foreign investment and development assistance.[85]

Vacant jobs across the world's 30 largest economies: 30 million jobs, leading to an estimated US$1.3 trillion annual loss for businesses.[86]

Climate-related refugees: The majority move within their own countries.[87]

Migration patterns or "corridors": Often running from developing countries to larger economies.[88]

Uncertainties:

Persistent Bias, Discrimination, and Persecution: The future of bias and discrimination in both origin and destination countries is uncertain. These factors could either drive more people to migrate due to persecution or create barriers to integration in new communities. Shifts in social attitudes and policies will play a crucial role in determining the extent of these challenges.

Climate Change Impacts: The effects of climate change, such as rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and desertification, could affect migration patterns in unpredictable ways. Some regions may become uninhabitable, while others might offer new opportunities, reshaping migration dynamics.

Economic Conditions: The economic stability of both origin and destination countries is uncertain. Recessions, economic booms, or disruptions like technological automation could either push more people to migrate or reduce the demand for foreign labor.

Technological Advancements: Innovations in communications and transportation could either facilitate migration or increase border controls and surveillance, making it harder for people to move across borders. The role of technology in shaping migration remains uncertain.

Conflict and Security: The outbreak of conflict, civil unrest, or terrorism is difficult to predict and can trigger sudden spikes in forced migration. Conversely, peace processes and stabilization efforts may reduce the need for people to flee their homes.

International Cooperation: The future of international cooperation on migration issues is uncertain. Multilateral agreements, refugee resettlement programs, and global governance efforts could be strengthened or weakened, affecting how migration is managed and perceived around the world.

Implications for Governments and Societies:

Migration as a Geopolitical Tool: State actors may exploit irregular migration for political purposes to destabilize regions such as the European Union.

Inadequate Governance Frameworks: Existing governance frameworks fall short, particularly in addressing complex geopolitical challenges; a comprehensive, sustainable, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach that benefits migrants as well as countries of origin and destination is needed.[89]

Enhancing Emergency Preparedness: Regions and states need to improve their operational preparedness for future emergencies. Strengthening tools and instruments will be crucial to responding to emergencies that drive migration.[90]

Challenged Social Systems: In the EU, for example, current social systems, rooted in the socio-economic conditions of the mid-20th century, are being challenged by today's realities, including demographic change and increased migration.[91]

Implications for Supreme Audit Institutions:

Enhancing Audit Capabilities: SAIs will need to adapt their audit practices, enhance digital capabilities, and address emerging risks related to migration.

Impact on Citizens´ Lives: By responding to changing environments and emerging risks, SAIs demonstrate continued relevance to citizens, parliaments and other stakeholders, as outlined in INTOSAI P-12.[92] International cooperation is essential for addressing these issues.

Auditing the Impact of Migration: SAIs need to increase their expertise in auditing the management of migration, demonstrating the impact of current policies on future outcomes using sound databases and data analytics.

Providing Data for Policymaking: SAIs evaluate how governments are preparing for increased migration and its impact on public economies. By providing evidence for policymaking, SAIs help to address declining trust in public institutions.

7. RISING INEQUALITIES

Even if poverty reduction rates return to pre-pandemic levels, inequalities within and between countries are expected to rise. This growing inequality presents significant challenges, negatively impacting economic growth, social cohesion and political stability. As numerous studies have shown, rising inequality undermines trust, limits the capacity of societies to change, and stifles economic growth. Coupled with demographic shifts, increasing inequality will place further strain on social protection systems and necessitate innovative approaches to mitigate its effects.

The persistence and intensification of inequality are evident. While basic material needs are increasingly being met, extreme inequality and structural unemployment continue to rise. Wealth disparity, both within and between countries, hampers economic growth by reducing the spending power of large segments of the population and leads to underinvestment in public goods and services essential for long-term development. This, in turn, can foster social unrest and heighten tensions between socio-economic groups, threatening social cohesion and undermining societal trust.

Specific forms of inequality, such as gender inequality, the digital divide, and environmental inequality, will persist and evolve in the coming years. Gender disparities in income, employment and education continue to hinder overall development. The digital divide can exacerbate social and economic inequalities, with automation and digitization having potentially disproportionate effects on different populations. Environmental inequalities leave the poorest populations most vulnerable to pollution and the impacts of climate change. Additionally, intergenerational and intragenerational fairness is becoming increasingly crucial as young people face new economic challenges while older populations grapple with poverty and health issues.

Key Facts:

Widening Wealth Gap: About half of all countries experienced a widening gap between the rich and the poor between 1990 and 2018.[93]

Income Inequality: The average OECD Gini coefficient, a common measure of income inequality, stood at approximately 0.35 in 2020, indicating a high level of income disparity.[94]

Gender Inequality: At the current rate of progress, full gender equality is projected to take 131 years.[95]

Digital Divide: The International Telecommunication Union reports that about one-third of the global population remains offline.[96]

Environmental Inequality: According to the World Health Organization (WHO), almost 90% of air pollution-related deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries.[97]

Wealth Disparity Across Generations: The average net wealth of households headed by people aged 55-64 in OECD countries is more than three times higher than that of households headed by people aged 25-34.[98]

Uncertainties:

Economic Impact: The impact of rising inequality on economic growth, investment, and financial stability remains uncertain.

Policy Effectiveness: The types of government policies that will be implemented to address inequality and their effectiveness are unpredictable.

Global Interactions: Inequalities within and between countries could have a significant impact on global trade, migration, and international cooperation.

New Inequalities: As trends such as new technologies and environmental change evolve, they are likely to create new inequalities, affecting specific sectors of the economy and society more than others.

Implications for Governments and Societies:

Economic Growth Constraints: Inequality can hinder economic growth by limiting the potential of large segments of the population. When people lack access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities, their productivity and economic contributions are reduced.

Political Instability: Inequality can erode trust in government institutions and leaders, leading to political instability. High inequality often fuels the rise of populist and extremist movements.

Social Cohesion: High levels of inequality can lead to increased tensions, reduced social cohesion, and a lack of shared identity or common goals.

Pressure on Public Finances: Governments may face increased pressure to allocate more resources to social welfare programs to mitigate the effects of inequality, which can put pressure on public finances.

Implications for Supreme Audit Institutions:

Increased Demand for Audits: As inequality rises, public scrutiny of government actions and the use of public funds will intensify. This will increase the demand for high-quality audits and transparent reporting by SAIs, particularly in trending areas such as audits of the implementation of SDGs, leaving no one behind, and ensuring equal futures.

Shifting Audit Focus: SAIs may need to broaden their focus to include more audits related to social programs and policies aimed at reducing inequality. Evaluating the effectiveness of social programs, education, healthcare, and other public services that directly impact vulnerable populations will become increasingly important.

