



# **The University of World Economy and Diplomacy**

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## **SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT POLICY**

**Tashkent-2024**

## **Sustainable Procurement Policy of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy**

### **I. General Provisions**

The purpose of this Sustainable Procurement Policy (*hereinafter – the Policy*) is to create an effective system for supplying the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (*hereinafter – the University / UWED*) with goods, works, and services. Procurement is carried out on the basis of the principles of sustainability, transparency, and fairness in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The University's sustainable procurement policy is aimed at reducing environmental impact, supporting supply chains based on ethical principles, efficient resource management and raising a responsible generation. Preference is given to goods and services that comply with the principles of sustainable development, contain a minimum amount of harmful substances and have a reduced carbon footprint. UWED, based on international experience, supports the principles of a circular economy and rational use of resources.

### **II. Scope**

This policy applies to all departments, faculty, staff, and suppliers involved in the procurement of goods and services, including stationery, IT equipment, furniture, construction materials, catering services, and other operational needs of the university.

### **III. Basic principles of sustainable procurement**

**1. Integration of sustainable development principles.** A balance between economic, social, and environmental components is ensured when making purchases. When making decisions on purchases, clear sustainability criteria are established, and preference is given to goods and services that comply with national and international sustainable development standards.

**2. Legality and Transparency.** All procurement activities are conducted in strict compliance with the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The procurement process is designed to be open, competitive, and transparent. Preference is given to suppliers who demonstrate adherence to principles of

legality, environmental sustainability, ethical business practices, and transparency.

**3. Environmental sustainability.** The University prioritizes the procurement of goods and services that minimize environmental impact, adhering to energy efficiency standards and utilizing renewable energy sources. The university is committed to supporting a circular economy by preferentially procuring recycled or recyclable products, reducing waste, and implementing paperless technologies. Preference is given to energy- and water-efficient products manufactured from renewable or biodegradable materials. The university is reducing the consumption of single-use plastics and excessive packaging, prioritizing bulk purchasing, biodegradable alternatives, and reusable items. Products carrying recognized environmental certifications are given preference. Suppliers demonstrating a commitment to sustainable practices, including the use of environmentally friendly materials, low-carbon logistics, and renewable energy, are strongly encouraged.

**4. Social and ethical responsibility.** The University ensures safe working conditions and adherence to all relevant labor and environmental regulations. We are committed to principles of social equity and fairness. Preference is given to local suppliers, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including women-owned businesses and local producers. Procurement planning considers the needs of all staff, faculty, and students, including those with disabilities, through the provision of assistive technologies and materials as needed. Strict adherence to anti-corruption policies and conflict-of-interest protocols is maintained.

**5. Sustainable procurement of food products.** Preference is given to local, organic and seasonal products to reduce the carbon content of goods.

**6. Procurement of IT equipment and technologies.** Special attention is paid to reducing the volume of electronic waste by purchasing refurbished and modernized equipment.

#### **IV. Implementation, compliance monitoring and accountability**

Sustainable development principles are integrated into tender documentation, supplier contracts, and procurement requests across all University departments.

An annual sustainability audit is conducted to assess the impact of procurement activities and identify areas for improvement.

The results of work on sustainable procurement are reflected in the university's sustainability reports.

Measures are in place to prevent fraud and abuse, ensuring the responsible use of University funds and incorporating international best practices in procurement.

Systems for monitoring and evaluating sustainable procurement are developed, their effectiveness is reported and mechanisms for their analysis are introduced. Results and achievements in the field of sustainable procurement are monitored and documented.

Training programs and seminars on sustainable procurement and anti-corruption measures are provided for all staff involved in procurement processes. Educational programs focusing on sustainable procurement and environmentally sound practices are implemented.

## **V. Exceptions**

Exceptions to this policy are permitted when sustainable alternatives are not available, are not economically feasible, or do not meet operational requirements. The rationale must be documented and supported by accounting department.

## **VI. Review and Improvement**

This policy will be reviewed as necessary to ensure compliance with modern sustainable development practices, technological changes, and new regulatory requirements and new standards (*Sustainable Development Goals, Net Zero*).