

EXECUTIVE RESUME¹:

SHAPING THE FUTURE THROUGH SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT - ACTIONS FROM THE CARIBBEAN

February 12, 2021

Opening Remarks

- **Beatriz Carneiro: UNEP**

Public procurement has been recognized as crucial for the Agenda 2030 proposed by the United Nations and its 17 sustainable development goals from which I believe goal 12 is crucial. Sustainable public procurement has gained importance during the pandemic. It is an important tool to improve efficiency and help the economic recovery after Covid-19. Sustainability criterion are key in public purchases and every government should embrace them.

- **Hugo Inga: OAS – INGP**

Being part of INGP has reflected the power that the entity has over dialogue, awareness ratings, capacity building and knowledge generation in the field of sustainable public procurement. The public and political agenda of SPP has been based on different factors such as the value for money and human profit. This webinar is an outstanding opportunity to support sustainable practices and SPP actions in the Caribbean and they constitute an excellent opportunity to gain first hand knowledge and consolidate alliances with organizations and other agencies that aim towards the same goals.

- **Adriana Salazar: BID**

The strategic nature of SPP is based on establishing policy objectives that minimize the impact of environment and increase the social impacts on the population. In the Caribbean region there is outstanding progress and work on this agenda. Also, the IDB has been working of many projects to diagnose and track SPP in 33 countries through the establishment of monitoring systems, implementation tools and sustainable criteria for public purchases.

Describe country's status vis a vis Sustainable public procurement: Areas of sustainable development, stakeholders, application of SPP

1. Artemio Osorio: Belize

A new procurement law for Belize is being enacted and planned towards November 2021 and it takes into consideration sustainability issues such as domestic context, cycle costs, provision of MSMEs, among others.

Also, Belize developed its growth and sustainable development strategy from 2016 until 2020 taking into consideration a variety of stakeholders such as government agencies, private sector, civil society. This strategic plan had 5 critical success factors closely linked to SDGs:

¹ Document elaborated by Maria Isabel Teran, Intern at the Department for Effective Public Management (DEPM/OAS), Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Network on Government Procurement

- A. Optimal income and investment: MSMEs, security and electrical services, small farmers and vendors, financial inclusion
- B. Enhance social cohesion and resilience: gender policy, youth policy, labor issues, social security, health issues
- C. Sustained and improved health of the natural, environmental, historic and cultural assets: protected areas, biodiversity, climate change, recycling policies, disposal policies
- D. Enhanced citizen security: fight against crimes, domestic violence, road safety
- E. Governance: law, integration, regulations, auditing, UN charter, MESESIC

The related projects in these fields of work have ranged from: Climate vulnerability resilience reflected in projects with the objective of controlling floods, response to emergencies by utilities, resilient rural Belize and Solid waste management.

SPP in Belize is important and has gained much more important over the last years. Governments and providers are aware of the characteristics and benefits of sustainable practices and that constitutes a key step towards the establishment of SPP as an intrinsic characteristic of the country.

2. Daniel Ferguson: The Bahamas

In 2016 the government of Bahamas developed a Public Financial reform project which dedicated approximately 33 million dollars to reform 4 areas of the financial management system from which public procurement was one of the most important.

In 2020, the public procurement bill was passed, and it is being debated until now. Protection of the environment plays a very important role in Bahamas because natural resources are very limited. Indeed, one of the major threats that we have as a country is the use of Styrofoam products for which we have created innovative and efficient solutions. For example, the dumping of waste and landfills and plastic accumulation was established in regulations to eliminate the threat. In 2019, a great amount of regulatory background enabled progress in this area.

3. Terrence Victor: Grenada

In 2018, Grenada realized the need to feature sustainability in legislation and the Public Procurement act was passed to promote local industry, sustainable development and protection of the environment. In addition, there were other measures put in place such as the ban on importation of Styrofoam products in 2019 and the ban on single-use plastic bags in 2019. The sustainable development plan developing towards 2035 demonstrates the government compromise to sustainability and capacity to develop policies directed towards the same goals. Grenada has received technical assistance by the World Bank, it has considered internal and external stakeholders and it has done a spend analysis by government.

The sustainable procurement policy includes sustainability as a basic consideration that take into account three crucial factors which are: economic, social and environmental. The policy reflects the government's willingness to implement the policy in its totality in order to promote agenda 2030 and the SDGs. The government also watches over compliance with relevant environmental and social laws and regulations as they apply to public procurement

and it targets a 25% of government contracts to be awarded to suppliers that consider sustainability criteria.

Besides policies and the regulatory background, the government has taken a lot of steps towards sustainability and procurement in different projects and areas. Although COVID-19 has redirected the attention to other issues such as economic relief and sanitary issues, our procurement and sustainability efforts are still strong and we aim for much more. One of the most important areas could be construction.

4. Andrei Bennet: Jamaica

Jamaica puts a big eye on environmental protection and for this reason the approach towards reaching this goal has been through specific laws that have nothing to do with procurement. Nevertheless, Jamaica has taken into account social and economic factors in order to shape its procurement policies and this has allowed the country to achieve an overall and complete perspective.

The public procurement vision began first in 2008 when the government considered a greater need to collaborate with MSMEs appeared. It was not until 2018 when the public procurement act was passed which took into consideration different issues such as: the distribution of wealth, reduced costs, encourage local production and distribution, increase local capacity to compete in public procurement, among others.

Considering the regulatory background, regulation #43 determines a domestic margin of preference for local production and suppliers while regulation #46 determines the set asides of public procurement and the MSME topic by determining a 20 % of total government budget for MSMEs and a 100% of government budget for Jamaican suppliers in certain specific industries.

Closing Remarks

Farid Yaker: UNEP

This webinar represented an outstanding opportunity to see the reality of SPP within people that are experiencing it firsthand because they live the political reality of their countries. H

This webinar reflects that there exists a high level of awareness about SPP in different countries and a high level of commitment which is a huge step towards the evolution of this system.

The countries are very dependent on tourism so there is a trendy concern about plastic and trash. Also, there is a great concern about social issues. There is awareness about policies aiming economic benefits in a responsible way.

The progress in the legal and policy fields is outstanding within SPP which constitutes a key advance for these countries and for their efforts of becoming more sustainable.

It is very important to note the importance of Action plans as guiding steps towards implementing ideas in real life. For this reason, all countries should adopt and design one to have concrete actions in this spectrum.