

Marrakech Task Force

on Sustainable Public Procurement



MTF on SPP



The Swiss-led MTF on SPP is an international team comprising:

Governments of Switzerland, Argentina, Mexico, Ghana, Philippines, China, Czech Republic, UK, Norway, USA, State of São Paulo, European Commission Services, UNEP, UNDESA, ILO, ICLEI, IISD

Sustainable public procurement (SPP) is an important driver to bring forward the agenda on sustainable consumption and production and to enlarge markets for sustainable products. In most countries the government is the largest single buyer. Governments can, by implementing sustainable public procurement on a day to day basis,

lead by example. It also allows to spend taxpayers money in a responsible way. Besides the fact that SPP allows – when taking life cycle thinking into account – saving money in the long term it helps to foster innovation and allows firms to be competitive on the global market. SPP contributes to use natural resources efficiently, reduce environmental impacts, reduce CO₂ emissions and create human well being and contributes to social justice. In this manner, SPP adds substantially to a green economy.

These are the reasons why Switzerland decided to launch and lead the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement. During the past six years the Task Force elaborated a holistic, systematic but flexible approach that allows developed as well as de-

veloping countries to introduce or further develop SPP. This approach has been tested during the last years in different countries around the world. The work and experience of the MTF on SPP will contribute to a successful implementation of the SPP programme within the 10YFP.

Ambassador Franz Perrez
Head of International Affairs Division
Swiss Federal Office
for the Environment FOEN



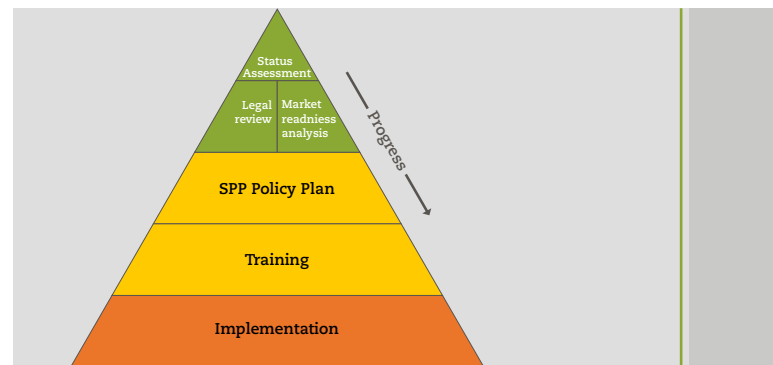
The MTF Approach to SPP

The methodology developed by the MTF on SPP to assist and encourage public authorities to move towards more sustainable procurement practices is called “The MTF approach to SPP”. It has been developed within the context of the three pillars of Sustainable Development (SD). One of the challenges of Sustainable Procurement is to find the balance between the three pillars of SD – social, economic and environmental. The MTF approach is based on the definition of SPP, adopted by the MTF members.

It follows a series of steps ideally starting from the top of the triangle and ending with the implementation of SPP in day-to-day procurement. The step by step approach is flexible and takes into account the different needs, priorities, legal framework of different countries. It is important that the drafting of a policy plan is informed by the outcomes of the Status Assessment, the legal review and the market readiness review. The approach also includes a methodology that allows to focus efforts on those spend areas which will achieve SD objectives in a efficient way. This prioritisation exercise which addresses not only policy priorities but

also sustainability risks associated with spend categories may also be used to inform the SPP policy.

The principles of the MTF approach to SPP follow the principles of good procurement that are transparency, non discrimination, competition and economic efficiency. SPP must be based on a life cycle approach. SPP can contribute to the delivery of a range of government objectives/policies. To enable delivery all stakeholders, like policy makers, politicians, suppliers and procurers, have their respective role to play.



What is Sustainable Procurement?

Sustainable Procurement is a process whereby organisations meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money on a whole life basis in terms of generating benefits not only to the organisation, but also to society and the economy, whilst minimising damage to the environment.

Footnote

Sustainable Procurement should consider the environmental, social and economic consequences of: Design; non-renewable material use; manufacture and production methods; logistics; service delivery; use; operation; maintenance; reuse; recycling options; disposal; and suppliers' capabilities to address these consequences throughout the supply chain. This definition has been adopted by the MTF on SPP at its first meeting. Taken from “Procuring the future”-report of the UK Sustainable Procurement Task Force, June 2006.

What is the Marrakech Process MP?

The Marrakech Process is a global multi-stakeholder process to support the implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production SCP and to develop a Global Framework for Action on SCP, the so-called 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP (10YFP). The work on 10YFP has been reviewed by the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) during CSD 18 in 2010. A decision on the implementation of a 10YFP is expected at CSD 19 in May 2011.

The Process responds to the call of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002) to support the regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards SCP patterns, thus delinking economic growth from environmental degradation.

UNEP and UN DESA are the leading agencies of this global process, with an active participation of national governments, development agencies, business and industry, civil society and other stakeholders. The first meeting devoted to developing the 10 YFP took place in Marrakech, Morocco in June 2003, hence the name.

