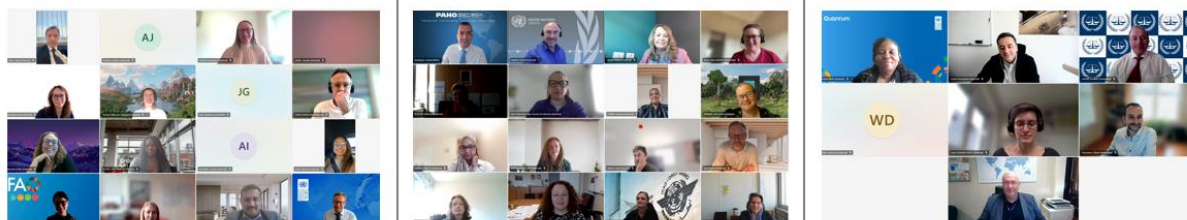# 37ᵀᴴ HLCM PROCUREMENT NETWORK VIRTUAL SESSION
8-10 APRIL 2025
SUMMARY OF DECISIONS & OUTCOMES

The 37th session of the HLCM Procurement Network (HLCM PN) was held virtually, led by the following Management Board and Secretariat:

Chair Stephen Farrell (Chief, Purchasing and Transportation Section, UNOG)
Vice-Chair Anne-Claire Howard (Director, Procurement Group, UNOPS)
Advisory Chair Angela Kastner (Director, Procurement & Supply Services, WHO)
2ⁿᵈ Advisory Chair Frederic Farschi (Chief Procurement Officer, ICC)
Secretariat Gabriella Budai (UNDP)

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STEPHEN FARRELL (UNOG)

The Chair of the Procurement Network opened the session by welcoming participants and noting that an ad-hoc meeting had been convened prior to the PN session, on 4 April 2025, which was attended by the majority of Principals from member entities. The purpose of that meeting was to brief members on the outcome of the HLCM decision regarding the reconfiguration of the Procurement Network into a Supply Chain Network.

Following this, the agenda was presented and, with no objections raised, was adopted as proposed.[1]

As part of the opening segment, the Chair informed participants that, together with Katinka Rosenbom (UNICEF), he had met with the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), where they engaged in a constructive dialogue in relation to the implementation of the Mutual Recognition principle in the UN system. The JIU was receptive to the points raised, and its subsequent report reflected positively on the Procurement Network, while also identifying areas for further enhancement in efficiency and effectiveness.

HLCM/CEB UPDATE – INFORMATION SESSION

MR. REMO LALLI (CEB SECRETARIAT), HLCM SECRETARY

Mr. Lalli provided a targeted update on the outcome of the HLCM session related to the reconfiguration of the Procurement Network into a broader Supply Chain Network.

As background, it was recalled that the HLCM Secretariat conducted a survey on behalf of the Committee to collect proposals for far-reaching efficiency measures across various functional areas within UN organizations, as a follow-up to the special executive session of the HLCM held in February. A wide range of initiatives was collected and consolidated, with several proposals directly or indirectly related to procurement and supply chain management.

Ahead of the HLCM session, a second survey was launched to collect HLCM members' evaluations of the proposed efficiency measures. Following the first survey, which gathered over 100 proposals, the inputs were analyzed, merged where possible, and mapped to key areas of intervention. A curated list of 22 initiatives, consolidating 66 of the original proposals, was developed for targeted assessment. This major effort in information collection and consolidation aimed to create a manageable and strategic set of proposals to support focused discussions during the HLCM session.

HLCM's Decision on the Reconfiguration of the Procurement Network

Mr. Lalli reported the Committee's decision to reconfigure the Procurement Network into a Supply Chain Network, which, in the opinion of the HLCM, will strengthen system-wide collaboration and efficiency:

"*In concluding the HLCM session, held in April 3-4 in Rome, the HLCM Chair noted that, among the proposals for far-reaching efficiency measures collected through the HLCM survey of March 2025, many spoke to the value of an integrated, end-to-end Supply Chain framework,*

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[1] *Some of the originally scheduled agenda items were incorporated into the broader discussion on the reconfiguration of the Procurement Network.*

All documents related to the meeting are available on the HLCM-PN Knowledge Center Workspace on 37th HLCM PN Session or by contacting the PN Secretariat.

which Procurement is one part of, with the aim to establish a unified approach to managing supply chain activities across the UN system, to enhance interoperability, streamline transversal activities, and leverage the capacities of various UN entities to support the entire UN system.

These proposals kicked off a discussion, especially among the largest agencies, that have both procurement and supply chain within their support functions. This discussion led to a proposal to reconfigure the Procurement Network into a new Supply Chain Network, to allow UN system organizations to address bottlenecks and barriers in everything from logistics to warehousing and procurement.

The HLCM Chair noted that for some agencies, especially those with a limited field presence or who may not need logistics, procurement is the only support function within the supply chain. However, she noted that there are efficiencies in scale and in linking the entire community together, so this reconfiguration would not mean that procurement would not be a focus any longer. Procurement would remain a key stream under the Supply Chain Network.

The Chair of the Procurement Network suggested that this matter may require careful consideration and that there had not been an opportunity to formally consider all the implications that may come from making such a change. He also underlined the many achievements that the Procurement Network had produced in the course of the past years, and that was important to continue moving forward.

The HLCM Chair thanked the Procurement Network for all the excellent work that they do, and strongly acknowledged the valuable contribution it had made in the course of the years. The proposal for a Supply Chain Network was not about negating that in any way. She stressed that the Committee had to make decisions in a time of crisis and demonstrate the agility as organizations to be able to respond to such a crisis.

Committee members unanimously agreed to this proposal.

The HLCM Chair therefore asked all HLCM members to confirm their representatives or send nominations for new representatives in the Supply Chain Network, to the HLCM secretariat, by 18 April 2025, and to ensure that such nominations are at the appropriate level, preferably the director level, with the necessary authority to make decisions and commit on behalf of HLCM members with respect to the Supply Chain related portfolio.

The Committee agreed that UNICEF and the UN Secretariat would convene a working group to establish the new Network and develop its Statute and Terms of Reference. Organizations interested in participating in this working group should indicate their interest when sending their nominations."

The Chair of the Procurement Network reiterated that the proposal to reconfigure the Network had not gone through the usual formal consultation process that is typically followed for such decisions. Mr. Lalli acknowledged this, clarifying that while the Committee's usual practice is to deliberate on proposals informed by supporting documentation, the urgency of the situation required immediate action. It was further noted that no objections were raised by Committee members during the session and that the decision was made in view of the financial crisis and the need for prompt measures.

All documents related to the meeting are available on the HLCM-PN Knowledge Center Workspace on 37th HLCM PN Session or by contacting the PN Secretariat.

Follow-Up Dialogue on the HLCM Decision

Due to the intensity and significance of the discussion on the reconfiguration of the Procurement Network into a new Supply Chain Network, the HLCM Secretariat was invited to rejoin the PN session to continue the dialogue and address outstanding questions. Several questions raised by PN members during the session were addressed by the HLCM Secretariat based on the information available to him at the time; the responses have been compiled here for reference.

