



33RD HLCM PROCUREMENT NETWORK SESSION COPENHAGEN, 18-20 APRIL 2023 SUMMARY OF DECISIONS & OUTCOMES



The 33rd session of the HLCM Procurement Network (HLCM PN) was co-hosted by UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNOPS in Copenhagen on 18-20 April 2023 under the following Management Board¹ and Secretariat:

Chair Angela Kastner (Director Procurement & Supply Services, WHO)

Vice-Chair Stephen Farrell (Chief, Purchasing and Transportation Section, UNOG)

2nd Advisory Chair Roberto Samayoa (Procurement Operational Excellence and Compliance, PAHO)

Secretariat Kerry Kassow (UNDP)

The session was attended by 43 in-person participants as well as a number of representatives who presented topics on a remote basis, representing 28 Organisations in total.

[List of participants](#)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

HLCM/CEB Update	2
The Working Groups.....	3
1. Harmonisation Working Group (HWG).....	3
2. Sustainable Procurement Working Group (SPWG).....	6
3. Professional Development Working Group	8
4. Strategic Vendor Management Working Group.....	9

¹ PN Advisory Chair, Elisabeth Eckerstrom (Director Procurement Office, UNDP) was unfortunately unable to attend.

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5. Cognitive Procurement Working Group	12
Other topics.....	12
1. The UN Global Marketplace (UNGM) steering committee briefing	12
AOB	14
Show and Tell/Inspirational Sessions.....	15

HLCM/CEB UPDATE – INFORMATION SESSION

MR. REMO LALLI (UNOG), HLCM/CEB SECRETARIAT

The PN was provided with an update following the 45th session of the HLCM, which took place on 2-4 April in Amman.

(i) Mutual Recognition

The mainstreaming of the Mutual Recognition (MR) principle remains a key priority area for the UN Secretary-General and for the 23 agencies whose Executive Heads have signed the MR Statement. The HLCM was highly appreciative of the work undertaken by the Harmonisation Working Group, and presented by the PN Chair, on the model communication for an MR awareness campaign, which is seen as a key contribution to the implementation of the MR agenda.

The HLCM Secretary encouraged the PN to now move ahead with the MR survey to establish baseline data and status of implementation, identify challenges and bottle necks, as well as enable monitoring and reporting on progress on an ongoing basis.

The HLCM has established an inter-agency MR Working Group to coordinate the various streams of work taking place. One of the objectives listed in the group's ToR is as follows: *to facilitate the adoption, promotion and mainstreaming of initiatives making use of the MR concept, including but not limited to the UN Global Marketplace, procurement-related efforts by the Procurement Network, including its Working Groups and initiatives which fall under the broad category.* **PN members were encouraged to engage actively with this coordination group.**

Finally, the HLCM Secretary informed that a statement has been issued by the UN's network of internal auditors formally supporting the MR Statement, and which can be referred to by agencies when MR is questioned by auditors.

(ii) Next HLCM Session

The HLCM Secretary informed the PN that the next session of the HLCM will be hosted on 4-6 October in Copenhagen by UNICEF Supply Division, which is seen as a major opportunity to increase visibility of the procurement and supply chain function. **PN members were encouraged to engage in preparations for this meeting and put forward any relevant contributions to the discussions, particularly relating to developments and achievements within MR, Strategic Category Management, etc.**

In addition, there will be a joint session with the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) at this next meeting. Therefore, **PN members should start considering which matters or messages they would like to have conveyed to the group for discussion.**

This joint session will focus largely on innovation and technological advancements, which is also a key area of interest to the SG at present. In this regard, the HLCM Secretary expressed

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his support for the PN's Cognitive Procurement Working Group & A.I. Subgroup initiatives and would welcome the opportunity to participate as an observer in the AI Solutions Expo that is in the pipeline for this group.

(iii) Other PN initiatives of high interest

Finally, the HLCM Secretary also emphasised the high importance to the HLCM of the work the PN is currently undertaking in the areas of Strategic Category Management, Human Trafficking & Forced Labour, and in defining the strategic direction of the UN Global Marketplace. **He also expressed strong support for the suggestion from UNICEF to broaden the scope of the PN to encompass Supply Chain and encouraged the PN to develop a proposal on this for the HLCM meeting at UNICEF Supply Division.**

THE WORKING GROUPS

1. HARMONISATION WORKING GROUP (HWG) – DECISION SESSION

KATINKA ROSENBOM (UNICEF), WG CHAIR & STRATEGIC CATEGORY MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE CO-CHAIR

NERIS BÁEZ GARCÍA DE MAZZORA (UN SECRETARIAT), STRATEGIC CATEGORY MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE CO-CHAIR

(i) Mutual Recognition Principle Implementation

Model communication

As requested by the HLCM, the WG has developed model communication for an MR awareness campaign following the last PN meeting. In March 2023, the communication was issued by the PN Chair to all members of the PN in the form of a customisable document with sections specifically highlighted to be changed to reflect the framework of each individual Organisation. The document reiterates the benefits of cooperation as well as details the options specific to the procurement function and links to relevant resources. **PN members have been requested to disseminate the communication to their internal procurement communities and keep the PN Management Board informed on progress.**

Additionally, the WG Chair briefly presented UNICEF's MR SharePoint site, which can be used as inspiration on how to communicate MR across functions. The site provides background information, examples of initiatives which have been undertaken to promote MR across UNICEF, MR in practice within different functions – including pitfalls and good practices, an FAQ and links to resources.

