

## **High Level Committee on Management (HLCM) Procurement Network and Environment Management Group (EMG)**

### **Sustainable Procurement Practice Note**

*Acknowledging* the fundamental role of the United Nations as guarantor of international peace and security, human rights and sustainable development, as expressed in the main commitments of

- a) Agenda 21
- b) the World Summit on Sustainable Development
- c) the Millennium Development Goals
- d) the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work
- e) other international protocols for the protection of the environment such as the Montreal and the Kyoto protocol

*considering* initiatives promoting social and environmental responsibility such as the Global Compact,

*bearing* in mind the requirements deriving from the United Nations constant engagement in humanitarian assistance, and

*recognising* the need for UN procurement practices to contribute to the commitment to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at headquarters and United Nations centres for facility operations and travel stated in the “Moving towards a climate-neutral United Nations” adopted by the Chief Executives Board for Coordination in October 2007,

**the EMG and HLCM Procurement Network propose the following statement for *sustainable procurement* practices for voluntary adoption by United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.**

- (1) UN organisations recognise that a more resource efficient management of operations will not only be beneficial for the environment and for financial efficiency but will also prove that the United Nations agencies funds and programmes stand behind the principles they promote and actively support them with their behaviours as actors on a global market.
- (2) UN organisations commit to making *sustainable procurement* their standard practice progressively and in full respect of the right of access to the UN market for suppliers from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
- (3) Sustainable Procurement practices integrate requirements, specifications and criteria that are compatible and in favour 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.<sup>1</sup>
- (4) It is intended that *sustainable procurement* practices will act in support of the proper implementation of UN procurement rules and regulations, be in line with the UN procurement principles, particularly the principles of best value for money and interest of the United Nations.
- (5) Sustainable procurement practices should be seen as aspirational and be accompanied as far as possible by capacity building and information to support suppliers from developing countries to upgrade their resource efficiency and innovate in their environmental and social performance.

---

<sup>1</sup> Sources: French Sustainable Public Procurement National Action Plan (March 2007)