In preparation for Mr. Lalli's agreed second session with the PN, the members were invited to submit further questions and relevant data in advance of his participation to facilitate a structured overview and discussion. Specifically, members were asked to provide information on:

- The importance of the supply chain function within their organization;

- The volume or level of goods and services procured; and

- The expected impact of the HLCM decision on their organization's procurement function.

The questions and data collected were shared with Mr. Lalli ahead of the meeting and can be accessed here.

Following the receipt of all questions, the submissions were categorized into four main topics to streamline the dialogue:

1. **Representation, Membership, and Inclusivity**

During the discussion, it was emphasized that representatives in the new Supply Chain Network should have delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of their organizations, ideally at the director level or equivalent. While the level may vary depending on the size and structure of each organization, the key requirement is decision-making authority across the supply chain portfolio.

It was further emphasized that all organizations, regardless of whether they have a full supply chain function, should appoint a representative to the Supply Chain Network. The working group tasked with establishing the Supply Chain Network will define the full scope of the Network and the role of procurement within the broader framework. A smooth integration of the Procurement Network into the Supply Chain Network was strongly encouraged to avoid fragmentation and ensure continuity.

It was also confirmed that the support structure would mirror existing inter-agency models, with a single secretariat covering the full portfolio of the Supply Chain Network and its workstreams. Costs and support responsibilities will continue to be shared among organizations leading or co-leading specific work areas, maintaining the efficiency and collaborative approach already in place.

2. **Structure, Governance, and Agenda-Setting**

It was clarified that organizations will shortly be asked to appoint or reconfirm their representatives for the Supply Chain Network, with a deadline set for 18 April 2025. Once the

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membership is formalized, the UN Secretariat and UNICEF, on behalf of the HLCM, will convene the first meeting of the Supply Chain Network.

At this initial meeting, discussions will focus on establishing the governance structure, including the development of the Statute, Terms of Reference, and a work plan with associated timelines. Until then, the focus will remain on confirming participation and convening the first meeting; detailed deliverables and governance frameworks will be developed collectively thereafter.

3. Integration of Procurement Focus and Legacy Work

It was clarified that Procurement Network members will continue to play a significant role within the new Supply Chain Network structure. Given that many representatives in the new Network are expected to be the same individuals currently engaged in the Procurement Network, members will retain strong influence in shaping how legacy initiatives - such as AI developments and collaborative category management - are integrated into the broader framework. The transition was described as an expansion of scope rather than a disruption of existing structures.

4. Note on Policy Implications

It was noted that while formal policy changes related to supply chain management have not yet been defined, existing tools such as the United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM) are expected to gain even greater prominence.

While Procurement Network members expressed concern that the Network had not been formally consulted prior to the decision to reconfigure into a Supply Chain Network, and that no further guidance had been shared as of the meeting date, it was also recognized that the transition represents an expansion of scope under a unified structure. Members emphasized that the Procurement Network community would continue to have significant influence within the new Supply Chain Network, with procurement remaining a central component.

The discussion highlighted that many of the same individuals who contributed to the Procurement Network's achievements would continue in leadership roles within the new framework. This continuity would ensure that legacy initiatives - such as collaborative category management, AI integration, sustainability, and others - would be carried forward. Members further noted that the expanded framework could better support operational efficiencies and programmatic delivery, while underlining the importance of maintaining inclusivity for organizations with varying levels of supply chain capacity.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
PN's questions and input on SCN transition

THE WORKING GROUPS

1. COGNITIVE PROCUREMENT WORKING GROUP- DECISION SESSION

MIRANDA CARINGTON (WORLD BANK), FREDERIC FARSCHI (ICC), DANIEL RODRIGEZ (PAHO)
WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS

1.1 Strategic Review and Renewal of the Working Group

At the 36th HLCM Procurement Network Session in Nairobi (October 2024), the PN agreed to establish a Task Force to conduct an internal review of the Cognitive Procurement Working

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Group. The aim was to assess the group's objectives, priorities, and operational mechanisms, in alignment with HLCM guidance on the growing role of digitalization within Procurement and Supply Chain functions.

In response, a dedicated Task Force was appointed to provide strategic steering for a new working group focused on emerging technologies and digitalization in procurement. The Task Force was tasked with defining a new vision for the group, including the development of revised Terms of Reference, an updated scope, timeline, deliverables, and resource requirements. This effort was also intended to foster enhanced collaboration among participating UN agencies and better position the group to drive innovation across the system. The Task Force developed a comprehensive Guidance Note that laid the foundation for a revised strategic vision.

The Task Force was composed of the following members: World Bank, UN Secretariat, UNICEF, PAHO, FAO, ICC.

1.2 Priority Areas for Action and Collaboration

The Working Group has identified five key focus areas to guide its work moving forward:
- Benchmark and Monitor Technology Adoption and Maturity
- Knowledge Sharing on Emerging Technologies
- Facilitate Cross-Sector Learning
- Strengthen Collaboration with the HLCM Digital and Technology Network
- Liaise with the HLCM Network

The PN has endorsed the transition of the Working Group's purpose to focus on providing strategic direction in the procurement of advanced technologies. As part of this shift, the group will be renamed 'ProcureNext Tech'. Moving forward, the Working Group will be co-chaired by the World Bank, ICC, and PAHO, and will redefine its deliverables in alignment with the new Terms of Reference and an updated membership structure.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
Summary Sheet CPWG
New ToR Technology and Digitalisation in Procurement
Task Force final guidance note on the future of Cognitive Procurement WG - 2024
List of Members 2025
Cognitive Procurement WG presentation

All documents related to the meeting are available on the HLCM-PN Knowledge Center Workspace on 37th HLCM PN Session or by contacting the PN Secretariat.

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2. STRATEGIC VENDOR MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP – INFORMATION SESSION

WALTER GRANDPRE (ILO), WORKING GROUP CHAIR
NARGIZA ASANBAEVA (UN SECRETARIAT), VENDOR RISK MANAGEMENT & DUE DILIGENCE TASK FORCE CHAIR
GABRIELLA BUDAI (UNDP), IPS SUBGROUP CHAIR

2.1 Revision of the Model Policy Framework on Vendor Sanctions

ILO received legal feedback on its latest draft of the Model Policy Framework from nine organizations (UNDP, IOM, UNOPS, UN Secretariat, FAO, UNRWA, IAEA, ICAO, and UNICEF). Several of the comments include substantial proposed changes. As a result, further consultation within the Task Force is required before the draft can be submitted to the Procurement Network.

2.2 Vendor Risk Management and Due Diligence

The Chair of the Sub-Working Group on Vendor Risk Management and Due Diligence, presented a progress update on the group's activities and future plans.

Following a period of inactivity the group resumed operations in November 2024 with renewed structure and purpose. It now comprises representatives from the UN Secretariat, FAO, IAEA, UNOPS, PAHO, WFP, UNDP, UNICEF, OPCW, WMO, and UNRWA.

