



Summary of Conclusions of the Twenty-First Session of the High Level Committee on Management's Procurement Network (HLCM PN)

WTO, Geneva – 22-24 March 2017

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INTRODUCTION

Documentation: [List of participants](#)
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1. The 21st session of the High-Level Committee on Management's Procurement Network (HLCM PN) was hosted by the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva on 22-24 March 2017, under the Chairmanship of Ms. Neris Baez Garcia de Mazzora (Director, Procurement Services, IAEA) with the support of the Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Eric Dupont (Chief, Procurement Services Branch, UNFPA), and the Advisory Chairperson, Mr. Dominic Grace (Director, Sourcing & Operations, UNDP). The incumbents of these three positions form the Management Board of the HLCM PN.
2. The meeting was attended by 47 colleagues representing 32 of the 40 organisations registered as members of the HLCM PN.
3. The meeting followed the format of three working days with closed meetings and discussions for PN members around an agreed agenda. In addition, there were separate sessions held for the UNGM Membership, the Collaborative Vehicle Procurement & Fleet Management Project Group and the Community of Practice on In-Tend.
4. The agenda adopted by the PN members is reflected in the table of contents and in the Summary Agenda. All documents¹ related to the meeting are available on the PN Workspace on www.ungm.org.
5. Mr. Karl Brauner (Deputy Director-General in charge of Finance, WTO) opened the meeting by welcoming the PN Members to the beautiful premises of WTO. He highlighted the important role that procurement has to play in good governance and explained that WTO was making considerable efforts to ensure that those within its organisation understand and comply with proper procurement practices. In fact, WTO has recently amended its Financial Regulations and Rules to include best practices in procurement. Finally, he expressed his gratitude to the PN for its support and the opportunities it presents for collaboration, and he extended his best wishes for productive deliberations.
6. The PN Chairperson expressed her appreciation to WTO for generously hosting the meeting and for expertly providing the necessary logistical support for the arrangements. She welcomed participants to the 21st meeting of the Procurement Network. In the ten years since its inception, the PN has successfully implemented many great initiatives, due to the unlimited commitment to its mandate, and the membership's ability to respect differences, embrace similarities and work towards a common goal. While the many achievements of the PN are well-recognised, expectations for continued delivery and high performance persist. The Chair encouraged PN members to explore how it can be more efficient, how it can expand its sourcing pool and manage related risks, how it can promote innovative approaches, how it can communicate better, how it can monitor performance better, how it can make procurement greener; all of which are topics reflected in the agenda for the coming days. On that note, she wished everyone a productive meeting.

¹ All documents and presentations can also be obtained by contacting the HLCM PN Secretariat on kerry.kassow@undp.org

7. In his opening, the Vice-Chairperson provided PN members with some light-hearted historical information on Switzerland, its constitution, defence mechanisms, geography and other interesting facts.
8. The opening session also included a round of introductions by all participants.

I. AN OVERVIEW OF THE HLCM PROCUREMENT NETWORK

Documentation: [Summary Sheet - An Overview of the HLCM PN](#)
[Presentation - An Overview of the HLCM PN](#)

9. The PN Secretariat, Ms. Kerry Kassow (UNDP), presented a brief overview of the membership, management and structure of the network.
10. The Working Groups of the PN are as follows:
 - Harmonisation
 - Strategic Vendor Management
 - Professional Development
 - Sustainable Procurement
11. In addition, the PN is currently undertaking the following Projects:
 - The UNGM Strategic Enhancement (Version 3.0)
 - Collaborative Vehicle Procurement & Fleet Management
 - Collaborative Procurement of High-Value Commodities
 - Update of the Procurement Practitioner's Handbook
12. Each Working Group Chair and Project Coordinator provided the PN with a brief insight into the work of his/her group.

II. HLCM/CEB SECRETARIAT UPDATE

13. The HLCM Secretary of the CEB Secretariat, Mr. Remo Lalli (UNOG), provided a briefing on the transition period following the new Secretary-General (SG) having taken office. One of the first tasks the SG has called for is a review of the CEB and its inter-agency functions.
14. From the outset, the SG has indicated a number of areas which will be given highest priority in his first term. These are as follows:
 - (i) Management reform – steps are already being taken to improve and strengthen UN management.
 - (ii) Special measures against sexual exploitation and abuse – a report has been released outlining the vision to be implemented.
 - (iii) Gender parity – a strategy for this is soon to be released.

15. Since taking office, the SG has changed the format of CEB meetings with an open, less structured discussion among only Executive Heads. In the new format, the reports of the three pillars of the CEB, including the HLCM, will be approved electronically making timely and comprehensive reporting more critical.
16. These changes will have an impact on the way in which the bodies under the CEB work. Therefore, it will be important for the PN to actively engage with HLCM members to ensure that it continues to have strong impact and remain visible.
17. It is also clear that there will be an increased attention to the development of system-wide responses to the mandates of the new QCPR². The reporting on QCPR implementation will be a good means of ensuring visibility of the work being carried out by the HLCM Networks. Furthermore, through the QCPR and the SDGs, the ‘integration’ aspect is receiving strong emphasis. This gives a continued mandate for the collaborative work of the HLCM Networks.
18. The HLCM Secretary recalled the strong emphasis that Member States are placing across all inter-governmental discussions on the need for stronger coordination and linkages between different functions of the organisation – peacekeeping, humanitarian, development, etc. This is expected to be transformed into very concrete and pragmatic actions that will have an impact on the work of the HLCM Networks.
19. Finally, the HLCM Secretary also provided an update on the work of the Task Force on Common Definitions Related to Fraud and Implementing Partners. The Task Force is currently finalising the first part of its mandate – developing a common definition for fraud and presumptive fraud. The second part concerning developing a common definition for implementing partners, vendors and recipients of grants, is also underway. Once these two parts have concluded, the decision will be taken as to whether the UNGM should be used to handle information on fraudulent implementing partners.
20. In continuation of this session, the Senior Coordinator of the CEB Secretariat, Mr. Ronny Lindstrom (CEB Secretariat), expanded further on the significance of the new QCPR to the work of the PN.
21. It was clear at the last Operational Segment of ECOSOC that Member States are placing increasing emphasis on the importance of integrated back-office operations and, not least, the role that procurement has to play in this. Indeed, achievements already made by the PN have led to the following paragraph (65) in the QCPR:

