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**OECD GLOBAL FORUM ON GOVERNANCE  
SHARING LESSONS ON PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRITY  
IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

**30 November (afternoon) - 1 December 2006  
Château de la Muette, Paris**

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## OECD GLOBAL FORUM ON GOVERNANCE

### SHARING LESSONS ON PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRITY IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Public procurement is a central area of public spending and is therefore highly exposed to mismanagement and potentially corruption. It is also a process embedded in a political system. Therefore, governments are increasingly judged on the quality of **governance** provided, in particular on how integrity, transparency and accountability are ensured in the public procurement process.

#### Objectives of the Forum

The Forum will provide an opportunity to launch a **structured policy dialogue** between countries from different regions of the world in order to cross-fertilise practices promoting transparency, accountability and integrity in public procurement.

The Forum will benefit from the findings and identified good practices in OECD countries at the **Symposium** "Mapping out Good Practices for Integrity and Corruption Resistance in Public Procurement" on 29 and 30 November (morning). Furthermore, it will provide an opportunity to learn more about **good practices** around the world and discuss the challenges faced and the responses developed.

The main objectives of the Forum are to:

- **Share the instruments developed and the lessons learned** in promoting transparency, accountability and integrity in public procurement;
- Weigh up the **cost and benefits** of promising practices, in particular whether these practices are cost-effective and to what extent they can be successfully adopted in other country contexts;
- Explore avenues for **policy dialogue** across countries.

#### Thematic focus

Even though reforms of public procurement systems worldwide can be differentiated according to countries' stages of economic development and the factors driving their reform efforts<sup>1</sup>, there are a number of challenges that are commonly shared across the world.

The Forum will review and discuss the **range of promising practices and instruments** that have been developed in countries at various stages of economic development in order to address commonly shared challenges, in particular:

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<sup>1</sup> For further details, please refer to: Hunja, Robert R. "Obstacles to Public Procurement Reform in Developing Countries," in Public Procurement: The Continuing Revolution, Sue Arrowsmith and Martin Trybus (editors), Kluwer Law International 2003.

- Satisfying **citizens' demands** for more efficient and transparent service delivery and for greater accountability in the management of public expenditures. Public procurement is increasingly recognised as a central element of public expenditure and as a major risk area for mismanagement and potentially corruption that should be subject to **public scrutiny**;
- **Professionalising public procurement.** Officials involved in public procurement should have the necessary skills to prevent risks of mismanagement and potentially corruption and to adapt to emerging challenges, such as the complexity of public procurement regulations and the use of new information and communication technologies.

## Participants

The Forum will bring together public procurement experts and policy makers from the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Middle East and Africa, as well as representatives from the private sector, trade, civil society and international organisations.

Simultaneous interpretation in English and French will be provided.

## Methodology

The Forum will alternate between plenary and break-out sessions in order to provide sufficient opportunities for interaction between participants. In the plenary sessions, panellists with wide-ranging experience will develop the links between the different issues at stake and explore the range of policy options available for countries at different stages of economic development.

Parallel workshops will be organised during the break-out sessions to allow participants to discuss good practices and whether these practices can be adopted by other countries. Speakers will present specific practices in their country and highlight the costs and benefits of introducing this practice in a given context. For a detailed description of the various sessions within a workshop, please refer to the last chapter of the agenda.

Outcomes and recommendations from the break-out sessions will be discussed by all Forum participants during subsequent plenary sessions. Brief presentations by workshop rapporteurs will focus on main messages to launch discussion in the plenary sessions. Interventions from the floor should not exceed 5 minutes.

## Venue

The Forum will take place at the headquarters of the OECD in Paris at the following address: 2 rue André Pascal, Paris 75016 (closest metro stop: La Muette).