Both of the above initiatives were presented by the PN Chair at the recent HLCM meeting in Amman. Miguel Alvarez (UN Secretariat) was thanked for leading the work in developing the model communication document for the procurement function.

Baseline survey

At the last PN meeting the HWG was also tasked with establishing MR baseline data. A subgroup was subsequently established to develop a baseline survey to identify challenges and bottlenecks and enable the monitoring and reporting on implementation progress. Some challenges are expected with this undertaking, such as, quantitative data quality, consistency and comprehensiveness, and being able to reliably monitor progress over time with reasonable effort. These aspects will also inform the establishment of the baseline information used and design of subsequent monitoring efforts.



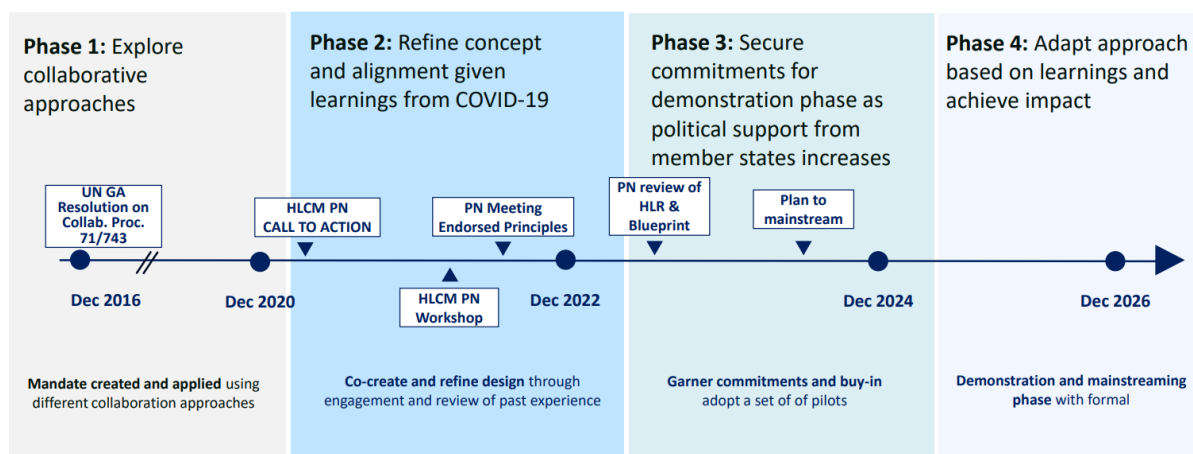
The survey is currently in draft form and, once finalised, will be issued to PN members for further dissemination within each Organisation. The aggregated data responses gathered will then be shared back with each Organisation for any necessary cleaning/validation before being presented to the PN and HLCM.

Several members of the PN emphasised the importance of the LTA Information Sheet and ensuring that it is attached to LTAs uploaded on the UNGM. The HWG Chair proposed that this mechanism (Word document) could be modernised in conjunction with the UNGM's upcoming strategy discussions. Additionally, the importance of being able to reference each other's policies² and ToRs/specifications was noted. The latter have become more challenging to access since they are now embedded in agencies' e-tendering systems rather than attached to procurement notices on the UNGM. Given that some agencies rely on the procurement services of other agencies, the group suggested revisiting initiatives such as the [IAPSO](#) model, where an independent organisation existed to consolidate demand and undertake procurement for other UN agencies on a cost-recovery basis. The idea of hosting MR webinars for the UN procurement community was also suggested and can perhaps be discussed further with the Professional Development Working Group. **The WG Chair encouraged PN members to put these and other ideas forward for discussion at HWG meetings.**

(ii) Strategic Category Management

At the last PN meeting the Principles and Parameters for Strategic Category Management were endorsed. The Strategic Category Management Task Force (TF) then moved ahead with developing a High-level Roadmap and Blueprint for Implementation.

