

The UN operates to achieve the goals of peace, equality, sustainable development and respect for human rights. The way the UN manages its operations and procures products and services should reflect these goals.

Through its significant purchasing power, UN procurement activities have an opportunity to leverage markets to produce more sustainable goods and services and thus to contribute to better resource efficiency and a more sustainable economy. This market influence can be employed to promote a wide range of policy objectives, including protection of social and labour rights, mitigation of adverse environmental impacts, poverty eradication, support for local development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

As defined by the UN High Level Committee on Management's Procurement Network (HLCM PN), "Sustainable Procurement practices integrate requirements, specifications and criteria that are compatible and in favor of the protection of the environment, of social progress and in support of economic development, namely by seeking resource efficiency, improving the quality of products and services and ultimately optimizing costs."

The goal is to achieve a new face of UN procurement which is harmonized, efficient and sustainable.

Tools

■ Buying for a Better World: A Sustainable Procurement Guide for the UN System

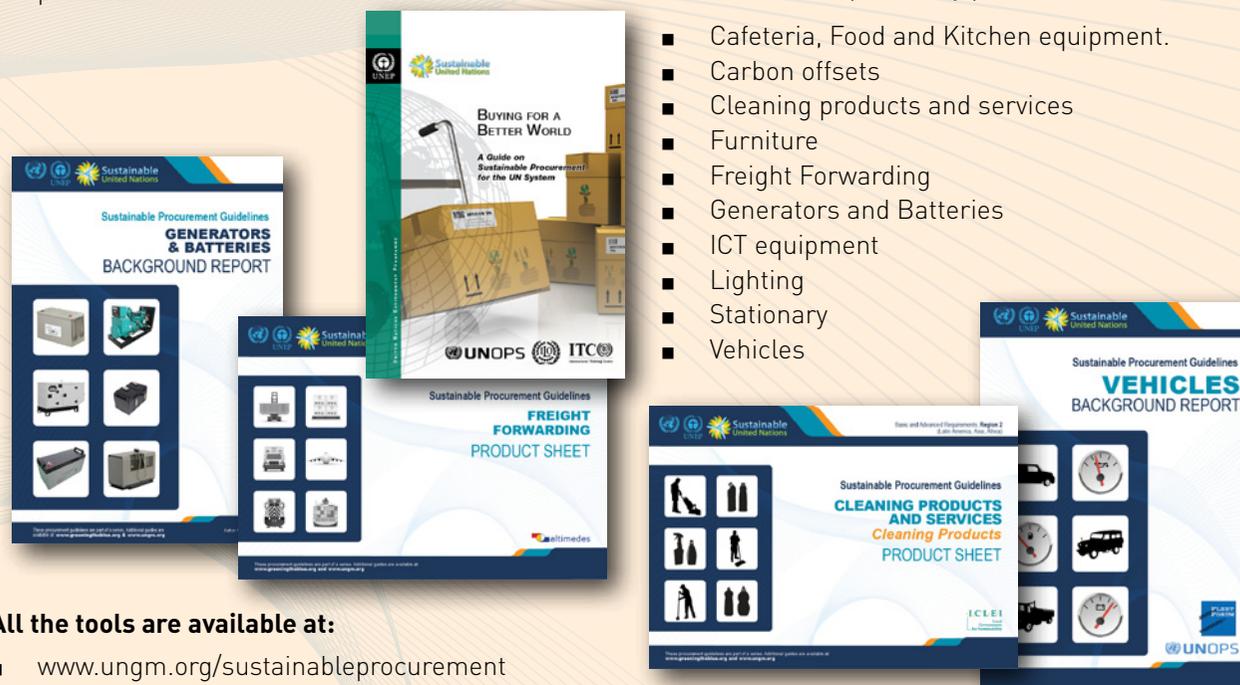
The guide aims to provide:

- The rationale for the UN to engage in Sustainable Procurement;
- Recommendations on the development of a Sustainable Procurement Action Plan;
- Guidance on the integration of sustainable development principles in the UN procurement process.

■ Sustainable Procurement Guidelines

These guidelines are built on the recognition that market situations are different from one country to another and provide advice based on research on availability of more sustainable products in different regions. They give a comprehensive overview of specific factors affecting the sustainability of a given product category and suggest a language and specific criteria to include sustainability in tenders. Guidelines are specifically provided for:

- Cafeteria, Food and Kitchen equipment.
- Carbon offsets
- Cleaning products and services
- Furniture
- Freight Forwarding
- Generators and Batteries
- ICT equipment
- Lighting
- Stationary
- Vehicles



All the tools are available at:

- www.ungm.org/sustainableprocurement
- www.greeningtheblue.org/resources/procurement

Training

Based on the "Buying for a Better World" guide, an on-line training will soon be launched to provide interactive tools on how to integrate sustainability issues in procurement. Get ready for practical theory and quizzes!



A course on Sustainable Procurement can also be provided to UN organizations upon request. Seven training sessions have already been held, reaching more than 200 participants from 20 UN organizations.

Advisory Service

The Working Group on Sustainable Procurement of the HLCM PN offers Advisory Services on Sustainable Procurement, assisting UN procurers and requisitioners with activities such as drafting Terms of References, Invitations to Bids, Requests for Proposals, or proper framing of requisitions.

"I welcome the efforts undertaken by several UN agencies, funds and programmes to find new ways of making sustainability part of our everyday work. Sustainable procurement and operations is one such example.



Together, we are continuing to use this market-based tool to reduce harmful impacts. However, much more needs to be done – and soon. [...] We must lead by example and become a greener, more environmentally responsible organization. We have no time to lose, and much to gain for this and future generations."

Ban Ki-moon

United Nations Secretary-General

"We call on the UN system to improve the management of facilities and operations, by taking into account sustainable development practices, building on existing efforts and promoting cost effectiveness, and in accordance with legislative frameworks, including financial rules and regulations, while maintaining accountability to Member States."

Para 96, "The Future We Want", Rio+20 outcome document

HLCM PN

The High Level Committee on Management's Procurement Network (HLCM PN) aims to promote the strategic importance of Procurement and Supply Chain Management in programme and service delivery in a transparent and accountable manner within the UN system. Sustainable Procurement is one of the thematic priorities of the HLCM PN, implemented through its Working Group on Sustainable Procurement.

SUN

Sustainable United Nations (SUN) is a UNEP initiative that provides support to UN and other organizations to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and improve their overall environmental performance. In 2007, the UN Environment Management Group (EMG) requested SUN to help support Sustainable Procurement practices within all UN organizations.

Contacts

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