**Thursday, 30 November 2006 (afternoon)**

14.30–15.00	<i>Registration of participants</i>	
15.00–15.15	<p><b>Opening of the Forum</b></p> <p><i>Mr. Kiyo Akasaka</i>, Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD</p> <p><i>Mr. Rob Burton</i>, Associate Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy, Office of Management and Budget, United States</p>	
Session I	<p><b>Transparency, Accountability and Integrity in Public Procurement: Instruments Developed, Lessons Learned</b></p>	
15.15–16.30	<p><b>Panel discussion: Taking stock of good practices for promoting transparency, accountability and integrity in public procurement</b></p>	
	<p><i>Moderator: Mr. Robert Anderson</i>, Counsellor, World Trade Organization</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Jonathan Denison Cross</i>, Procurement Policy, Office of Government Commerce, United Kingdom</p> <p><i>Mr. Henry Malinga</i>, Chief Director Supply Chain Policy, National Treasury, Government of South Africa</p> <p><i>Ms. Pamela Bigart</i>, Lead Procurement Specialist, The World Bank</p> <p><i>Mr. Michael Wiehen</i>, Advisory Council Member for TI Global Corruption Report, Transparency International, Germany</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>	<p>Based on their respective experiences, the panel members will discuss promising practices and instruments for promoting transparency, accountability and integrity in public procurement. The results of the OECD survey questionnaire mapping out good practices in member countries will be one of the bases for discussion.</p> <p>The discussion will explore a range of practices that have proved effective in various regions of the world and discuss the costs and benefits of introducing these practices in a given country context.</p>
	<p><b>Questions for discussion</b></p> <p><i>Drawing on concrete examples, panelists will be invited to discuss the following issues:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What practices have proved effective in promoting transparency, accountability and integrity in public procurement? Under what conditions have they proved successful?</i></li> <li>• <i>What would be the costs and benefits of introducing these practices in a given country context?</i></li> </ul>	
16.30–17.00	<i>Coffee break</i>	

<b>Session II</b>	<b>Weighing up the Costs and Benefits of Promising Practices and Instruments</b> <i>Parallel Break-out Sessions: Workshops 1 and 2</i>	
	<b>Workshop 1: Building public procurement capacities</b>	<b>Workshop 2: Improving scrutiny</b>
17.00–18.00	<p><b>Session a) Capacity-building: Professionalising public procurement</b> <i>Presentations</i></p> <p><b>Ms. Katarina Radovic</b>, General Secretary of Public Procurement Commission, Republic of Montenegro Public Procurement Commission</p> <p><b>Ms. Margaret Robinson</b>, Procurement Capacity Building and Anti-corruption, DFID, United Kingdom</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>	<p><b>Session a) Improving scrutiny: Making contract opportunities and awards more transparent</b> <i>Presentations</i></p> <p><b>Ms. Susie Smith</b>, Partner, Bevan Brittan LLP</p> <p><b>Mr. Kadir Akin Gozel</b>, Head of Unit, Public Procurement Authority, Department of Foreign Affairs and EU Relations, Turkey</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
18.00-19.30	<i>Cocktail, offered by the OECD</i>	

## Friday, 1 December 2006

9.30–12.30	<i>Parallel Break-out Sessions: Workshops 1 and 2 (Continued)</i>	
9.30–10.45	<p><b>Session b) Capacity-building: Mapping out corruption risks in public procurement</b></p> <p><i>Presentations</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Claudio Weber Abramo</i>, Executive Director, Transparência Brasil</p> <p><i>Mr. Jean-Pierre Bueb</i>, Conseiller, Service Central de la Prévention pour la Corruption (SCPC), France</p> <p><i>Ms. Nicola Ehlermann-Cache</i>, Administrator, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>	<p><b>Session b) Improving scrutiny: The potential and limitations of e-procurement</b></p> <p><i>Presentations</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Ion Marcu</i>, General Inspectorate for Communications and Information Technology, Romania</p> <p><i>Mr. Felipe Goya</i>, Chief of the Management and Procurement Policy Department, Chile</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
10.45–11.15	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.15–12.30	<p><b>Session c) Capacity-building for implementing e-procurement systems</b></p> <p><i>Presentations</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Hala Makarem-Saab</i>, Information and Communication Technologies Project Manager, Lebanon</p> <p><i>Ms. Caroline Nicholas</i>, Legal Officer, United Nations Commission on International Trade and Law</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>	<p><b>Session c) Improving scrutiny: The role of oversight bodies and stakeholders</b></p> <p><i>Presentations</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Lic. Rodolfo Lara Ponte</i>, Head of the Unit for Regulation on Public Procurement, Public Works and Federal Property, Ministry of the Public Function, Mexico (<i>tbc</i>)</p> <p><i>Mr. Paul Lachal Roberts</i>, Chairman, Procurement Task Force, United Nations</p> <p><i>Ms. Enery Quinones</i>, Chief Compliance Officer, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
12.30–14.00	<i>Lunch break (no host lunch)</i>	

Session III	The Way Forward: Next Steps	
14.00–15.15	<b>Reporting Back From Workshops</b>	
	<p><b>Rapporteurs (Workshop moderators)</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Michael Lawrance</b>, Administrator, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD</p> <p><b>Ms. Rosa Inés Ospina</b>, former TI Vice-President, Senior Procurement Expert, Transparency Colombia</p> <p><b>Respondents</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Claudio Weber Abramo</b>, Executive Director, Transparência Brasil</p> <p><b>Mr. Philippe Montigny</b>, Président d'ETHIC Intelligence and Chairman of Working Party on Preventing Corruption, French Council of Investors in Africa</p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>	<p>Session III will start with the reporting back of the findings and good practices identified during workshops 1 and 2 discussions. Then representatives from private sector and civil society organisations will be invited to comment on the range of policy options available for countries at various stages of economic development. Another issue for discussion will be the identification of the conditions under which specific good practices might be successfully adopted in other countries.</p>
	<p><b>Questions for discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What is the range of policy options available for countries at various stages of economic development to promote transparency, integrity and accountability in public procurement?</i></li> <li>• <i>Under what conditions specific good practices and instruments might be successfully adopted in other countries?</i></li> </ul>	
15.15–15.30	<i>Coffee break</i>	

