



Organization of
American States



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

For the drafting of a research paper on:

“Indicators for the Progress and Impact of Sustainable Public Procurement”

This call for expression of interest is one of the activities that are being executed around the scope of our project: “Sustainable Public Procurement: a tool for the green economy.” The project is an initiative carried out within the framework of Inter-American Network on Government Procurement (INGP) by the Organization of American States (OAS), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).

A. The project for “Sustainable Public Procurement: a tool for a green economy”

There is a generalized consensus regarding the power of public procurement as a vehicle for the establishment of public policy. Public procurement represents about 15% to 20% of a country’s GDP; its magnitude renders the process extremely influential in the formulation of public policy. That being said, it is not surprising that either it being from the momentum or support that these initiatives have given towards generating transparency and efficiency in the public administration, government procurement has undeniably gained significant relevance throughout the region’s political agenda.

The Inter-American Network on Government Procurement (INGP), is an initiative led by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Organization of American States (OAS), and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). These organizations are both catalysts and beneficiaries in the consolidation of the regional agenda on public procurement, which has also provided a working space for senior managers of government procurement in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The INGP has provided a space for collaboration, construction of good management, training, and generation of knowledge on topic of public procurement. The network’s expertise has enabled countries to fully engage their resources and efforts towards the modernization of their national systems on procurement. Progress has been made in the modernization of legislative frameworks and in the introduction of information and communication technologies, which have both brought transparency to the process and access to a wider range of businesses. Other modern tools have been introduced, such as framework agreements or inverse auctions that along with adequate public policy have been able to increase the presence of the region’s small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in public procurement.

Throughout the modernization process, there has been a growing acceptance of the potential of public procurement in the promotion of sustainable development. As a tool that generates demand

on a large scale, government procurement can foment the migration towards green growth models that cover economical, social, environmental, and innovative aspects. Nevertheless, in most countries in the region, “green” procurement is found to be at a very early stage and needing much support for its development. Moreover, the consolidation of sustainable public procurement (SPP) is unalienable from access to information and knowledge that is open to the creation and implementation of effective and equitable policies around this emerging topic.

In the context of this strategic focus on public procurement on a regional level, the IDRC, in collaboration with the OAS and the IISD, have established a project that aims to promote sustainable public procurement as a tool for the expansion of a green economy in Latin America and the Caribbean. The project makes a special emphasis in supporting the region’s small and medium enterprises involved in procurement. The project also aims to generate empirical knowledge for the design of public policy on sustainable government procurement, such as the training of human resources capable in leading and implementing policy in the subject.

Measuring the Impact Sustainable Public Procurement

SPP is an emerging topic in Latin America. For the process to be adopted, it has to be able to compete with the most traditional standards of procurement based on best pricing and quality, and demonstrate the environmental, social, and economical benefits that can be acquired in the short - medium, and long - run. Given the aforementioned, indicators must be developed for measuring the impact of sustainable procurement.

Measuring the Progress of Sustainable Public Procurement

On the other hand, its important for a country to be able to demonstrate its progress when implementing SPP policies; a task that can only be done with indicators and mechanisms for measurement that include various phases of the procurement process, in each of its categories, including details of key process and their organizing capacities for each one of the aspects of SPP.

It is also important to examine the tools used by governments, for sustainable procurement, as practical and material guides for training.

A Revision of the International Experience

The development of these indicators and mechanisms will require a comprehensive examination of global experiences on the topic e.g. OECD and EU, as well as other necessary knowledge needed to generate measurements that respond to the circumstances and needs of the region.

Purpose of the call for paper

This call aims to identify a researcher or research institution located in Latin America or the Caribbean to develop a document on “Indicators for the Progress and Impact of Sustainable Public Procurement.” The document will serve as a base for the construction of a working group dedicated to the promotion of policymaking for the adoption of an inclusive sustainable public procurement.

B, Conditions to the Call for Paper

This is a regional and public call for paper established to select an individual or institution. Those interested in participating must draft an innovative proposal that does not exceed five pages and demonstrates proficiency and knowledge of the topics to be discussed.