Enhanced Risks: Higher levels of inequality may lead to increased corruption and mismanagement of public resources, which will draw greater attention to the oversight roles.

Stakeholder Engagement: With growing inequality, effective communication with stakeholders and the public becomes critical. SAIs need to foster public trust in their audit work by clearly and effectively communicating their findings.

Impactful Reporting: In contexts of high inequality, the findings of SAIs will be in greater demand, with policy makers and citizens alike seeking clear and independent analysis to help inform policy responses to social challenges like inequality.

IV.

TREND IMPLICATIONS AND INTOSAI

The primary purpose of the present report is to raise awareness in the INTOSAI family community of the trends that will likely shape important changes. As such, the SCEI expects that this report will assist SAIs and INTOSAI in planning for actions to be taken in light of the implications of the trends discussed.

Within the INTOSAI community, the Professional Standards Committee (PSC), Capacity Building Committee (CBC), and Knowledge Sharing Committee (KSC) play crucial in preparing SAIs for the future.

The PSC plays the role of keeping audit standards in line with the needs demanded by changes in the world. INTOSAI Foresight work can contribute to understanding future developments in technology, governance, and public administration, and thus ensure that the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs) remain relevant and effective.

The CBC promotes and supports capacity-building programs aimed at strengthening the institutional and professional capabilities of SAIs. The foresight report highlights the emerging trends that will impact the public sector and auditing in the future. The CBC can use this information to identify the skills and competencies that auditors will need to effectively address these trends. This can guide the development of targeted training programs and capacity-building initiatives.

The KSC facilitates the sharing of knowledge and experiences among SAIs. It promotes research and the dissemination of best practices, ensuring that SAIs are well-equipped to address new challenges and opportunities. The foresight report's findings can inform the KSC's decisions on what areas of research to prioritize and what knowledge-sharing initiatives to develop. This ensures that the knowledge shared among SAIs is relevant and addresses future needs.

SCEI/CASt is the new INTOSAI Centre for Academic Studies. It can leads research initiatives focused on emerging issues such as combatting poverty and hunger, climate change, and other significant trends. By staying at the cutting edge of innovation and research, the SCEI provides valuable insights and guidance to SAIs, helping them adapt their methodologies and approaches to the changing environment. This forward-looking perspective is crucial for ensuring that SAIs remain relevant and effective in their audit practices.

Within the INTOSAI community, engagement with the working bodies addressing the issues raised by the trends outlined in this report strengthens the pursuit of global and common solutions for all SAIs. In the table below are the trends and the corresponding groups.

TREND	INTOSAI WORKING GROUPS
Economic Challenges and Debt	• Public Debt (WGPD) • Fight Against Corruption and Money Laundering (WGFACML) • SDGs and Key Sustainable Development Indicators (WGSDG KSDI) • Financial and Economic Stability (WGFES) • Public Procurement Audit (WGPPA)

TREND	INTOSAI WORKING GROUPS
Digital Transformation of Governments and Society	• Working Group on Impact of Science and Technology on Auditing (WGISTA) • Working Group on IT Audit (WGITA) • Working Group on Big Data (WGBD)
Beyond Predictions: Uncertain Toll of the Triple Planetary Crisis	• Working Group on Environmental Auditing (WGEA) • Working Group on SDGs and Key Sustainable Development Indicators (WGSDG KSDI) • Working Group on the Evaluation of Public Policies and Programs (WGEPPP) • Financial and Economic Stability (WGFES) • Working Group on Audit of Extractive Industries (WGEI)
Global Migration	• Working Group on SDGs and Key Sustainable Development Indicators (WGSDG KSDI) • Working Group on the Evaluation of Public Policies and Programs (WGEPPP)
Rising Inequalities	• Working Group on SDGs and Key Sustainable Development Indicators (WGSDG KSDI) • Working Group on the Evaluation of Public Policies and Programs (WGEPPP)

For the remaining trends, the challenge is to find collaborative ways to develop common pathways for systemic approaches.

INTOSAI SCEI's role in guiding and supporting SAIs and INTOSAI through the implications of global trends is indispensable. By fostering collaboration, building capacity, leading research, advocating for independence, and promoting transparency, the INTOSAI ensures that SAIs are well-prepared to address the challenges and seize the opportunities presented by these trends. As the world continues to evolve, the INTOSAI's leadership and vision will remain critical in shaping the future of auditing and governance.

Finally, to help SAIs and INTOSAI to further discuss and better understand the implications of the selected trends, the SCEI has developed the following cross-impact analysis, which enables the reader to consider how the trends might affect each other. Through this exercise, the SCEI aims to lay the groundwork for structuring the next discussions that will help us to fully institutionalize the foresight cycle to support strategic planning activities within INTOSAI.

V.

CROSS IMPACT ANALYSIS

TRENDS	EROSION OF TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS	ECONOMIC CHALANGES AND DEBT	DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	CLIMATE CHANGE	THE WIDENING DEMOGRAPHIC GAP	GLOBAL MIGRATION	INCREASING INEQUALITIES
EROSION OF TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS		Can increase government indebtedness by raising the cost of borrowing, reducing fiscal revenue, generating political and economic instability, hindering fiscal reforms, increasing resistance to austerity measures, and diminishing the credibility of economic policies	Hinders the adoption of technologies by citizens, limits citizen participation, complicates the financing of digital projects, obstructs inter-institutional collaboration, reduces innovation due to risk aversion, requires additional investments in cybersecurity, and complicates the fight against misinformation.	Undermines collaboration, reduces public support for climate action, fuels misinformation, and hampers international cooperation. Rebuilding trust in institutions is crucial for mobilizing the collective action needed to combat climate change effectively.	Can lead to unequal access to services. If certain demographic groups lose trust in these institutions, they may be less likely to utilize these essential services, undermining policy efforts to reduce disparities by creating resistance to policies designed to bridge the demographic gap.	Can be a push factor for migration, can lead pressure on governments to stricter immigration policies and be a factor of less welcoming attitude towards migrants and can hinder international cooperation, making it more difficult to address the root causes of migration and manage its flow in a humane and effective manner.	Exacerbates increasing inequalities by reducing access to essential services, undermining policy efforts, increasing social fragmentation, contributing to economic disparities, leading to political disengagement, and creating barriers to social mobility.
ECONOMIC CHALLENGES AND DEBT	Can lead to the erosion of trust in institutions through the perception of poor fiscal management, reduced investment capacity, unpopular austerity measures, economic uncertainty, dependence on external creditors, and increased inequalities		On one hand, drive governments towards digitalization as a strategy for enhancing efficiency and reducing costs, with automation and digital services potentially leading to significant savings and modernization of outdated infrastructure. On the other hand, can restrict investments in new technologies and digital infrastructure, foster resistance to change, and exacerbate inequalities through uneven digitalization efforts.	Diverts attention and resources from climate action, with governments prioritizing immediate economic recovery over environmental sustainability, leads to reduced funding for renewable energy, conservation, and climate research, limits investment in green infrastructure and dampen public support and political will for climate policies, potentially leading to a reliance on fossil fuels.	Can exacerbate the widening demographic gap by limiting access to essential services and opportunities for vulnerable populations, thereby reinforcing existing inequalities and hindering efforts towards achieving a more equitable society	Can act as push factors for migration, limit a country's ability to invest in infrastructure and services that could mitigate some of the push factors of migration, such as education and healthcare and shape the policies and attitudes of receiving countries, impacting the global migration landscape.	Not only deepens existing inequalities but also creates new divides, making it increasingly difficult for disadvantaged groups to improve their circumstances and contributing to a more fragmented and unequal society.