<p><b>15.30-16.30</b></p>	<p><b>Panel Discussion</b>  <b>Policy Dialogue on Integrity in Public Procurement: What role for the OECD?</b></p>	
	<p><b>Panellists:</b>  <i>Mr. Claudio Rojas Diaz</i>, Co-ordinator for OECD-Chile Relations, Multilateral Economic Affairs, Chile  <i>Mr. Rob Burton</i>, Associate Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy, United States  <i>Mr. Bernard A. Becq</i>, Co-chair of the Joint Venture for Procurement, OECD Working Party on Aid Effectiveness and Donor Practices and Chief Procurement Policy Officer, Head of the Procurement Policy and Services Sector Board, World Bank</p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>	<p>In the final session panel discussants will be invited to provide their views on the following proposals:</p> <p>a) Intensifying the <i>policy dialogue on good practices</i> across countries in order to cross-fertilise experiences of countries at different levels of economic development.</p> <p>b) Discussing the <i>next steps</i> for disseminating identified good practices for promoting transparency, accountability and integrity in public procurement.</p> <p>c) Preparing the <i>Global Fora</i> in 2007 which will address procurement as a major risk area for corruption.</p>
	<p><b>Questions for discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How could countries across the world better cross-fertilise good practices promoting transparency, accountability and integrity in public procurement?</i></li> <li>• <i>How could international organisations, in particular the OECD, help countries develop mechanisms for transparency, accountability and integrity in public procurement?</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>16.30</b></p>	<p><b>Conclusions of the Forum</b>  <i>Ms. Odile Sallard</i>, Director, OECD Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate</p>	

## **Detailed Description of the Workshops**

### ***Workshop 1: Building public procurement capacities***

Public procurement has not been considered until recently as having a strategic impact in the management of public resources. This “back-office” support function has often been implemented by non-professional staff of purchasing agencies. Workshop 1 will review promising practices of various governments to build public procurement officials’ skills as well as increase their accountability.

#### *Session a. Professionalising public procurement*

The first part of the workshop will focus on the approaches and measures available for making public procurement a “profession” as such. These measures include recruiting and training well-skilled public procurement officials, as well as providing them with clear guidelines, restrictions and prohibitions for preventing corruption in public procurement.

#### *Session b. Mapping out corruption risks in public procurement*

The second part of the workshop will highlight instruments and methodologies for mapping out risks of mismanagement as well as corruption in the public procurement process. These instruments are used for building capacity among public procurement officials about public procurement rules and highlighting how specific informal practices might hamper the effectiveness and integrity of public procurement.

#### *Session c. Capacity-building for implementing e-procurement systems*

The third part of the workshop will review some of the emerging challenges with which public procurement officials are faced. In particular, it will highlight how their skills need to evolve with the use of new information and communication technologies and the increased number of public procurement laws and regulations.

### ***Workshop 2: Improving scrutiny***

A transparent and well-managed public procurement system contributes to good governance by increasing confidence that public funds are well spent. Workshop 2 will review efforts in various regions of the world to improve public scrutiny over public procurement, by providing an adequate level of information on public procurement, easy access through the use of new technologies and involving oversight bodies and stakeholders in the process.

#### *Session a. Making public procurement opportunities and awards more transparent*

The workshop will start with reviewing key aspects of the public procurement process (e.g. definition of specifications, criteria, communication of award results) in which transparency represents a key precondition for public scrutiny on the fairness of the process. Discussions will explore the range of options available for ensuring an appropriate level of transparency in various country contexts.

#### *Session b. The potentials and limitations of e-procurement*

The workshop will continue with particular focus on e-procurement solutions that increase transparency and public scrutiny over the way public funds are managed. Particular attention will be paid to weighing up the potentials and limitations of e-procurement for improving effectiveness through increased transparency and accountability (e.g. impact on cost per unit, access to public procurement).

#### *Session c. The role of oversight bodies and stakeholders*

As public procurement is increasingly regarded as a process that should be fully accountable to the public, some governments have introduced various mechanisms to promote public scrutiny over procurement officials and businesses. The third part of the workshop will discuss in particular the use of direct social control mechanisms by involving stakeholders in scrutinising integrity in public procurement.