The group's primary objectives are threefold:

1. To establish a standardized framework for vendor risk management and due diligence that can be adopted across the UN system.
2. To explore and identify opportunities to integrate business information from external sources into UNGM that facilitate all the UN agencies affiliated with UNGM with a common platform that can be utilized to perform vendor due diligence (pre-and post-contract award).
3. To pilot a common vendor evaluation criteria and process for one commodity or service.

Since reactivating in late 2024, the group has met biweekly and revised its Terms of Reference to reflect current membership and refine its scope. A comprehensive project implementation plan has been developed, supported by a Gantt chart for tracking milestones across project phases. A SharePoint repository has also been set up to support collaboration and document sharing among members.
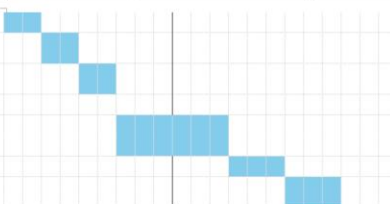
All documents related to the meeting are available on the HLCM-PN Knowledge Center Workspace on 37th HLCM PN Session or by contacting the PN Secretariat.

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Despite these achievements, the group continues to face several challenges - most notably, ensuring consistent and active participation from all member organizations. Additionally, potential cost implications related to subscription consolidation and UNGM system integration are anticipated and will be brought to the PN for further discussion when more concrete information becomes available.

Looking ahead, the group has outlined several important next steps to understand the current vendor risk management and due diligence practices:

- Conduct and analyze survey
- Benchmark against best practices within and outside of UN system
- Start pilot preparations (select a common vendor evaluation criteria/process for one commodity, define pilot scope, select AFPs for the pilot)
- First draft of the framework

The Chair concluded by calling on PN members to actively support the sub-group's work by responding to the upcoming survey and participating in the planned pilot. The initiative received strong support from members, and the progress of the sub-group's was widely recognized as a valuable step toward greater efficiency and accountability.

2.3 International Procurement Seminar

The Chair of the Sub-Group presented an overview of both recently held and upcoming International Procurement Seminars.

POST EVENT BRIEFING

In **November 2024, IPS was held in Ningbo, China**, hosted by the local municipality with support from UNDP and UNOPS. It brought together 11 UN organizations, the World Bank Group, and nearly 200 local companies for discussions on medical care, innovation, green supply chains,

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and the SDGs. Feedback from both suppliers and UN agencies was highly positive, reinforcing the value of hosting such events in emerging markets.

In **March 2025, the IPS took place at UN City in Copenhagen**, co-hosted by the **UK, Ireland, and the Netherlands**. It involved 12 organizations and over 120 companies, featuring one-on-one meetings, presentations, and panels on digital transformation, sustainable procurement, and engineering. Despite logistical challenges linked to the UN's current financial situation, the event was successfully delivered and well-received.

UPCOMING EVENT BRIEFING

Looking ahead, preparations are underway for the upcoming IPS scheduled for **June 2025, again to be hosted at UN City**. This event will be co-organized by the **Nordic countries-Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, and Finland.**

In addition, a proposal has been received from **France, Austria, Switzerland, and Italy** to co-host another IPS in **Geneva in November 2025.**

PN members emphasized the importance of broadening geographic participation in hosting IPS events, as current hosts are often from the same regions. The sub-working group will explore ways to engage more developing countries through regional collaboration. A suggestion was also made to create a promotional one-pager to support outreach. In light of financial constraints, members expressed interest in virtual IPS formats to enable more inclusive engagement.

Overall, participants reaffirmed strong support for the IPS model as a key inter-agency initiative within the Procurement Network.

2.4 Supplier Performance Evaluation

While testing of the UNGM Vendor Rating Tool for supplier performance evaluation is ongoing, the consolidated responses from participating agencies are still being compiled for transmission to UNGM.

The Chair of the Working Group acknowledged the commitment and efforts of Julius Birungi (WHO), who recently stepped down as Chair of the sub-working group. In his place, Barbara Massa (UNOG) was appointed as the new Chair in April 2025.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
Summary Sheet SVM WG
Vendor Risk Management and Due Diligence presentation
International Procurement Seminar presentation

All documents related to the meeting are available on the HLCM-PN Knowledge Center Workspace on 37th HLCM PN Session or by contacting the PN Secretariat.

KATINKA ROSENBOM (UNICEF), WORKING GROUP CHAIR

3.1 UNGM LTA Functionalities Enhancement Project Updates
Ali Tahsin Jumah (UNDP)

A presentation was provided on the UNGM LTA Functionalities Enhancement Project, which was launched to support more streamlined, efficient, and collaborative management of LTAs across the UN system.

The project aimed to create a unified, user-friendly system for LTA sharing and functionality enhancements. The initiative was developed under the guidance of the Harmonisation Working Group and was endorsed in March 2024. Following testing by 25 UN staff, the system went live on 1 January 2025.

To support adoption, two global webinars were held on 2–3 April 2025, attracting more than 1,600 registrants. Training materials, recorded sessions, and Q&A documentation have been made available via the UNGM Knowledge Centre and are accessible here.

Key Benefits of UNGM LTA Enhancement:
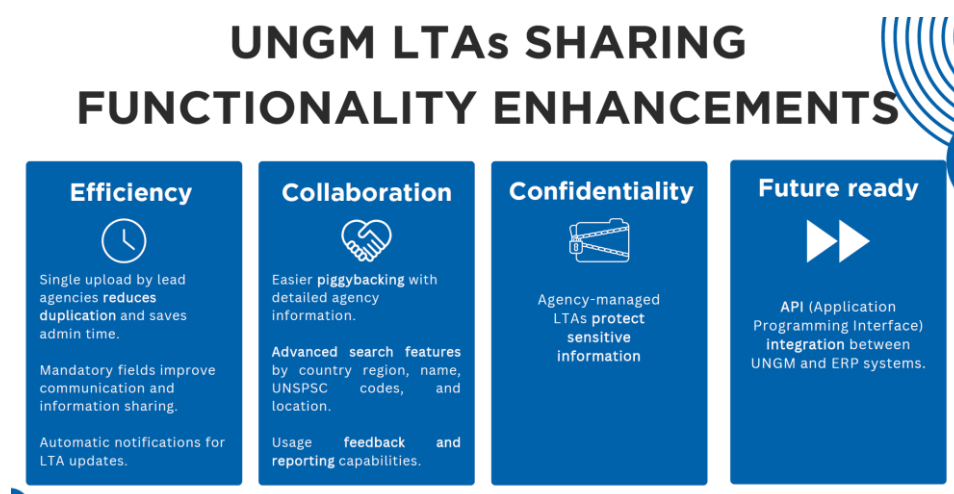
As next steps to strengthen collaborative procurement, the Harmonisation Working Group requested the following areas of support:

- **Procurement Network to promote the use of UNGM LTAs** by all personnel, leveraging the new search capabilities, piggybacking features, and uploading of LTAs to support stronger collaborative procurement practices.
- **Procurement Network to submit additional suggestions** for enhancing LTA utilization and collaborative procurement strategies
- **UNGM to provide biannual updates** to PN on LTA usage and functionality, along with an annual summary of key changes and improvements.
- **UN agencies to actively support collaborative procurement** when approached by lead agencies - highlighting the advantages of improved competitiveness, volume discounts, cost savings, and overall benefits to the UN system.

