



2014 Agenda

19 November | ILO, Room III | Geneva

The topic of discussion for this year's CSR roundtable is public procurement policies as a mechanism for fostering sustainable and responsible business conduct. Government procurement typically comprises 10 -15 per cent of a country's GDP; the annual EU procurement budget is 1 trillion euros. Public authorities (municipalities, districts, federal governments and inter-governmental bodies) are increasingly focusing on how to incorporate social and environmental criteria in tendering procedures. Historically, the main challenge for responsible and sustainable public procurement has been trade-related legal obstacles. More recently, attention has shifted to identifying practical ways to ensure compliance with the sustainability provisions stipulated in tenders spanning a vast range of goods and services being purchased. Considerations include: how to balance potentially competing public policies shaping government procurement; how to verify compliance in a transparent, reliable and cost-efficient manner; and how to ensure that inclusion of sustainability criteria does not disproportionately burden SMEs. Furthermore, much of traditional public procurement for public goods and services is now done through public-private partnerships, raising questions of how to structure PPPs to ensure that they contribute as much as possible to the economic and social development objectives of the countries concerned.

- 9:30 – 10:00 Registration and morning Coffee
- 10:00 – 10:30 Opening comments and introduction of moderator, Ambassador Roderick van Schreven, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations and the World Trade Organisation in Geneva.
- 10:30 – 12:00 **Session 1: Frameworks for promoting responsible and sustainable public procurement**
- 12:00 – 13:30 Lunch
- 13:30 – 15:00 **Session 2: Challenges in implementation and lessons from private procurement**
- 15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break
- 15:30 – 17:30 **Session 3: Experiences in designing PPPs for public goods or services**
- 17:30 – 17:45 Wrap up and closing comments