Taken from: www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/about.htm

Key events of the MTF on SPP and raising awareness activities

2005

- Launch of the MTF on SPP at the second international expert meeting on SCP in Costa Rica

2006

- First MTF meeting in Jongny, Switzerland
- Second MTF meeting in Barcelona, Spain back to back with The Ecoprocura,
- Third meeting in Hamar, Norway, back to back with the International Roundtable on Developing Public Procurement Policies for Sustainable Development and Innovation.

2007

- Fourth MTF meeting in Torino, Italy back to back with an international workshop on SPP at the ITC-ILO
- Fifth meeting of the MTF in Buenos Aires, back to back with the first pilot training workshop for Argentine public procurers and policy makers.

2008

- Sixth MTF meeting in South Africa, back to back with a workshop on the MTF approach to SPP and back to back with the 5th African roundtable on SCP
- Presentation of the MTF on SPP at the Expert Workshop on Green Procurement in Beijing
- Presentation of the MTF approach to SPP and Workshop on SPP at the Roundtable meeting of experts on SCP in the Arab Region, Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates

2009

- Workshop with all the Task Forces in New Delhi
- Start of the cooperation with UNEP on implementing the MTF approach to SPP in developing countries within the “Capacity building for Sustainable Procurement” project
- Presentation of the MTF on SPP and workshop on SPP at the Workshop on SPP for the Arab region in Cairo
- Presentation of the MTF workshop and workshop on the prioritization methodology at the 3rd International Conference on Green Purchasing in Suwon, South Korea
- Presentation of the MTF on SPP at the Seminar on SPP in St. Petersburg Russia

2010

- Presentation of the MTF at the Ecomeda Green Forum, SPP in the Mediterranean Countries, Barcelona Spain
- MTF, jointly with UNEP, submits a programme on SPP for the 10YFP

2011

- Presentation of the MTF approach to SPP at the Seminar on Green Procurement, organized within the EU-India Joint Action Plan support Facility, New Delhi, India
- Interventions at the Follow up seminar on SCP/SPP in St. Petersburg, Russia
- Seventh and last meeting of the MTF in Glion, Switzerland
- Side event during CSD19, May, New York



Capacity building for Sustainable Public Procurement

The Swiss Government and UNEP designed a project called “Capacity building for Sustainable Public Procurement in Developing Countries” to roll out the MTF approach to SPP especially in developing countries. This project is supported by the European Commission, Switzerland and the International Organisation of La Francophonie. Chile, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Colombia, Mauritius, Lebanon and Tunisia are implementing the approach with the assistance of UNEP. A number of capacity building workshops and trainings have been organised, the latest being an in depth training on the MTF approach to SPP. The purpose of the training was to train a pool of people who would be able to assist various countries/organisations worldwide in the implementation of the MTF approach to SPP.

Pilot Countries

The following countries/ local authorities are testing the approach:

Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ghana, Lebanon, Mauritius, New Zealand, Tunisia, Uruguay and in England: Local Authorities, central Government, Health and Higher Education sectors.

Programme for Sustainable Public Procurement

Input from the MTF on SPP to the 10YFP

The overall objective of the SPP programme is to have, within the time frame of the Ten Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP), SPP broadly recognized as an efficient public policy that saves natural and financial resources and promotes sustainable consumption and production patterns. SPP stimulates technical and technological innovation, creates decent work places and empowers competitive market.

1. Support, coordinate and assist the development and implementation in practice of effective national SPP policies and action plans through the application of a robust, systematic, holistic and flexible approach to SPP, e.g. the MTF Approach to SPP that has been tested in 11 countries; <http://www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/taskforces/procurement.htm>).
2. Promote SPP at the international level and in particular in the framework of UN processes (Marrakech process/10YFP, CSD, Rio+20, etc.) as well as among MDBs, development agencies, public procurement networks, private sector, etc.

3. Collect, disseminate and improve the tools available for effective implementation of SPP, including capacity building tools and techniques as well as good practice examples.
4. Promote the idea that a transparent and efficient public procurement system is the first step for an effective transition forward to sustainable public procurement – the latter depending on the former.


The Programme on SPP seeks to scale up the number of countries shifting and mainstreaming their procurement practices towards SPP practices into day-to-day procurement. The programme seeks to encourage existing initiatives and programmes to join forces, tools and experiences at local, national and international levels, e.g. within the framework of an overarching SPP initiative.

Leading actors

- National governments/Public procurement authorities, local authorities/cities: establish enabling framework for SPP (e.g. policies, institutional framework and legislation,

capacity building and training, implement SPP in day-to-day procurement),

- UN organizations active on sustainable development and sustainable public procurement issues: assistance to national governments in SPP implementation, harmonization of information systems, knowledge management,
- Networks/federations of local authorities: assistance to local authorities in SPP implementation,
- SPP/GPP networks: awareness raising, information on sustainable products/services and legal issues,
- MDB's (Multinational Development Banks): inclusion of SPP in the processes of reform of Public procurement systems,
- SPP experts and expert organizations: support in SPP implementation,
- Suppliers and Chambers of Commerce: participation in national multistakeholders SPP Committees, awareness rising within the business community, shifting the supply chain to more sustainability, etc.
- Other key procurement stakeholders

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)



Further Informations

www.unep.fr/scp/procurement
esa.un.org/marrakechprocess



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