All documents related to the meeting are available on the HLCM-PN Knowledge Center Workspace on 37th HLCM PN Session or by contacting the PN Secretariat.

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with strong appreciation expressed for the enhancements, clarity of the webinars, and the collaborative effort behind the project's success.

3.2 Strategic Collaborative Category Management

The Chair of the Working Group provided an update on the Strategic Collaborative Category Management (CollabCatMan) initiative, with mention that while initial implementation timelines experienced delays, the initiative has delivered tangible results in key pilot areas - most notably in freight forwarding services, which reached full implementation.

Global Freight Forwarding Services

Procurement Process:
- Expression of Interest published on UNGM on 12 July 2023; closed on 7 August 2023 for prequalification.
- Only companies meeting mandatory criteria and operational capacity were invited to tender.

Tendering & Evaluation:
- Tender issued to prequalified vendors on 12 April 2024; closed on 31 May 2024.
- 11 offers received; 7 vendors successfully passed both technical and commercial evaluations.
- Technical evaluation conducted by a cross-agency panel of 10 members.

LTA & Contract Awards:
- 7 Long Term Agreements awarded for an initial 2-year period, extendable by 3 years + 2 years. Validity of LTAs from 1 December 2024.
- 4 UNICEF contracts awards with Lot Allocations issued to vendors, planned start from June 2025

As part of the next steps to expand impact, the Chair of the Working Group outlined the following priorities:

- Reconnect with pilot category leads to gather updates and identify roadblocks.
- Explore potential new categories for expansion, for example insurance.
- Plan a town hall session for the wider procurement community to socialize the CollabCatMan concept and share materials.
- Finalize a standardized monitoring and reporting format for feedback to PN on category progress and learning.

Despite the particularly intense workload of recent months, the progress made to date was acknowledged as both timely and impactful. There was consensus on the strategic importance of collaborative procurement moving forward, with category management recognized as a critical pillar of future procurement operations across the UN system.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
Summary Sheet - HWG
UNGM LTA enhancement presentation
Harmonisation WG presentation

All documents related to the meeting are available on the HLCM-PN Knowledge Center Workspace on 37th HLCM PN Session or by contacting the PN Secretariat.

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REGINE WEBER (UNICEF), WORKING GROUP CHAIR
NERIS BAEZ GARCIA DE MAZZORA (UN SECRETARIAT), WORKING GROUP VICE-CHAIR
BENJAMIN SAFARI (UNHCR), WORKING GROUP VICE-CHAIR

4.1 Update on current progress and way forward for the Supply Chain Working Group

The Chair of the Working Group provided an update on its ongoing work and the way forward for the newly established group.

She pointed out that the core area of focus this year is improving how agencies plan ahead - particularly around demand forecasting and supply planning. Recognizing that each organization has its own systems, timelines, and engagement models with programme teams, the group agreed to arrange information-sharing sessions on these areas. Presentations will be provided by the UN Secretariat, UNICEF, and PAHO. The group emphasized that the presentations are open to all organizations, regardless of whether they have a supply chain component, as these sessions will offer a valuable opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of demand forecasting and supply planning.

The Working Group also identified that supply chain-related issues intersect with other areas of the Procurement Network's work. In particular, two topics stood out:

- The need for improved vendor management and vetting tools, which could be explored in more depth by the Strategic Vendor Management Working Group.

- The wide range of digitalization efforts underway across agencies which could benefit from focused attention by the Cognitive Working Group (*now renamed: ProcureNextTech Working Group*)

4.2 Update on engagement with ECHO Humanitarian Leadership Group on supply Chain

The Chair of the Working Group, joined by Ignazio Matteini (UNHCR), provided an update on the engagement with the ECHO High-Level Working Group on Supply Chain for the Humanitarian Sector. The initiative, with participation from ECHO, donors, UN agencies, NGOs, and private sector, aims to give supply chain issues greater strategic prominence within humanitarian response.

The group is structured around five thematic areas: environmental sustainability, procurement, digitalization, preparedness and localization. Each theme is being explored through a dedicated workshop with the goal of producing concrete recommendations to be presented at a final conference in December 2025. PN members were asked to contribute to the DG ECHO's survey on procurement and environmental sustainability.

All documents related to the meeting are available on the HLCM-PN Knowledge Center Workspace on 37th HLCM PN Session or by contacting the PN Secretariat.

- **Launched:** on 4 December 2024

- **Participants:** ECHO, donors, NGOs, UN Agencies

- **Objective:** Develop a strategic and coordinated approach to the humanitarian supply chain

- **Structure:** Five Thematic Workshops

- **Final Conference:** December 2025

Supply Chain Workshops (2025)			
Thematic area	**Host**	**Co-leads**	**Date**
Environmental Sustainability	France Lyon	France, UNHCR	12-14 May (back-to-back)
Procurement	France Lyon	WFP, NRC	
Digitalization	WEF Geneva	WEF and Kuehne Foundation (advisory role)	30 June-2 July (TBD)
Preparedness	UNICEF Copenhagen	UNICEF, IFRC	8-11 September (back-to-back) (TBD)
Localization	UNICEF Copenhagen	DRC, UNICEF	

The Chair highlighted the strong alignment between many of these themes and the ongoing work across the UN Procurement Network. There is both a clear opportunity and a pressing need to ensure that the tools, systems, and achievements of the PN are visible and shared with the broader humanitarian community.

Some PN members have expressed interest in joining the initiative and participating in the workshops. Interested parties can reach out to Regine Weber and Anne-Claire Howard, who can facilitate the next steps.

A conversation continued exploring ways to connect the PN with other existing procurement networks, as there's increasing interest in creating opportunities for knowledge exchange, alignment, and joint learning.

The SCWG offered to conduct a mapping exercise to better understand how the various procurement and supply chain working groups across the humanitarian sector are organized and where there are opportunities to collaborate and learn from one another.

PN members expressed their appreciation for the SCWG's collaborative and forward-looking approach. The initiative was welcomed as a timely and practical step toward greater collective impact, demonstrating how collaboration across agencies can strengthen both operational effectiveness and shared learning.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
Summary Sheet Supply Chain WG
Supply Chain WG presentation

5. SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT WORKING GROUP – INFORMATION SESSION

ANNE-CLAIRE HOWARD (UNOPS) & ADENIKE AKOH (UNDP), WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS

5.1 Revision of the Sustainable Procurement Statement

The SP Statement, originally adopted in 2009, is undergoing a significant revision to align with current sustainability standards, frameworks, and UN priorities. A Task Force including UN Women, AFDB, UNDP, UNGM, UNICEF, and UNOPS launched a six-month sprint in August 2024 to revise the statement. The draft is now being shared for feedback across the network.