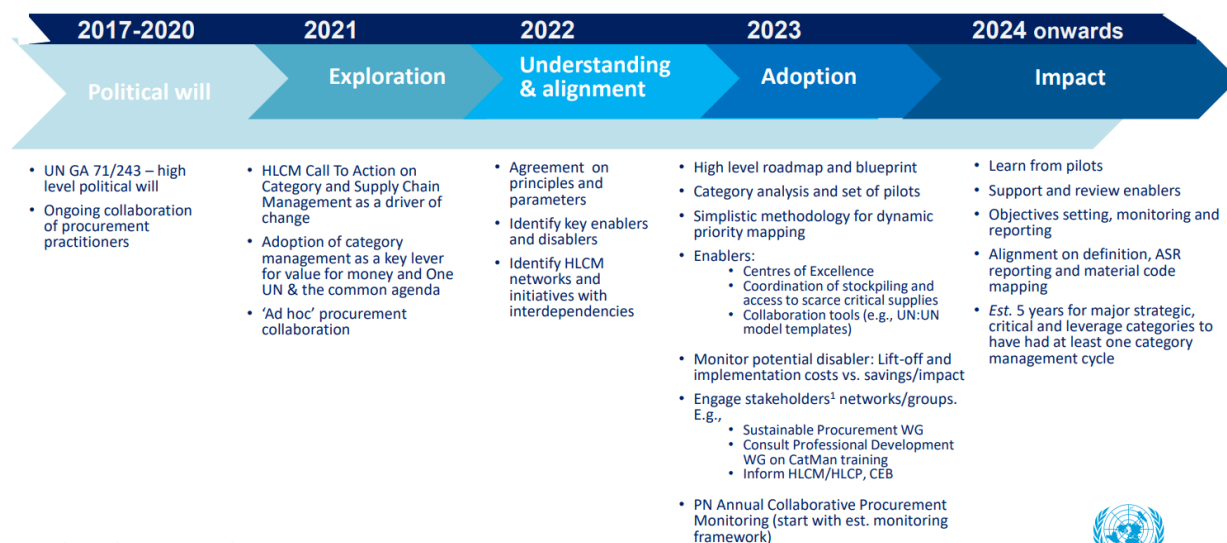
At this meeting the TF co-Chairs and the project consultants presented the High-level roadmap (HLR), which is basically the ambition for the project and the approach that will be taken. The phases from inception to mainstreaming were outlined as follows:



In addition, the high-level timeline for category management was presented, showing cross-cutting enablers and disablers as well as connections with networks and initiatives.

² To facilitate the sharing of policies, PN members should ensure that their latest procurement manuals are made available from the [dedicated page](#) on the UNGM Knowledge Centre.

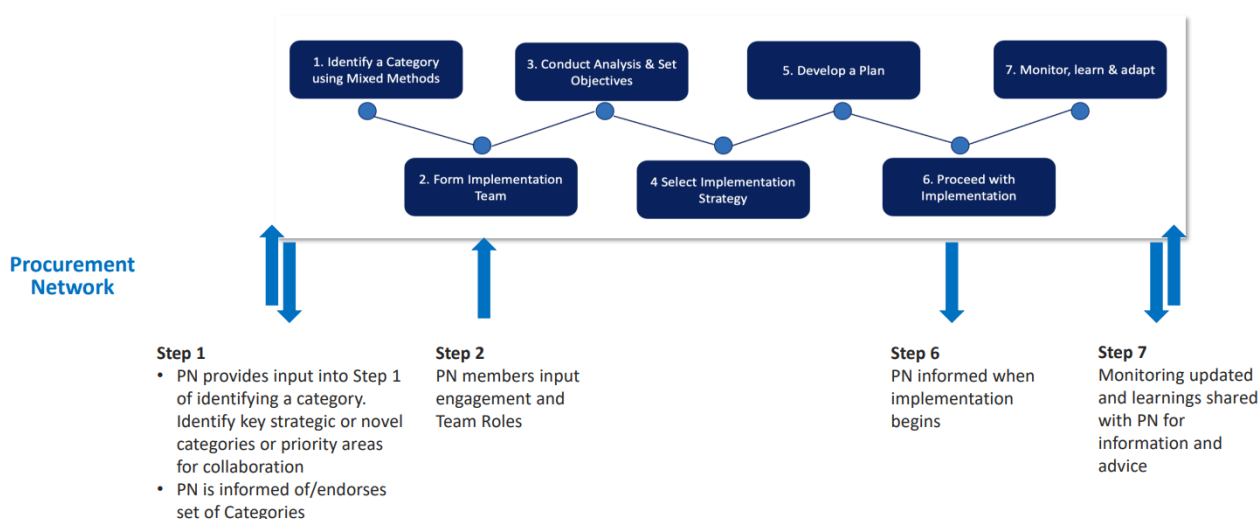
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14

The Blueprint (BP), which is the approach that will guide the implementation of a category, was then presented. The approach to selecting a category and forming a project/implementation team was detailed. There will be an output template for each step to facilitate the collection of learnings along the way.

Each step and the expected touch points with the PN will be as follows:



The next step will be to move forward with a set of pilot categories. So far, Intermodal Transport, Electric Vehicles and Project Management have been identified as pilots. A few additional categories (e.g., Generators and IT equipment/services) are being considered. The project has been designed to be flexible. The idea is that the HLR and BP will be updated based on experience and application of the pilots. It was clarified that this initiative does not compete with or duplicate Common Back-Office efforts.