Recognizes the significant progress made by the United Nations development system in promoting harmonized business practices, including shared premises and joint back-office procurement, and the resulting efficiency savings achieved, and in this regard requests the entities of the United Nations development system to explore further opportunities for collaborative procurement at the global, regional and country levels;
22. At the ECOSOC meeting, Member States recognised the importance of ensuring that the same language is communicated to every governing body, thus, strengthening the commitment to the QCPR by all organisations.
23. The Senior Coordinator also highlighted a number of areas where there are high expectations from the PN in the HLCM Strategic Plan for 2017-2019, which is expected to be finalised at the next HLCM meeting. One area relates to the project on Collaborative Procurement of

² http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.2/71/L.63

High-Value Commodities where it will be a priority to ensure that the findings from the analysis are implemented. Another area relates to the expansion of the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) of UNDG. The PN has already provided all the tools and guidance needed for BOS implementation. The next step will be for a communications strategy to be developed jointly by UN DOCO and the CEB Secretariat in order to increase awareness of the guidance and its application. Support may be sought from the PN in developing the strategy in order to clarify and elaborate on achievements at HQ-level.

24. The Strategic Plan also includes two components relating to the UNGM: (i) supporting increased access to UN business and (ii) supporting the development of new partnerships (Chamber of Commerce portal).
25. The Senior Coordinator expressed appreciation for the continued input provided by the PN; the recognition achieved by the PN to date has been largely due to its timeliness and willingness in submitting information on its work. He assured that the CEB Secretariat will continue to work closely with and support the PN.
26. UNICEF welcomed the increased emphasis on the mitigation of sexual exploitation and abuse; this is now being much more prominently featured in UNICEF's General Terms and Conditions of Contract. UNICEF looks forward to collaborating with other organisations of the UN on this area and to ensure that this is well communicated.
27. The CEB Secretariat appreciated the update from UN/PD on the current 5th Committee deliberations relating to the Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the procurement activities of the UN Secretariat, in which there are two paragraphs relating to collaboration and harmonisation. These are:

Paragraph 16 - The Advisory Committee has long advocated for increased collaboration and cooperation between United Nations system entities and therefore welcomes this initiative³. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to provide information in his next report on the efficiency gains and savings achieved in shipping services. In this regard, the Committee encourages the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to intensify coordination and collaboration among United Nations organizations in matters related to procurement within the context of the Procurement Network of the High-Level Committee on Management.

Paragraph 42 - The Advisory Committee considers this⁴ to be a positive development and continues to emphasize the need for intensifying system-wide collaboration and cooperation on procurement matters. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to provide information on progress made in this regard in his next report.

28. In terms of back-office operations, the PN Advisory Chair remarked that it could be beneficial to inter-agency activities to have an additional network dedicated to the administration function within organisations, thus addressing issues concerning insurance, premises, facilities, fixed assets, etc. The CEB Secretariat responded that for the time being it is important that inter-agency mechanisms are kept as lean and manageable in format and structure as possible, and that the existing networks continue to engage with other operational areas as necessary.

³ World Food Programme joint shipping cell

⁴ Harmonization of procurement practices

29. Finally, on the topic of fraudulent implementing partners, the PN Advisory Chair informed that UNDP has recently sanctioned a number of NGOs in Somalia using the Model Policy Framework.

III. COLLABORATIVE VEHICLE PROCUREMENT & FLEET MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Documentation: [Summary Sheet - Collaborative Vehicle Procurement & Fleet Management Project](#)
[Presentation - Collaborative Vehicle Procurement & Fleet Management Project](#)

30. An update on this HLCM-funded project, led by Mr. Dominic Grace (UNDP), Project Coordinator, was presented by the Project Manager, Mr. Robert McConnell (UNDP). The presentation provided an update on the two remaining key deliverables of the project: (i) the UN/DP led tender process for the remaining vehicle categories (due to conclude in early Q3), and (ii) the implementation of the Fleet Management Framework.
31. During a 1-day workshop the previous day, where there was high representation from the operational functions within many UN organisations, the Fleet Management Framework was discussed. The next steps will be to incorporate feedback received, finalise the tool and then adopt the framework.
32. The Project Coordinator highlighted that there is great potential for the UN to strengthen its fleet management by adopting the framework and in turn this will generate significant savings. The plan is to offer agencies the contracts that are put in place as well as the fleet management framework tool. The framework can then be adapted to meet the needs of the individual organisation. He encouraged PN members to actively participate in adoption of the framework and to promote it within their organisations, particularly as austere times are calling for greater prudence with assets.
33. UNOPS reiterated its offer to use UN Web Buy to manage or make available the vehicle contracts resulting from the project. The Project Coordinator clarified that the contracts would be offered to all UN organisations, but the decision on which platform to make them available from, if any, is outside the scope of this project.
34. The Project Coordinator also clarified that sustainable issues were not a mandatory feature of the tenders. However, through implementation of the framework, organisations will have much greater visibility of their fleets. This will allow for better and timely disposal of older vehicles and replacement with new vehicles that have much higher sustainability criteria.
35. The Project Manager added that there are legal restraints and complexities in operation in certain regions. For example, the fuel quality in some areas determines which type of vehicles is acceptable for importation.
36. He also informed that tenders for armoured vehicles and tyres were in the pipeline and the resulting contracts would be made available for all UN organisations.
37. It became apparent that PN members would need to consult with other stakeholders within their organisations on the proposed framework before taking a decision. It was agreed that a final decision in terms of endorsement would be taken at the next PN meeting. The Project

Coordinator stressed the importance of moving forward with this process in order to allow for implementation by Q3, 2017.

IV. UNGM STRATEGIC ENHANCEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Documentation: [Summary Sheet - UNGM Strategic Enhancement Project Presentation - UNGM Strategic Enhancement Project](#)

38. Following the successful implementation of the UNGM Vendor Registration Reform Project and the first phase of the UNGM Strategic Enhancement Project (Version 2.0), funded by the HBP Trust Fund of the HLCM, the second phase of the Strategic Enhancement Project (Version 3.0) was initiated using UNGM Reserve Funds. The Project Coordinator, Mr. Kiyohiro Mitsui (UN/PD), provided the PN with an update on Version 3.0 development activities, which are largely completed. Completed project deliverables are as follows:
- (i) Individual consultant registration system
 - (ii) Expansion of the individual consultant registration system to allow for other individuals, such as landlords, sole proprietors, etc.
 - (iii) Institutional organisations' portal
39. A few outstanding issues are currently being undertaken, such as, testing of the institutional organisations' portal and re-factoring and fine-tuning of the system. In addition, before the project can close a decision is awaited from the HLCM Task Force⁵ on whether it will be necessary to develop tools for information-sharing on fraudulent implementing partners, after which project evaluation will take place. In the meantime, UNGM Project Steering Team activities have been suspended, and the UNGM Steering Committee will take over in monitoring ongoing UNGM development work. Potential future activities and the way forward were briefly outlined in the presentation.
40. The PN commended Mr. Kiyohiro Mitsui for his work in leading the three UNGM Strategic Enhancement Projects.

