



# Sustainability in UN procurement

In 2019, the UN system reported a collective \$19.9 billion USD in procurement of goods and services. Across all UN agencies, we are committed to procure goods and services that are sustainable for the environment, the communities and local economies, while *improving the quality of products and services and ultimately optimizing costs* (HLCM Procurement Network definition of sustainable procurement, 2009). To achieve this mission, we rely on collaborating with suppliers that incorporate these considerations in their business activities.

To further sustainability in UN procurement, we have integrated the new *Sustainable Procurement (SP) Indicators* framework in the [United Nations Global Marketplace \(UNGM\)](#) - the global vendor registration and tender portal of the UN. Through these SP Indicators tenders, you will now be shown what kind of sustainability considerations (if any) were incorporated into solicitation documents.

In addition to that, when a tender includes at least sustainability considerations - addressing one of each sustainability pillar (environment, people, and economy) - the *Sustainable Procurement* logo (see top left) will highlight the tender as a “sustainable tender”.

| Environment  | Society  | Economy   | General  |
|--|--|---|--|
|  |  |  |  |
| Prevention of pollution  | Human rights and labour issues   | Whole life cycle cost   | Global compact   |
| Sustainable resource use   | Inclusion of persons with disabilities   | Local communities and SMEs  | Suppliers' monitoring and auditing   |
| Climate change mitigation and adaptation   | Gender issues  | Promoting sustainability throughout the supply chain                                |  |
| Protection of the environment, biodiversity and restoration of natural habitats    | Social health and well-being   |   |  |

The UN is committed to integrating sustainability in all its programmes, projects and management functions and its suppliers play a crucial, enabling role in this. The SP Indicators represent an important step towards increasing transparency while at the same time facilitating communication and collaboration.

For more information on the SP Indicators, please visit [UNGM](#). For questions about specific tenders, please contact the relevant agency.

