Leveraging responsible business conduct through public procurement

5 March 2020
Paris, France
Seminar
Leveraging Responsible Business Conduct through public procurement
- Unleashing the potential of public procurement to achieve positive impacts

BACKGROUND
The OECD has launched a programme to advance the integration of Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) considerations into public procurement policies and processes. This seminar will gather policy makers, public procurement practitioners and other key stakeholders to share perspectives, discuss challenges and learn from emerging good practices in OECD countries.

Governments are the largest buyers of goods, services and public works, with public procurement accounting for approximately 12% of GDP in OECD countries. Public procurement is critical to the delivery of public services such as infrastructure, health and education. However, if not properly managed, some products, services and works risk being produced and delivered in violation of environmental criteria, human rights and labour rights. There have been recent examples of such violations in sectors with large shares of public procurement (e.g. medical goods, ICT equipment, construction and food).

Ensuring value for money remains a fundamental principle underpinning the public procurement process, but the concept has evolved to encompass a wider range of considerations such as environmental and social aspects. This makes public procurement a strategic tool for achieving global policy objectives such as the Sustainable Development Goals, and promoting responsible business practices.

While there are increasing international and national commitments that aim to drive RBC and supply chain due diligence in public procurement, practical implementation of such commitments is insufficient.

SEMINAR OBJECTIVES
This seminar focuses on the integration of RBC considerations into public procurement policies and practices. By bringing together public procurement policy makers and practitioners, the responsible business conduct community including the National Contact Points, civil society, workers representatives and business, this seminar aims to:

- Enhance policy dialogue between different communities and stakeholders.
- Increase awareness about the economic, legal and moral drivers of integrating RBC criteria into public procurement, as well as challenges faced by practitioners.
- Share good practices from different stakeholders that addresses responsible business conduct and supply chain due diligence through public procurement.

Where: OECD, 2, rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris, OECD Conference Centre, Room CC9
When: 5th of March 2020, 09:30 – 18:00
Please register for the seminar here

Should you have any trouble while registering please contact Inmaculada.VALENCIA@oecd.org
If you wish to join the seminar by Videoconference, no registration is needed. Please contact Inmaculada Valencia for connection details.

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1 RBC means that all businesses – regardless of their legal status, size, ownership structure or sector – should avoid and address negative consequences of their operations, while contributing to sustainable development of the countries where they operate. It also means integrating all the RBC considerations within core business activities, including throughout the supply chain and business relationships. The areas covered in this program are human rights, labour rights, environment, integrity, and additional social considerations including people with disabilities, unemployed people, gender mainstreaming and the inclusion of minorities.
PROGRAM

09:00-09:30  Registration

09:30-09:45  Introductory session

Keynote speech
- Mr János Bertók, Director Interim, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

Welcoming remarks
- Ms Christine Kaufmann, Chair, OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct
- Ms Karen English, Director, International Procurement and Trade at Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, New Zealand

09:45-11:25  Session 1: Drivers and challenges of integrating RBC in public procurement

This session will discuss the economic, legal and moral drivers behind the emergence of RBC in public procurement. This session will also discuss some of the challenges, for policy makers, business, trade unions and civil society of integrating RBC considerations in public procurement.

Moderator: Ms Christine Kaufmann, Chair, OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct

Speakers:
- Dr Claire Methven O’Brien, Chief Adviser, Human Rights and Business, Danish Institute for Human Rights
- Mr Bart Devos, European Director, Responsible Business Alliance
- Mr Bjorn Claesson, Director, Electronics Watch
- Mr Blake Harwell, Senior Policy Advisor, The Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC)

Panel discussion:
- Ms Karen English, Director, International Procurement and Trade at Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, New Zealand
- Mr Joep de Wit, Policymaker, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate, Netherlands

Open discussion

11:25-11:45  Coffee break

11:45-13:00  Session 2: Risk management in public procurement and RBC

Risk management entails having in place a systematic process for identifying and evaluating risks that affect public procurement and implementing measures to mitigate those risks. This session will deep dive into how public procurement practitioners are integrating a risk based approach in the public procurement process. How can public procurement officials effectively and efficiently identify RBC risks in supply chains? How do public procurement officials develop relevant requirements in the tender documents? What are the challenges for public procurement officials to implement an RBC risks-based approach in public procurement?

Moderator: Mr Tyler Gillard, Head of Sector Projects and Legal Adviser, Centre for Responsible
Business Conduct, OECD

Speakers:
- Mr Kjetil Istad, Chief Executive Officer, Sykehusinnkjop Norway
- Ms Jo Mitchell, Procurement Policy, Scottish Government
- Ms Caroline Landry, Executive Director for Strategic Policy Development and Integration, Strategic Policy Sector, Acquisitions Branch, Public Services and Procurement Canada, Government of Canada
- Mr Marcel Jacobs, Managing Director & Co-Founder, Circle8 BV

Open discussion

13:00-14:15 Lunch

14:15-15:30 Session 3: The importance of follow-ups – different methods and lessons learned

Follow-up procedures verify supplier’s compliance with requirements and are key to drive improvements. A lack of follow-up will risk violations going undetected. This session will focus on experiences from public procurement practitioners and the National Contact Points in performing follow-ups and evaluating the implementation. How are follow-ups done in practice? What do you do when you receive information regarding non-compliances? How do you measure that the integration of RBC considerations achieve the intended outcomes?

Moderator: Ms Erika Bozzay, Senior Policy Adviser, Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, OECD

Speakers:
- Mr Christophe Ramont, Department of International Relations and Networks, City of Ghent
- Ms Karin Lonaeus, Sustainability Strategist, National Secretariat Sustainable Public Procurement, Swedish Regions
- Mr Matthew Galvin, Interim Head of GLA Group Responsible Procurement and TfL Supplier Skills Teams, Transport for London
- Ms Linda Nielsen, Professor Copenhagen University, National Contact Point, Denmark

Open discussion

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

16:00-17:30 Session 4: Collaborative approaches – The way forward

This session will highlight some current collaborative initiatives in place between contracting authorities at the international level and by international organisations, which addresses RBC through public procurement. What can we learn from the collaborative approaches in place? What were the drivers for initiating the collaboration? How does it work in practice and what are the outcomes?

Moderator: Ms Karen English, Director, International Procurement and Trade at Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, New Zealand

Speakers:
• Mr Farid Yaker, Programme Officer, UNEP, The One Planet Network Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP)
• Dr Rosemary Kumwenda, Regional HIV/Health Team leader, SPHS Coordinator United Nations Sustainable Procurement in the Health Sector (UN-SPHS)
• Ms Pia Trulsen, CSR Manager, Sykehusinnkjop and Chair of the International Working Group on Ethical Public Procurement (IWGEP)
• Ms Julia Rutz, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
• Mr Fareed Amir, Policy Adviser, Modern Slavery Unit, UK Home Office

Open discussion

17:30-17:45  Closing session

While the buying power of governments is a powerful lever for promoting RBC considerations, there is a need for an increased uptake in practice. This closing session will highlight some aspects that are needed to advance with the integration of RBC in public procurement.

Speakers:
• Ms Cristina Tébar Less, Acting Head of the Centre for Responsible Business Conduct, OECD
• Mr Paulo Magina, Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, OECD

17:45  Networking Cocktail – OECD Chateau, Room George Marshall