High Level Public Procurement Forum

Way Forward

“Harnessing Public Procurement for Socio-Economic Growth”
Sub-Theme No 1.

What actions should African countries be taking to transform and modernize public procurement institutions?

“Harnessing Public Procurement for Socio-Economic Growth”
Recommended Actions for Consideration by African Countries

1. Fine-tune and adopt further reforms that seek to address emerging issues such as socio-economic consideration, Environmentally and Socially Responsible Procurement (ERSP), ethical procurement, public private partnerships (PPP), integrated e-procurement etc. for effectiveness, efficiency, equity and sustainability while attaining value for money (VfM) and elevating procurement as a strategic function.

2. Adopt country specific reforms for the establishment of legally and financially autonomous public procurement institutions to enable service delivery on their mandate and furtherance of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.
3. Develop and adopt common public procurement system performance measurement guidelines and standards based on acceptable international public procurement norms and adapted to the African regional and/or country context.

4. Establish a sustainable network for Africa’s public procurement institutions and practitioners supported by international, regional, sub-regional networks and countries including a platform for exchange.

5. Harmonize strategic approaches at regional level in furtherance for intra Africa trade.
6. Public procurement regulatory bodies to adopt and implement comprehensive capacity building plans for all actors (regulatory body, procuring entities, internal control institutions, audit bodies, private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders) and consider partnerships with national and regional training institutions including e-learning to enable institutional strengthening and development of modern procurement practice and professionalization of the procurement function.

7. Implement change management strategies (for practitioners, suppliers, civil society, media and investigative/oversight/judicial bodies) along with reforms.
Sub-Theme No. 2

"Harnessing Public Procurement for Socio-Economic Growth"

How can Public Procurement Contribute to Realizing Socio-Economic Aspirations?

"Harnessing Public Procurement for Socio-Economic Growth"
8. The relevance of preferences, set asides and other similar incentives to promote the growth of SMEs through access to public contracts is recognized. However, this should have pre-requisite of adequate and credible measures put in place to curtail abuse of the incentives provided by the government.

9. The incentives alone will not work in isolation without a comprehensive SME development program that should include training on integrity and code of ethics and values.

10. Public procurement should encompass social, economic, environmental, safety and health considerations. To this effect governments should provide policy interventions coupled with adequate implementation arrangements through supplier/contractor selection process as well as contract management.
11. Initiate and implement e-GP systems that not only promote transparency, efficiency and cost reductions but also promote increased SME participation in public contracts through increased access.
Sub-Theme No. 3

How do we address integrity issues in public procurement?

“How Harnessing Public Procurement for Socio-Economic Growth”
12. Create a stakeholder forum or Network that will foster frequent exchanges on experiences and ideas to influence the political will.

13. Implement judicial reforms and robust independent administrative complaints redress mechanisms/tribunals.

14. Establish whistleblowing mechanisms that allow for anonymity and confidentiality, as well as anti-retaliation policies.

15. Adopt Open Contracting Data Standards (OCDS).
16. Incorporate Integrity Pacts, such as for high risk projects, on an as needed basis

17. Expand the procurement horizon and adoption of a strategic approach for treatment of the full procurement cycle

18. Identify good case studies and engagement of champions to propagate success stories

19. Promote lessons in value/moral virtues: start early
Sub-Theme No.4

Capability Building in Public Procurement and Contract Management

“Harnessing Public Procurement for Socio-Economic Growth”
20. Set up and maintain a country holistic procurement capability-building strategy including a specific component on contract management minding the need for more extensive hand-holding support for fragile states

21. Adopt a professionalization framework for public procurement with a view to build a cadre of procurement practitioners (phased implementation)

22. Push for improved governance in order to shield procurement practitioners (and civil servants) from un-due political influence and put in place systems for protection of the honest and diligent
23. Synergize capacity development initiatives among regional countries with the participation of procurement training institutions and universities.

24. Develop and adopt innovative and sustainable solutions for financing the procurement capability initiatives.
Sub-Theme No. 5

How can Public Procurement Make PPP succeed in Africa?

“How Harnessing Public Procurement for Socio-Economic Growth”
25. Fully acknowledge that the legal and institutional frameworks which govern the public procurement system are perfectly adapted as a structuring methodology for organizing and delivering PPP, and therefore, to undertake the following actions appropriately:

i. Adapt public procurement laws and regulations to accommodate and incorporate PPP specificities;

ii. Separate responsibilities between PPP policy (regulatory function) and PPP contracting and controls (control function);

iii. Establish a support function to help countries in meeting their commitments and obligations including budgetary, development targets as well as preferential treatment to support specific sustainable growth goals;

iv. Complement current knowledge-base with dedicated sustainable PPP capacity, including strengthening capacity at the level of sector ministries or designated entities to identify, prepare and execute PPP projects (transaction function); and

v. Reflect the AAAA Declaration and UN 2030 Agenda by recognizing the role of Civil Society as a newly empowered Stakeholder. This will need to be reflected at the institutional level and the PPP delivery process.
26. Fully acknowledge that “Integrity and Accountability Mechanisms” which govern the public procurement system are perfectly adapted as a structuring control system for delivering PPPs in accordance with good governance practices and to take the following actions accordingly:

i. Focus on the notion "Well Prepared Projects" as defined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA);

ii. Consider unsolicited proposals on an exceptional basis, if and only if, proprietary and innovative (including new technology) solutions are being presented;

iii. Foster integrity and transparency in PPP transactions by conducting external control and audit, establishing efficient and effective complaints mechanisms (including whistle blower policies); and

iv. Establish ethics and anti-corruption measures and enforcement capacity.
27. Build upon existing public procurement systems to structure sound and practical sustainable PPP delivery systems which will include civil society as a new stakeholder; and

28. Fully recognize that SDG Goal 17 “Partnerships” allows to open up the potential for a new generation of PPPs (People first PPPs).
Sub-Theme No 6.

Harnessing Information Technology for Efficient Public Procurement

“Harnessing Public Procurement for Socio-Economic Growth”
Recommended Actions for Consideration by African Countries

29. Set up enabling legal framework.

30. Lay ICT infrastructure.

31. Adopt regional approach to set up a common framework through harmonization to achieve free trade and promote competition, and fully recognize the basic principle of e-procurement, interoperability of e-signature.

32. Integrate mobile technology to the procurement platform to enhance participation targeting small and simple contracts.

33. Integrate ICT in complaints handling and even in dispute resolution.
34. Use social media for feedback from end users and for information to the public (to be handled ‘with care approach’).

35. Compile data in an interlinked environment to enable evaluation of eligibility and qualifications.

36. Develop requisite IT human resources.

37. Inclusive approach (of all stakeholders) at the development stage.
Thank You

Harnessing Public Procurement for Socio-Economic Growth