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PN members were appreciative of the work undertaken by the TF to date and supportive of this opportunity to lift the procurement function to a more strategic level.

The PN endorsed the ambition, timeline, and approach of the High-level Roadmap (HLR) and methodology put forth in the Blueprint for Implementation (BP) of Strategic Category Management. The PN will be updated on progress and learnings at its next meeting. The PN notes that the application of the HLR and the BPR for the selection of specific categories for strategic collaborative efforts will be an ongoing exercise, that will incorporate learnings from their application in the early pilot categories.

[UNDP stated that it supports category management and procurement collaboration in the UN system and agreed to endorse the HLR and the BP with the following reservations: UNDP will need to better understand the full implications of the implementation of category management on UNDP and other agencies and the modality of opting in and opting out and as such this endorsement does not mean that UNDP commits to agree to the outcome as this is not yet fully developed.]

Supporting documentation:

[HLCM-PN Letter Mutual Recognition Awareness-Raising](#)

[Mutual Recognition in Procurement - Awareness-Raising Template](#)

[Presentation - Harmonisation Working Group Briefing](#)

[Summary Sheet - Strategic Category Management](#)

[Strategic Category Management Task Force - High-Level Roadmap](#)

[Strategic Category Management Task Force - Blueprint for Implementation](#)

[Presentation - Strategic Category Management Task Force](#)

2. SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT WORKING GROUP (SPWG) – INFORMATION SESSION

ANNE-CLAIRE HOWARD (UNOPS) & ADENIKE AKOH (UNDP) – WG CO-CHAIRS

MARCUS MCKAY (UNOPS) & JULIA GIN (ILO) – COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND FORCED LABOUR TASK FORCE CO-CHAIRS

AKHTAR ZAZAI (UN WOMEN) – GENDER RESPONSIVE PROCUREMENT TASK FORCE CHAIR

The newly appointed Working Group co-Chairs introduced themselves and thanked the previous co-Chairs Carsten Hansen (UNDP) and Niels Ramm (UNOPS) for their dedication and great leadership of the group. Likewise, the new co-Chairs of the Human Trafficking & Forced Labour in Supply Chains Task Force were introduced, and the outgoing co-Chairs Vanja Ostojic (ILO) and Niamh Mercer (OSCE) were thanked for their strong leadership roles. Both of whom will remain as part of the Task Force. The PN was provided with an update on the work being undertaken under the following areas:

(i) Sustainable Procurement Tools

The [Sustainability Procurement Portfolio Model](#) (SPPM) has been built to support Organisations in identifying procurement categories which represent the highest sustainability risk exposure. Both a simple model and an advanced model are now available on the UNGM to allow users to carry out a sustainability analysis. The PN was provided with a demo of the SP Criteria Selection Tool which is being developed under the 2nd phase of the SPPM.

A progress report was also provided on web accessibility improvements made to both public and supplier-facing interfaces of UNGM. These enhancements have been implemented to enable the system to be operable with assistive technologies, ensuring that individuals with



disabilities can navigate and interact with the platform more effectively. A video on UNGM accessibility can be viewed [here](#).

The demo of the SP Criteria Selection Tool was positively received by PN members and both UNICEF and ILO expressed interest in piloting it. There were also enquiries about the possibility of eventually opening it up for wider access. PN members were urged to utilise this valuable tool once launched to ensure it remains relevant.

(ii) Combating Human Trafficking & Forced Labour in Supply Chains (HT&FL) Task Force (TF)

The new TF co-Chairs provided the PN with a summary of activities to date and shared the workplan for 2023. They also introduced the new Secretariat function, which will be managed by OSCE (Julia Schellhaas and Niamh Mercer), to strengthen the functioning and capacity of the TF in the transition from policy to implementation. TF activities are currently focused on a capacity building project and the communication tools and resources being used by the TF members.



Under the capacity building project an introductory training course for implementation of the HT&FL Guidance is being developed. The course will be designed as a user-friendly, interactive, and self-paced learning (modular) resource for UN procurement and supply chain professionals and made available from the UNGM. For the TF to communicate in a cohesive way with both internal and external stakeholders on the implementation of the Policy Framework, standardised text, templates and infographics have been developed and made available [here](#) in the UNGM.

There are still a few outstanding elements under the development of the Policy Framework, namely proposed amendments to the UN General Conditions of Contract (currently with the UN Legal Networks under the responsibility of the UN Office of Legal Affairs), a definition for UN Major Supplier, and proposed amendments to the UN Supplier Code of Conduct (both of which are being managed by the Harmonisation Working Group).

