

E-procurement for development and the role of the GPA 2012

Astghik Solomonyan

Intellectual Property, Government Procurement and Competition Division

WTO Secretariat

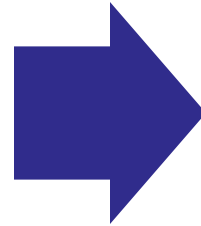
This is not an ADB material. The views expressed in this document are the views of the author/s and/or their organizations and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Asian Development Bank, or its Board of Governors, or the governments they represent. ADB does not guarantee the accuracy and/or completeness of the material's contents, and accepts no responsibility for any direct or indirect consequence of their use or reliance, whether wholly or partially. Please feel free to contact the authors directly should you have queries.

Use of electronic procurement for development

Enhanced market access and competition

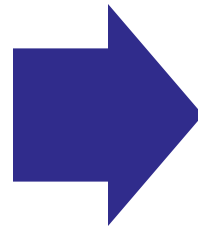


Transparency and timely publication of procurement documentation through e-procurement



Enhanced participation of suppliers

Easier participation through electronic means

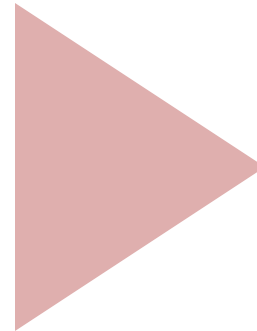


Supporting access to legally assured procurement markets



Fighting corruption

Corruption can add around 50% to the project cost and "10%-30% of investment of the publicly funded construction projects are lost to mismanagement and corruption".



Use of e-procurement systems to:

- reduce human interaction;
- enhance visibility of transactions;
- better oversight and monitoring of procurement transactions.

Relevant GPA Knowledge Series episode: [WTO - Government Procurement Agreement Knowledge Series](#)

Saving scarce resources

For procuring entities:

- work-time of employees;
- cost of printing procurement documents.



For suppliers:

- cost of printing out tenders and the accompanying documents;
- getting the printed papers to the procuring entity (sometimes with travel involved).



SAVINGS

Collection and publication of data

Collection of procurement-related data in a structured format to enable data visualisation, publication of big data for transparency purposes, AI technologies, etc.

Ukraine – uncovering violations;

Kazakhstan – active monitoring of government procurement transactions.

Dominican Republic – increase of contracts awarded to women-led businesses;

Sustainability and innovation



Measuring and understanding the uptake of green government procurement;

E-catalogues may include information about the "green" aspects of the product and the suppliers of such products may be automatically proposed to the procuring entities;

Government procurement (and relevant e-tools) can be used to procure innovation, including sustainable products not yet available in the market;

E-tools can help with the assessment of life-cycle costing, thus easing the selection of sustainable products;

Moving forward, the technologies might be used to autonomously generate new sustainability policies.

The relevance of the GPA 2012

The objectives of the GPA 2012 include the following:

The promotion of reciprocal access to the GPA Parties' procurement markets for the Parties' goods, services and suppliers.

The "efficient and effective management of public resources" in the procurement markets of each participating WTO Member, by strengthening competition, transparency and accountability mechanisms.

Promoting good governance, including the avoidance of conflicts of interest and corrupt practices.

Encouraging the accession of other WTO Members to the Agreement, on mutually advantageous terms.

Main considerations

The use of electronic means **is permitted** under GPA 2012 rules. Parties are **not obliged** to use e-procurement.

Rather, the e-procurement is seen as a means of achieving compliance with the requirements of the GPA 2012.

When using electronic tools, the GPA Parties are also allowed more flexibilities especially in terms of timelines.

Main considerations (cont'd)

IF the GPA Party decides to use e-procurement, it needs to ensure compliance with specific requirements, such as:

- the general availability and interoperability of IT systems and software used;
- the availability of mechanisms to ensure the integrity of requests for participation and tenders; and
- the maintenance of data for at least three years to ensure the traceability of the conduct of covered procurement by electronic means.

News from Geneva

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT ON BEST PRACTICES FOR PROMOTING AND FACILITATING THE PARTICIPATION OF SMES IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

Decision of the Committee on Government Procurement of 9 October 2024

Considering the various nature of the measures, they were grouped in several headings:

1. Enhanced transparency;
2. Reduction of administrative burden;
3. Procurement opportunities for SMEs, including through proportional qualification and selection criteria; and
4. Enhancing the professionalisation of procuring entities as well as the cooperation and dialogue with SMEs.

Some suggested practices may fall under more than one of the headings. The order of the listing does not reflect the importance, efficiency or effectiveness of the measures and policies.

Enhanced transparency



Reduction of administrative burden



Using e-procurement to simplify and shorten processes;

Using online supplier registrations, standing price quotations, etc;

Reducing the number of procurement portals by integrating various functional systems (e.g. registration, bid submission, etc);

No in-person requirements for bid submission;

Providing e-access to information on tender notices, bidding documents, etc.

Procurement opportunities for SMEs, including through proportional qualification and selection criteria



No e-procurement-
related best practices.

Enhancing the professionalisation of procuring entities as well as the cooperation and dialogue with SMEs



No e-procurement-related best practices.



Other relevant discussions at the WTO



Information-sharing workshop on "How can digital advances support trade and competition in government procurement?", March 2024



Public Forum session organized by the WTO Secretariat and the ITC on "Digital Transformation: Empowering women entrepreneurs in government procurement": [WTO | Public Forum 2024 - "Re-globalization: Better Trade for a Better World"](#), September 2024

Thank you!

astghik.solomonyan@wto.org