

**TUNIS DECLARATION  
ON PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REFORM IN AFRICA  
SUSTAINING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND  
POVERTY REDUCTION**

**17 November 2009**

**We**, Representatives of African countries, bilateral and multilateral development institutions, regional organizations and other participants in the High Level Forum on Public Procurement Reforms in Africa, organized by the African Development Bank and its Partners;

**Recalling** the commitments taken at the Abidjan Public Procurement Conference in 1998 to reform national procurement systems, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals to halve poverty between 1990 and 2015, the March 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the September 2008 Accra Agenda and the commitments to strengthen and use national systems, in particular procurement systems, and the International reference framework for quality and systems performance evaluation (OECD/DAC);

**Recognizing** the importance of past achievements since the 1998 Abidjan Conference and also the need to consolidate the reforms and promote a multi-sector and participatory approach, mainstreaming public procurement into all State reforms in order to improve their economic impact, particularly in innovative sectors;

**We, Representatives of States**, convinced that public procurement efficiency and transparency is crucial for sustainable socio-economic development, undertake to:

1. **Consolidate**, continue and intensify existing public procurement reforms to enhance their efficiency, effectiveness and transparency, with emphasis on capacity building for institutions and all stakeholders and on systems integrity, in order to boost good governance and the performance of public finances, and thus achieve better quality services for the population and alleviate poverty;
2. **Preserve** achievements by defining autonomous financing mechanisms necessary to ensure the sustainability of reforms;
3. **Promote** the equitable participation of all stakeholders and, in particular, the civil society and private sector, by building their capacity;
4. **Continue** improving the business environment to facilitate access by the private sector, especially small and medium local enterprises to public procurement;
5. **Improve** the economic impact of public contracts, by promoting second-generation public procurement reforms involving all relevant economic sectors (justice, public service, finance, etc.).

6. **Mandate** regional institutions to take into account the modernization of public procurement as part of their strategic priorities.

**We, Representatives of the private sector and civil society**, recognizing the efforts still needed to provide more effective responses to public procurement objectives in terms of cost-effectiveness, we commit to:

For the private sector,

1. **Structure and organize ourselves** to better contribute to public procurement performance;
2. **Mobilize** local businesses and help build their capacity for improved competitiveness and more effective participation in public procurement at national, regional and international levels in order to foster job creation;
3. **Ensure** compliance with integrity standards and measures taken to enhance monitoring by the civil society.

For the civil society:

**Contribute** to improving the efficiency of public spending by maintaining civic vigilance and help promote anti-fraud and anti-corruption reforms by building our capacity.

**We, Representatives of regional institutions**, recognizing the key role of regional institutions in promoting the capitalization and sharing of technical knowledge, the development of common strategies and integration of national systems and practices, pledge to include the modernization of procurement as a strategic priority of our mandate and within this framework, namely to:

1. **Contribute** to better harmonization of public procurement standards and procedures to promote integration and development of regional common markets;
2. **Put in place** multilateral monitoring and surveillance mechanisms to ensure convergence and effective harmonization of public procurement systems;
3. **Support and foster** the capacity building of all stakeholders in this domain, including the private sector and civil society.

**We, Representatives of States, the private sector and civil society and regional institutions**, commit to create and establish an African stakeholders' network to mobilize stakeholders, facilitate information exchange, pool experiences and promote second-generation public procurement reforms.

**We, the African Development Bank and Development Partners**, aware that the current global economic crisis has an impact on African countries and makes it

imperative for all States to better manage their financial resources, especially public procurement to enhance growth and reduce poverty, undertake to:

1. **Support** reform and establish effective financing and resource mobilization mechanisms for their implementation;
2. **Establish** a joint mechanism for the performance evaluation of national procurement systems towards their effective use thereof in development assistance;
3. **Support** the implementation of second-generation reforms through modernization of procurement systems within the broader framework of socio-economic and financial reforms of States.