All documents related to the meeting are available on the HLCM-PN Knowledge Center Workspace on 37th HLCM PN Session or by contacting the PN Secretariat.

Key updates to the statement include:

- Clearly define Sustainable Procurement, its dimensions, and approach.
- Bring up to date with relevant and current themes
- Recall and recognise UN's leadership in sustainability through high-level and managerial commitments.
- Recognise the need to shift from an incremental to context-based approach
- Recognising and acknowledging the importance of risk based and market readiness approaches to SP
- Link SP to the implementation of programmatic activities.

The statement was shared with the PN members, and the goal is to submit the new SP statement for approval at HLCM-PN meeting in October 2025.

5.2 Gender Responsive Procurement (GRP)

The GRP Task Force has resumed its work and is currently developing and updating several tools and resources to support gender-responsive procurement. These include:

- Updated GRP Task Force page on UNGM.
- GRP one-pager, guideline, and common indicators.
- UN Women and CIPS Joint GRP course.
- Certification programme for women-owned and women-led entities.

5.3 Update on Scope 3 Emissions

Significant strides have been made in developing methodologies and tools to address Scope 3 emissions.

General review of existing carbon accounting standards:

The sub-working group held sessions to explore definitions, materiality, and calculation methods for Scope 3 emissions. Members shared current practices, allowing the group to assess alignment and identify gaps.

To support materiality discussions, a simple tool was developed using UNGM spend categories to estimate relevant Scope 3 areas.

Most entities follow the GHG Protocol, though differences in boundaries remain due to varying interpretations and capacities. The group aims to support future alignment in reporting practices.

Third-party assurance:

The sub-working group exchanged experiences on establishing and obtaining third-party assurance for emissions baselines. Two entities have achieved limited assurance. While not mandatory, assurance was seen as valuable for improving carbon accounting and stakeholder engagement.

IPSASB climate-related disclosures

IPSASB are preparing to release a 'climate-related disclosures' standard for public sector bodies, including UN agencies. The advisory group extensively reviewed this proposed

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standard and requirements and provided detailed feedback to FBN on the coherence and feasibility of the reporting standard.

Materiality guidance

The broader advisory group commissioned materiality guidance for Scope 3 reporting. Sub-working group members reviewed it to ensure UN-specific supply chain and procurement perspectives were reflected.

Next steps

The leadership of the sub-working group is currently developing a **companion document** to support UN entities in applying the procurement- and supply chain-relevant chapters of the internationally recognized *Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Standard*. This document will offer **clarifications and context-specific guidance** for carbon accounting within UN operations.

The content is being shaped by feedback and discussions from sub-working group meetings, as well as insights from the **materiality guidance** developed under the broader advisory group.

5.4 Combating Human Trafficking and Forced Labour

The Task Force continues to make solid progress across its workstreams. Key updates include:

- **New Membership:** IDLO has joined the Task Force, represented by Karen McDonald Castillo, further expanding the group's reach and engagement across the international development sector.

- **Capacity Development & Training:** The e-learning course continues to gain traction, with **482 active users** and a **62% completion rate**. The course has now reached participants from **91 countries** and **21 UN organizations**.

- **Supplier Sensitization Initiative:** A concept note was presented in February 2025, and resource development has begun successfully. A work plan has been developed with volunteer lead agencies, and materials will soon be made publicly accessible on the UNGM Supplier Hub.

- **Operational Indicators of Human Trafficking & Forced Labour:** The final document was approved by the Task Force for external publication and will be made available on the **UNGM Knowledge Centre**. The resource is intended to help procurement practitioners identify and mitigate HTFL risks at various points in the procurement cycle.

The Task Force continues its collaborative and practical approach to advancing awareness, prevention, and accountability in addressing human trafficking and forced labour risks across the UN supply chain.

All documents related to the meeting are available on the HLCM-PN Knowledge Center Workspace on 37th HLCM PN Session or by contacting the PN Secretariat.

5.5 Other Ongoing and Future Initiatives

The Working Group is exploring a number of emerging and ongoing initiatives:

- **Sustainable Procurement Indicators:** Consideration of adjusting the number of required indicators for SP-compliant tenders (from three to possibly one or two) to encourage broader participation. Offer UN-wide SP Training on it to increase awareness and consistency.
- **Circularity:** Call for interested agencies to join a task force focused on waste reduction and sustainable resource use.
- **Disability-Inclusive Procurement:** Follow-up on Indicator 8, where only a few agencies are currently meeting the standard.
- **Annual Statistical Report (ASR) SP Content Review:** Ongoing work led by UNOPS and team to ensure SP is accurately and meaningfully represented in UN procurement reporting.

The co-Chairs of the Working Group thank the sub-working groups for their valuable contributions and progress to date.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
Summary Sheet - SP Statement
Sustainable Procurement Statement 2025
Summary Sheet- Task Force for Combating Human Trafficking and Forced Labour
Sustainable Procurement WG presentation

6. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP – INFORMATION SESSION
PRESENTATION OF THE UN PROCUREMENT AWARD WINNERS 2024

TORBEN SOLL (UNDP), WORKING GROUP CHAIR

6.1 Update on UN Procurement Awards 2025

The Chair of the Working Group highlighted that the UN Procurement Awards initiative, launched to celebrate and promote best practices in procurement and supply chain management, has continued to evolve since its inception in 2022. In 2025, a fourth award category was introduced:
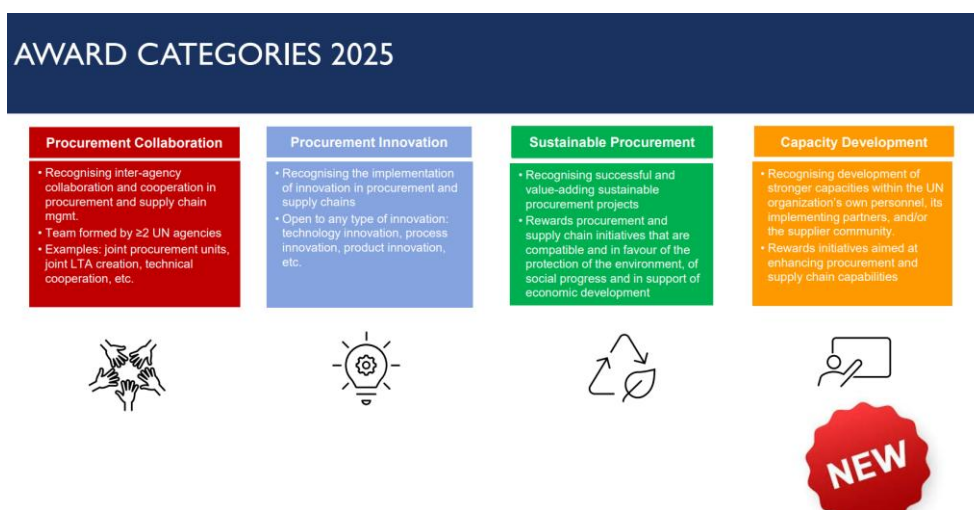
All documents related to the meeting are available on the HLCM-PN Knowledge Center Workspace on 37th HLCM PN Session or by contacting the PN Secretariat.

