

# Call for Policy Briefs on “Advancing Sustainable Procurement for Climate-Resilient and Inclusive Development”

Sustainable public procurement is increasingly recognized as a powerful instrument to advance climate action, accelerate the transition to low-carbon and circular economies, foster social inclusion, and drive innovation and competitiveness. For developing and emerging economies, where public procurement accounts for a significant share of GDP, aligning procurement practices with sustainability objectives can unlock transformative change — shaping markets, strengthening domestic industries, and delivering inclusive, climate-resilient infrastructure and services.

There is an urgent need to scale up the strategic use of procurement across all stages of the project lifecycle — from planning and design to construction, operation and maintenance, and end-of-life management. This means embedding **low-carbon, climate-resilient, and circular economy principles** into procurement frameworks; strengthening **operation and maintenance provisions** to enhance long-term performance and cost efficiency; incorporating **waste minimization and lifecycle approaches**; and promoting **social inclusion, gender responsiveness, and equitable local participation**.

At the same time, procurement can play a catalytic role in **engaging local markets, building SME capabilities, and crowding in private sector innovation and investment**. When designed with the right incentives and evaluation criteria, procurement policies and processes can open doors for domestic industries, stimulate innovation, and enable new business models that deliver sustainability outcomes. Moreover, **intergovernmental mechanisms and collaborative platforms — including regional frameworks, peer learning networks, and joint MDB initiatives — are essential to harmonize approaches, aggregate demand, and scale impact**.

We are pleased to invite submissions for a forthcoming edited volume titled “**Advancing Sustainable Procurement for Climate-Resilient and Inclusive Development**.” The volume will compile original policy briefs and analytical papers that examine how sustainable procurement can serve as a strategic policy tool to deliver low-carbon, resilient, and inclusive development outcomes. While papers may draw on global lessons, a focus on **developing and emerging economies** and the evolving role of **multilateral development banks (MDBs)** is strongly encouraged.

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## Suggested Topics

## Theme 1: Procurement as a Driver of Climate Action and Circular Economy

Focus: How procurement can accelerate decarbonization, resilience, and resource efficiency across the project lifecycle.

Topics may include:

- Designing and implementing **low-carbon procurement approaches** to decarbonize infrastructure and services
  - Mainstreaming **climate resilience and adaptation** considerations into procurement frameworks and contract design
  - Embedding **circular economy principles**, lifecycle costing, asset reuse, and end-of-life planning into procurement decisions
  - Incorporating **waste minimization** and sustainable construction methodologies into evaluation criteria and technical specifications
  - Strengthening **operation and maintenance (O&M)** provisions in contracts to enhance sustainability, service quality, and long-term cost-effectiveness
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## Theme 2: Inclusion, Local Participation, and Market Transformation

Focus: How procurement can shape markets, empower local actors, and deliver inclusive development outcomes.

Topics may include:

- Advancing **socially inclusive and gender-responsive procurement** policies and practices
  - Leveraging procurement to boost **local participation, SME development, workforce inclusion**, and equitable value chains
  - Enhancing **local market engagement** through early market sounding, capacity-building, and market-shaping strategies
  - Designing procurement to **stimulate private sector innovation** and new business models, including performance-based and outcome-based procurement
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## Theme 3: Governance, Policy Innovation, and Measuring Impact

Focus: Institutional, policy, and collaborative mechanisms to scale sustainable procurement and track its contribution to climate and development goals.

Topics may include:

- Strengthening **intergovernmental mechanisms** and regional collaboration to harmonize sustainable procurement policies and pool demand
- MDB roles in mainstreaming sustainability criteria and aligning procurement with climate and development finance
- Measuring the **impact, outcomes, and progress** of sustainable procurement reforms
- Developing **data tools, standards, and reporting approaches** to assess and communicate procurement's contribution to sustainability goals

Selected papers will be featured in the edited volume and presented at the **MDB Sustainable Procurement Forum**, to be held **September 2026** at the **CEB Office (Paris)** or a **Sustainable Procurement Policy Roundtable** at **Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo, Japan**. Travel and accommodation support will be provided for one author per selected paper.

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## Submission Guidelines

- **Length:** 3,000–5,000 words, including a 200-word abstract and references.
- **Content:** Submissions should include the background, methodology (if applicable), results (if applicable), case study, conclusions/key takeaways, recommendation and policy implications.
- **Author details:** Include name, affiliation, position, and email address of each author, clearly identifying the corresponding author.
- **Deadline:** Submissions must be received by **deadline for different stages as per Key Dates below via [this submission form](#)**.
- Submissions must be original and not under consideration elsewhere.

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## Key Dates

- **13 February 2026**- Deadline for abstract submission
- **6 March 2026** – Notification of accepted papers
- **5 June 2025** – Deadline for submission of papers
- **7 Aug 2025** – Notification of accepted papers

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## Selection Criteria

Papers must be original and unpublished. Submissions will be evaluated based on:

- Originality and contribution to policy and practice
  - Analytical rigor and quality of evidence
  - Relevance to developing and emerging economy contexts
  - Policy significance for MDBs and government and private sector decision-makers
  - Readability, clarity, and coherence
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## Reviewers

Submission under each theme will be reviewed by a review panel consisting of representatives from MDB partners of the Sustainable Procurement Resource Hub, researcher and academic from universities and think tank as well as industry and public sector practitioners.

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## Contact

For inquiries, please contact [sustainableprocurement@adb.org](mailto:sustainableprocurement@adb.org)