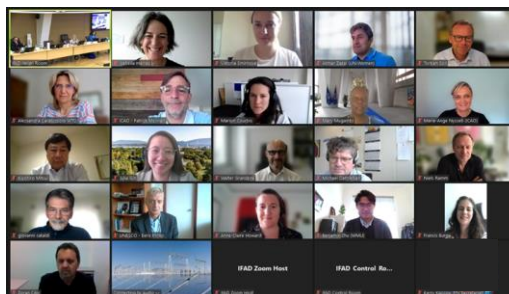




31ST HLCM PROCUREMENT NETWORK (HYBRID) SESSION
PART 2 – ROME, 10TH-12TH MAY 2022
 SUMMARY OF DECISIONS & OUTCOMES



The 31st session of the HLCM Procurement Network (HLCM PN) was hosted by IFAD and WFP at IFAD HQ in Rome on the 10th-12th May 2022 under the following Management Board and Secretariat:

- Chair** Elisabeth Eckerstrom (Director of Procurement, UNDP)
- Vice-Chair** Daniela Leinen (Director, Office of Procurement Services, IAEA)
- Advisory Chair** Katinka Rosenbom (Chief Contracting, UNICEF)
- Second Advisory Chair** Roberto Samayoa (Procurement Excellence and Compliance Specialist, PAHO)
- Secretariat** Kerry Kassow (UNDP)

The session was attended by 34 in-person participants and approximately 60 virtual participants (including observers for certain sessions), representing 36 organisations. [List of participants](#)

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All documents related to the meeting are available on the HLCM-PN Workspace on www.ungm.org or by contacting the PN Secretariat on kerry.kassow@undp.org



INTRODUCTION & RE-ENGAGEMENT SESSION

This was the first time the PN had convened in person since October 2019, therefore the proceedings commenced with a facilitated session that allowed PN members to introduce themselves, get (re)acquainted with each other and provide input to the strategic priorities of the PN moving forward. After introductions PN members were divided into 5 face-to-face groups and 2 virtual groups for a brainstorming session. Each group reported back to the plenary with the outcomes of their discussions. These findings will be reviewed by the PN Management Board and the relevant Working Groups and, where feasible, incorporated into workplans.

For more information on the above see the following:

[PN Strategic Priorities - Summary of Group Discussions](#) (incl. word cloud of expectations for meeting)

THE WORKING GROUPS

1. HARMONISATION WORKING GROUP – INFORMATION SESSION & WORKSHOP

KATINKA ROSENBOM (UNICEF), WG CHAIR

(i) Definition of Major Supplier

To support the work of the Human Trafficking and Forced Labour (HT&FL) Task Force, a subgroup was formed under the Harmonisation WG to develop a definition of 'Major UN Supplier'. The group had advanced quite far with drafting a common definition, but finalisation was put on hold pending approval of the HT&FL Policy Framework. **The subgroup will move ahead as soon as there is clarity on how the approved HT&FL Policy Framework will be operationalised. Once finalised, the subgroup will revisit the work on the definition and present to the PN for decision.**

(ii) UN Supplier Code of Conduct (SCOC)

Also in connection with the work of HT&FL Task Force and development of the Policy Framework, amendments have been proposed to the SCOC. **Upon approval of the HT&FL Policy Framework, and the work from the legal networks on recommended new clauses to the General Conditions of Contract, the Harmonisation WG will examine and seek agreement on amendments to the Supplier Code of Conduct with a view to presenting them for decision to the PN.**

(iii) Strategic Category Management – Workshop

Further to the *Call to Action* on Category Management by the UN Secretariat and UNICEF at the PN session held in Spring 2021, the Harmonisation Working Group was tasked with taking the work forward by creating a roadmap for implementation, identify suitable categories, and decide which organisation should be the lead or co-lead of each. It was agreed that there should first be agreement on a compact of principles. Identifying the categories and developing the roadmap will come after agreement on the principles.