TRENDS	EROSION OF TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS	ECONOMIC CHALANGES AND DEBT	DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	CLIMATE CHANGE	THE WIDENING DEMOGRAPHIC GAP	GLOBAL MIGRATION	INCREASING INEQUALITIES
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	Can potentially rebuild trust by making government operations more transparent, accessible, and efficient or exacerbate distrust if not implemented carefully. Concerns such as data privacy, digital divides, and potential increased surveillance can deepen public skepticism. Failures in digital infrastructure can damage trust in the competence and reliability of government institutions. The overall impact on trust depends on the management, inclusivity, and transparency of digitalization efforts and data protection in digital initiatives.	Enhances operational efficiency, reduces costs, and potentially decreases government spending through streamlined processes and automation. It also improves revenue collection by enhancing tax compliance and reducing evasion, which can help in debt repayment. It fosters economic growth by creating a better environment for business and innovation, leading to job creation and increased economic activity. However, the transition requires significant investment and poses a risk of widening the digital divide, potentially marginalizing those without digital access.		On negative side: increased energy consumption and e-waste generation. On positive side: enabling better environmental monitoring, enhancing energy efficiency, supporting renewable energy integration, promoting sustainable practices, and increasing public awareness and engagement. Considering the positive side, digital transformation can significantly contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.	Positively, it improves access to essential services like healthcare and education for remote and underserved populations, enables data-driven decision-making for targeted policies, provides online education opportunities, promotes inclusive economic growth through remote work and digital entrepreneurship, and enhances social connectivity. However, it also presents challenges such as the digital divide, unequal digital literacy, job displacement for low-skilled workers, uneven resource allocation, and increased privacy and security concerns for vulnerable groups.	Improves migrants' access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and legal assistance through online platforms and mobile apps. It enhances border management with technologies like biometric identification and e-visas, streamlining immigration processes. Digital tools also facilitate communication, helping migrants stay connected with their families and access information about their rights and opportunities. Digital platforms offer economic opportunities through job access, remote work, and entrepreneurship, while online communities provide support networks. However, challenges include the digital divide, privacy and security risks, dependency on technology, potential exclusion from services, and surveillance concerns, which can exacerbate inequalities and hinder integration.	Positively, it improves access to essential services, creates economic opportunities through remote work and digital entrepreneurship, provides accessible education and skills development, enhances government transparency and accountability, and fosters social inclusion. However, it also exacerbates inequalities through the digital divide, job displacement in certain sectors, privacy and security risks for vulnerable populations, uneven resource allocation, and biases in algorithms.

TRENDS	EROSION OF TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS	ECONOMIC CHALANGES AND DEBT	DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	CLIMATE CHANGE	THE WIDENING DEMOGRAPHIC GAP	GLOBAL MIGRATION	INCREASING INEQUALITIES
CLIMATE CHANGE	Highlights response and preparedness failures, which can lead to public dissatisfaction and decreased trust if institutions are seen as unprepared or ineffective in disaster management. Perceived or actual inequities in resource allocation during and after such events can further erode trust, as neglected communities may lose faith in institutional support. Additionally, poor communication and lack of transparency during extreme weather events exacerbate public mistrust, making effective, clear, and honest communication crucial for maintaining trust.	Impacts by driving up recovery costs due to significant economic losses and higher expenditures for disaster response and infrastructure repair. This can exacerbate economic difficulties and increase public debt. Extreme weather also disrupts economic activities, damages businesses, and reduces productivity, leading to slower growth and higher debt as governments support affected industries and communities. Additionally, the financial strain of insuring against and recovering from these events puts pressure on both public and private sectors, contributing to rising debt and economic instability.	Highlights the need for advanced digital solutions, accelerating their adoption in disaster prediction, response, and recovery through AI, IoT, and emergency communication platforms. It exposes vulnerabilities in digital infrastructure, prompting investments in more resilient systems and backup solutions. Additionally, the necessity for service continuity during extreme weather drives the adoption of remote work, online education, telehealth, and other digital services, fostering more robust digital ecosystems less reliant on physical infrastructure.		Drives migration from less habitable areas, which places additional pressure on already strained infrastructure and services in receiving regions. It disproportionately displaces vulnerable groups such as the elderly and low-income individuals, exacerbating demographic imbalances and straining social services. Furthermore, the uneven impact of extreme weather across regions can widen demographic disparities, with severely affected areas experiencing population declines and others facing demographic shifts and increased demand for services.	By displacing large populations, creating climate refugees who migrate both within countries and across borders, thus straining resources in receiving areas. This displacement increases pressure on urban centers, leading to rapid urbanization and challenges related to housing, employment, and infrastructure. Additionally, the influx of climate migrants can strain international relations and border controls.	Exacerbates inequalities by disproportionately affecting low-income and marginalized communities, who often lack the resources to recover from disasters, deepening economic and social disparities. It strains public resources and services, making it challenging to address these inequalities, and leads to inequitable resource allocation during recovery efforts. Additionally, extreme weather worsens health outcomes for vulnerable populations, increasing disparities in health and access to medical care, as those with fewer resources face more severe impacts and struggle to cope.