V. STRATEGIC VENDOR MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Documentation: [Summary Sheet - SVM-WG General Update Presentation - SVM-WG General Update Demo Institutional Organisations Portal Summary Sheet - SVM-WG Business Seminars Presentation - SVM-WG Business Seminars](#)

41. This session was presented by the Strategic Vendor Management Working Group (SVM-WG) Chair, Mr. Sandro Luzziatti (IFAD).

Part I - General Update

42. Since the last PN meeting, the SVM-WG has continued its initiatives under the various Vendor Management topics:
- (i) Vendor Access and Business Seminars
 - this item was presented in the second part of the session

⁵ Task Force on Common Definitions Related to Fraud and Implementing Partners

- (ii) Vendor Sanctions and Model Policy Framework
 - the MPF governance group continues to monitor progress on implementation (currently 90%+ of UN procurement volume undertaken is covered by the MPF)
 - another MPF workshop is in the pipeline and will most likely take place in Copenhagen or Montreal
 - (iii) Vendor Assessment and Appraisal
 - the results of the recent survey on current practices were presented
 - this topic will be further explored and opportunities for collaboration identified
 - (iv) Vendor Performance
 - several agencies have presented their experiences and tools at recent meetings
 - the SVM-WG will continue to explore the concept
43. In addition, information was shared on the further expansion of the Knowledge Centre (KC) and collaborative spaces in UNGM as well as the user data collected for 2016. A recent UNGM survey revealed that the SVM-WG should focus its efforts on:
- Promoting the KC to the UN staff community
 - Involving users to contribute to the KC, especially the Common Procurement Team
 - Guarantee the relevance of the KC by providing concise and adapted information to users
 - Improving clarity, avoid duplications
 - Developing a network of contributors, exploit the forum function
 - Developing specific pages for UN buyers and vendors
44. The SVM-WG has been working alongside the UNGM team in developing the portal for institutional organisations (Chambers of Commerce, Trade Agencies, etc.). The UNGM Team Lead, Mr. Niels Ramm (UNOPS) provided the PN with a demo of the system, which is currently being fine-tuned and tested.
45. The topic of Vendor Assessment generated considerable discussion on risk management, which PN members agreed was a very wide and complex area. Some agencies already have well-developed policies in place for the management of risk and it is clearly an area where the PN can benefit from continued discussion and sharing of good practices. In terms of management of financial risk, it was suggested that potential collaboration between business service providers (such as Dun & Bradstreet, Bureau Van Dijk, etc.) and the UNGM could be explored once again now that UNGM is in a position with reserve funds. This would make financial reports, ratings etc. available for the whole UNGM user community.
46. The issue was raised concerning low utilisation of the functionality introduced in the UNGM for flagging performance issues with vendors. A decision is still pending on whether this information should be disclosed to the companies in question or reserved for internal use only.

Part II - Reforming the Multi-Agency Business Seminar Model

47. The PN has the mandate to facilitate vendor access to the UN market, in particular vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. To achieve this, the strategy of the SVM-WG has been two-fold:

(i) Make detailed information available in the UNGM Knowledge Centre on the UN System, the UN Market, vendor registration and the procurement requirements of the UN organisations.

(ii) Define and support a plan for Multi-Agency Business Seminars; in order to increase efficiency, have more cost-effective, sustainable & politically correct events, and to enable the measurement of seminar impact (RoI).

48. Item (i) is already fully implemented. To address item (ii) the SVM-WG presented the following new two models for Multi-Agency Business Seminars along with a suggested preliminary calendar:

International Procurement Seminar (IPS) - two-day events, multi-agency and multi-country, mainly for vendors that have no/limited experience with UN. Three events per year.

Meet-the-UN-Experts (MTE) - one-day event, multi-agency and multi-country, mainly for vendors with UN experience and interest in meeting procurement and subject-matter experts. Hosted mainly at HQ locations.

49. Both types of events would be organised using an Event Management module (currently under development in UNGM), in strict collaboration with the institutional organisations (Trade Agencies, Chambers of Commerce, etc.) This functionality will not only support event registration and planning activities, but it will support post-event information-gathering and surveys.

50. The PN was therefore asked to endorse the following:

A new model for Multi-Agency Business Seminars, with the understanding that it will be applied in the period 2017-2019, and that the new model will be reflected in revised Business Seminar Guidelines. The SVM-WG is then to fine-tune the model on the basis of the lessons learned from the first events.

Decision 1: *Agencies endorse the new model based on two types of events (IPS and MTE) and the preliminary 2017-2019 calendar of events.*

Decision 2: *Agencies will endeavour to participate in the events that are relevant to their mandate, and to timely confirm their participation using the UNGM Event Management module.*

On a voluntary basis, Agencies may also consider new modalities for supporting the IPS events in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

51. Many PN members were surprised to learn that in some cases the organising institutions are charging quite a high fee to vendors for participating in business seminars. The EU Procurement Forum in New York, for example, has a price tag of 975 USD for the first person registering from a company and 775 USD for subsequent representatives. High fees are also charged for events taking place in Europe and the Government Agencies are highly opposed to reducing these fees. The UN agencies agreed that it was important for fees to be reduced insofar possible as they not only can be a barrier for smaller companies participating, but they may create the perception that the events are profit-making opportunities.