To support this process, UNICEF has engaged the services of a consultancy team who was present at the PN meeting to facilitate a workshop to recall the *Call to Action* and brainstorm on guiding principles and parameters. Based on a survey that was carried out in the lead up to the meeting, group discussions centred around the below questions.

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- What are the drivers for strategic collaboration on category management?
- What does successful collaboration on category management look like?
- What could be the guardrails (to work within or keep on track) to collaboration?
- What could impede (obstacles) implementation of category management?
- What would good leadership of a category look like?
- What other question should have been asked?

After the groups reported back to the plenary and had further discussions, the input was synthesized. The next steps were outlined as follows:

- **The output from the workshop will be used by the consultants to develop a draft set of principles, parameters, etc. for review by the Harmonisation WG.**
- **There may be 1-2 additional pulse surveys to get input on the Roadmap.**
- **A draft Roadmap on Collaboration & Category Management will be presented to the PN for review at its October 2022 meeting.**

For more information on the above see the following:

[Presentation \(incl. inputs\) - Strategic Category Management Workshop](#)

2. STRATEGIC VENDOR MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP – INFORMATION SESSION

WALTER GRANDPRÉ (ILO), WG CHAIR

FRANCIS BURGA (ILO), MPF REVISION TASK FORCE COORDINATOR

LASZLO GOBOLYOS (UNOPS), SPE SUB-GROUP COORDINATOR

KERRY KASSOW (UNDP), IPS SUB-GROUP COORDINATOR

NATALIA NEDEL (UN SECRETARIAT), VENDOR RISK MANAGEMENT & DUE DILIGENCE SUB-GROUP COORDINATOR

BÉRÉNICE BESSIÈRE (WIPO), INNOVATIVE CONTRACTING & SUPPLIER RELATIONSHIP SUB-GROUP COORDINATOR

The PN was provided with an update on the work being undertaken by the following groups:

(i) Model Policy Framework (MPF) on Vendor Sanctions Governance Group update

The PN was given a brief update on new and improved layout in the UNGM Knowledge Centre concerning the [Strategic Vendor Management WG](#) and [MPF page](#). In addition, two online [MPF Community of Practice forums](#) have been launched; one for the all agency staff involved with the implementation of the MPF and the other restricted to the Secretariats of the Sanction Boards of agencies that have implemented the MPF.

(ii) Revision of the Model Policy Framework (MPF) for Vendor Sanctions

This Task Force was created by the MPF Governance Group to review, modernise and amend the MPF, which was originally developed in 2010. The preliminary review of Part two (Procedures) has been completed. Part one (Guiding principles) and three (Additional important matters) are being reviewed but only in case any changes made to Part two have an impact on the rest of the MPF document. The Task Force is awaiting the decision of the PN in relation to the HT&FL Policy Framework to include these practices in the list of proscribed practices (definitions). The use of current functionalities (i.e., expiration of sanctions) and the need for new functionalities (i.e., interim suspensions) are currently being discussed with UNGM colleagues.

All documents related to the meeting are available on the HLCM-PN Workspace on www.ungm.org or by contacting the PN Secretariat on kerry.kassow@undp.org



(iii) Supplier Performance Evaluation (SPE)

This subgroup was created to share knowledge, assess the possibility of harmonising approaches on supplier performance rating and related actions (e.g., potential suspensions due to performance issues) and to discuss the potential further use of the UNGM functionality for supplier performance flagging and rating functionality. The PN was provided with a presentation of the journey and deliverables of the group since its inception in 2020. At the last session the PN was asked to endorse the decision: *to proceed with the enhancements of the UNGM vendor rating functionality and agree to obtain the commitment by a critical number of HLCM PN UN agencies to use the functionality, to the extent possible*. While the PN was supportive of the initiative, the decision was made to proceed with the enhancements of the UNGM vendor rating functionality, with no commitment obtained at that time, and to address the concerns and challenges that were raised before any further endorsement could take place.

