

**United Nations Development Account  
Project “Enhancing sustainable public procurement for the regional  
transition to inclusive green economy in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and  
Central Asia”**

**INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT (SPP)**

**Webinar**

**Tashkent, Uzbekistan**

**26 August 2020, 16.00 – 18.00**

**Summary**

## INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT (SPP) Webinar, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 26 August 2020, 16.00 – 18.00

### Introduction

This online workshop was organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) Project “Enhancing sustainable public procurement for the regional transition to inclusive green economy in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia”. The project aims at strengthening capacity in sustainable public procurement (SPP) in selected countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), including Uzbekistan, and strengthening the capacity of enterprises to respond to public tenders using sustainability criteria. The project is led by the European Office of UNEP and is carried out jointly with the European Economic Commission (UNECE) and Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP). The project is implemented in the period from 2018 to 2021.

### Aims of the workshop

The workshop aimed to present: i) UNEP’s approach to SPP and eco-labelling; ii) the project “Enhancing sustainable public procurement for the regional transition to inclusive green economy in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA)” (UNDA SPP project); iii) the public procurement / sustainable public procurement in Uzbekistan; and iv) agreeing on UNDA SPP project implementation modalities and plans, and establish the project’s Steering Committee/Focal Point. The online workshop consisted of two sessions: the first session focused on the benefits and examples of SPP implementation in different countries of Europe and Asia, while the second session was dedicated to the topic of eco-labelling and UNEP’s approach to SPP. The workshop was organized in partnership with the Ministry of Finance of Uzbekistan with assistance from the State Committee of Ecology and Environmental Protection of Uzbekistan and the UNDP office in Tashkent.

### Participants

Over 52 participants (98 registered) attended the online workshop, including representatives from the Ministry of Finance of Uzbekistan, Committee of Ecology and Environmental Protection of Uzbekistan, Uzbek Agency of Standardization, Metrology and Certification, other national stakeholders and international organizations.

### Presentations

During the online workshop, the following presentations were made:

- Mr. Farid Yaker, UN Environment Programme, spoke on the benefits of SPP and offered examples of SPP implementation in Europe and Asia;
- Mr. Farid Yaker, UN Environment Programme, presented on UNEP’s approach to SPP;
- Ms. Beatriz Martins Carneiro, UN Environment Programme, discussed eco-labelling and UNEP’s approach and experiences in developing countries; and
- Ms. Lesya Nikolayeva, UN Environment Programme, suggested action in Uzbekistan under the UNDA SPP project.

### Additional Information

The workshop was held using the Interprefy online platform. Simultaneous translation in English and Russian was provided to participants. The recording of the workshop and the PowerPoint presentations are available at: <https://web.tresorit.com/l/zLzJy#tgXkR9D8fGe0CcNUJJHCRg> (password: Un5307ep19qW49).

### Welcoming remarks

The workshop was moderated by Ms. Lesya Nikolayeva from the UNEP Europe Office who provided welcoming remarks to participants and briefly outlined the purpose of the UNDA SPP project and the aim of the workshop.

The workshop was opened by Mr. Odilbek Isakov, Deputy Minister of Finance of Uzbekistan, who welcomed participants on behalf of the Ministry of Finance and gave an update on the current state of public procurement in Uzbekistan. Mr. Isakov said the green economy concept is quite new to Uzbekistan and they consider sustainable development and energy efficiency as the key elements of such a concept. With assistance from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Uzbekistan has prepared a new addition of the country's Public Procurement Law.

### **Examples of SPP implementation in different countries of Europe and Asia**

Mr. Farid Yaker, UN Environment Programme, presented on the introduction of the SPP and its benefits, as well as examples of SPP implementation in different countries of Europe and Asia.

### **UNEP's approach to SPP**

Mr. Farid Yaker, UN Environment Programme, made a presentation on UNEP's approach to SPP.

The presentation was followed by a question from a representative from the Uzbek Agency of Standardization, Metrology and Certification concerning the assistance that UNEP can offer in supporting further development of eco-labelling. The representative emphasized the agency's interest in establishing a system of eight voluntary standards in eco-labelling.

In response to the question, Ms. Lesya Nikolayeva highlighted the importance of collaboration and that the next session of the webinar will present the examples of the technical assistance that UNEP can offer. UNEP agreed to follow up with the agency to discuss possible next steps in cooperation.

### **UNEP's approach to eco-labelling**

Ms. Beatriz Martins Carneiro, UN Environment Programme, presented UNEP's approach to eco-labelling and experiences in supporting eco-labelling actions in developing countries, giving examples of the role of eco-labelling for sustainable tourism in Morocco, forest coffee sector in Ethiopia and outlining overall enabling mechanisms in developing countries to seize eco-labelling opportunities.

The presentation was followed by a suggestion from the representative of the Training Centre at the Ministry of Finance to offer cooperation with UNEP with capacity building and awareness-raising events.

### **UNDA SPP Project**

Ms. Lesya Nikolayeva, UN Environment Programme, presented on the UNDA SPP project, its key objectives and tasks. She suggested actions to be implemented in Uzbekistan in the framework of the UNDA SPP project, including strengthening the capacity of public authorities on SPP, as well as strengthening the capacity of enterprises to respond to public tenders using sustainability criteria.

Representatives from the State Committee of Ecology and Environmental Protection expressed their interest in cooperating with UNEP on SPP and eco-labelling, in particular, capacity building of specialists on environmental certification and development of standards and regulations on eco-labelling. This was followed by the question from the Deputy Director of the Public Procurement department of the Ministry of Finance, Sarvar Nazarov, regarding green procurement, particularly how the statistics for green procurement is developed and how the list of products for green procurement is integrated into the EU Tenders Electronic Daily (TED) system of the countries and the associated process. In response to the question, Mr. Farid Yaker highlighted several issues: i) difficulties in defining green procurement due to the current absence of international framework for defining the notion of green procurement, and ii) issues with compiling the data.

**Cooperation with UNDP**

Representatives of the UNDP Office in Tashkent contributed to the discussion, informing about the project which is currently under development to support to the Ministry of Finance on the greening budget initiative. They highlighted the need for synergy with the UNDA SPP project and are ready to cooperate with UNEP on that.

**Final remarks and closure of the workshop**

The workshop's Chair thanked delegates for their active participation in the workshop and reiterated the importance of ongoing cooperation between UNEP, national stakeholders and other international organizations that work in the field of SPP and eco-labelling in Uzbekistan.