

High Level Committee on Management Procurement Network (HLCM-PN)

Sustainable Procurement Statement

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, and

Bearing in mind the requirements deriving from the United Nations constant engagement in humanitarian assistance, peace and security,

Recognising the need for UN procurement practices to contribute to the commitment to reduce GHG 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,

HLCM Procurement Network presents the following statement on “Sustainable Procurement” for voluntary adoption by the United Nations, Funds and Programmes and Specialised Agencies (hereafter referred to as “UN organisations”):

- (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 they 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 costs¹;
- (4) It is intended that Sustainable Procurement will be implemented in accordance with UN financial regulations and rules, and with the fundamental UN procurement principles particularly the ones on best value for money and interest of the United Nations;
- (5) The transition to Sustainable Procurement should be seen as a dynamic process and will be accompanied by an effort in policy development, capacity building, training and guidance to support UN organisations in the gradual transition to more sustainable practices.

This joint statement is intended for individual adoption and adaptation by each UN organisation at their own initiative and in accordance with their respective mandates.

Adopted by the HLCM Procurement Network meeting in Vienna, February 2009.

¹ Source: French Sustainable Public Procurement National Action Plan (March 2007)