Since the last session a draft commitment note was shared with the 12 subgroup members which yielded the following result:

Full commitment (to use and to share cost of enhancements)	Conditional commitment (to use subject to UNGM covering the cost of enhancements)	No Commitment	Awaiting response
UNOPS	IFAD, ITU, WIPO, FAO, IAEA, PAHO, UN Secretariat	CTBTO, ILO, UNICEF (Agencies here voiced their support for the initiative, but are unable to commit for internal reasons)	UNDP

The PN was asked for its position on the next steps which were outlined as follows:

1. UNGM Vendor Performance (“purple”) Flag - In progress
 - a. Guide is at 90% completion; no major development work is foreseen.
2. UNGM Vendor Rating Tool
 - a. Obtain the endorsement of the UNGM members to undertake the required system enhancements under the UNGM budget for regular development – the case has been deferred so far.
 - b. Subject to the endorsement of UNGM members, work with UNGM developer team on the implementation of enhancements to functionality in UNGM including the mapping and integration exercise with the respective Agencies - on hold.
 - c. Finalise the related Guidelines - on hold.

The PN was supportive and recognised the importance of the work that has been undertaken by the SPE subgroup so far and encouraged the finalisation of the Guidelines for the use of the UNGM Vendor Performance Rating Tool in parallel with the Guidelines for the use of the UNGM Vendor Performance Flag. It was agreed that the subgroup would reach out to the

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wider PN (i.e., organisations outside of the subgroup) with a view to obtaining further commitment to the Vendor Rating Tool. While the funds are available within the UNGM to make the necessary system enhancements, UNGM Members requested the provision of a business case. This will be prepared by UNOPS, in consultation with the SPE subgroup.

(iv) International Procurement Seminars (IPS)

The IPS model was developed particularly to meet the repeat demand from Industrialised Countries to host UN multi-agency business seminars, and do so in a more efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable manner. IPS events take place in accordance with a [calendar published on the UNGM](#) and are subject to a submission/evaluation process of proposals from Member States interested in hosting such an event.

Due to the global pandemic situation a switch was made to a virtual format in 2021. At the PN session in spring 2021, the IPS subgroup was encouraged to build on this format and to explore a hybrid model moving forward. The hybrid model is now being piloted throughout 2022, with the first event having successfully taken place in April. Lessons learned and survey feedback from the events will be channelled into improving future IPS. Indeed, feedback from previous IPS has been used to enhance the IPS event management tool in the UNGM; in particular concerning review of vendor meeting requests.

At the recent hybrid IPS there was a first screening of the new professionally produced video, 'Doing Business with the UN & an Introduction to the UN Global Marketplace', funded by UNDP. The video aims to lift the image of the UN at these events and has generated positive feedback so far. [The video has since been made available from the [UNGM Knowledge Centre](#).]

PN member organisations who have been involved in piloting the hybrid IPS model so far were thanked for their high level of support and engagement. Should resources be available, PN members were encouraged to professionalise their presentation materials to help sustain interest from the audience throughout the two days of an IPS. The subgroup will continue to amend and fine-tune the IPS Criteria for Engagement. PN members were encouraged to share any requests received to participate in multi-agency business seminars with the PN Secretariat to ensure a more coordinated and aligned response to Member States.

(v) Vendor Risk Management & Due Diligence

The objectives of this subgroup are to:

- Establish a standardised process for Vendor Risk Management and Due Diligence
- Define a strong/comprehensive monitoring program to perform due diligence to research potential and current vendors by integrating into UNGM the data on vendors from multiple sources
- Monitor and ensure implementation of the UN Secretariat's tender for Business Information Services for the Agencies affiliated to UNGM
- Pilot a common vendor evaluation criteria and process for one commodity/service

The Terms of Reference for the group was finalised on the 27th April 2022 and work is expected to commence shortly.