52. The WG Chair confirmed that the objective of eliminating/reducing the fees for vendors is one of the main objectives of the reform. He also clarified that much electronic information is already available in the Virtual Business Seminar area of the UNGM Knowledge Centre to increase awareness and understanding of UN business. However, this area could be further improved with good video material. Nevertheless, PN members pointed out that the provision of basic information on UN business that is given to new suppliers in a face-to-face manner at business seminars is always highly valued and should not be underestimated
53. There was agreement that, and in keeping with the GA mandate, there should be increased focus on providing multi-agency business seminars in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, rather than channelling resources to seminars hosted by the same industrialised countries year after year. In order to develop the former further, the agencies should collaborate with UN/PD who is mandated to provide seminars in developing countries. Indeed, UN/PD welcomed any input and suggestions that can encourage vendors in developing countries to participate in tenders. Any agency with offices at locations where a UN/PD business seminar is taking place, is welcome to send local representatives to participate in the event. UN/PD will share information about the planning of these events with the HLCM PN Secretariat and the SVM-WG.
54. It emerged that some agencies are already hosting regular meetings for their supply market (at no charge to the vendor), therefore, the MTE concept was deemed an unnecessary additional modality. To date these single-agency events have not been visible to other agencies and therefore information-sharing on this should be improved.
55. The use of the Event Management tool in the UNGM to gather feedback and data was supported, in particular during the pilot period. It was however flagged that should KPIs reveal that the seminars have little impact there can be increased pressure to find ways to remedy this.

56. Further to the deliberations, the PN endorsed the proposal of the SVM-WG as follows:

A new model for Multi-Agency Business Seminars, with the understanding that it will be applied in the period 2017-2019, and that the new model will be reflected in revised Business Seminar Guidelines. The SVM-WG is then to fine-tune the model on the basis of the lessons learned from the first events.

Decision 1: Agencies endorsed the new model for IPS events and the preliminary 2017-2019 calendar of events.

The events will be:

- Multi-agency, multi-country events
- Supported by the UNGM Event Management module
- Have a two-day programme; ½ day of general introduction, plus thematic areas and one-to-one meetings
- Targeted at new vendors with no/limited UN experience
- Based on the UN calendar, Government Representation will send their proposals for supporting/hosting the events, followed by selection by UN, based on agreed criteria
- Ideally 3-4 events per year (1-2 for Industrialised Countries + 2 for Developing Countries – latter coordinated with UN/PD)

- Held at UN HQ/Regional Hubs/duty stations (on rotational basis), PN meeting venues or other location/venue deemed suitable

The PN is to develop criteria and principles for engagement and selection on the basis of equal treatment, transparency, fairness, access and in support of the SDGs. A draft is to be circulated to the PN by end of Q2 for comments and inputs and thereafter the PN Secretariat can proceed.

- The agencies further recognise the need to communicate to suppliers and governments/Chambers/Missions the more targeted and specialised supplier events being organised, and therefore commit to share with the PN Secretariat on a quarterly basis the calendars of such events for publishing in the calendar on UNGM.
- More targeted events on specific procurement categories may also be organised jointly by interested organisations on a cost-sharing basis.
- Agencies will collaborate in making available to vendors additional multimedia material about the UN market, how to register in UNGM and conduct business with the various UN organisations. The material will be made available to all vendors through the Virtual Business Seminar (VBS) area of UNGM. Agencies will keep their respective material on the VBS updated and relevant.
- The use of web-based technologies to conduct interactive virtual meetings and enable remote attendance by suppliers may also be piloted during the initial period.

Decision 2: Agencies will endeavour to participate in the events that are relevant to their mandate, and to timely confirm their participation using the UNGM Event Management module.

On a voluntary basis, agencies may also consider new modalities for supporting the IPS events in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

VI. COLLABORATIVE PROCUREMENT OF HIGH-VALUE COMMODITIES PROJECT

Documentation: [Summary Sheet - Collaborative Procurement of High-Value Commodities](#)
[Presentation - Collaborative Procurement of High-Value Commodities](#)
[Final Report, Phase I](#)
[Preparatory Work, Phase II](#)

57. An update on this HLCM-funded project, led by Mr. Stephen Ingles (UNHCR), was presented by the Project Manager, Mr. Alexander Blecken (UNHCR). The PN was provided with an overview of the outcomes and recommendations of Phase I of the project, completed in December 2016, as well as the status of the preparatory work for Phase II. The PN was subsequently asked to endorse the following three decisions:

Decision 1: The PN acknowledges the completion of Phase I of the project ‘Collaborative Procurement of High-Value Commodities’ and welcomes its final report.

Decision 2: The PN endorses the specific recommendations of the final report of Phase I of

the project ‘Collaborative Procurement of High-Value Commodities’.

Decision 3: The PN requests the launch of Phase II on May 1 and encourages its members to undertake the required preparatory work and data collection.

58. The CEB Secretariat reminded the PN to consider collaboration through several different modalities, recognising that perhaps the first and easiest approach is joint LTAs. However, other modalities, such as lead agency or centres of excellence, might be considered as well. The CEB Secretariat also confirmed that they would seek to facilitate contact with the ICT Network concerning collaboration on IT equipment when necessary. The CEB Secretariat asked the Project Manager to provide documentation for deviations from the original project proposal in terms of agreed deliverables for Phase II, based on PN agreement.
59. Several PN members raised the point that Advisory Services is an extremely broad category and there was some concern that limited bench-marking had taken place. The Project Manager agreed that in Phase II it would be necessary to explore this (and the other categories) to a much deeper level.
60. In response to queries as to why cost savings had not been estimated in Phase I, the Project Manager explained that Phase I only called for preliminary estimates; this has been realised by measuring the relative impact that can be achieved in the identified categories. Analysis of savings will be examined more closely in Phase II, although it may be prudent not to specify savings in great detail.
61. It was mentioned that there is potential for savings and efficiency gains through providing agencies with guidance on formulating LTAs optimally (with volume discounts, rebates, etc.). The group was reminded however that consolidating volume can eliminate smaller and disadvantaged vendors.
62. It was also pointed out that by analysing all existing LTAs for the chosen procurement categories, it is likely that ‘quick wins’ can be achieved by selecting the best LTAs for use by UN agencies. Reduced workload through consolidated LTA procurement is an area with the greatest potential for savings and efficiencies. PN members were urged once again to ensure that their LTAs are posted on the UNGM to allow for increase piggy-backing opportunities and to avoid duplication of efforts.
63. The SP-WG expressed interest and willingness in providing sustainability guidance for any tenders launched for generators, IT and fuel.
64. The issue concerning the ambiguity of the confidentiality clause in the General Terms and Conditions of Contract was raised. It was recognised that priority should be given to amend this to indicate that the organisation signing the contract has the right to share the full details of the contract with other UN organisations.
65. Despite the perceived challenges associated with the selected procurement categories, it was agreed that these are the categories that should be taken forward to Phase II. In addition, given interest from the donor community in the findings from Phase I, it was agreed that a summary report should be compiled for sharing externally.