Each HLCM-PN member organization may submit one nomination per category by May 30, 2025. A shortlist will be announced in August, and winners will be celebrated at the autumn HLCM-PN meeting. More information can be found here: UN Procurement Awards 2025.

The awards are adjudicated by a diverse and impartial jury comprising former UN procurement leaders and independent academic and industry experts.

It was noted that the PDWG leadership is working to better support smaller agencies' participation in the Procurement Awards by providing clearer guidance and application support, while maintaining impartiality and ensuring equal opportunity for all participants.

6.2 Presentation of the UN Procurement Award Winners 2024

At the last PN meeting, the 2024 award winners were announced and it was also confirmed that the winners would be invited to join the current PN session remotely to present their projects. This was warmly received by PN members, who congratulated the teams once again on their achievements.

At the last PN meeting the 2024 award winners were announced as follows:

1. **Category | Sustainable Procurement and Supply:**

Winning project: UNDP "Rising Tides, Rising Solutions: Procurement for Sustainability and Resilience in Tuvalu's Coastal Adaptation Project (TCAP)"

2. **Category | Collaborative Procurement:**

Winning project: UN Secretariat "Provision of Adobe licenses – Modern Workplace for the UN

All documents related to the meeting are available on the HLCM-PN Knowledge Center Workspace on 37th HLCM PN Session or by contacting the PN Secretariat.

3. Category | Procurement and Supply Chain Innovation:

Winning project: UNDP "The DGIT (Digital Governance, Innovation and Transformation) Programme"

More information on the 2024 awards, the winners, and the shortlisted projects can be found here.

6.3 HLCM-PN Training Course Table 2025

The PN was also provided with a summary of the annual update of the HLCM-PN training course tables:

(i)   The PN Training Compendium: a table providing an overview of all procurement training and certification initiatives, which are offered by PN member organisations.

Following the recent update, the number of courses listed has risen to 138 and the number of organisations listed has grown to 26.

(ii) Recommended Procurement Training Courses: a table describing any course that a PN member organisation has used and would recommend to other UN organisations (includes training opportunities offered by PN and non-PN member organisations). The purpose of the table is to highlight courses that have been tried and tested to full satisfaction by an organisation.

Following the recent update, 32 courses are now listed as recommended. The 2025 version of both tables is now available from the UNGM and can be found here.

6.4 Procurement Practitioner's Handbook

The Chair noted that the Working Group maintains the Procurement Practitioner's Handbook, which is currently available in five UN languages. An update to this resource is planned for the coming year.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
Summary Sheet- Professional Development WG
Professional Development WG presentation

All documents related to the meeting are available on the HLCM-PN Knowledge Center Workspace on 37th HLCM PN Session or by contacting the PN Secretariat.

1. UN GLOBAL MARKETPLACE STEERING COMMITTEE BRIEFING – INFORMATION SESSION

BERENICE BESSIERE (WIPO) UNGM STEERING COMMITEE CHAIR
NIELS RAMM (UNOPS) UNGM TEAM LEAD

1.1 Post Factum Financial Report 2024

The Chair presented UNGM's annual report - a reflection on the past year's progress, persistent challenges.

After years of modest surpluses and steady reserve growth, UNGM ended 2024 with a $154,000 deficit - a shift driven largely by declining revenue from its core income stream, the Tender Alert Service (TAS). Despite a 2024 relaunch as "UNGM Pro" with enhanced features, uptake did not meet expectations.

Part of the challenge lies in the broader procurement landscape. Vendors have more platforms to choose from, and the economic context has made paid services harder to sell.

The platform welcomed over 56,000 new vendors, with a continued focus on accessibility and inclusion:

- 86% of vendors are based in developing countries
- 95% are MSMEs
- 16% self-identify as women-owned businesses
- 34% as disability-inclusive vendors

UNGM also saw continued engagement from UN agencies, with 17 organizations integrating their e-procurement and/or ERP systems with the platform.

Meanwhile, the platform processed over 32,000 procurement notices and published 5,500 contract awards - a 22% increase over the previous year. However, concerns remain about underreporting of sustainability criteria (with only 1.1% of notices deemed "sustainable") and limited uptake of contract award and LTA publication functionalities, despite improvements and outreach efforts.

Notices, Awards and LTA publication

32.5K procurement notices published in 2024
- 2% decrease compared to last year (39% of notices generated by Quantum)
- 1.1% of notices deemed sustainable (slight increase over 2023)
- Majority of sustainability criteria in tenders refer to Gender issues
- 78.7% of procurement notices are electronic only increasing by 1% over the previous year after years of growth

5.5K contract awards published in 2024
- 22% increase compared to previous year
- Contract value only represents 1.3B
- UNOPS published the majority of contract awards (66%) in 2024

534 LTAs published in 2024
- -15% compared to the previous year
- UNPD published the majority of LTAs (57%) in 2024

All documents related to the meeting are available on the HLCM-PN Knowledge Center Workspace on 37th HLCM PN Session or by contacting the PN Secretariat.

1.2 Update on UNGM Services

In 2024, the help desk received approximately 18,000 requests. As part of ongoing efforts to improve efficiency, the team participated in a rollout of a new AI-powered ticketing system, which included the implementation of an AI answer bot. During the pilot phase (August to December 2024), the answer bot responded to 5,700 queries

The initial use of the answer bot was free of charge. The vendor has since shifted to a paid model, and the preliminary estimates suggest the cost may reach up to USD 3,000 per month, prompting consideration of whether to proceed with the AI service or to invest in additional staffing, particularly in field locations.

1.3 Key Development Activities 2024

One of the most significant accomplishments of the year was the introduction of **new registration tracks**. Agencies can now register Individual Consultants (going live on 1 May) and Implementing Partners (currently in testing) on UNGM.

Additionally, UNGM implemented several other key development activities. Enhanced the **LTA sharing functionality module** making it easier to upload, manage, and report on long-term agreements. The **Supplier Performance Evaluation tool** was also revised and is undergoing user testing.

A **new membership structure** was implemented, aligning system access with participation level and welcoming new participants such as Interpol, the Council of Europe, and the Council of Europe Development Bank.

To improve **visibility and user experience**, UNGM introduced a new logo, redesigned homepage, and expanded its presence on LinkedIn.

UNGM also restructured its **Knowledge Centre**, supported **outreach and training** in Kenya, Jordan, Afghanistan, Ukraine, and Estonia, and began **delivering vendor and due diligence data** to regional Contractor Information Systems (CIMS) in Sudan, Somalia, and Afghanistan. Additionally, it developed the hosting environment for the UN's new **online course on human trafficking**.