(vi) Innovative Contracting and Supplier Relationship

Originally the intention was to develop and launch a supplier award programme. However, the WG decided that such an initiative would be too complex and risky, and that a reference letter for suppliers could be a safer option to pursue.

Since the last PN meeting, a proposed template letter for recommending the work of a supplier has been drafted and endorsed by the WG on the 27th April 2022. The proposed template has been made available from UNGM Knowledge Centre page [Additional tools & templates](#) and can be adapted to meet the needs of the individual organisation. The launch of the letter brings the work of this subgroup to a close and activities will be limited to 'show and tell/experience sharing' moving forward and be part of the regular WG proceedings.

For more information on all of the above see the following:

[Summary Sheet](#)

[Presentation](#)

[System Requirements for UNGM Vendor Performance Rating Tool](#)

[Guidelines for UNGM Vendor Rating Functionality](#)

[Guidelines for use of UNGM Vendor Performance Flags](#)

[ToR Vendor Risk Management Due Diligence Sub-Group](#)

[Template Reference Letter for Suppliers](#)

3. SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT WORKING GROUP – DECISION SESSION

ISABELLA MARRAS (UNEP) & NIELS RAMM (UNOPS) – WG CO-CHAIRS

VANJA OSTOJIC (ILO) & NIAMH MERCER (OSCE) – COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND FORCED LABOUR TASK FORCE CO-CHAIRS

AKHTAR ZAZAI (UN WOMEN) & VIKTORIA SMIRNOVA (UN WOMEN) – GENDER RESPONSIVE PROCUREMENT TASK FORCE COORDINATORS

ALEXANDER TOOP (UNOPS) – ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT ON UN PROCUREMENT TEAM LEAD

A warm tribute was paid to Co-Chair Isabella Marras, who after well over a decade of commitment and dedication to the Sustainable Procurement WG will be leaving the PN to take up a new role with UNEP. The WG has elected Carsten Hansen (UNDP) as the new WG Co-Chair. Carsten, who has been a member of the WG for some time, was welcomed to his new role.

The focus of this WG session was otherwise on the following topics:

(i) Combating Human Trafficking and Forced Labour (HT&FL)

In response to the [UN Security Council Resolution S/RES/2388](#)¹, the PN agreed to develop and implement a common approach to combating human trafficking and forced labour in UN supply chains. At its 28th Session (October 2020), the PN unanimously endorsed the project document: Human Trafficking and Forced Labour in UN Supply Chains: Policy Framework and the UN Secretariat, ILO, IOM, OSCE, UNDP, UNFPA, and UNICEF provided financial contributions in support of this project. Subsequently, the HT&FL Task Force, in collaboration

¹ Since then, there have been similar calls to action on combating human trafficking in UN supply chains through [UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/76/7](#) and [ECOSOC Resolution E/RES/2021/25](#).



with external consultants from the Danish Institute for Human Rights and the University of Greenwich, developed the Policy Framework and presented it to the PN for decision at this session.

The Task Force Co-Chairs, Director, General Legal Division, Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) and the Consultant provided a detailed presentation of the background, journey, approach, timeline, outputs, and next steps for the project. This included an integral presentation by the OLA on behalf of the Legal Networks on the recommended additions to the General Conditions of Contract (GCC), as well as consultations and input to a revision of the UN Supplier Code of Conduct (SCoC) to address human trafficking and forced labour aspects.

OLA presented the proposed specialised clause on 'Standards of Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking' and informed that it expected the GCC changes, including this clause, to be formalised by the Secretariat, Funds and Programmes for roll out in Q3 and, as quickly as possible, by Specialised Agencies. These amendments could then form the basis for the changes needed to the SCoC that the PN would develop and decide on.