TRENDS	EROSION OF TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS	ECONOMIC CHALANGES AND DEBT	DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	CLIMATE CHANGE	THE WIDENING DEMOGRAPHIC GAP	GLOBAL MIGRATION	INCREASING INEQUALITIES
THE WIDENING DEMOGRAPHIC GAP	Can lead to disparities in access to and quality of services provided by institutions, which may include a wide range of services such as health, education, housing, and employment opportunities. When certain groups, often marginalized based on race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or geographical location, perceive that they are receiving inferior services compared to other segments of the population, this can lead to feelings of unfair treatment and neglect. Furthermore, institutions may find it challenging to develop and implement policies that effectively meet the needs of a demographically diverse population, which can lead to policies that are ineffective or perceived as biased towards certain groups. Finally, the demographic gap can serve as a catalyst for increasing social tensions and conflicts, intensifying competition for resources, opportunities, and recognition, leading to heightened tensions between different demographic groups. These impacts not only undermine trust in individual institutions but can also have cascading effects on social cohesion and stability	Can result in increased public spending on social programs and services to address inequalities, straining government budgets and exacerbating economic challenges and public debt. Economic disparities can lead to inefficiencies in the labor market and economic productivity, contributing to slower economic growth and greater financial pressure on government resources. Additionally, addressing this demographic gap can pose resource allocation challenges, potentially increasing debt levels as governments allocate more funds to targeted interventions and support services.	As the demographic gap widens, there is an increased need for digital inclusion initiatives to ensure that underserved and marginalized groups can access digital technologies and services, driving efforts to bridge gaps in access and literacy. However, this widening gap may lead to uneven implementation of digital transformation initiatives, with some areas or groups benefiting more than others, potentially exacerbating existing inequalities if digital services are not equitably distributed.	The widening demographic gap can lead to differential vulnerability to extreme weather, with marginalized and lower-income communities being more exposed and less equipped to handle such events, exacerbating existing disparities in resilience and recovery. Resource allocation for disaster preparedness and response may become increasingly strained, with areas of higher need facing greater challenges in securing adequate resources and support. Consequently, recovery from extreme weather may be uneven, with marginalized populations experiencing slower and less effective recovery, deepening the demographic divide and hindering equitable recovery efforts.		The widening demographic gap can drive increased migration as individuals from less prosperous or underserved areas seek better opportunities elsewhere, exacerbating migration pressures on receiving regions and creating new challenges in managing population movements. This gap can complicate integration efforts in host countries, as differences in socioeconomic status, education, and resources between migrants and local populations can make integration more difficult and strain social services. Additionally, the demographic gap can lead to uneven impacts of migration across regions, with some areas facing higher migration rates and greater strain on infrastructure and services, while others may experience reduced demographic pressures.	The widening demographic gap can intensify existing inequalities by deepening the divide between different socioeconomic groups, with marginalized populations facing greater challenges in accessing opportunities, services, and resources. Efforts to address these disparities may require significant resources, leading to uneven resource allocation and potentially exacerbating inequalities if not distributed equitably. Additionally, the increasing demographic gap can contribute to social tensions and conflicts as disparities in income, access to services, and opportunities become more pronounced, perpetuating and deepening existing inequalities and hindering social cohesion and equity.

TRENDS	EROSION OF TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS	ECONOMIC CHALANGES AND DEBT	DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	CLIMATE CHANGE	THE WIDENING DEMOGRAPHIC GAP	GLOBAL MIGRATION	INCREASING INEQUALITIES
GLOBAL MIGRATION	Can strain public services and institutions, leading to perceptions of inefficiency or inadequacy and eroding public trust if institutions are seen as unable to manage the demands of a growing and diverse population. The need to address complex migration-related issues, such as integration and social cohesion, can challenge institutional capacity, and failure to implement effective policies can further decrease trust in institutions. Additionally, social tensions between migrant and native populations may arise, and criticism of how institutions handle these tensions can contribute to a further erosion of trust.	Can lead to higher public spending on healthcare, education, and housing, exacerbating economic challenges and increasing public debt as governments allocate resources to support and integrate migrants. Migration can also impact labor markets by increasing job competition and potentially driving down wages in certain sectors, creating economic pressures and challenges in managing economic growth and stability. Additionally, governments may need to invest in expanded infrastructure and social services to accommodate growing populations, further increasing economic challenges and debt as resources are diverted to meet the needs of a larger and more diverse population.	Can drive the need for more efficient and accessible digital services to support diverse and growing populations, leading governments to invest in digital transformation to improve service delivery, streamline administrative processes, and facilitate better integration of migrants. However, migrants may face barriers to accessing these services due to language, digital literacy, or infrastructure issues, necessitating targeted digital inclusion efforts and the development of new digital tools and platforms. Additionally, the rise in migration requires better data collection and analytics to understand migration patterns, manage integration, and address the needs of diverse populations, prompting digital transformation efforts to focus on enhancing data systems for effective policy-making and service delivery.	Immigrants moving from countries with lower carbon footprints to those with higher ones may adopt lifestyles leading to increased greenhouse gas emissions, thereby raising demand for energy, transportation, and climate-impacting products. In some instances, immigration can relieve pressure on natural resources in origin countries, particularly in densely populated or resource-scarce areas, positively affecting sustainable resource management and climate change mitigation. Immigration can also spur economic growth and innovation in destination countries, facilitating the development and adoption of green technologies and sustainable practices. Immigrants bring new skills and perspectives that contribute to the green economy. However, increased immigration can accelerate urbanization, leading to environmental challenges such as pollution, higher energy and resource demand, and loss of green spaces, necessitating sustainable urban planning and climate resilience policies.	On the positive side, immigration can stimulate economic growth by filling labor market gaps, bringing unique skills, and driving innovation, especially in sectors facing labor shortages. It can also rejuvenate populations in countries with low birth rates and aging populations, helping to sustain social security systems and alleviate demographic pressures. On the negative side, a sudden increase in immigration can strain local infrastructure and services such as housing, healthcare, and education, especially without proper planning for population growth. Integration challenges can arise for both immigrants and receiving communities, potentially leading to segregation and social tensions that exacerbate the demographic gap. Concerns about job competition, particularly in low-skilled sectors, may negatively impact local workers. Additionally, without adequate measures, increased immigration can accentuate socio-economic inequalities, with immigrants facing barriers to equal opportunities, further widening the demographic gap.		can exacerbate economic disparities, access to services, and social tensions, thereby deepening inequalities. Migrants often face barriers to employment, economic integration, and access to essential services like healthcare and education, especially if they come from marginalized backgrounds. These challenges can worsen existing disparities between different socio-economic groups. Additionally, the rise in migration can fuel social tensions and conflicts between migrants and native populations, potentially reinforcing existing inequalities and contributing to social fragmentation.

