

# MANIFEST SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT



SDG Nederland



GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE  
ENTERPRISE SYSTEM



MVI Platform



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# INTRODUCTION

Dutch businesses spend more than 400 billion euros annually on products and services. By purchasing sustainably, companies can make a huge impact to address today's pressing issues, as defined by the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations.

When companies use this collective purchasing power to steer toward global goals, they develop a demand for sustainable products. They thus encourage suppliers to develop greener and more social products and services. Hence, organizations can use the procurement function to influence sustainability in the 'here and now' as well as 'later and elsewhere'. The more organizations choose to do this, the closer we will come to achieving the SDGs and our own sustainability goals.

Companies also have an interest in mapping and measuring their own sustainability goals. As of 2024, the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) will come into force requiring large companies to report on the impact of their activities on people and the environment, including the supply chain. The impact of organizations is largely a large part in the value created and thus in the value purchased. By asking questions based on the SDGs, you can work towards a future-proof procurement organization. By participating in the manifesto sustainable procurement your procurement organization can also comply with the CSRD legislation (reporting on the value chain) and upcoming legislation such as IMVO (supply chain responsibility for companies within The Netherlands).

## Sustainable Procurement is Sustainable Purchasing and Engagement

The ISO 20400 standard defines sustainable procurement as procurement with the most positive environmental, social, and economic effects possible throughout the full life cycle. The English term 'sustainable procurement' covers both purchasing from suppliers in the chain as well as commissioning from one's own organization. In other words, "procurement" includes both the procurement process and the entire procurement function, which is carried out by different people in an organization. In the business world, both processes can be assigned to the same people (procurers). Because this manifesto covers both the procurement side and the commissioning side, we use the English term 'sustainable procurement'.

## Goal of the Manifesto

The purpose of this manifesto is to provide support to both principals as well as purchase managers and procurement professionals who want to make the choice for further sustainability in their organization and want to encourage sustainable production in their suppliers. By connecting these roles in a shared procurement ambition of the organization, the moving towards a sustainable procurement chain becomes a joint endeavor rather than an individual task on top of organizational goals.

With this manifesto, companies, and semi-public institutions, through their procurement activities contribute to the SDGs related to their own organizational goals. They also strive to minimize negative impact on the remaining SDGs. The manifesto invites organizations that are already advanced in sustainable procurement or general



sustainability policies, as well as organizations that want to take a first step or to accelerate. The manifesto asks signatories ("Parties") to come up with a concrete action plan that describes how to contribute to a forward movement on the SDGs through the procurement function contributed, and to join with other signatories to form a movement that will inspire and encourage other stakeholders to continue to accelerate procurement of sustainable products and services.

Continue to accelerate. To support the community of Parties of the Sustainable Procurement manifesto, information resources, tools, and guidance for sustainable procurement from various organizations are collected and shared through the website. The initiators and supporting parties also help the Parties to draw up an action plan and/or monitoring through meetings, workshops, and webinars.

By uniting the Parties in one unified movement, we will:

1. Formulate shared needs and interests in joint advocacy, to prevent barriers in sustainable procurement and/or build support for solutions.
2. Execute practical interventions that contribute to the transition to sustainable procurement and find here jointly find the implementation power for this.
3. Formulate joint sustainability criteria and approaches for different products, sectors, and chains, to arrive at a more unambiguous demand for suppliers in the field sustainability..

### **The Sustainable Procurement Manifesto for companies is an extension to the MVOI Manifesto for the public sector in the Netherlands**

The Sustainable Procurement Manifesto for companies and semi-public institutions is the private extension of the Manifesto for Socially Responsible Contracting and Procurement (MVOI) manifesto for the public sector, which was adopted on November 24, 2022, by the Dutch Secretary of State for Infrastructure and Water Management, all ministries and many local governments was signed. These two manifestos are interconnected and support each other by responding on two sides to the major impact that commissioning parties, both public and private, have on the sustainability status of the Netherlands.