66. Further to the deliberations, the PN endorsed the decisions as follows:

Decision 1: The Procurement Network acknowledges the completion of Phase I of the project ‘Collaborative Procurement of High-Value Commodities’, welcomes its final internal report, and endorses the specific recommendations of the final report of Phase I of the project.

Decision 2: The Procurement Network requests the launch of Phase II on May 1 with a revised scope focusing on the following two objectives:

- Analysis and development and prioritisation of options based on expenditure review
- Detailed analysis and ranking of cost-saving/efficiency opportunities

The Procurement Network requests the development of a summary external report of Phase I. The Procurement Network encourages its members to undertake the required preparatory work and data collection.

VII. REGISTERING GENDER OF BUSINESS OWNERS IN UNGM

Documentation: [Summary Sheet - Registering Gender of Business Owners in UNGM](#)
[UNGM Mock up - Gender of Business Owners](#)

67. In response to the decision taken at the last PN meeting, a mock-up of a potential approach to register the gender of business owners at point of company registration in UNGM was presented by the UNGM Steering Committee Chair, Mr. Giorgio Fraternali (ILO) and the UNGM Team Lead, Mr. Niels Ramm (UNOPS).

68. The proposed approach was strongly supported by several PN members, which is seen as being aligned with the SG’s vision for strengthening gender parity, provisions in the HLCM Strategic Plan and, not least, the SDGs.

69. The UNGM SC Chair flagged, however, that while the UN Supplier Code of Conduct mentions non-discrimination in terms of gender, there is a risk that the registration of gender in UNGM may be perceived as being discriminatory. Also, there is risk of complicating the basic registration process and confusion may lead to the need for clarification from vendors.

70. It was therefore agreed that a statement should be provided at point of registration to explain the registration of gender in UNGM; it was suggested that the text should clarify that the data will be used for statistical purposes, but may also be used in the conducting of tenders. Several PN members, the PN Chair and the CEB Secretariat agreed that the formulated text should undergo legal review before being adopted.

71. The PN endorsed the technical solution as presented through the UNGM mock-up. However, prior to development of the solution, it was agreed that the UNGM SC Chair would work with UNOPS, UN Women, UNICEF and UN/PD on formulation of a statement explaining the registration of gender of business owners in UNGM, after which input will be sought from the Office of Legal Affairs of the UN Secretariat. The proposed text will then be shared with the PN for approval.

VIII. REVISED UN SUPPLIER CODE OF CONDUCT

Documentation: [Summary Sheet - Revised UN Supplier Code of Conduct](#)
[Draft Revised UN Supplier Code of Conduct](#)

72. Further to discussions at the last PN meeting, the UN Supplier Code of Conduct (SCoC) was reviewed and amended to reflect its aspirational nature and to incorporate new provisions on gender responsiveness. The review was undertaken by the Office of Legal Affairs of the UN Secretariat and the Legal Office of ILO. Mr. Giorgio Fraternali (ILO) and Mr. Kiyohiro Mitsui (UN/PD) shared with the PN the draft representing the changes agreed to by both offices.
73. UNICEF, with the support of WHO, recommended taking the opportunity to include updated text regarding sexual exploitation and abuse to the document.
74. Several PN members expressed interest in having more time to review the revised document more thoroughly. It was agreed that subsequent feedback would be collected by the Harmonisation Working Group and the revised draft document would be presented for decision at the next PN meeting.

IX. HARMONISATION WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Documentation: [Summary Sheet - Harmonisation WG](#)
 [Presentation - Harmonisation WG - Joint VRC](#)

75. Approval of the funding proposal for Harmonisation Project Phase III is still pending with the HLCM. The WG Chair, Mr. Eric Dupont (UNFPA) provided an update on the following activities, which have taken place since the last PN meeting:
- (i) Follow-up with UNDG to identify how collaborative procurement at field level can be boosted:
- UNDG is interested in working with the PN in communicating to the OMTs in Country Offices on the tools & guidance that have been developed on collaborative procurement in order to try and gain a greater uptake;
 - a meeting between UNDG and the Harmonisation WG will be convened shortly to discuss the way forward.
- (ii) Survey to identify collaboration in the area of vendor review committees:
- the survey was carried out to identify the actions taken by UN organisations to address their VRC needs further to the initial assessment conducted in October 2016 where several agencies expressed an interest in collaborating with others to set up a joint VRC;
 - the survey revealed, inter alia, that out of the 12 agencies that responded, 6 are interested in creating a joint VRC, without having any concrete plans yet.
76. The CEB Secretariat informed that it is working closely with UNDG on compiling a package of information on the tools developed at HQ level by the various HLCM networks, indicating which organisations have approved them for use. This is to address the issue that it is repeatedly apparent at Intergovernmental meetings; whereby some RCs are still not aware of the tools that are available and thus they have not been implemented. It was agreed that the Senior Coordinator of the CEB Secretariat would join the Harmonisation WG teleconference with UNDG.
77. The SVM-WG Chair welcomed the VRC survey and it was agreed that the MPF governance group should join any further discussion on the topic. In addition, those agencies interested in creating a joint VRC were encouraged to join the MPF group.

78. The PN Advisory Chair added that while it's very important to implement the Model Policy Framework and establish a VRC, another important element is engaging with the organisation's audit/investigations team in order to ensure that sanctioning is carried through. This can be a challenging linkage to establish, but it is worth investing efforts in.

X. COLLABORATIVE FREIGHT FORWARDING TENDER

Documentation: [Presentation - UN Joint Freight Forwarding Tender](#)

79. An update on the collaborative freight forwarding tender led by UNICEF was provided by Ms. Katinka Rosenbom (UNICEF). The presentation included background information, a brief description and outcome of the tender process as well as next steps and lessons learned.
80. Overall rates will be reduced despite increased scope and service level requirement; the new contracts will generate cost avoidance of up to 80% in comparison with current fees.
81. The switch to the new providers is scheduled to take place in July 2017. Each UN agency can use the results of the technical evaluation to award based on their own requirements, or refer to the UNICEF contracts committee as the basis for their award.
82. UNICEF thanked the participating agencies for the excellent collaboration, which was deemed positive, value-adding, quality assuring and a good opportunity for professional exchange. Likewise, several PN members and the PN Chair expressed their appreciation to UNICEF for the positive collaborative process.