We will give preference to those institutions or researchers that present their proposal in collaboration with other institutions or researchers of other countries in the region and likewise, to those proposals that present an innovative and farsighted perspective on the topics of this call, and that propose creative ideas on how to embed these topics in the region's political agenda.

Aside from the development of the study, the researcher will be in charge of the working group (WG) that will be put together by the INGP. The working group will serve in the development of indicator proposals and measurement tools for the progress and impact of SPP. The coordination of the WG will be in motion throughout a period three months, beginning with the submission of the first draft.

Terms of Reference for the Moderation of the WG

The working group will be moderated by the institution or researcher that drafts the document to achieve the following ends:

1. Generation of knowledge and skills for the agencies of public procurement of the INGP along with the adoption of the tools and methodologies that allow them to measure the impact of policy on sustainable procurement.
2. Dialogue, sharing of experiences, and cooperation among the region's leaders of public procurement and specialists on this topic.

The moderator must carry out the following activities:

1. Lead the working group comprised of countries in the region.
2. Present the research and promote discussion among the participants of the working group with the goal of building a final draft that incorporates recommendations and solutions to the challenges, perspectives, and needs of those responsible for public procurement in the region.
3. Draft a final report on the meetings, discussions, conclusions, and recommendations of the working group. This report must be presented to INGP, OAS, and the IDRC for its revision and approval. The document will be then forwarded to the members of the INGP and disseminated on the Network's webpage.
4. Presentation of the document at a discussion workshop with the conclusions and recommendations of the working group. All expenses will be covered by the Technical Secretariat of INGP.

C. Deadlines

Date	Description
May 14	Deadline for proposals will close at 11.00 AM (GMT -4)
May 15-19	Selection of candidates. Selection committee: President and Technical Secretariat of the INGP of the INGP-OAS, IDRC and IISD (International Institute for Sustainable Development)
May 20	Announcement of the individual or institution
July 11	Submission of the first draft
August 15	Final draft is presented before the working group INGP
September 1st to November 15	Coordination and moderation of the working group
November 28	Presentation of the final version of the document.

The selected researcher or institution will receive USD 13,000 for the completion of the document and coordination of the activities of the working group.

D. Applicant Requirements

Throughout the selection process we will consider the following criteria:

- The research institution must be located in Latin America or the Caribbean, and must be of a nonprofit nature. In case the applicant is an individual, he or she must be a citizen of a country in the region. The individual or institution must be able to commit to a consulting contract for the OAS. If the applicant is currently working with the government, a letter must be submitted by his or her employer expressing that there is no conflict of interest in completing the assigned work.
- Applicants must show evidence of their professional experience, background, and/or research in the following areas: Public Procurement, SMEs, Public Management, Economics (Green), Sustainable Development, Indicators; and academic research on the topic of interest.
- The document can be written either in English or Spanish.
- The researcher or institution must adhere to the deadlines established by the OAS and the IDRC.
- The INGP, the OAS, and the IDRC will maintain all exclusive rights to the document; nevertheless, the document will give credit to the author's respective work.

E. Information Needed to Apply

In order to be considered, the applicant must submit the following information:

Requirements for the proposal (max. 5 pages)

- Background and experience of the person responsible in drafting the document.
- Structure of the documents and identification of central topics that will be included in the document.
- Methodology that will be used in drafting the document.
- **Note:** The research paper is expected to contain the following:
 - *25-30 length*
 - *Executive summary.*
 - *Policy brief.*
 - *Multimedia product on the subject matter. (Include innovate proposals)*

Accompanying Documents

- In the case of an applicant institution, an institutional profile must be submitted (the document is separate to the proposal and is not included in the word count). Likewise, the person in charge of developing the document must submit a summary of their CV.
- If the applicant is an individual, he or she must submit a complete version of their CV

All documents must be submitted in order to be taken into consideration.

IMPORTANT:

- **Proposal can be written in either Spanish or English.**
- **Any documents submitted after the deadline will not be considered.**
- **All documentation must be submitted electronically through the following link: Application “Indicators for the Progress and Impact of Sustainable Public Procurement.”**
- **For inquiries contact: maguero@oas.org**

Deadline: May 14, 2014 AM(GMT – 4)