

## What is ISO20400?

ISO 20400 is the first international guidance standard on sustainable procurement. It provides an understanding of what is sustainable procurement, how sustainability impacts the different aspects of the procurement activity - policy, strategy, organisation, process – and how to implement sustainable procurement practically.

It is relevant to any organization regardless of sector, size and location as well as to any stakeholder involved in or impacted by procurement decisions and processes.

It does not replace legislation, policy or ethical frameworks in the areas of procurement and sustainability but provides a basis for an effective integration of sustainability (environmental, social, economic) concerns into the procurement activity and supply chains.

## What are the benefits of ISO20400?

ISO20400 defines what 'real' sustainable procurement looks like. Organisations using ISO20400 will:

- Get a practical framework for procurement, CSR and other key functions to work together,
- Protect their reputation by efficiently managing sustainability risks in their supply chains,
- Get ahead of future client and regulatory requirements,
- Take a competitive advantage in their industry by seizing opportunities to innovate, and
- Demonstrate supply chain engagement to GRI, DJSI or other indices.

## Who developed ISO20400 and how?

This is a global initiative with 52 countries that contributed to the development of ISO20400 through their respective national standards organisations and under the umbrella of an International Standards Organisation (ISO) technical committee PC277. These countries represent:

- 65% of the world population,
- 85% of the world GDP, and
- 73% of the world carbon emissions.

The technical committee also worked in liaison with 12 international organisations (e.g. UN, OECD) and 3 international standards (e.g. ISO26000: Social Responsibility).

Since the approval of the project in February 2013, a series of international meetings have been held in France, Brasil, Singapore, the United Kingdom and Australia in order to build consensus.

More detailed information is available on <https://www.iso.org/committee/4514815.html>.