XI. UNGM STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Documentation: [Summary Sheet - UNGM Financial Post Factum Review 2016](#)
[UNGM Post Factum Financial Review 2016](#)
[Summary Sheet - UNGM Operational Report 2016](#)
[UNGM Operational Report 2016](#)
[UNGM Highlights 2016](#)

83. This session was presented by the UNGM Steering Committee (SC) Chair, Mr Giorgio Fraternali (ILO).
84. The UNGM Post Factum Review for 2016 was shared with the UNGM membership for information. The Review provides an overview of the UNGM's financial performance for the year. It compares the actual operational cost to that of the previously approved budget for the year and provides explanations for any spend over or under budget. In addition, this report provides an overview of the actual revenue generated by the Tender Alert Service. An overview of costs and income associated with bespoke projects funded externally to the UNGM's regular budget is also provided.
85. In addition, the 2016 UNGM Operational Report was shared with the membership. The Report provides an overview of the activities of the UNGM's Secretariat for the given period, which includes the third year of implementation of the new UNGM. It also provides updates on the continued enhancement of the UNGM as well as systems' analytics and e-procurement systems integration, which constituted the primary development activities for 2016. Key achievements highlighted by the UNGM SC Chair were:

(i) A record increase in registrations from vendors in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, which now represent 63% of the 125,000 vendors registered in UNGM. This is an increase of 300% since the UNGM registration process was reformed.

(ii) The Tender Alert Service had its second-best year ever, generating an income of 569,000 USD in 2016.

(iii) With the collaboration of UNOPS, the online tool for the Annual Statistical Report went live.

The only major concern flagged was the lack of LTA information being uploaded on the UNGM and the SC Chair urged members once again to address this issue.

86. The key highlights were presented in more detail in a slideshow by UNGM Team Lead, Mr. Niels Ramm (UNOPS).
87. While several members agreed that efforts should be made to upload LTA documentation, it was highlighted that the process can be complex and cumbersome. Yet, it is a difficult process to simplify; if too little information is provided this will generate queries from agencies interested in using the LTA. The UNGM SC believes it is worth investing time in uploading the full information, however, was open to exploring ways to optimise the process. The PN Vice Chair underlined the importance of also ensuring to upload the LTA-sharing form along with the documentation.
88. It was noted that new sources of income should ideally be identified should TAS subscription rates begin to fall.
89. Making the UNGM available in additional languages will be explored; in particular Arabic, to support the Middle East market.
90. It was requested that the UNGM Secretariat continues to issue and share its monthly status report with UNGM members even though UNGM Project Steering Team activities have been suspended for now.

XII. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Documentation: [Summary Sheet - Professional Development WG](#)
[Summary Sheet - PPH Update](#)
[PPH - New Structure](#)
[Presentation - Professional Development WG](#)

(i) The Procurement Practitioner's Handbook

91. The primary focus of the WG is currently on the project to update the Procurement Practitioner's Handbook (PPH). A consultant has been engaged to undertake this work with the support and guidance of a Steering Group. The project is now approaching the close of its 3rd and final phase. The Project Manager, Ms. Daniela Leinen (STL) provided the PN with an update on activities, an overview of the key improvements and changes in the revised PPH and the proposed next steps.
92. The status of the revised document is such that all content has been developed, reviewed and/or edited and improved. The chapters are being consolidated into one consistent document by the consultant, which the PPH Steering Committee (SC) will then review and

provide its final input and comments on. Upon final SC review, the draft version of the PPH Revision 1 will be shared with the PN for approval.

93. It is recognised that regular updates and maintenance will be key to the future success of the PPH. Therefore, the PPH SC proposed that it continues in its function after release of Revision 1 in order to log and analyse user feedback after go-live. The group will then report back to the PN at its October meeting. Accepted changes will be reflected in the PPH and Revision 2 will be promulgated 6-12 months after go-live.
94. The necessity of producing the PPH in hard copy was questioned; the WG Chair clarified that it was used as a reference book in UNDP/CIPS training courses and only printed for that need, at the expense of UNDP. The WG was reminded that the current PPH is available electronically via an app and this solution should ideally be maintained.
95. There was also interest expressed in having the PPH made available in other languages, in particular French and Spanish, but this is outside the scope of the current project.
96. The Strategic Vendor Management WG Chair recommended that the various topics in the new PPH be incorporated into the Procurement Topics area on the UNGM Knowledge Centre, and that the Professional Development WG then takes ownership of the area.
97. The Sustainable Procurement WG informed that it would be interested in exploring how sustainable procurement aspects can be incorporated throughout the PPH Revision 2, in addition to there being a stand-alone chapter on the topic.
98. Several PN members expressed interest in reviewing PPH Revision 1 before promulgation. Members were reminded that the Professional Development WG has been mandated with carrying out the update and at the outset anyone was welcome to join the group or comment on the work-in-progress in the PPH area in the UNGM Knowledge Centre. Furthermore, input has been solicited from relevant WGs and subject-matter experts throughout the process. In light of this, and that the PPH is a reference document not a legal manual, it was agreed that the SC would promulgate Revision 1 as planned. Input and issues can then be submitted or raised at the next PN meeting after which a Revision 2 can be published.

(ii) Other business

99. The WG Chair, Mr. Torben Soll (UNDP) provided an update on access to the 'CIPS Knowledge' portal, including what it has to offer, how it can be accessed and levels of usage. The (free) subscription for access is due to expire in September 2017. However, CIPS has confirmed that it will extend this for another year (Sept 2017 - Sept 2018) at no additional cost.
100. Finally, after being raised at the last PN meeting, the idea of establishing UN Procurement Awards to raise the profile of the procurement profession was presented, including various options for consideration by the PN.
101. PN members were generally strongly supportive of this initiative and deemed it a great way to enhance the strategic importance of the procurement (or even supply chain) profession, attract new talent, etc. It should however be carefully developed and managed well in order not to have a demotivating effect on staff. As an initial step, the respective organisations' award policies and UN Staff Rules should be consulted with. The Professional Development Working Group was mandated with the task to further develop the concept.