The documents (see below links) and decision text presented to the PN read as follows:

The HLCM PN adopts two elements of the Policy Framework to Combat Human Trafficking and Forced Labour in UN Supply Chains, specifically:

- (i) [HLCM PN Statement on Combating Human Trafficking and Forced Labour in UN Supply Chains](#)
- (ii) [Guidance for UN Staff: Addressing Forced Labour and Human Trafficking in UN Supply Chains](#)

The HLCM PN acknowledges one element of the Policy Framework to Combat Human Trafficking and Forced Labour in UN Supply Chains, specifically:

- Amendments to the General Conditions of Contract ("Model Clauses on Standards of Labour, Forced Labour and Human Trafficking"), led by the OLA and endorsed by the HLCM Legal Network.

The HLCM PN is informed and acknowledges proposed next steps on one element of the Policy Framework to Combat Human Trafficking and Forced Labour in UN Supply Chains, specifically:

- Amendments to the UN Supplier Code of Conduct

PN plenary members were supportive of the Policy Framework (Statement & Guidance) as presented by the Task Force Co-Chairs, and complimentary of the work of the Task Force. The PN Management Board commended the work of the Task Force. While PN members expressed their readiness to adopt the Statement and the Guidance as it was submitted, IAEA, UNDP and UNICEF raised some specific concerns and therefore requested amendments to the wording in the Statement and Guidance documents for consideration by the membership.

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To address the concerns raised by IAEA, UNDP and UNICEF and in the interest of achieving consensus as per Section 5.1² of the [HLCM PN Statutes](#), amendments to the wording in the Statement and Guidance documents were considered and addressed by the PN. Following lengthy consultations, the documents (see below links) and decision text were amended as follows:

The HLCM PN **approves today, for adoption by the HLCM**, two elements of the Policy Framework to Combat Human Trafficking and Forced Labour in UN Supply Chains, specifically:

(i) [HLCM PN Statement on Combating Human Trafficking and Forced Labour in UN Supply Chains](#)

(ii) [Guidance for UN Staff: Addressing Forced Labour and Human Trafficking in UN Supply Chains](#)

The HLCM PN acknowledges one element of the Policy Framework to Combat Human Trafficking and Forced Labour in UN Supply Chains, specifically:

- **Proposed** amendments to the General Conditions of Contract (“Model Clauses on Standards of Labour, Forced Labour and Human Trafficking”), **under review and being led by the OLA with the Legal Networks.**

The HLCM PN is informed and acknowledges proposed next steps on one element of the Policy Framework to Combat Human Trafficking and Forced Labour in UN Supply Chains, specifically:

- Amendments to the UN Supplier Code of Conduct

All organisations represented at the PN session agreed on the revised decision text as well as the revised draft Statement and Guidance document. UNDP and IAEA advised that they would seek management approval following the meeting, which has since been obtained.

Once the HLCM has adopted the Policy Framework, the Task Force will publish the finalised Policy Framework in the UNGM Knowledge Centre.

The focus moving ahead will be on capacity building/awareness-raising and establishing reporting parameters as indicated in the Roadmap which was presented.

The amendments to the UN Supplier Code of Conduct will be reviewed by the Harmonisation WG, and subject to legal consultation and clearance, will be presented to the PN for endorsement as soon as possible. The Policy Framework will then be updated accordingly.

For more information on the above see the following:
[Summary Sheet \(original version\)](#)

² decisions of the HLCM PN shall be reached by consensus of the HLCM Member Organisations represented at the meeting

All documents related to the meeting are available on the HLCM-PN Workspace on www.ungm.org or by contacting the PN Secretariat on kerry.kassow@undp.org



[Summary Sheet](#) (revised version – with tracked changes)
[Presentation](#)

(ii) Gender-Responsive Procurement (GRP)

The GRP Task Force is developing a UN System-wide GRP Strategy as a part of its 7-step action plan. The Strategy is aimed at creating an institutional framework for the implementation of the key human rights and gender equality frameworks, including SDGs, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, amongst other international human rights instruments. Similar to the HT&FL Task Force, the GRP Task Force has engaged the services of the Danish Institute on Human Rights to support the development of the Strategy, which will include extensive dialogue with relevant stakeholders within the PN.

