

Declaration ENHANCING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

WHEREAS

The Inter-American Network of Government Procurement (INGP) is a high-level horizontal technical cooperation mechanism recognized in its role of Technical Secretariat by the Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS);

REAFFIRMING

INGP's advocacy capacity, which has allowed it to contribute to the continuous improvement of public procurement management; to raise awareness and commitment to the purpose of generating greater public value, with better access to citizens' rights; and, therefore, to the strategic promotion of a more responsible vision of development with balance and respect for nature.

CONSIDERING

The Declaration on *"Public Procurement as a Strategic Area for the Generation of Greater Public Value and Better Access to Citizens' Rights"* of December 9, 2021, approved at the XVI Annual Conference of the INGP; and the inclusion of its recommendations as a mandate in the resolution *"Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance"* of the IX Summit of the Americas (Los Angeles, 2022);

RECOGNIZING

The current challenges facing the region and the global crisis that urges governments to take measures that contribute to the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 and 2050 Agendas;

WHEREAS

Public procurement, taking advantage of its public spending power in countries, has become a strategic tool worldwide for the implementation of public policies to achieve environmental objectives; especially, in the fight against climate change through the transformation of production and consumption habits in the economic systems of the region;

BEARING IN MIND

The initiatives led within the framework of the INGP, with the support of organizations such as the OAS, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), CAF-Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Open Contracting Partnership (OCP), in promoting strategic actions to follow up on the resolution on the *"Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance"* of the IX Summit of the Americas (Los Angeles, USA, 2022); as well as the collaborative work carried out with the Ibero-American Network of Public Procurement (REDICOP), through the conclusions of the First International Congress on *"Decarbonization and Strategic Public Procurement"* held on July 20 and 21, 2023, in San Jose, Costa Rica;

HIGHLIGHTING

The aspiration of INGP member countries to achieve sustainable, environmentally responsible and emission-free management and development through the provision of public goods, works, and services to their citizenry;

THE FOREMENTIONED PARTNERS RESOLVE:

- 1.** To urge INGP member countries to promote measures with sustainability criteria, which allow the promotion of strategic actions to address socio-economic and environmental challenges, including combating climate change, and the transition to clean and renewable energy.
- 2.** To raise awareness and promote a culture of sustainable and responsible institutional procurement; especially, through the adoption of a strategic professionalization plan that allows for strengthening the skills, knowledge, and abilities of public procurement managers; as well as strengthening institutional and technical capacity, aimed at having the necessary instruments and tools for strategic decision-making, effective contract management, definition of technical specifications, use of sustainable contractual clauses, among others, that are necessary to have a positive impact on the life cycle of public procurement.
- 3.** To activate inter-institutional and inter-sectoral coordination and collaboration to motivate constructive dialogue between public and private actors for the identification of institutional, market, regulatory, and other needs. This, at the same time, promotes the alignment of efforts and the effective planning of acquisitions, to guarantee the proper execution of public spending with quality and accountability, considering the achievement of greater value for money in terms of the balance between cost/benefit and the positive impact on the citizenry.
- 4.** To promote and strengthen the market capacity and business competitiveness of key and vulnerable groups, with special emphasis on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), family farmers, women, among others in order to promote more sustainable and environmentally friendly consumption and production practices, that contribute to national and global Objectives and to the generation of a better quality of life for the citizenry.

- 5.** To promote regulatory reforms and develop and implement sound public policies that enable proper and high-quality public spending, through the incorporation of the principles of sustainability, innovation, and value for money in order to promote adaptation to climate change, emission reduction, and the transition to a low-carbon economy.
- 6.** To promote transparency, quality, and the use of open data, together with the adoption of new technologies, with the aim of strengthening environmental governance in the fight against climate change and encouraging active citizen participation. Likewise, promote actions that guarantee the effectiveness and positive impact of environmental initiatives in a way that is sustainable over time.
- 7.** To incentivize and strengthen the innovative capacity of public institutions to implement creative public procurement tools for the monitoring and measuring of carbon footprints, as well as its effective reduction and offsetting through the use of indicators and methods to evaluate and calculate the carbon footprint.
- 8.** To promote the formation of a working group, composed of various actors from countries, international and multilateral organizations, academia, the private sector, and civil society, to identify progress, challenges, and recommend solutions that contribute to more effective public procurement management and sustainable, equitable, and resilient development.

This declaration does not generate any legally binding or enforceable obligations for the parties.

This Declaration is formalized within the framework of the XVIII INGP Annual Conference, held from February 21 to 23, 2024, in Asuncion, Paraguay. The initiative is endorsed by the national public procurement agencies of the INGP member countries and related organizations.