XIII. SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Documentation: [Summary Sheet - Sustainable Procurement WG](#)
[Sustainable Procurement WG ToR](#)
[Presentation - Sustainable Procurement WG](#)

102. The Sustainable Procurement (SP) Working Group co-Chairs, Ms Isabella Marras (UNEP) and Mr. Niels Ramm (UNOPS), presented the PN with SP trends and activities in the UN System (based on the 2015 Annual Statistical Report) as well as an overview of opportunities for enhanced collaboration and SP communication activities. Finally, a new draft ToR for the Working Group was outlined along with a proposed draft scope of activities, which included:
- ‘Show and Tell’ and presentations of good examples/case studies for SP implementation
 - Identification amongst WG members of key themes for common work
 - Update and thereafter administer the SP section in the UNGM Knowledge Centre
 - Development of an inventory of existing SP policies and practices within the UN system
 - SP support to PN members in implementation of individual or joint procurement exercises
 - Identification of strategic suppliers of goods/services and develop UN-wide initiatives for Suppliers’ Sustainability improvements within the supply chain
103. Many PN members expressed their strong support and commitment to the reactivation of this Working Group. It is recognised that there is a great deal of SP activity taking place at agency level and it is therefore important that this work is shared and supported.
104. UN/PD informed that the Secretariat's ability to actively move forward on implementation of SP initiatives still awaits approval from the Member States. In the meantime, UN/PD values the support of the SP WG and informed that its procurement officers are obliged to undertake the online SP training course available from UNGM.
105. The PN Chair proposed that the WG Chairs circulate the finalised Terms of Reference for the Working Group to the PN for endorsement, prior to developing and submitting the Work Plan for decision at the next PN meeting.

XIV. SHOW AND TELL: GREENING CONDOM PROCUREMENT (UNFPA)

Documentation: [Summary Sheet - Greening Condom Procurement](#)
[Presentation - Greening Condom Procurement](#)

106. UNFPA is the largest public procurer of condoms. Condoms being a leverage product for UNFPA, being an attractive account for suppliers and the manufacturing of condoms being potentially damaging to the environment, the conditions are met for UNFPA to engage suppliers on greening their condom production. Mr. Eric Dupont (UNFPA) presented UNFPA’s engagement with condom manufacturers as well as the results and impact of this.
107. During the ensuing discussion, UNFPA clarified that a key success criteria had been the focus on return on investment for manufacturers, i.e., the impact on their image and reputation by greening operations. Through active engagement with the manufacturers, a high level of commitment and buy-in was quickly achieved.
108. Although the focus of the initiative was on production processes, UNFPA explained that it is also increasingly working with governments on the sustainable disposal of expired products.

109. The Sustainable Procurement WG welcomed this initiative and remarked that it is better to choose a few categories and implement sustainability criteria well, rather than to choose many categories and risk a poorer outcome.

XV. SHOW AND TELL: SUPPLIER RISK MANAGEMENT AT THE IMF

Documentation: [Summary Sheet - Supplier Risk Management, IMF](#)
[Presentation - Supplier Risk Management, IMF](#)

110. Supplier risk has become an increasingly important topic at the IMF. With the increased reliance on outsourced services, the shift of IT services towards the cloud and the increasing sophistication of both physical threats and cyber-attacks, there is a need for the IMF to better manage the risks associated with 3rd parties. Mr. Jin Leong (IMF) outlined in his presentation, the efforts made by the IMF to develop a holistic supplier risk management framework that supports the risk appetite of the institution.
111. Some PN members mentioned challenges they had in determining the level of due diligence that should be performed and the risk it can have of alienating companies from tenders. IMF explained that it performs due diligence during the RFP process. It also stressed the importance of both having the 3-tiered approach (outlined in slide 5 of the presentation) and of explaining to clients at the outset, the various steps or activities involved.

XVI. SHOW AND TELL: VENDOR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION AT UNFPA

Documentation: [Summary Sheet - Vendor Performance Evaluation](#)
[Presentation - Vendor Performance Evaluation](#)

112. At UNFPA vendor performance evaluation is a prerequisite to strategic supplier sourcing. By sharing performance feedback with suppliers and by implementing vendor-development programs, efficient management of supplier-procurer expectations is achieved. The use of high-performing suppliers reduces greatly the risks of contract failure. This, in turn, has a positive impact on program delivery. Mr. Eric Dupont (UNFPA) presented the PN with UNFPA's approach to vendor performance and engagement as well as the resulting impact and benefits.
113. During the subsequent discussion, UNFPA explained that its biannual performance reviews with vendors are large 2-day meetings, involving all of its core vendors (LTAs holders). UNFPA has found this to be a good investment; vendors respond positively to feedback and are very happy to engage and improve their performance. It also gives vendors the opportunity to provide feedback which may explain or justify certain performance issues, such as, reasons for a late delivery. Vendor appraisal information is reviewed before issuing future contracts with vendors.
114. UNFPA informed that it is monitoring the performance of vendors of all POs above 10,000 USD, but it is only manageable to have the above dialogue with its core vendors. Indicators have also been developed for the evaluation of vendor performance related to provision of services, which UNFPA would be willing to share with those interested.

XVII. SHOW AND TELL: UN WEB BUY PLUS

Documentation: [Summary Sheet - UN Web Buy Plus](#)
[Presentation - UN Web Buy Plus](#)

115. In 2015, UNOPS embarked on an ICT development project to develop a platform based on latest business-to-business principles to replace the existing UN Web Buy solution. The new solution, UN Web Buy Plus, focuses on providing users with intuitive and efficient access to a wide variety of goods relevant to humanitarian and development aid projects. With a strategy to continuously expand the catalogues, UNOPS seeks to provide a cost-effective online procurement solution for common goods to its partners, including the HLCM PN. Guest speaker, and Team Manager at UNOPS, Mr. Alan Changtrakul provided the PN with a demo of the new UN Web Buy Plus solution and an insight into the changes to UN Web Buy as an online procurement solution for the UN procurement community.
116. Following the demo, UNOPS responded to diverse PN queries as follows:
- the solution was developed in-house as opposed to using an off-the-shelf solution as this offered greater flexibility and was much more economical to do so;
 - users can select whether the desired vehicle(s) should be ordered ex-stock or ex-factory;
 - if working with a new supplier, UNOPS would carry out pre-shipment inspection;
 - should it be required, customs clearance can also be arranged.
117. UNOPS encouraged PN members to register on the new UN Web Buy Plus. If interested in engaging as an agency, a MOU would be drawn up stipulating the agreement between the agency and UNOPS.

