



Special Session 4

More than a buzzword: How sustainable procurement drives sustainable development

Wednesday, 15 March 2023, 11.00 a.m - 12.30 p.m. Beirut time

Background and objective

Procurement is more than a buzzword for a seemingly monotone administrative process. If done correctly, as a sustainable public procurement, it is a powerful and positive catalyst for development: it is a tool that can drive our efforts to accelerate achievement of SDGs.

As the UN's procurement agency, UNOPS is the first agency to have developed an elaborate Sustainable Procurement Framework. Some of its main considerations include factors like supplier sustainability, supplier diversity and inclusion, gender-responsive procurement, and disability-inclusive procurement.

Objectives

To discuss and demonstrate the influence, role and impact that public procurement can have on sustainable development. Specifically, the session will aim to demonstrate the enormous potential and opportunities that sustainable procurement practices bring when institutionalizing the key principles of sustainable development. It will bring forward the challenges in taking a sustainable approach to procurement and examine how the private sector is central to the success of any efforts.

Additionally, the timing of the event presents the opportunity to launch the harmonized approach to searchable and selectable Sustainable Procurement Criteria on the UNGM platform.

Questions to be addressed

Can sustainability be a procurement principle, and deliver value for money?

Is sustainable procurement the tool we have been waiting for to enable delivery of the 2030 Agenda?

Overcoming the key barriers to sustainable procurement practices as a standard?

Moderator

Marcus McKay, Procurement Manager, UNOPS, Denmark

Opening Remarks

His Excellency Dr. Nasser Yassin, Minister of Environment, Ministry of Environment, Lebanon

Panelists

- **His Excellency Dr. Nasser Yassin**, Minister of Environment, Ministry of Environment, Lebanon
- **Ms. Anne-Claire Howard**, Director, Procurement Group, UNOPS, Denmark
- **Ms. Jocelyne Jabbour**, Procurement Manager, The World Bank, Lebanon
- **Mr. Mario Jales**, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA, Lebanon
- **Mr. Vanja Ostojic**, Chief, Procurement Bureau, ILO, Switzerland

This Special Session will be organized as a hybrid event. To participate over Zoom, please [register here](#). Those physically present at the UN House can attend the session in the Mezzanine meeting room (MZ floor).

