







## **Supply chain**

The Administration wishes to clarify that, as stated under “COVID impact on internal controls” above, the EPP were activated in March 2020 to ensure availability and the provision of necessary goods and services to client entities in a timely manner while maintaining appropriate controls. The Administration reiterates that this was reported in a transparent manner in full compliance with the relevant framework provided for in the United Nations Procurement Manual. Moreover, the United Nations Secretariat has taken additional steps towards enhancing transparency, for example, details on the award of contracts and purchase orders made by all Secretariat entities are now accessible via the United Nations Procurement Division (UNPD) website and the UNPD mobile application.

In terms of Contract Management and Contract Administration, in line with the procurement principles of transparency and accountability, and to facilitate internal and external audits, procurement officers must maintain fully documented files for every solicitation and every contract. The Procurement framework specifies in detail the documents that, at a minimum, such files should contain. Procurement files should be retained in accordance with the applicable retention policy.

Unsuccessful vendors that participated in solicitations resulting in awards above \$200,000 are given the opportunity to obtain additional information on the reasons why their proposals did not receive an award through a formal debrief process. This debrief is not an adversarial procedure but rather a collaborative learning opportunity for unsuccessful bidders and for the United Nations to exchange additional information, including the perceived strengths, deficiencies and weaknesses in the bidders’ proposal.

Delays in the delivery of goods and services have been a systematic risk for

Accordingly, the Procurement framework provides for a mechanism that would implement the above principles by which the United Nations Secretariat can carry out common procurement actions together with other United Nations system organizations, the United Nations Secretariat enters a contract relying on a procurement decision of another United Nations organization, or it requests

The United Nations development system (UNDS) has mainstreamed and embedded key ESG reporting and indicators in other areas of its work including through the implementation of the mandates contained in the United Nations General Assembly resolution on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) of operational activities for development (A/RES/75/233) of December 2020.

UNDS entities have developed and embedded key indicators on ESG into a comprehensive monitoring framework on the QCPR to report on implementation and impacts. This QCPR Monitoring Framework is reported annually as part of my report to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on QCPR implementation and includes 43 indicators, specifically on the mainstreaming of economic, social and environment responsive approaches into UNDS policies, plans and delivery. Indicators are measured through official data or surveys of key stakeholders, in many cases, Programme Country Governments themselves.

For example, indicator 2.3.6 measures the number of UNSDG entities that: (i) have greenhouse gas emission reduction targets established in their Environmental Management System; and (ii) whose greenhouse gas emission reductions are on track with their established targets.

UNDS entities also use these indicators in the formulation of their strategic plans and respective integrated results frameworks reported to their Governing Bodies.

United Nations entities have provided reports on environmental performances of the United Nations operations, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and peacekeeping missions. The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) and the Greening the Blue initiatives have established reporting on some environmental issues; a report has been published annually. Comprehensive ESG reporting would potentially imply much more in terms of scope than is covered in the Greening the Blue reports.

The United Nations is also reporting on several ESG-related topics in its [annual report](#). For example, the carbon footprint of United Nations entities and gender balance in the workforce are typically included in the United Nations report. The United Nations could reflect and analyse whether metrics and methodologies used, whenever applicable, are aligned with best practices.

Targets for reporting on environmental performance are included in the Strategy for sustainability management in the United Nations system, 2020–2030, Phase I: Environmental sustainability in the area of management ([CEB/2019/1/Add.1](#)), which was endorsed by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) in 2019. Phase 2 of the same strategy ([UN Sustainability Strategy II](#)) endorsed by the CEB in 2021, includes a draft proposal for a scorecard to measure progress at the entity level, which includes an indicator on reporting.

The Strategy specifically calls each United Nations entity to:

1. take steps to integrate information about its environmental sustainability performance (including safeguards) into annual reports;
- 2.