XVIII. DISCUSSION ITEM: HLCM PN ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Documentation: [Summary Sheet - HLCM PN on Social Media](#)

118. At the last PN meeting, the PN Vice Chair briefly proposed making use of social media to promote and improve communication on HLCM PN activities to key stakeholders (donors, Member States, etc). PN members were open to the idea and it was agreed that the PN Vice Chair would explore the concept further. Since then, and further to discussions with the other PN Board members, the PN Secretariat, and other communications experts, the PN Vice Chair proposed that a communications strategy is developed and presented for decision at the next PN meeting.
119. The expected results are:
- Greater awareness and acknowledgement among donors and other stakeholders of the important work of the PN
 - Diminished perception that the UN is not collaborating enough in the area of procurement
 - Greater visibility of the results achieved by the PN
120. Resources would not be required to implement such a strategy as the PN Secretariat, with her background in communications, would be able to manage the activities.

121. PN members were very supportive of the proposal and pointed out that improved communication would not only benefit donor relations, but it could also give the PN greater visibility at top management level and among UN staff in general.
122. With the support of communications experts from UNICEF and UNOPS, it was agreed that the PN Vice Chair would develop an approach for the HLCM PN on social media; the document will define the type of information to be communicated (preferably results rather than plans), which channels should be used, frequency of updates, and the target audience. The draft approach will be presented for decision at the next PN meeting.

XIX. SHOW AND TELL: GUIDELINES FOR SOURCING AND PROCUREMENT SAVINGS REPORTING – THE GLOBAL FUND

Documentation: [Summary Sheet - Guidelines for Sourcing and Procurement Savings Presentation - Guidelines for Sourcing and Procurement Savings](#)

123. Having performance management of sourcing and procurement activities is an increasingly important topic for development organisations both in terms of driving operational efficiency and demonstrating those efficiencies to governance and oversight bodies. As part of the strategic performance management framework that the Global Fund has developed to drive its ambitious objectives, the metrics used to track sourcing and procurement performance have been revised. Guest speakers, Andrew Kennedy, Martin Auton, Lin Li and Nathan Vasher from the Global Fund, presented the PN with the new savings guidelines adopted by the Fund, how savings are complemented by measures of sourcing and procurement quality, and how these activities fit into the wider performance management framework.
124. Following the presentation, the Global Fund responded to diverse PN queries as follows:
- To address the impact that the fluctuation in price of raw materials can have on products (e.g. oil for the plastic in bed nets), the Global Fund agrees a percentage range for price fluctuation up-front with its suppliers. Should the price deviate from the agreed range, new negotiations would be necessary.
 - Procurement channels the Fund uses are typically those of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA or other international organisations and here the same methodology is used for controlling costs. In cases where countries are using their own procurement systems, the Fund monitors the unit prices and benchmarks them against prices normally paid. The Fund has sufficient leverage now to require countries to achieve the right pricing level or else they must pay the difference.
 - Once costs have been brought down to a certain level, it is impossible to continue achieving and reporting on savings once the first year of the contract has passed. Instead, the Fund focuses on cost avoidance each year, brought about by the procurement effort.
125. UNICEF informed that it has undertaken joint forecasting of bed nets with the Global Fund. Although this did not lead to a joint tender, it did result in a reduction in prices and demonstrates a different way in which collaboration can take place.

XX. SHOW AND TELL: AGREEMENT ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT (WTO)

Documentation: [Presentation - Agreement on Government Procurement](#)

126. Guest Speaker, Counsellor and Team Leader for Government Procurement and Competition Policy at WTO, Mr. Robert Anderson, presented the nature and details of the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA); an internationally recognised tool to:
- promote access to other GPA parties' procurement markets
 - improve value for money (the efficient and effective management of public resources) in each participating Members' procurement activities
 - promote good governance in covered procurement markets
127. Details of the GPA's growing membership were also shared as well as an overview of suggested synergies between this area of work and the work of the PN, and how the two could be mutually supportive.
128. Following the presentation, the below points were clarified for the PN:
- While the majority of GPA members are industrialised countries, there is an increasing focus on reaching out to developing countries and countries with economies in transition. These efforts mainly entail providing information and promoting understanding of the GPA and do not duplicate the work of the World Bank; in fact, there is more convergence than ever between the GPA and the framework of the Bank.
 - Likewise, WTO's GPA activities are strongly supported by the EU, who is a major stakeholder in the Agreement.

XXI. SHOW AND TELL: UN ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT (SPP) PROGRAMME

Documentation: [Summary Sheet - Programme on Sustainable Public Procurement Presentation - Programme on Sustainable Public Procurement](#)

129. Guest Speaker, Programme Officer at UNEP, Mr. Farid Yaker, presented the PN with information on how sustainable procurement can positively impact sustainable development. This was followed by a detailed presentation of the 10-Year Framework Programme (10-YFP) on sustainable consumption and production; a global multi-stakeholder programme that supports the implementation of SPP around the world. The Programme builds synergies between diverse partners to achieve the SDG target on SPP. The objectives are as follows:
- Building the case for SPP - improving the knowledge of SPP and its effectiveness as a tool to promote sustainable consumption and production, support greener economies and sustainable development
 - Supporting the implementation of SPP on the ground through increased collaboration, and better access to capacity-building tools and support through SPP experts
130. In closing, UNEP added that, contrary to popular belief, SP is gaining great traction in developing countries; it is often heard from Member States that these countries are challenged with implementing SP practices but, in reality, on the ground there is strong movement towards it.

XXII. ELECTION OF HLCM PN VICE CHAIR

131. Mr. Neil Ashcroft was nominated and welcomed by the PN as the new Vice Chair for the 2017-2018 period.

XXIII. VENUES FOR FUTURE SESSIONS, MEETING CLOSE

Venues

132. At the last PN meeting an offer was accepted from ICAO to host the meeting in Autumn 2017 in Montreal. (ICAO had requested for the decision to be taken well in advance in order to ensure availability of meeting facilities). It has since been determined that the meeting will take place on 4-6 October 2017.
133. Offers to host the PN meeting in Spring 2018 were received from ITCILO (Turin), UNRWA (Amman) and UNFPA/UNICEF/UNOPS/UNDP (Copenhagen). A subsequent vote determined that the meeting would be hosted by UNFPA/UNICEF/UNOPS/UNDP at UN City in Copenhagen. The date is yet to be determined.
134. An offer was also put forward from IMF for the Washington DC organisations to tentatively host the Autumn 2018 meeting.

Close

135. In closing, the PN Chair thanked PN members for their participation, and the Management Board and Secretariat for their support. She especially expressed her appreciation to the Advisory Chair for his extended service on the PN Management Board.