1.4 Planned developments for 2025

Looking ahead, UNGM has a pipeline of initiatives planned for 2025 and beyond:

2025 Development Pipeline

In the short and medium term, the following development initiatives will be addressed:

- **Eligibility Sanctioning module adjustment –** adjustment of the vendor registration status for non-sanctioning agencies

- **On-line Global Pharma tool –** proposed by **WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNOPS, UNFPA, and UNHCR,** pharmaceutical product validation tool.

- **Sherloc Data base –** linking UNGM to the SHERLOC portal that facilitates the dissemination of information regarding the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The data base contains information of companies/individuals that have been convicted of Human trafficking and slave labour crimes. (proposed by UNODC)

- **Data warehouse –** to further develop and future-proof UNGM's dashboards and reporting capabilities.

- **UNGM Next-Gen deliverables**

All documents related to the meeting are available on the HLCM-PN Knowledge Center Workspace on 37th HLCM PN Session or by contacting the PN Secretariat.

1.5 Financial Sustainability Task Force

At the 36th HLCM Procurement Network Session in Nairobi (October 2024), UNGM Members supported the creation of a Financial Sustainability Task Force - composed of representatives from IAEA, ILO, ITU, PAHO, UNDP, UNPD, WHO, and WIPO - to address the urgent need for a sustainable funding model and to prepare a resource plan for 2026 and beyond.

The Task Force has developed two proposed funding models that aim to align with Member expectations while safeguarding UNGM's long-term viability. To support this process, an information package is being prepared and will be reviewed by the Task Force before dissemination. Information on individual KPIs for each organization will also be shared. A decision-making meeting is scheduled for late May, where Member agencies will be invited to formally agree on a path forward.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
Summary Sheet - UNGM Steering Committee
2024 UNGM Operational Report
UNGM Steering Committee presentation

2. EXCHANGE ON DONOR CONDITIONALITIES – DISCUSSION SESSION

Stephen Farrell (UNOG)
Elisabeth Eckerstrom (UNDP)

The chair informed PN members that, following discussions at the previous PN meeting and significant advancement through the HLCM, donor conditionalities have been recognized as a systemic challenge impacting both procurement and programmatic areas. At its April session, the HLCM addressed the increasing trend of donors attaching restrictive conditions to funding, sometimes conflicting with the UN's financial frameworks and operational principles.

In response, the HLCM is establishing a **Rapid Response Mechanism to Donor Conditionalities**, designed to enable swift information-sharing, coordinate agency responses, and maintain a consistent UN-wide approach to managing donor requirements. Agencies encountering significant or challenging funding conditions will refer cases to the Mechanism for rapid assessment and recommended action, helping preserve the UN's operational independence and coherence across entities.

The draft Terms of Reference for the Mechanism were shared with PN members during the session. However, it was noted that no prior consultation or opportunity for comments had been provided to the PN. Members emphasized the importance of having the opportunity to provide input on the document before its endorsement by the CEB.

Following this update, PN members continued an active discussion, sharing recent experiences and concerns on donor conditionalities. Participants noted the increasing pressure from donors to impose conditions on funding, including requirements to use donor-specific procurement rules, to favour suppliers from certain countries, or to avoid suppliers from others.

Members highlighted the challenges these conditionalities pose to the UN system's independence and efficiency of its operations. Several examples were shared, such as demands for procurement data linking funding contributions to national suppliers and donor expectations associated with tied aid arrangements. Concerns were also raised about the risks

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of fragmented responses among agencies, as well as the pressure on procurement functions to approve conditions quickly under tight deadlines.

An informal working group was proposed to contribute practical input on procurement-related conditionalities ahead of the finalization of the Rapid Response Mechanism, which is expected to be endorsed at the upcoming CEB session. Interested members are invited to reach out to Elisabeth Eckerstrom (UNDP).

Members agreed that it is critical to find balanced approaches that uphold UN principles while responding flexibly to donor expectations when appropriate.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
Terms of Reference for a Rapid Response Mechanism to Donor Conditionalities

3. ASR GOVERNANANCE – INFORMATION SESSION

Anne-Claire Howard (UNOPS)

The Annual Statistical Report on United Nations Procurement (ASR) provides an overview of procurement across the UN system in support of its operations and programmes. First presented in 1984 by UNDP's IAPSO, the report was endorsed by the General Assembly in Resolution 39/220, which called for regular reporting and broad participation. Since the IAPSO/UNOPS partial merger in 2008, the HLCM Procurement Network assigned responsibility for compiling the ASR to UNOPS, which now coordinates the process and manages the data centrally.

Anne-Claire Howard (UNOPS) provided an informational update on the formalization of governance structures related to the ASR. This initiative responds to recurring requests from the UNBOA, where the absence of a clearly documented governance framework for the ASR has led to repeated demands for access to raw data from all participating agencies.

In response, UNOPS has compiled a consolidated ASR Data Governance document. This document does not introduce new procedures but rather formalizes and centralizes existing practices already described in the ASR methodology and related documents. It is intended to provide a clear reference for agencies, allowing for consistent and informed responses to audit-related inquiries while reinforcing the confidentiality of submitted data and the continued ownership of each agency over its data.

In closing, support was expressed for the initiative, and its timely implementation, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a clear and consistent position on data ownership and access rights.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
Summary Sheet - ASR Governance
ASR Governance
ASR Data Governance presentation

All documents related to the meeting are available on the HLCM-PN Knowledge Center Workspace on 37th HLCM PN Session or by contacting the PN Secretariat.

4. PROGRESS UPDATE: HLCM TASK FORCE REVIEW OF UNICC– INFORMATION SESSION

> Elisabeth Eckerstrom (UNDP)

Elisabeth Eckerstrom provided the PN with an update on the progress of the HLCM Task Force conducting a review of the governance and legal structure of UNICC, as well as business challenges and opportunities. The Task Force began its work in November, organizing itself into two workstreams: one on the operational model and governance, led by Hans Baritt (UNHCR), and the other on legal and procurement matters, led by Elisabeth.

A survey was conducted to collect feedback from agencies on their engagement with UNICC, with findings informing the review process. A preliminary status report was presented to the HLCM in April 2025, and the Task Force is continuing its review of UNICC's contracting practices, costing model, legal structure, and the mechanisms through which agencies procure services from UNICC.

The final report and recommendations are expected to be submitted for consideration by the HLCM at its October 2025 session. The objective of the review is to ensure that engagement with UNICC is streamlined, transparent, and aligned with procurement best practices, while maintaining operational efficiency across the system.

Agencies with significant reliance on UNICC services who wish to engage further in the discussions were encouraged to express their interest to Elisabeth.

5. HLCM SURVEY ON FAR-REACHING EFFICIENCY MEASURES – DISCUSSION SESSION

> Stephen Farrell (UNOG)

The Chair of the Procurement Network presented the 22 initiatives identified through the HLCM survey on far-reaching efficiency measures. These initiatives were analyzed, merged, or combined where possible, and mapped to key areas of intervention. The aim is to enhance operational effectiveness, streamline processes, and improve resource utilization within the UN system.