UN Supplier Code of Conduct (SCOC)

As the custodian of the SCOC, the Harmonisation Working Group was tasked with finalising the incorporation of new elements for the SCOC brought forward by the HT&FL TF. Following extensive consultations, feedback, and redrafting in the Working Group, a revised SCOC was shared with all PN Organisations in the lead up to this meeting, requesting members to ensure that any necessary internal legal review takes place. The Harmonisation Working Group Chair informed that several Organisations requested more time to complete this review and therefore the item could not be put forward for endorsement at this meeting. **The WG Chair encouraged these Organisations to ensure the review is completed as soon as possible.**

The PN Chair agreed that momentum on finalising the SCOC should be maintained, and that endorsement takes place, electronically or by other means, as soon as possible after this PN meeting.

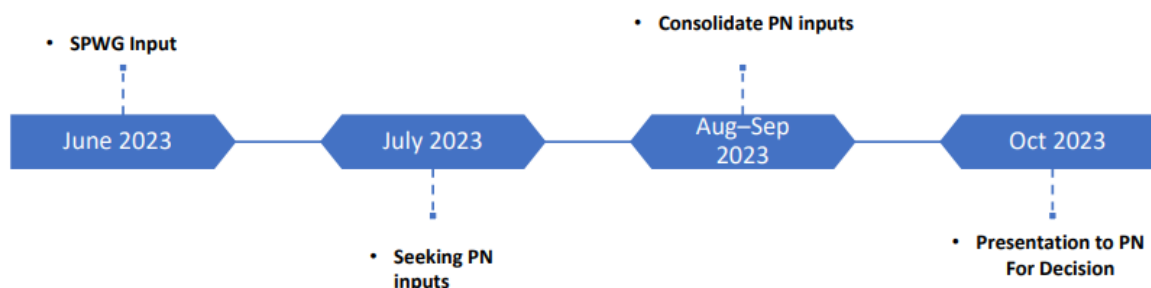
(iii) Gender-Responsive Procurement (GRP) Task Force (TF)

The PN was provided with a recap of the GRP action plan. Work is still underway in finalising the Policy. The next steps in submitting it for final input and endorsement are outlined below.

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The Guidelines and Indicators are also expected to be ready for endorsement at the PN meeting in October.



Supporting documentation:

[Summary Sheet - Sustainable Procurement Working Group](#)

[Summary Sheet - Task Force on Combatting Human Trafficking & Forced Labour](#)

[Summary Sheet - UN Supplier Code of Conduct](#)

[Revised UN Supplier Code of Conduct v.27March](#)

[Presentation - Sustainability Procurement Tools](#)

[Presentation - Task Force on Combatting Human Trafficking & Forced Labour](#)

3. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP – INFORMATION SESSION LEENDERT COLIJN (OPCW), PROCUREMENT AWARDS PROJECT TEAM LEADER

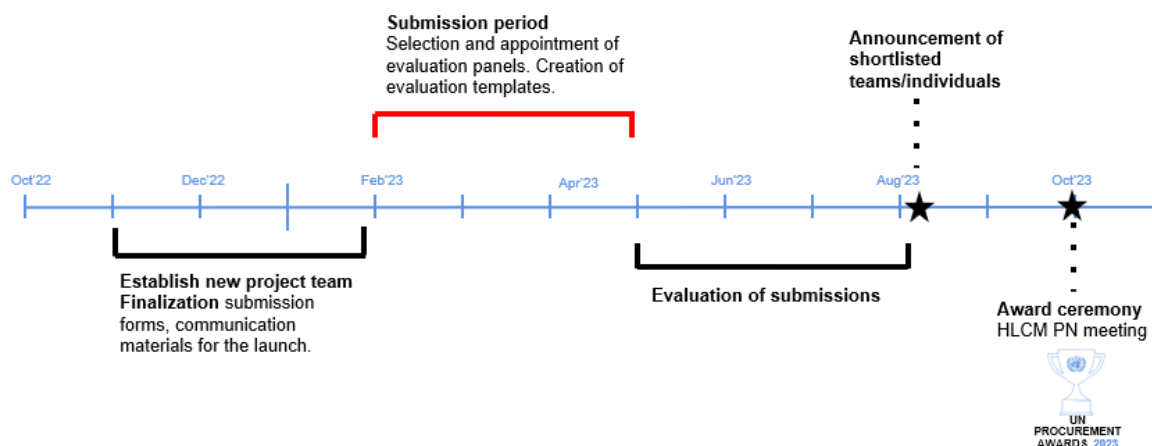
(i) UN Procurement Awards

This initiative, led by an inter-agency Project Team within the Professional Development Working Group, was developed to celebrate and recognise excellence in the procurement and supply chain management profession across the UN and related organisations. The project has the following objectives:

- 1 Raise the profile of the UN procurement and supply chain profession
- 2 Enhanced motivation of UN procurement and supply chain personnel
- 3 Showcase procurement and supply chain success stories
- 4 Promote the work of the HLCM Procurement Network

The UN Procurement Awards 2023 submission process was launched in mid-February and nominations will be accepted until 15 May 2023. This year there are two award categories, namely, **Sustainable Procurement and Supply** and **Collaborative Procurement**. The overall timeline for the process is as follows:

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The 2023 panel of jury members is now in place and ready to evaluate submissions once the deadline has passed. All shortlisted projects will receive a 'Shortlisted for 2023 UN Procurement Award Diploma'. The winning projects will receive a 'Diploma for 2023 Procurement Award' and an invitation to present the project at the PN Meeting.

