

ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY GOALS THROUGH PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICIES

Register [here](#) to receive the link to participate in the webinar on Thursday 27 July 2023 | 14h00 - 16h00 CET

In advance of the COP 28 Climate Change Conference, the International Trade Centre (ITC), in collaboration with the World Trade Organization (WTO), is showcasing the role of green public procurement (GPP) as a tool for advancing environmental sustainability goals and creating a growth-conducive business environment for developing country micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). Empowering public authorities to employ their purchasing power to procure goods, services and works more sustainably, while supporting MSMEs to participate in and benefit from the procurement process, will facilitate a successful transition to a green and inclusive economy, to the benefit of all citizens. International trade policies and initiatives can serve as an important enabling factor in this process.

Governments are increasingly **using their purchasing power as a tool to** achieve development objectives and **build inclusive, resilient, and sustainable economies**. The **strategic use of public procurement as a tool for promoting environmental sustainability** and mitigating the threats posed by climate change is referred to as green public procurement (GPP). A core objective is to align both public sector buyers and private sector suppliers with environmental goals and values, creating a growth-conducive business environment.

GPP can incentivize **innovation** and **improve access to clean, green technologies and products**. In fact, much public procurement pertains directly to actions necessary for the world to respond to and mitigate climate change and related ecological disasters, for example a successful transition to **greener forms of energy, the construction of climate resilient infrastructure, waste systems**, etc. Life-cycle costing (LCC), which integrates **circular economy considerations into the evaluation of a contract**, can provide important savings for public authorities.

Shifting the focus of public procurement from the lowest cost of acquisition to the promotion of sustainability and related values requires a **rethinking of the value proposition** and important adjustments to traditional procurement procedures. In fact, meeting the challenges and seizing the opportunities that arise from GPP will require both the **adoption of new domestic policy frameworks by governments** and **adaptation to the new frameworks by the private sector**. This can be particularly burdensome for MSMEs, especially in developing countries. A whole-of-government approach is needed to **promote green procurement in ways that take due account of the interests of developing country MSMEs**.

International trade policies and instruments can contribute both to reshaping national frameworks to support sustainability objectives and to the creation of related opportunities for MSMEs. Increasingly, regional and bilateral trade agreements such as the Korea-Australia FTA, and EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) incorporate provisions to support the use of environmental criteria and objectives. The WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA 2012) also plays an important role in **shaping public procurement rules** and is flexible enough to enable scope for consideration of environmental values and to facilitate participation by MSMEs.

This webinar aims to:

- Take stock of developments on GPP at the multilateral, regional and domestic level, also considering the role of specific international trade instruments, such as the WTO's GPA 2012.
 - Highlight the need for domestic policies to be reviewed and reformed in order to better integrate environmental values over the life cycle of a procurement contract, also highlighting constraints faced by developing countries and MSMEs in leveraging GPP.
 - Consider possibilities for addressing green procurement in trade policy negotiations and international trade agreements while encouraging MSMEs participation in procurement to strengthen green value chains.
 - Assess key priorities for developing countries and MSMEs regarding this topic and consider how to better bring related perspectives into future negotiations and dialogues on GPP.
 - Present the draft toolkit on Green Public Procurement and International Trade Policies for discussion.
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AGENDA

Moderator: Giles Chappell, Programme Officer, Trade Policy and Investment Facilitation (TPIF), ITC

Time (CET)	
14h00	Opening Remarks - <i>Rajesh Aggarwal, Director (OiC), Division of Market Development, ITC</i>
14h05	Green Public Procurement (GPP) and international trade: relationship and related international trade instruments (GPA 2012 and regional / bilateral trade agreements) This session will address the policy relationship between GPP and international trade, and will describe how domestic GPP policies fit within existing international trade agreements (GPA 2012 and regional / bilateral trade agreements) - <i>Reto Malacrida, Head of the Government Procurement and Competition Policy Group, WTO Secretariat</i>
14h25	Sustainable public procurement: the evolution of national frameworks and international experiences This session will provide an overview of the modern evolution of public procurement frameworks on sustainable public procurement (particularly focusing on the EU) and policy implications at the national level. - <i>Marc Steiner, Judge, Swiss Federal Administrative Court and international expert on green public procurement</i>
14h40	Going green: a step-by-step toolkit for promoting green public procurement – potential synergies with trade policy and consideration for MSMEs This session will present the proposed toolkit which sets out a series of measures for policymakers, procurement professionals, MSMEs and other stakeholders to assist them in understanding and implementing the necessary policy adaptations and operational changes to promote environmental sustainability through public procurement. - <i>Robert Anderson, ITC international expert on Public Procurement and Honorary Professor at University of Nottingham</i> - <i>Antonella Salgueiro, ITC international expert on Public Procurement</i>
15h10	Interests and concerns of developing country MSMEs with respect to GPP and trade policies This session will further elaborate on opportunities and challenges for fostering the participation of developing country MSMEs, while implementing green procurement policy in international trade frameworks. - <i>Sope Williams-Elegbe, Professor, Public Procurement Law, Stellenbosch University</i>
15h25	Q&A and Open Discussion This session will reflect on how trade policy instruments can be used more meaningfully to engage developing countries in giving importance to environmentally sustainable procuring practices and how MSMEs can be better included in this process. The discussion will be opened to participants of the webinar, and panelists will respond to questions/comments from the audience.
15h50	Closing Statement - <i>Rajesh Aggarwal, Director (OiC), Division of Market Development, ITC</i>

Register here to receive the link to participate in the webinar:

https://intracen.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GZs1zdEzR2OcBYVn3gC4qQ

The International Trade Centre (ITC) is a joint agency of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations (UN), seeks to foster inclusive and sustainable growth and development through trade and international business development. ITC's technical assistance programmes contribute to the global efforts to achieve the UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development and the Aid for Trade Agenda.