TRENDS	EROSION OF TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS	ECONOMIC CHALANGES AND DEBT	DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	CLIMATE CHANGE	THE WIDENING DEMOGRAPHIC GAP	GLOBAL MIGRATION	INCREASING INEQUALITIES
INCREASING INEQUALITIES	Increasing inequalities can significantly erode trust in institutions due to perceptions of injustice, disconnection from governance, and inadequate policy responses. When people perceive institutions as unfair or exacerbating inequalities, their confidence in these institutions' effectiveness and legitimacy diminishes. Marginalized groups may feel increasingly alienated from political and institutional processes as inequalities grow, leading to a diminished trust in institutions perceived as unresponsive or unrepresentative of their needs. Furthermore, institutions may struggle to address growing inequalities effectively, leading to perceptions of inefficacy. Ineffective or insufficient responses to inequality can further erode trust in institutions' ability to manage societal issues.	Increasing inequalities necessitate increased public spending on social programs, welfare, and support services to address disparities, straining government budgets and contributing to higher public debt and economic challenges. Rising inequalities can also lead to economic instability by creating imbalances in income distribution and reducing overall economic growth, as high levels of inequality can limit economic mobility and consumer spending. Furthermore, addressing inequalities may require reallocating resources to underserved communities and regions, impacting economic planning and increasing fiscal pressures, complicating efforts to manage economic challenges and debt effectively.	Increasing inequalities can significantly impact digital transformation for governments and society by exacerbating the digital divide, where marginalized groups may have less access to digital technologies and services, limiting their ability to benefit from such transformations and entrenching existing disparities. Unequal access to services means that digital transformation efforts may not benefit all segments of society equally, with those already facing inequalities struggling to access or utilize new digital services, thereby widening the gap in service access and digital inclusion. Additionally, challenges in implementation arise as efforts to digitally transform governance and society may be complicated by existing inequalities, requiring additional resources and planning to ensure that digital initiatives are inclusive and equitable, which can be challenging in contexts of increasing disparity.	Increasing inequalities can exacerbate the impacts of extreme weather, particularly on marginalized and low-income communities who often lack the resources to effectively prepare for or recover from such events, worsening the impact on already disadvantaged populations. Resource allocation efforts to manage and respond to extreme weather may be uneven, with resources often allocated based on existing inequalities, leading to insufficient support for the most vulnerable populations and deepening disparities in resilience and recovery. Additionally, growing inequalities can heighten social tensions during extreme weather events, as affected communities may feel inadequately supported compared to more affluent areas, increasing social and political friction and complicating disaster response efforts.	Increasing inequalities can significantly widen the demographic gap by creating disparities in access to opportunities, services, and resources across different demographic groups, leading to uneven development and reinforcing existing demographic imbalances. As inequalities grow, social fragmentation can increase, with different demographic groups experiencing varying levels of access and support, deepening existing gaps between different segments of society and hindering cohesive social development. Additionally, inequalities may exacerbate regional disparities, with some areas facing more significant demographic challenges than others, resulting in regions with higher levels of inequality experiencing slower growth and greater social strain, thereby widening the overall demographic gap.	Increasing inequalities can drive higher levels of global migration as individuals from disadvantaged regions seek better opportunities and improved living conditions in more affluent areas, intensifying migration pressures on receiving regions and their resources. Migrants from unequal or marginalized backgrounds may face greater difficulties integrating into host societies, compounded by existing inequalities in the receiving areas, leading to social and economic challenges for both migrants and host communities. Additionally, the growing inequality-driven migration can prompt receiving countries to implement more stringent immigration policies and restrictions, aiming to control migration flows but potentially exacerbating tensions and inequalities within the host countries.	

APPENDIX I METHODOLOGY

In an initial search, 16 foresight global reports from international institutions with a high foresight expertise were selected. A total of 142 trends were extracted from these 16 reports using Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Below is the list of the 16 reports used for the extraction of 142 trends, which were subsequently analyzed to identify the most significant global trends relevant to Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs).

1 European Commission. (2023). Strategic foresight report 2023. Available at: https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/strategic-foresight/2023-strategic-foresight-report_en. Accessed 29 July 2024.

2 Government Accountability Office. (2022). Trends affecting governments and societies. Available at: https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-22-3sp. Accessed 29 July 2024.

3 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). (n.d.). Global scenarios 2035. Available at: https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/global-scenarios-2035_df7ebc33-en. Accessed 29 July 2024.

4 European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS). (2024). Global trends to 2040. Available at: https://espas.eu/gtr.html. Accessed 29 July 2024.

5 National Intelligence Council. (n.d.). Global trends 2040. Available at: https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/GlobalTrends_2040.pdf. Accessed 29 July 2024.

6 European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS). (2023). Horizon scanning: Emerging issues for EU policymaking. Available at: https://www.espas.eu/files/horizon/HorizonScanning_ESPAS_01.pdf. Accessed 29 July 2024.

7 European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS). (2023). Horizon scanning: Emerging issues for EU policymaking (Issue 2). Available at: https://www.espas.eu/files/horizon/HorizonScanning_ESPAS_02.pdf. Accessed 29 July 2024.

8 European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS). (2023). Horizon scanning: Emerging issues for EU policymaking (Issue 3). Available at: https://www.espas.eu/files/horizon/HorizonScanning_ESPAS_03.pdf. Accessed 29 July 2024.

9 European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS). (2023). Horizon scanning: Emerging issues for EU policymaking (Issue 4). Available at: https://www.espas.eu/files/horizon/HorizonScanning_ESPAS_04.pdf. Accessed 29 July 2024.

10 World Economic Forum. (2024). The future of growth report 2024. Available at: https://www.weforum.org/publications/the-future-of-growth-report/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

11 World Economic Forum. (2024). The global risks report 2024 (p. 50). Available at: https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_The_Global_Risks_Report_2024.pdf. Accessed 29 July 2024.

12 International Monetary Fund. (2024). Gen-AI: Artificial intelligence and the future of work (p. 25). Available at: https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Staff-Discussion-Notes/Issues/2024/01/14/Gen-AI-Artificial-Intelligence-and-the-Future-of-Work-542379. Accessed 29 July 2024.

13 European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS). (2023). Future shocks 2023. Available at: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_STU(2023)751428. Accessed 29 July 2024.

14 European Parliament. (2023). Future shocks 2023: Anticipating and weathering the next storms (Study No. PE 751.428). ISSN 2600-5174. EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service, with the Directorates-General for Internal Policies (IPOL) and External Policies (EXPO). Available at: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_STU(2023)751428.

15 Asian Development Bank. (2020). Futures thinking in Asia and the Pacific: Why foresight matters for policy makers. Available at: https://www.adb.org/publications/futures-thinking-asia-pacific. Accessed 29 July 2024.

16 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). (2024). Human development report 2023/2024: Breaking the gridlock – Reimagining cooperation in a polarized world. Available at: https://hdr.undp.org. Accessed 29 July 2024.

Subsequently, these 142 trends were analyzed considering the following criteria:

CRITERION TITLE	CRITERION DESCRIPTION
Potencial for action	Potential of the SAIs to conduct work related to the trend.
Impact	Degree to which the trend can modify the mode of operation of SAIs.
Good governance of public resources	The degree to which a trend affects good governance of public resources and assets, or the provision of public goods and services.
Relevance for the world	The extent to which a trend has the potential to impact the world (governments, society, economy) geographically.
Novelty	The extent to which a given issue area has not been extensively covered before, is not well known, or is not well understood.