More information on the awards can be found [here](#) on the UNGM.

(ii) Training Course Tables

The training course tables have now been updated for 2023. It was highlighted that courses listed in the **2023 Training Compendium** now number 129 from 24 Organisations. There are now 27 courses listed in the **2023 Recommended Training Courses**. The updated tables are available from [here](#) on the UNGM.

The PN thanked Leendert Colijn for his leadership role in developing and launching the UN Procurement Awards concept. As Leendert will retire soon, **others were invited to join the work of the Professional Development Working Group and the Procurement Awards Project Team to ensure continuity of activities moving forward.**

Supporting documentation:

[Summary Sheet - Professional Development Working Group](#)

[HLCM PN Training Compendium 2023](#)

[HLCM PN Recommended Procurement Training Courses 2023](#)

[Presentation - Professional Development Working Group](#)

4. STRATEGIC VENDOR MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP – INFORMATION SESSION

WALTER GRANDPRÉ (ILO), WG CHAIR & MPF REVISION TASK FORCE VICE CHAIR

FRANCIS BURGA (ILO), MPF REVISION TASK FORCE CHAIR

LASZLO GOBOLYOS (UNOPS), SPE SUBGROUP CHAIR

KERRY KASSOW (UNDP), IPS SUBGROUP CHAIR

NATALIA NEDEL (UN SECRETARIAT), VENDOR RISK MGT & DUE DILIGENCE SUBGROUP CHAIR

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

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

A Task Force (TF) was created by the MPF Governance Group to review, modernise and

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amend the MPF, which was originally developed in 2010. The preliminary review of the MPF was completed last year. The draft has recently been submitted for review by the two networks of legal advisors. The scope of the review will be as follows:

- New proscribed practices: human trafficking and forced labour
- Review of definition of unethical practices
- Applicability of MPF (outside of procurement undertaken by the Agency)
- Any other comments by the legal networks

The deadline for completion of the legal review is 30 June 2023. Once finalised by the subgroup, the revised MPF will be submitted to the PN for review with a view to completing the revision by the end of the year.

(ii) Supplier Performance Evaluation (SPE)

This subgroup was created to share knowledge, assess the possibility of harmonising approaches on supplier performance rating and related actions 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.

Guidelines for the use of the UNGM supplier performance ("purple") flag

Since their endorsement at the last PN meeting, the Guidelines (including the aligned functionality) have been circulated to the PN and introductory webinars have taken place. The presentation and recordings are available from the [SPE subgroup page](#) on the UNGM. Moving forward there will be quarterly monitoring and follow up with agencies on implementation. It was reported that a first vendor has already been flagged by ILO for general performance issues.

Guidelines for the use of the UNGM SPE tool

The guidelines for the use of the UNGM SPE tool are still 90% complete; assessment of the necessary UNGM system enhancements is required by the UNGM Steering Committee before they can be fully finalised. At the last PN meeting there was widespread support in moving ahead with upgrading the UNGM SPE Tool. The consensus was that, should the UNGM Steering Committee be willing to commit the funds to the project based on the interest of the (now) 12 organisations, those committed should have the opportunity to use the functionality.

[Following this PN meeting, the business case prepared by the SPE sub-working group for the improvement of the UNGM SPE Tool, including the required integration with the respective agencies, was submitted to the UNGM Steering Committee on 2 May and approved for implementation on 12 May.]

The subgroup Chair informed the PN about other activities and plans of the subgroup, such as, a pilot to harmonise SPE criteria and creating a Model Policy Framework (MPF) for SPE and related measures/sanctions.

(iii) 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-

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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 countries interested in hosting such an event.

The IPS subgroup is continuing to pilot the hybrid IPS model that has been introduced following the Covid19 pandemic. Three hybrid events have taken place to date and two more will take place this year. Lessons learned and survey feedback from the events continue to be channelled into improving the hybrid IPS model. While the hybrid model offers greater flexibility, it also entails a significantly greater level of complexity and heavier workload. In addition, it was emphasised that every IPS is different because it is different countries involved each time and some have greater experience and competencies than others.

As agreed at the last PN meeting, PN members should continue to raise awareness of the IPS model. The IPS subgroup has developed and shared [template explanatory text](#) which PN members can customise and use in response to ad hoc requests for single-country business seminars.

Since IPSs are organised via the UNGM event management module, it is possible to measure the impact of the events to a certain extent i.e., by the response rate to Expressions of Interest (EOIs) posted on the UNGM. Data pulled from the UNGM 2022 Operational Report shows a clear increase in responses to EOIs among host country vendors in the three months following an IPS.