## **ABOUT THE INITIATORS**

The Sustainable Procurement Manifesto is an initiative of SDG Netherlands, Global Sustainable Enterprise System and the SDG12 Alliance coordinator, and is supported by: MVO Nederland, Nevi, Intrakoop and MVI Platform

The process and text of this manifesto was developed with the support of the 17 SDG Alliance coordinators and the steering committee of SDG Netherlands, professional and industry associations, and other organizations from the field of sustainability and procurement. In this composition of parties, and the thousands of companies in their constituency, we can establish cross-sector and cross-border sustainable procurement as the new standard.

All initiators and supporting parties participate in the Sustainable Procurement Manifesto out of their belief in the importance of sustainable procurement. None of these parties have a direct or indirect commercial interest in this initiative.

# **THE MANIFESTO'S APPROACH**

Each organization has its own starting point: ambitions, financial capabilities, monitoring and measurement methods, and influence on the supply chain may vary. The agreements in this manifesto are aimed at ensuring that Parties make progress with sustainable procurement, regardless of how much experience they already have. Two steps are important: drawing up an action plan and monitoring it.

### **Draw up an action plan**

Parties draw up their own action plan and keep it up to date. This will include at least:

1. Explained the SDGs on which the Party wants to make an impact through sustainable procurement;
2. Which product groups or supply chains will contribute to this;
3. How the progress and achieved impact will be monitored;
4. How negative impact on the other SDGs will be identified and minimized.

For an effective action plan, it is important that there is support within the organization and sufficient time and resources are made available to realize the ambitions. The website ([sustainable-procurement.nl](https://sustainable-procurement.nl)) provides resources, tools and guidance that can help with this. can help. Furthermore, peer-learning and knowledge exchange is stimulated through meetings of the Sustainable Procurement community, such as webinars and workshops.

### **The baseline measurement and monitoring**

The baseline measurement is important for securing sustainable procurement in the organization. What we already do in sustainable procurement must be retained or expanded and what we lack in practice should be identified. The baseline measurement is often a prerequisite for awareness, ongoing commitment and steering for results. One of the free scans for this is [www.webtooliso20400.nl](https://www.webtooliso20400.nl), which can also be completed in English. The progress on the action plan is monitored and results can be recorded in the annual CSRD or corporate social responsibility report. An organization's impact can then be verified, validated and/or certified by an independent assessment or audit is then a next step in countering, for example, so-called 'greenwashing'. On the website of the manifesto there are several tools offered to get started with monitoring, measuring, and reporting.

### **Connecting to initiatives**

Parties can also choose to (continue to) link up with various current sector or theme-oriented initiatives, such as the various IMVO covenants, 'Climate neutral and circular infrastructure', 'Emission-free construction site' and 'Future proof'. These types of initiatives can be further strengthened with a practical focus on procurement. For Parties, these are certainly opportunities to achieve greater impact on various SDGs. Sharing the knowledge and experience with the other Parties, also between different sectors and product chains, are an important driver behind this manifesto.

# MANIFESTO

## Principle 1 Definitions

1. Sustainable Procurement according to ISO20400: procurement (and commissioning) with the most positive environmental, social, and economic impacts possible throughout the full life cycle.
2. Parties: private and semi-public organizations (this can also include government-affiliated organizations such as the education sector, healthcare sector, special sector companies, etc.) that have signed this manifesto and are taking on an accelerating role towards their own and other organizations to apply sustainable procurement.

## Principle 2 Purpose and commitment of the manifesto

1. The purpose of this manifesto is for Parties to unite to, through their procurement and procurement, to make a strong contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to support the Parties in doing so.
2. Parties develop sustainable procurement in their own organization, on their prioritized SDGs, with growing ambition.
3. By signing this manifesto, Parties intend to share the knowledge and experience with sustainable procurement with the other Parties.
4. By signing this Manifesto, Parties undertake to draw up a Sustainable Procurement action plan and to monitor it.