This analysis, which took into account the clustering of similar trends and trends with causal relationships - particularly those that could be considered global and drivers of change with implications for SAIs - enabled for the identification of the seven megatrends that are the focus of this report.

Finally, the trends were further analyzed in terms of the following elements:

- Key facts
- Uncertainties (factors that could impact the trajectory of the trend)
- Implications for governments and societies
- Implications for SAIs

The cross-impact analysis was initiated on the basis of the SCEI Expert Group´s assessment for each trend and completed with the help of AI.

APPENDIX II REFERENCES

1. United Nations Development Programme. (2018). The Foresight Manual – Empowered Futures for the 2030 Agenda. Available at: https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/publications/UNDP_ForesightManual_2018.pdf. Accessed 29 July 2024, provides a crisp and concise overview of the use of foresight for SDGs implementation.

2. Intosai Development Initiative – IDI. (2023). Global SAI Stocktaking Report (GSR) 2023. Available at: https://gsr.idi.no/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

3. United Nations Development Programme. (2018). The Foresight Manual – Empowered Futures for the 2030 Agenda. Available at: https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/publications/UNDP_ForesightManual_2018.pdf. Accessed 29 July 2024, provides a crisp and concise overview of the use of foresight for SDGs implementation.

4. 85% of SAIs have reported to have conducted audits on the use of COVID-19 pandemic emergency funds. 49% of SAIs have undertaken performance audits of the preparedness of national governments to implement the SDGs, while 43% have undertaken performance audits on national implementation of the SDGs. To address inequalities in society, the numbers of gender audits have increased but remain low, with 31% of SAIs audits on gender and 21% mainstreaming gender in audits: Intosai Development Initiative – IDI. (2023). Global SAI Stocktaking Report (GSR) 2023. Available at: https://gsr.idi.no/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

5. United Nations. (2021). Trust in public institutions: Trends and implications for economic security (Policy Brief No. 108). Available at: https://desapublications.un.org/file/18027/download. Accessed 29 July 2024.

6. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2017). OECD guidelines on measuring trust. Available at: https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/governance/oecd-guidelines-on-measuring-trust_9789264278219-en. Accessed 29 July 2024.

7. World Bank. (2023). Trust in public institutions. Available at: https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/governance/trust-public-institutions. Accessed 29 July 2024.

8. Edelman. (2023). Edelman Trust Barometer Global Report. Available at: https://www.edelman.com/trust/2023/trust-barometer. Accessed 29 July 2024.

9. Eurostat. (2023). Citizenship and democracy. Available at: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2971. Accessed 29 July 2024.

10. Eurofound. (2023). Trust in government, in the EU, and satisfaction with democracy (rural-urban divide). Available at: https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/en/data-catalogue/trust-government-eu-and-satisfaction-democracy-rural-urban-divide. Accessed 29 July 2024.

11. Eurostat. (2024). Rule of Law. Available at: https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/upholding-rule-law/rule-law/annual-rule-law-cycle/2024-rule-law-report_en. Accessed 29 July 2024.

12. Eurofound. (2022). Trust in national institutions is falling: Data behind the decline. Available at: https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/en/blog/2022/trust-national-institutions-falling-data-behind-decline. Accessed 29 July 2024.

13. Latinobarómetro. (2023). La Recesión Democrática de América Latina, Informe 2023. Available at: https://www.latinobarometro.org/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

14. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2024). OECD Survey on Drivers of Trust in Public Institutions – 2024 Results. Available at: https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/oecd-survey-on-drivers-of-trust-in-public-institutions-2024-results_9a20554b-en.html. Accessed 29 July 2024.

15. Gallup. (2023). Historically Low Faith in U.S. Institutions Continues. Available at: https://news.gallup.com/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

16. Pew Research Center. (2024). Public Trust in Government: 1958-2024. Available at: https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2024/06/24/public-trust-in-government-1958-2024/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

17. 'Mistrust' means doubts about the honesty or abilities of someone or something, while 'distrust' means the feeling of not trusting someone or something Oxford Dictionary. (n.d.). Definitions of "mistrust" and "distrust". Available at: https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/. Accessed 29 July 2024..

18. Government Accountability Office. (2023). Trends Affecting Governments and Societies. Available at: https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-22-3sp. Accessed 29 July 2024.

19. Edelman. (2023). Edelman Trust Barometer Global Report. Available at: https://www.edelman.com/trust/2023/trust-barometer. Accessed 29 July 2024.

20. World Economic Forum. (2024). The Future of Growth Report 2024. Available at: https://www.weforum.org/publications/the-future-of-growth-report/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

21. European Parliament. (2021). What if deepfakes made us doubt everything we see and hear? STOA. Available at: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_ATA(2021)690046. Accessed 29 July 2024.

22. 'Disinformation' is 'designed or spread with full knowledge of it being false (information has been manipulated), as part of an intention to deceive and cause harm'World Health Organization. (n.d.). Definition of "disinformation" in Disinformation and public health. Available at: https://www.who.int/health-topics/infodemic. Accessed 29 July 2024.

23. Government Accountability Office. (2023). Trends Affecting Governments and Societies. Available at: https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-22-3sp. Accessed 29 July 2024.

24. Time. (2024). Midway Through the Ultimate Election Year: How the World Has Voted So Far. Available at: https://time.com/6991526/world-elections-results-2024/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

25. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2022). Building Trust to Reinforce Democracy: Main Findings from the 2021 OECD Survey on Drivers of Trust in Public Institutions. Available at: https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/governance/building-trust-to-reinforce-democracy_b407f99c-en. Accessed 29 July 2024.

26. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2021). An updated OECD framework on drivers of trust in public institutions to meet current and future challenges. Available at: https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/an-updated-oecd-framework-on-drivers-of-trust-in-public-institutions-to-meet-current-and-future-challenges_b6c5478c-en.html. Accessed 29 July 2024.

27. Pew Research Center. (2019). Young Americans are less trusting of other people – and key institutions – than their elders. Available at: https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/08/06/young-americans-are-less-trusting-of-other-people-and-key-institutions-than-their-elders/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

28. Frederiksen, M., Larsen, Ch. A., & Lauridsen Lolle, H. (2016). Education and trust: Exploring the association across social relationships and nations. Acta Sociologica, 59(4).

World Economic Forum. (2024). The Future of Growth Report 2024. Available at: https://www.weforum.org/publications/the-future-of-growth-report/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

National Intelligence Council. (n.d.). Global trends 2040. Available at: https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/GlobalTrends_2040.pdf. Accessed 29 July 2024.

