

# EXTERNAL LIAISON

*Thousands of accountability organizations in the private, public, and foreign sectors have expertise that could benefit GAO in the conduct of its work. At the same time, hundreds of state and local governments could benefit from GAO's knowledge and experience and support its work. External Liaison's (EL) mission is to help GAO sustain constructive working relationships with these organizations and governments to capitalize on their experience and to facilitate knowledge sharing to resolve emerging domestic and global issues.*

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## DESCRIPTION OF

*OUR WORK*

To help GAO in its mission of serving the Congress and the American people, we

- ☐ establish relationships with our accountability partners to enhance GAO's economy, efficiency, and effectiveness and position the agency as a player in the global arena;
- ☐ enhance GAO's relationships with accountability partners in local, state, and federal governments and their international counterpart institutions through our liaison role with interagency councils, the Intergovernmental Audit Forum, and the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI);
- ☐ identify best practices to apply to emerging issues in financial management, programmatic matters, information technology, and performance measurement;
- ☐ conduct outreach, in conjunction with GAO teams, to federal agencies to improve relations; and
- ☐ work with the Intergovernmental Audit Forum and INTOSAI on selected projects to address emerging domestic and global accountability issues.



GAO

Accountability Integrity Reliability

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## EXTERNAL LIAISON

### IMPACT OF

We support GAO's mission and add value to its products by providing staff with information, insights, and strategies for effectively conducting work domestically and internationally. Through our leadership role in INTOSAI, we influence and enhance accountability in 180 countries. In support of the Comptroller General as chair of INTOSAI's Accounting Committee, we have developed a framework and guidelines for sound financial reporting that are being implemented worldwide. Through our annual international auditor fellowship program, we have strengthened financial accountability in countries receiving U.S. economic development assistance. Through the Intergovernmental Audit Forum, we provide a mechanism for federal, state, and local auditors to exchange views, receive technical training, and stay current on issues relating to governmental accountability and management reform.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT and future projects

### *Domestic Accountability Organizations and Panels*

- Establish a Domestic Accountability Group — composed of federal inspectors general and state and local auditors — to provide a forum for open discussion on issues of mutual concern
- Develop a comprehensive list of domestic accountability organizations to initiate, enhance, and sustain constructive working relationships that will assist GAO in achieving its goal of serving the Congress and the American taxpayer
- Sponsor, on behalf of the Intergovernmental Audit Forum, two national forum meetings of over 100 auditors and provide staff support to 10 regional audit forums
- Plan for the first meeting of the Comptroller General's Advisory Board, which consists of widely recognized experts in areas related to each of the strategic objectives of GAO's strategic plan

### *International*

- Establish a Global Working Group — composed of 14 auditor generals — to identify emerging global issues in financial management and accountability and foster solutions
- Establish the International Fellows Program, which provides professional development for mid-level audit staff from GAO counterparts in developing countries
- Provide, on behalf of INTOSAI, editorial and administrative support for its quarterly professional journal — INTOSAI's principal vehicle for communication
- Develop a comprehensive list of organizations and initiate, enhance, and sustain constructive and proactive working relationships to assist GAO in achieving its goals
- Develop international protocols for GAO's international work
- Publish a manager's guide to effective internal controls as part of our role with INTOSAI's Internal Control Standards Committee