The PN was presented with the highlights and components of the GRP Strategy. The next steps will be the following:

- Develop a UN Model Policy on Gender-Responsive Procurement
- Undertake Individual consultations with interested PN member organisations
- Develop Technical Guidance for Strategy and Policy implementation, which will include practical guidance on how GRP can be achieved through the procurement process.

The Strategy, the Policy and the Technical Guidance are collectively referred to as the “GRP Strategic Framework”. The plan is for the Policy and the Technical Guidance to be finalised in the second half of 2022.

PN members were very supportive of the proposed initiative. The PN Management Board underlined the importance of all aspects of the policy development being undertaken carefully and that the upcoming individual consultations with PN members throughout the process would be crucial for this. The PN was reminded that the Task Force was open to all PN members interested in joining.

Supporting documentation:

[Summary Sheet](#)

[Presentation](#)

[Draft UN System-Wide Strategy on Gender-Responsive Procurement](#)

Supplementary documents to facilitate the review process:

[GRP Strategy Summary](#)

[Outline of UN GRP Strategy Framework](#)

(iii) Amendment of the Annual Statistical Report (ASR) on UN Procurement

Part 1 – Sustainable Procurement Reporting

To date, responses to the annual sustainable procurement questionnaire have been published in aggregated form in the ASR and individual respondents have remained anonymous. There has been 100% participation in the questionnaire for the last three editions of the ASR, and the maturity of organisations' approaches to sustainability has increased. Therefore, with the support of the SP-WG, UNOPS asked for the PN to endorse the proposal to enhance the transparency and completeness of the sustainable procurement section of the ASR by attributing responses to specific organisations.

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The PN endorsed the proposal from UNOPS to attribute responses to the ASR sustainable procurement questionnaire to specific organisations, for responses provided for the 2022 reporting cycle³ and onwards.

Part 1 – Country Classification

Since 2015 the ASR has classified supplier countries into one of four broad categories: developed countries; developing countries; countries with economies in transition, and least developed countries (LDCs). This was based on country categorisations defined by [UNCTADstat](#), with the exception of LDCs, for which the [M49 standard](#) is followed. In 2021 UNCTAD stopped using the term transition economies and [they no longer maintain this group of countries](#), as they decided to follow the M49 standard for country classification. In addition, the M49 standard removed its distinction between developing and developed countries in December 2021. The LDC classification is still in use by the M49 standard and is defined through a formal process by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs Economic Analysis and Policy Division. The M49 classification also includes the groupings land-locked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS). According to the M49 webpage there is no common UN wide definition of the countries and areas which are considered Land Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs) or Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Instead, the current composition of countries and areas in LLDCs and SIDS groups were set at the beginning of the Sustainable Development Goals reporting period based on various definitions available at the time.

Given these developments, UNOPS proposed implementing the following changes:

- To discontinue the use of the classifications “developed”, “developing” and “economies in transition”.
- For the ASR to follow the M49 standard only by including analysis of procurement from suppliers in LDCs (already part of the report) and additionally include new reporting of procurement from suppliers from LLDCs and SIDS.

Given that some organisations are requested by Member States to report in specific ways and that there may be other sensitivities to be considered, it was agreed that organisations would need more time to understand the impact of amending the country classifications in the ASR. UNOPS will consult further with PN members on the matter with a view to re-submitting the item for decision at the PN meeting in October 2022.

Supporting documentation:

[Summary Sheet](#)

[Presentation](#)

[Background paper - Country Classification](#)

4. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP – INFORMATION SESSION

TORBEN SOLL (UNDP), WG CHAIR

A brief update was provided was provided on the following topics:

³ i.e., for the report that will be published in 2023.