Some ideas to ensure IPS events are kept engaging and interesting were suggested, such as, agencies choosing strong presenters/panelists, including short videos in presentations, having Agency stands to showcase work/needs, having a strong moderator, etc.

The subgroup Chair encouraged PN members to promote the IPS model to Developing Countries and to encourage Industrialised Countries to partner with Developing Countries in hosting an IPS. To strengthen impact-monitoring activities, the IPS subgroup Chair will explore the suggestion of requesting host countries to track vendor participation in/success with UN tenders over time following an IPS.

(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 and shared last year. Since the last PN meeting the group has launched a series of knowledge-sharing meetings for members to present the risk management and due diligence processes of their Agencies. The subgroup



Chair will then collate the best practices and the group will develop a proposal for submission and feedback from the wider PN membership.

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

[Summary Sheet - Strategic Vendor Management Subgroups](#)

[MPF Submission to Legal Networks](#)

[Presentation - Model Policy Framework](#)

[Presentation - Supplier Performance Evaluation](#)

[Presentation - International Procurement Seminars](#)

5. COGNITIVE PROCUREMENT WORKING GROUP – INFORMATION SESSION

MIRANDA CARINGTON (WORLD BANK), WG CHAIR

The WG Chair provided the PN with an update on the activities of the subgroup on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Procurement. The purpose of which is to establish an AI Sourcing Procurement Guideline for the PN as well as to learn about procurement solutions for common business problems.

Achievements of the group to date are as follows:

- ✓ Defined the purpose/mission
- ✓ Established a reference library
- ✓ Created a framework of the Guideline
- ✓ Identified key stakeholders
- ✓ Met with [ProcureTech100](#) – the definitive 100 pioneering digital procurement solutions
- ✓ Received a glimpse of emerging suppliers

The planned next steps for the group are:

- Complete the Use Cases exercise
- Potentially roll the AI Working Group into the overarching Cognitive Procurement Working Group
- Host an AI Solutions Expo with ProcureTech/Kearney
- Maintain an AI Network (repository of AI learning)
- Finalise the AI Guideline

While this group has a sizable membership, it is challenged by low participation. The same small number of individuals attend the regular meetings, making it challenging to advance the work. To address this, **PN members were kindly encouraged to participate in the group's proceedings regardless of how advanced or active their Organisations are in the areas of Cognitive Procurement/A.I. It is a learning opportunity for everyone. Additionally, the PN 2nd Advisory Chair flagged the need to engage with the HLCM Digital & Technology Network on this area of work.**

Supporting documentation:

[Presentation - Cognitive Procurement Working Group](#)

OTHER TOPICS

1. THE UN GLOBAL MARKETPLACE (UNGM) STEERING COMMITTEE BRIEFING – INFORMATION SESSION

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



BERENICE BESSIERE (WIPO), UNGM STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR AND NIELS RAMM (UNOPS), UNGM TEAM LEAD

The UNGM Team Lead provided the PN with a briefing on the UNGM Post Factum Financial Report 2022, the [online UNGM Operational Report 2022](#) and the recent UNGM survey.

(i) UNGM Post Factum Financial Report

The report provides an overview of the UNGM's financial performance for the previous year. It compares the actual operational cost to that of the previously approved budget for the given year. In addition, this report provides an overview of revenue generated by the Tender Alert Service (TAS) and the status of the reserve fund. The report for 2022 showed a fall in expenses, a surplus for the reserve fund and an increase in TAS revenue.

(ii) UNGM Operational Report

This report provides the UNGM membership with a comprehensive overview of issues and activities of the UNGM's Secretariat for the given period.

The report includes updates on the UNGM's Secretariat and ICT activities, outreach activities, revenue generation, system/performance functionality development and enhancements, and live data metrics.

Key figures from the report were highlighted (see to the right).

(iii) UNGM Survey

The recent global UNGM survey revealed overall that users are satisfied or very satisfied with the UNGM and consider that it facilitates their understanding and access to the UN market. Nevertheless, several areas for improvements have been identified and will be examined.

(iv) Defining 'UNGM Next Gen'

In preparation for the UNGM membership's strategy session scheduled to take place directly after the close of this PN meeting, the UNGM Steering Committee Chair explained the thinking behind the initiative to redefine the UNGM. The aim is to define the UNGM's new value proposition and design a roadmap to implement it. This is to ensure that the UNGM continues to meet and anticipate the needs of the UN Agencies over the next five years while remaining an essential enabler for collaboration.