Government Accountability Office. (n.d.). Trends affecting government and society. Available at: https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-22-3sp. Accessed 29 July 2024.

European Parliamentary Research Service. (n.d.). Research and analysis. Available at: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/stay-informed/research-and-analysis. Accessed 29 July 2024.

European Parliamentary Research Service. (2023). Future shocks 2023. Available at: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_STU(2023)751428. Accessed 29 July 2024.

European Strategy and Policy Analysis System. (n.d.). ESPAS – European strategy and policy analysis. Available at: https://www.espas.eu/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

29. National Intelligence Council USA. (n.d.). Global trends 2040. https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/GlobalTrends_2040.pdf

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (n.d.). Global scenarios 2035. https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/global-scenarios-2035_df7ebc33-en

European Strategy and Policy Analysis System. (n.d.). Global trends 2040. https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/848599a1-0901-11ef-a251-01aa75ed71a1/language-en

European Commission. (2023). Strategic foresight report 2023. https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/strategic-foresight/2023-strategic-foresight-report_en. Accessed 29 July 2024.

30. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. (2024). Global military spending surges amid war, rising tensions, and insecurity. https://www.sipri.org/media/press-release/2024/global-military-spending-surges-amid-war-rising-tensions-and-insecurity. Accessed 29 July 2024.

31. World Economic Forum. (2023). What is global debt, and why is it high?. https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/12/what-is-global-debt-why-high/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

32. International Monetary Fund. (2024). World economic outlook: April 2024. https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2024/04/16/world-economic-outlook-april-2024. Accessed 29 July 2024.

33. World Inequality Lab. (2022). World inequality report 2022: Executive summary. https://wir2022.wid.world/executive-summary/

34. Statista. (n.d.). Economic policy uncertainty index: Global inflation rate compared to previous year. https://www.statista.com/statistics/256598/global-inflation-rate-compared-to-previous-year/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

35. International Monetary Fund. (2024). World economic outlook 2024. https://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/PCPIPCH@WEO/WEOWORLD/VEN. Accessed 29 July 2024.

36. Bank for International Settlements. (2024). Annual report 2024. https://www.bis.org/about/areport/areport2024.pdf. Accessed 29 July 2024.

37. Chainalysis. (2023). The 2023 geography of cryptocurrency report. https://go.chainalysis.com/geography-of-cryptocurrency-2023.html. Accessed 29 July 2024.

38. European Strategy and Policy Analysis System. (2023). Horizon scanning: Emerging issues for EU policy-making (Issue 4, p. 3). https://www.espas.eu/files/horizon/HorizonScanning_ESPAS_03.pdf. Accessed 29 July 2024.

39. World Economic Forum. (2024). The global risks report 2024 (p. 50). https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_The_Global_Risks_Report_2024.pdf. Accessed 29 July 2024.

40. International Monetary Fund. (2024). Gen-AI: Artificial intelligence and the future of work (p. 15). https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Staff-Discussion-Notes/Issues/2024/01/14/Gen-AI-Artificial-Intelligence-and-the-Future-of-Work-542379. Accessed 29 July 2024.

41. International Monetary Fund. (2024). Gen-AI: Artificial intelligence and the future of work (p. 25). https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Staff-Discussion-Notes/Issues/2024/01/14/Gen-AI-Artificial-Intelligence-and-the-Future-of-Work-542379. Accessed 29 July 2024.

42. Government Accountability Office. (2023). Trends affecting governments and societies (p. 22). https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-22-3sp. Accessed 29 July 2024.

43. Government Accountability Office. (2023). Trends affecting governments and societies (p. 17). https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-22-3sp. Accessed 29 July 2024.

44. World Economic Forum. (2024). The global risks report 2024 (p. 50). https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-risks-report-2024/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

45. Government Accountability Office. (2023). Trends affecting governments and societies (p. 18). https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-22-3sp. Accessed 29 July 2024.

46. International Monetary Fund. (2024). Gen-AI: Artificial intelligence and the future of work (p. 15). https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Staff-Discussion-Notes/Issues/2024/01/14/Gen-AI-Artificial-Intelligence-and-the-Future-of-Work-542379. Accessed 29 July 2024.

47. Government Accountability Office. (2023). Trends affecting governments and societies (p. 17). https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-22-3sp. Accessed 29 July 2024.

48. International Monetary Fund. (2024). Gen-AI: Artificial intelligence and the future of work (p. 15, p. 19). https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Staff-Discussion-Notes/Issues/2024/01/14/Gen-AI-Artificial-Intelligence-and-the-Future-of-Work-542379. Accessed 29 July 2024.

49. World Economic Forum. (2024). The global risks report 2024 (p. 56). https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-risks-report-2024/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

50. World Economic Forum. (2024). The global risks report 2024 (p. 9). https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-risks-report-2024/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

51. International Monetary Fund. (2024). Gen-AI: Artificial intelligence and the future of work (p. 23). https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Staff-Discussion-Notes/Issues/2024/01/14/Gen-AI-Artificial-Intelligence-and-the-Future-of-Work-542379. Accessed 29 July 2024.

52. Government Accountability Office. (2023). Trends affecting governments and societies (p. 19). https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-22-3sp. Accessed 29 July 2024.

53. National Intelligence Council USA. (n.d.). Global trends 2040 (p. 6). https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/GlobalTrends_2040.pdf. Accessed 29 July 2024.

54. National Intelligence Council USA. (n.d.). Global trends 2040 (p. 23). https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/GlobalTrends_2040.pdf. Accessed 29 July 2024.

55. European Strategy and Policy Analysis System. (2024). Horizon scanning. https://espas.eu/horizon.html. Accessed 29 July 2024.

56. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2021). Global scenarios 2035: Common risks to humanity. https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/global-scenarios-2035_df7ebc33-en.html. Accessed 29 July 2024.

57. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2024). IPCC 6th assessment report: Summary for policymakers (p. 15). https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

58. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2024). IPCC 6th assessment report: Summary for policymakers (p. 15). https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/strategic-foresight/2023-strategic-foresight-report_en. Accessed 29 July 2024.

59. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2015). UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. https://unfccc.int/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

60. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2024). IPCC 6th assessment report: Summary for policymakers. https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/summary-for-policymakers/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

61. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2024). IPCC 6th Assessment Report: Summary for policymakers. https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/summary-for-policymakers/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

62. World Meteorological Organisation. (2024). https://wmo.int/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

63. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2024). IPCC 6th Assessment Report: Summary for policy-makers (p. 6). https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/summary-for-policymakers/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

64. World Meteorological Organisation, as reported by the World Economic Forum. (2024). https://wmo.int/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

65. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2024). IPCC 6th Assessment Report: Summary for policy-makers (p. 12, 14). https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/summary-for-policymakers/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

66. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). (2024). https://www.unep.org/. Accessed 29 July 2024

67. European Commission. (2023). Strategic foresight report 2023. https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/strategic-foresight/2023-strategic-foresight-report_en. Accessed 29 July 2024.

68. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2024). IPCC 6th Assessment Report: Summary for policy-makers. https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/summary-for-policymakers/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

69. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2024). IPCC 6th Assessment Report: Summary for policy-makers. https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/summary-for-policymakers/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

70. European Commission. (2023). Strategic foresight report 2023. https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/strategic-foresight/2023-strategic-foresight-report_en. Accessed 29 July 2024.

71. European Strategy and Policy Analysis System. (2024). Global trends to 2040 (p. 23). https://espas.eu/gtr.html. Accessed 29 July 2024.

72. Examples of potential developments: synecocultures, new energy or recycling technologies (ESPAS Horizon Scanning), geoengineering (NIC Global Trends 2040), changes in behaviors and consumption (2023 Strategic Foresight Report European Commission); assigning value to ecosystem services; a rights-based approach to resources and environment; or if we taxed the most polluting 1% (ESPAS Horizon Scanning) in European Strategy and Policy Analysis System. (2024). Horizon scanning. https://espas.eu/horizon.html. Accessed 29 July 2024.

73. Government Accountability Office. (2022). Trends affecting governments and society (p. 26-27). https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-22-3sp. Accessed 29 July 2024.

74. National Intelligence Council USA. (2021). Global trends to 2040. https://www.dni.gov/index.php/gt2040-home. Accessed 29 July 2024.

75. World Economic Forum. (2024). Global risks report 2024. https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-risks-report-2024/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

76. National Intelligence Council USA. (2021). Global trends to 2040. https://www.dni.gov/index.php/gt2040-home. Accessed 29 July 2024.

77. European Commission. (2023). Strategic foresight report 2023. https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/strategic-foresight/2023-strategic-foresight-report_en. Accessed 29 July 2024.

78. National Intelligence Council USA. (2021). Global trends to 2040. https://www.dni.gov/index.php/gt2040-home; European Commission. (2023). Strategic foresight report 2023. https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/strategic-foresight/2023-strategic-foresight-report_en. Accessed 29 July 2024.

79. International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions. (2023). INTOSAI Working Group on Environmental Auditing Work Plan 2023-2025. https://wgea.org/media/0ahpg5zs/intosai-wgea-work-plan-2023-2025_status-22-june-2023.pdf. Accessed 29 July 2024.

80. World Economic Forum. (2024). Why migration is a model for sustainable development for all. https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2024/01/migration-model-sustainable-development/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

81. Encyclopedia Britannica. (n.d.). Human migration. https://www.britannica.com/topic/human-migration. Accessed 31 July 2024.

82. International Organization for Migration. (n.d.). World Migration Interactive Educators' Toolkit. https://wmr-educatorstoolkit.iom.int/module-1-what-is-migration-resources. Accessed 31 July 2024.

83. Pew Research Center. (2018). At least a million Sub-Saharan Africans moved to Europe since 2010. https://www.pewresearch.org/global-migration-and-demography/2018/03/22/at-least-a-million-sub-saharan-africans-moved-to-europe-since-2010/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

84. Global Migration Data Portal. (n.d.). Forced migration or displacement. https://www.migrationdataportal.org/themes/forced-migration-or-displacement. Accessed 26 July 2024.

85. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (n.d.). Climate change and displacement: The myths and the facts. https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/climate-change-and-displacement-myths-and-facts. Accessed 26 July 2024.

86. International Organization for Migration. (2024). World Migration Report 2024. https://publications.iom.int/books/world-migration-report-2024. Accessed 29 July 2024.

87. World Economic Forum. (2024). Why migration is a model for sustainable development for all. https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2024/01/migration-model-sustainable-development/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

88. International Organization for Migration. (2022). Migration Matters: A Human Cause. https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2024/01/migration-model-sustainable-development/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

89. In 2022, disasters triggered a record 32.6 million internal displacements, of which 98% were caused by weather-related hazards such as floods, storms, wildfires and droughts. UNHCR, Climate change and displace- ment: the myths and the facts. In United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2022). Climate change and displacement: The myths and the facts. https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/climate-change-and-displacement-myths-and-facts. Accessed 29 July 2024.

90. Such as to the USA, the UAE, Saudi Arabia or Germany. Conflicts also create significant corridors, such as from Syria to Türkiye. International Organization for Migration. (2024). World Migration Report 2024 (p. 2). https://publications.iom.int/books/world-migration-report-2024. Accessed 29 July 2024.

91. World Economic Forum. (2024). Why migration is a model for sustainable development for all. https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2024/01/migration-model-sustainable-development/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

92. European Commission. (2023). Strategic foresight report 2023 (p. 31). https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2023-07/SFR-23-beautified-version_en_0.pdf. Accessed 26 July 2024.

93. European Commission. (2023). Strategic foresight report 2023. https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2023-07/SFR-23-beautified-version_en_0.pdf. Accessed 26 July 2024.

94. International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions. (2024). INTOSAI-P 12: The value and benefits of Supreme Audit Institutions – Making a difference to the lives of citizens. https://www.issai.org/pronouncements/intosai-p-12-the-value-and-benefits-of-supremeaudit-institutions-making-a-difference-to-the-lives-of-citizens/. Accessed 31 July 2024.

95. National Intelligence Council USA. (2021). Global trends to 2040 (p. 26). https://www.dni.gov/index.php/gt2040-home. Accessed 29 July 2024.

96. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (n.d.). Income inequality. https://www.oecd.org/en/data/indicators/income-inequality.html. Accessed 29 July 2024.

97. World Economic Forum. (2023). Global Gender Gap Report 2023 (p. 5). https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-gender-gap-report-2023/. Accessed 29 July 2024.

98. International Telecommunication Union. (2023). Measuring digital development: Facts and figures 2023. https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/facts/default.aspx?os=vbkn42&ref=app. Accessed 29 July 2024.

99. World Health Organization. (n.d.). Ambient pollution. https://www.who.int/health-topics/air-pollution#tab=tab_1. Accessed 29 July 2024.

100. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2024). Inheritance taxation in OECD countries (p. 26). https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/inheritance-taxation-in-oecd-countries_e2879a7d-en.html. Accessed 29 July 2024.

The present Global Trends Report gathers information from reports issued by multilateral institutions and think tanks, as well as insights from all INTOSAI Working Bodies and Regional Organizations including their subgroups on the subject. Its main purpose is to raise awareness in the INTOSAI family community of the trends that will likely shape important changes. As such, the SCEI expects that this report will assist SAIs and INTOSAI in planning for actions to be taken in light of the implications of the trends discussed.