All documents related to the meeting are available on the HLCM-PN Workspace on www.ungm.org or by contacting the PN Secretariat on kerry.kassow@undp.org



(i) UN Procurement Awards

This initiative was developed to celebrate and recognise procurement and supply chain excellence across the United Nations. Due to the Covid19 pandemic the launch of the Awards has been postponed twice but it is now finally underway. Further to consultations with the PN Management Board, a 'soft launch' of the concept has taken place for 2022, with only one of the initial five categories to be launched, i.e., the Sustainable Procurement award. The submission deadline closed on the 30th April and number of nominations have been received. An external panel of subject-matter experts will score the projects independently, and the short-list of projects will be announced in early August 2022. The Award winner will be revealed at the PN meeting in October 2022. All shortlisted projects will receive a 'Shortlisted for 2022 UN Procurement Award Diploma'. The winning project will receive a 'Diploma for 2022 Sustainable Procurement Award', an invitation to present the project at the subsequent PN meeting, and an announcement will be made on the UNGM and other media. More information on the Awards can be found [here](#).

(ii) Training Course Tables

The training course tables have now been updated for 2022. It was highlighted that the number of organisations offering training has doubled in the past 10 years and the volume of courses being offered has more than tripled in the same timeframe. In addition, 30 courses are now listed as recommended by various PN members. The updated tables are available from [here](#) on the UNGM.

(iii) Procurement Practitioner's Handbook (PPH)

The PPH remains popular and in-demand. Subsequently the translation has now been completed and the PPH is now available in the following languages:

- ✓ English (master version)
- ✓ French
- ✓ Spanish
- ✓ Chinese (new!)
- ✓ Arabic (in progress, completion Q3/2022)

All versions are/will be made available [here](#).

The next periodic content revision of the PPH is scheduled for 2023. PN members are invited to communicate any suggestions to the Professional Development Working Group.

Supporting documentation:

[Summary Sheet](#)

[Presentation](#)

[HLCM PN Training Compendium 2022](#)

[Recommended Procurement Training Courses 2022](#)

5. COGNITIVE PROCUREMENT WORKING GROUP – INFORMATION SESSION

MIRANDA CARINGTON (WORLD BANK), WG CHAIR

After an introduction and providing background information on this WG, the WG Chair provided a concise overview of the results of a recent survey that has been carried out across the PN membership. The aim of the survey was, amongst others, to assess the various organisations' level of activity and stage of implementation in the areas of Robotic Process

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Automation (RPA), Spend Intelligence & Analytics, Cognitive Procurement tools (AI, Machine Learning), Augmented/Virtual/Mixed Reality and Blockchain as well as whether respondents would be open to demos by suppliers. The overall findings were summarised as follows:

- The adoption of Cognitive Procurement tools remains a priority to improve client experience.
- Budget & time constraints were the leading factors for lack of adoption.
- 84% of respondents do not use Cognitive Procurement tools.
- Vendor demos are welcome.
- AI (79%) and RPA (70%) were of most interest.

The plan moving forward was outlined as follows:

		Quick Wins: 1-3 months	Medium to Long Term: 3-12 months
Survey Data	Survey Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share Survey Results with the Cognitive Procurement Working Group • Present results to the HLCM-Procurement Network (PN) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translate Results into achievable tasks • Conduct a survey on follow-up activities
	Artificial Intelligence Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI Initiative Kick-off with the 18 volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Findings/Results from AI Working Group • AI Procurement Guidelines - HLCM-PN
	Technology & Innovation Compilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect Cognitive Procurement Tools information from members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate the compilation/tool kit • Outreach program
	Knowledge Sharing Sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge Sharing Sessions Lineup 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active sessions • White papers
	Technology Demos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplier Demo Lineup 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Supplier Demos • Feedback Sessions

The World Bank, PAHO and WHO indicated that they are quite advanced in their usage of RPA (Bots) and are happy to share more information. PAHO have two bots (Mia and Max) for creating POs and for document management. The session concluded with a short [video](#) which showed how Max works.