48.5K new vendor registrations

4.7K UN staff account activations

17 UN organizations with e-procurement and/or ERP system integrated with UNGM

21.7K procurement notices published

4.2K contract awards published

389 LTAs published

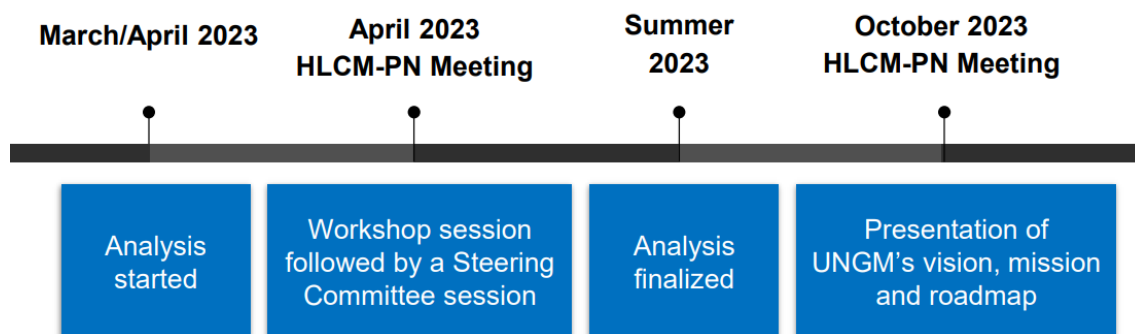
17.6K helpdesk requests received

581.6K Help Center page views

Support to the organization of **3** hybrid IPSs in 2022-2023 (Vienna, Turin and Copenhagen)



The tentative timeline for developing this new UNGM strategy is as follows:



Supporting documentation:

[Summary Sheet - UNGM Steering Committee Briefing](#)

[UNGM Post Factum Financial Review 2022](#)

[UNGM Operational Report 2022](#)

[Presentation - UNGM Steering Committee Briefing](#)

[Presentation - UNGM Strategy Workshop](#)

AOB

(i) Adobe contract

In 2018 UNOG established a contract with Adobe Systems Software Ireland Ltd. for the provision of Adobe licenses and products. The contract was initially established as a CPAG³ contract with UNOG as the lead agency. The competitive pricing led several other UN agencies to join. From 2018-2022 the annual spend increased by 946% and UNOG is now negotiating a new proposal with Adobe. For the new proposal to be financially attractive to the UN, the total number of licenses needs to be increased. The benefits, contract mechanism (centrally managed by UNOG), key facts and points were explained to PN members. Interested Agencies were invited to contact Stephen Farrell on farrells@un.org. More information can be found in the brief [presentation](#).

(ii) Establishment of new inter-agency groups

UNICEF volunteered to lead a small working group to discuss the potential for elevating the profile of the PN to a more strategic supply chain level.

UNOPS also offered to establish inter-agency user group to discuss further possible scenarios for collaboration on UN Web Buy Plus⁴.

(iii) Strategic planning session

The PN Chair informed that the agenda for the next PN meeting will include an interactive and facilitated strategic planning session. The session will build on the consultations that took

³ Common Procurement Activities Group in Geneva

⁴ See the presentation listed under Show and Tells at the end of this report for further information.



place with PN members last year as well as the re-engagement session held at the PN meeting in Rome, May 2022. The aim will be to establish a strategic vision for the PN for the coming years.

(iv) Engagement in PN Working Groups

Some Working Groups are lacking sufficient active engagement from a wide number of agencies. This puts increased pressure on the Chairs and those who are active and can hinder the groups' ability to progress at an optimal pace. The PN Chair urged PN members to review their representation the Working Groups and Subgroups/Task Forces and explore possibilities for delegating and/or dedicating further resources.

A full overview of [Working Group Membership](#) can be found via this QR code:



A full overview of [Subgroup/Task Force Membership](#) can be found via this QR code:



(iv) Venues for future meetings

In line with the HLCM's approach, PN meetings will continue in the **in-person format** moving forward. The next meeting will be hosted by ICAO in Montreal on the **10-12 October 2023**.

UNESCO will host the spring 2024 meeting in Paris and UNEP will host the autumn 2024 one in Nairobi.

(v) Farewells

The PN thanked Leendert Colijn (OPCW) for his great dedication and engagement in the work of the PN over the years and wished him the best with his forthcoming retirement.

The PN also bid farewell to Etleva (Eva) Kadilli and thanked her for her strong commitment, support and guidance to the Network in her role as Director of UNICEF's Supply Division. Eva was congratulated on her upcoming new role in Kenya as UNICEF Regional Director for East and South Africa.

SHOW AND TELL/INSPIRATIONAL SESSIONS

The following 'Show and Tell' and other inspirational info sessions were also part of the PN meeting agenda:

[An Introduction to IDLO](#) – Karen Mc Donald Castillo (IDLO) [Presentation](#)

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



OPCW ChemTech Centre Project – Leendert Colijn (OPCW)
[Presentation](#)

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Procurement – Anders Rodenberg, Denominator (external)
[Presentation](#)

The African Development Bank's Sustainable Procurement Journey – Oltesh Thobias (AfDB)
[Summary Sheet](#) [Presentation](#)

Quantum ERP System – Adenike Akoh (UNDP)
[Presentation](#)

UN Web Buy Plus – Jean-Vincent Colin (UNOPS)
[Summary Sheet](#) [Presentation](#) [Demo](#)

