

## **MDB Heads of Procurement Joint Communication**

### **EBRD, London, Sep 18-20, 2024**

The annual meeting of the Heads of Procurement (HOP) of the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) was hosted by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in London on September 17-20, 2024. The Heads of Procurement from the African Development Bank (AfDB), Asian Development Bank (AsDB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), European Investment Bank (EIB), Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (EFSD), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the New Development Bank (NDB), and the World Bank (WB) attended the three-day meeting along with their delegations.

The HOP has been meeting periodically for the past 24 years and serves as a key mechanism for MDBs to promote harmonization in procurement principles, policies, and practices. It facilitates project co-financing initiatives through mutual reliance and other collaborative arrangements, and promptly addresses current challenges, such as climate change, the pandemic, and geopolitical competition. By working together as a system, MDBs aim to achieve greater impact and scale in a constructive and effective manner.

In so doing, the HOP liaises with other MDB technical functional areas, private sector associations, and international bodies promoting synergies and keeping an open communication with all development community stakeholders. In this year's meeting, the HOP:

1. Took note of the need to diversify the supply base of companies participating in MDB tenders, through better procurement strategies and early engagement with the market. This includes further enhancing and finetuning the use of evaluation criteria, focusing on quality, sustainability, and life-cycle-cost parameters, and refocusing project preparation with more upstream procurement planning.
2. Discussed the follow-up to the MDBs' "Viewpoint Paper on Working Together as a System for Scale and Impact" and the good progress to date in implementing the procurement aspects therein.
3. Undertook to promote the use of value-for-money considerations through outreach activities with governments and market groups, and be open to circular economy solutions, in which repair, maintenance, and refurbishment provide for alternative approaches to major works projects.
4. Agreed to promote the International Master in Public Procurement Management (IMPPM), as developed and implemented in the University of Tor-Vergata in Italy and, currently, in the Ukraine, by providing funding directly or through sponsored scholarships.
5. Examined ways to develop and strengthen measures to prevent cybersecurity risks in procurement as well as verify traceability systems in the photovoltaic and other industries to ensure that no forced labor has been used throughout the supply chain to produce goods financed by MDB funds.
6. Underlined the need to develop procurement and contract management capacity in implementing agencies, concentrating on higher quality initial feasibility studies to determine what the market in a given sector and country is able and willing to provide in order to draft realistic contracts.
7. Inaugurated the Sustainable Procurement Hub ([www.sppresourcehub.org](http://www.sppresourcehub.org)), a joint MDB initiative to create the one-stop online database to access and share knowledge on the latest advances in sustainable public procurement. On September 17, the HOP held a full-day Sustainable Public Procurement Forum with internal and external participants covering a wide range of related topics. These included carbon emissions measurement and reduction in bid evaluations for works contracts and engaging with industry associations on decarbonizing infrastructures as well as net zero targets in supply chains.
8. Agreed to collaborate in exploring applications of AI to procurement processes.

The next full meeting of the HOP will be hosted by the New Development Bank in Shanghai in the fall of 2025.