The Chair briefly talked through each of the initiatives and discussed in more detail the five initiatives related to procurement that was presented at the HLCM Meeting.

P1: Next Generation Procurement Framework — Focuses on improved and shared category management, expanding the use of LTAs, and improving existing platforms such as Web Buy and UNGM.

P2: Joint Procurement for Common User Items — Aims to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of procurement activities across UN agencies by leveraging economies of scale, reducing duplication of efforts, and improving supplier relationships

P3: Integrated ICT Procurement and Shared Software Catalogue — Proposes centralized procurement of major ICT services and licenses (e.g., Microsoft, Google) to achieve significant cost savings and operational efficiencies.

All documents related to the meeting are available on the HLCM-PN Knowledge Center Workspace on 37th HLCM PN Session or by contacting the PN Secretariat.

P4: Standard Contract Templates Platform — Calls for streamlining the use of OLA-cleared standard contract templates to reduce legal inconsistencies and facilitate smoother procurement processes across entities.

P5: Comprehensive Insurance Management for the UN System — This proposal aims to enhance operational efficiency, reduce costs, and improve risk management across the UN system by centralizing insurance management and claims handling for supply chain insurance, commercial insurance, and health insurance for non-UN staff personnel.

The Chair noted that these initiatives were drafted by the HLCM Secretariat based on survey feedback, without prior consultation with the PN, and while some definitions were imprecise, the broader concepts received support from HLCM members.

The Chair of the Procurement Network also presented a document summarizing the initial commitments by organizations to lead, participate in, or request further information on the 22 efficiency initiatives. It was noted that lead organizations are expected to prepare an action plan, including a feasibility assessment, resource requirements, and a high-level implementation plan, within three weeks.

Table: Preliminary commitments by organizations to lead, participate in, or request further information on the HLCM far-reaching efficiency initiatives (as of 4 April 2025).

Procurement-related initiatives

	Initiative name	Leading Organisation(s)	Participating Organisations	Organisations seeking more information
P1	Next Generation Procurement Framework	UN; UNOPS; UNICEF	ICAO; IFAD; UNFCCC; UNEP; UNRWA; FAO; UNFPA; WMO; UNESCO	UNSSC; UN HABITAT; ILO; IMF; UNAIDS
P2	Joint Procurement for Common User Items	UNDP; UN; UNFPA	ICAO; IFAD; FAO; WFP; UNOPS; UNICEF; IOM; WMO; UNESCO	UNSSC; WIPO; UN HABITAT; ITU; ILO
P3	Integrated ICT Procurement and Shared Software Catalogue	UNDP; UN	ICAO; IFAD; UNFCCC; UNHCR; UNEP; UNSSC; WFP; UNOPS; UNICEF; IOM; UNFPA; WMO; UNESCO	ITU; WIPO; FAO; UN HABITAT; UPU; IMF; UN AIDS
P4	Standard Contract Templates platform	UN; UNICEF	UNRWA; UNOPS; UNFPA; WMO	UNFCCC; WIPO; ITU
P5	Comprehensive Insurance Management for the UN System	UN	WFP; UNOPS; UNICEF; UNFPA	UNRWA; FAO; IOM

Through intensive discussion, members acknowledged that the Procurement Network has already undertaken significant work to support collaborative initiatives and mechanisms. They agreed on the importance of building confidence by highlighting these achievements, while also accelerating ongoing efforts, and leveraging recent progress, and at the same time remaining mindful of the differing modalities across organizations.

The aim of the discussion was to enable Procurement Network members, in their individual capacities, to better understand the procurement-related initiatives and develop informed positions to share proactively with their organizational principals. The session provided an opportunity to explore ideas, foster collective understanding, and support future collaboration.

All documents related to the meeting are available on the HLCM-PN Knowledge Center Workspace on 37th HLCM PN Session or by contacting the PN Secretariat.

It was emphasized that while the Network has not been formally tasked with providing an action plan, the discussions would help members advise their respective principals in a way that supports coordinated efforts across the UN system.

6. APPLICATIONS FOR PN MEMBERSHIP – DECISION SESSION

Stephen Farrel (UNOG), PN Chair

Membership applications have been received from UNITAR and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB).

As the Procurement Network is currently undergoing a governance review—which may impact the structure and criteria for future membership—the Chair proposed that no new membership decisions be made at this time.

Accordingly, both UNITAR's and ICGEB's applications are currently on hold pending the outcome of the governance review. Applicants will be informed of this status, and the Network will revisit their requests once the review has concluded.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
UNITAR Application form for HLCM PN Membership
ICGEB - Application for HLCM PN Membership
ICGEB - Additional information

AOB

1. Election of the new PN Vice Chair

At the session, Neris Mercedes Baez Garcia de Mazzora (UN Secretariat) was elected by consensus as the new Vice Chair of the Procurement Network. Members expressed strong support for Neris' nomination, highlighting her extensive experience and longstanding contributions to the Network. Anne-Claire Howard (UNOPS) will now transition into the Chair role.

Stephen Farrell stepped down from his role as Advisory Chair in accordance with the Procurement Network's Statute, which specifies that no HLCM member organization may have more than one representative on the Management Board. As Neris Mercedes Baez Garcia de Mazzora, from the same organization (UN Secretariat), was nominated and elected as the new Vice Chair, Stephen confirmed his readiness to step aside to comply with this governance rule.

He was warmly thanked by members for his exceptional leadership as Vice Chair and later as Chair, particularly during a period of significant transition and challenges. Members praised his organizational skills, dedication, and positive impact on the work of the Procurement Network.

In addition, it was noted that Angela Kastner has been asked to continue in her role as Advisory Chair to provide continuity and support to the new leadership team. It was also confirmed that Frederic Farschi will continue serving as Secondary Advisory Chair.

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The incoming Vice Chair and the current leadership committed to guiding the Network through the upcoming transformation into the Supply Chain Network while preserving the strength and collaborative spirit that have been key to the PN's success.

As a result of the election, the Procurement Network Management Board is composed as follows:
Chair Anne-Claire Howard (Director, Procurement Group, UNOPS)
Vice-Chair Neris Mercedes Baez Garcia de Mazzora (Director Procurement Division, UN Secretariat)
Advisory Chair Angela Kastner (Director, Procurement & Supply Services, WHO)
2nd Advisory Chair Frederic Farschi (Chief Procurement Officer, ICC)

2. Future meetings

It was confirmed that the next PN meeting is scheduled for 7–9 October 2025 in Budapest, hosted by UNHCR and WHO. However, the format of the meeting (virtual, in-person, or hybrid) will be decided by the new Management Board.

Regarding the venue for the spring 2026 meeting, members agreed to postpone the decision until after the October meeting, given the ongoing transition to the Supply Chain Network and uncertainties regarding the future composition and format of meetings.

All documents related to the meeting are available on the HLCM-PN Knowledge Center Workspace on 37th HLCM PN Session or by contacting the PN Secretariat.