## Principle 3 Sustainable Procurement Action Plans

1. Within a reasonable time, but no later than one year after the signing of this Manifesto, draw up a Sustainable Procurement Action Plan for their own organization. They keep it up to date and update it annually.
2. Where possible, parties shall involve in the drafting and/or updating of the action plan directors, board, managers, principals, policy, budget holders, purchasers, contract managers and other relevant parties within their organizations. This contributes to the setting of ambitious and achievable goals and to support within the organization. In the Action Plan, Parties lay down for their own organizations which levels of ambition to be pursued for each of the social objectives, the actions that will be carried out and how much time and budget will be made available for this.
3. In the Action Plan, Parties shall record for their own organization the focus SDGs, their own organizational goals and/or ambition levels will be pursued, which actions will be carried out to this end and how much time and budget, if any, will be released for this purpose.

4. Parties shall make their action plan, competition-sensitive information excluded, Parties shall actively disclose their action plan, excluding competitively sensitive information, through their own communication channels and/or via the manifesto website ([sustainableprocurement.nl](https://sustainableprocurement.nl)).

## Principle 4 Monitoring and reporting

1. Parties report on sustainable procurement through their own CRSD if they are obliged to do so by law. Reporting can also be done voluntarily through their own annual Sustainability Report and/or appropriate platforms. Reporting on the procurement part will in any case always be shared through the website ([sustainable-procurement.nl](https://sustainable-procurement.nl)).
2. To this end, parties will monitor annually the progress of the implementation of their action plan and the results achieved, using process and/or effect monitoring. Parties choose which monitoring system to use.
3. Based on the monitoring, Parties will provide a look ahead to the coming year, in which the action plan is updated on the intended ambitions and related actions.
4. Tooling can be used to measure the process and effect, as described on the website ([sustainable-procurement.nl](https://sustainable-procurement.nl))

#### **Principle 5 Actions from the initiators and supporting parties**

1. The initiators and supporting parties ensure that information is available via the website (sustainable-procurement.nl) for the purpose of monitoring, reporting, knowledge sharing, collaboration and joint advocacy
2. The initiators shall facilitate the formulation of joint needs and agenda setting by the Parties.
3. The initiators shall facilitate as much as possible practical interventions necessary to promote the transition to sustainable procurement within their operating territories.
4. The initiators of the manifesto will monitor its progress using the available action plans, ambitions and data from the monitoring, and where necessary take actions to stimulate, support and question Parties.

#### **Principle 6 Enforceability**

1. The agreements in this manifesto are not legally enforceable.

#### **Principle 7 Compatibility with laws and regulations**

1. The agreements in this manifesto shall be interpreted and implemented in accordance with international law, the European Union law if applicable and the relevant national law. The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights are also part of the foundational frameworks.
2. The implementation of the initiatives and intentions as included in this manifesto may never be in conflict with international law, European Union law (if applicable) nor the national law, in particular insofar as the agreements fall under the operation of European and national competition law, state aid law and procurement law.
3. If there is reason to do so on the basis of developments in national, European and international law, standards and frameworks, the Parties shall consult with each other about amending the Manifesto.

#### **Principle 8 Accession to the Manifesto**

1. New Parties may join the Manifesto for the duration of its validity by making a written request via the Manifesto website.
2. The initiators shall decide on accession on the basis of the following criteria:
  - a. The Party pledges to the ambitions and relevant provisions of this manifesto;
  - b. The Party can contribute through its activities to the objectives of this manifesto;

c. There are no reasons to doubt the integrity or good intentions of the Party.

3. Any Party may terminate this manifesto in writing at any time.

#### **Principle 9 Entry into force and duration**

1. This Manifesto shall enter into force from the day after it is signed by the Party.
2. All agreements mentioned in this Manifesto shall be acted upon as soon as possible, or within the time period specified in this Manifesto.