Supporting documentation:

[Summary Sheet](#)

[Presentation](#)

OTHER TOPICS

1. LEARNING SESSION ON EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

In this session IOM, PAHO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS, UN Secretariat, WFP & WHO shared their experiences operating in emergency contexts such as the Covid19 pandemic,

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Afghanistan, Ukraine, etc. The objective being to improve understanding of the organisation, mandate, policies and role of HQ procurement & supply chain entities, and to explore/encourage working more effectively together in emergency situations.

Supporting documentation:
[Presentation](#)

2. THE UN GLOBAL MARKETPLACE (UNGM) STEERING COMMITTEE BRIEFING

INFORMATION SESSION – PRESENTED BY UNGM STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR, KIYOHIRO MITSUI (UN SECRETARIAT) AND UNGM TEAM LEAD, MR. NIELS RAMM (UNOPS)

The UNGM SC Chair provided with the PN with a brief update on certain key points following the UNGM membership session which took place on the 28th April 2022.

(i) UNGM Steering Committee Election

A virtual election has been taking place to fill two positions on the UNGM Steering Committee. Since votes were only received from 19 out of the 30 UNGM member organisations, the deadline for the voting was extended until the 18th May. The remaining 11 organisations were strongly encouraged to cast their votes (for 2 of the 4 candidates listed). The result of the election will be announced by email after the voting closes.

(ii) Business Information Services

Since the offer received from Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) for integrating their services with the UNGM was too expensive, it was declined. Instead, it was agreed that UN organisations could piggy-back on the contract established by the UN Secretariat; the agreed price being \$37.93 per report for up to 500 reports per agency, and agencies should issue their own contract/PO referring to the UN Secretariat contract. Contract duration is 3 +1+1 years, and year three will be reached in February 2023. Sample reports and a copy of the contract can be found under the [UNGM Membership Session – Spring 2022](#).

(iii) Hosting of Sustainability-weighted Procurement Portfolio Model (SPPM) tool

UNDP has requested for the SPPM tool, which was presented at the PN meeting in March 2021, to be hosted on the UNGM (content will be maintained by UNDP and UNEP). The UNGM Membership had no objection to this but enquired whether another demo session could be scheduled. [This subsequently took place on the 20th May and all PN members were invited to attend]. It was agreed that if no issues were raised following the demo, the tool would be made available on the UNGM.

(iv) Supplier Performance Evaluation functionality

In extension of the Strategic Vendor Management WG session from the previous day, this topic was discussed further, and the conclusion reached can be found on page 4 of this report.

Supporting documentation:
[Presentation](#)

[Summary Sheet - SC Briefing](#)

[Summary Sheet - UNGM Post Factum Financial Review](#)

[UNGM Post Factum Financial Review 2021](#)

[UNGM Operational Report 2021](#)



AOB

(i) PN Chair attendance at HLCM meeting

The PN Chair gave a brief update on her participation in the 43rd session of the HLCM on 5th-6th April, where she presented the PN's progress on the Circularity in Procurement project (under the Sustainable Procurement WG). The update was appreciated and well received by HLCM members, who look forward to a further progress report on this work in the Autumn.

(ii) Election of new PN Vice Chair

Angela Kastner (WHO) was elected by the PN as the new Vice Chair for the 2022-2023 period. Daniela Leinen (IAEA) has chosen to withdraw from the PN Board for personal reasons. Therefore, Elisabeth Eckerstrom (UNDP) will continue as Chair and Katinka Rosenbom (UNICEF) as Vice Chair until the next PN meeting. A new Vice Chair will be elected at the next PN meeting.

(iii) Format and venues and for future meetings

Moving forward, and unless circumstances change, PN meetings will revert to the physical format only. This meeting in Rome was a reminder of how meeting in person helps foster collaboration and networking and makes it easier to find common ground and reach agreement on difficult topics.

The next session will be hosted by OPCW in The Hague on the 12th-14th October 2022. UNICEF will host the spring 2023 meeting in Copenhagen and the October 2023 meeting will take place in Montreal, hosted by ICAO.