

2017 JOHANNESBURG DRAFT RESOLUTION ON E-GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT (e-GP)

AFRICA E-GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT FORUM

HARNESSING DIGITAL PROCUREMENT FOR IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY AND DEVELOPMENT

07 APRIL 2017

We, Representatives of the African countries at the Africa e-Government Procurement Forum on Harnessing Digital Procurement for improved service delivery and development;

Recalling the first stakeholder' workshop on the harmonization of public financial management standards in line with the East African Community (EAC) Monetary Union Protocol held during March 14-17, 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya identified e-Government Procurement (e-GP) Strategy as one of the key policy areas requiring development and harmonization across the member states; and the Anti-Corruption Summit: London May 2016 which emphasizes the greater use of e-procurement to make public contracting processes more transparent, the engagement with businesses and civil society to ensure accountability and adoption of open contracting, consistent with applicable law.

Recognising the value e-Government procurement can bring in instituting procurement reforms and establishing a more effective and sustainable, efficient procurement environment benefiting not only the government and participating vendors but the public at large by providing unrestricted open access to procurement information and business opportunities and the impact e-Government procurement can have to instil faith and trust in the management and implementation of government procurement, project implementation and programs through the use of a fully transparent system; and how e-Government procurement can help establish and promote regional trade, support the development of the SME marketplace; help governments extract value from the data collected in e-GP systems to support policy development and strategic procurement initiatives; that implementation of e-Government Procurement in African countries requires sustainable country ownership and political commitment, together with an enabling environment.

Hereby, we, the African countries agree to consider the following recommendations from the Forum:

Action 1. Each country will develop and adopt detailed e-GP Strategy and Roadmap highlighting, among others, the capacity building programs, change management programs, sustainability strategy, and communications strategies, and strive to implement e-GP system in a time bound manner;

Action 2. Develop Sustainability Program and Plan as part of the e-GP Strategy of the government with appropriate government specific Business model for the sustainability of e-GP System (i.e. Government Owned and Government Operated, PPP, Government Owned Private Operated, Private Owned and Leased);

Action 3. Success and support of e-GP system is closely tied to the adoption and implementation by public procurement regulatory bodies of comprehensive capacity building plans for all actors (regulatory body, procuring entities, internal control institutions, audit and oversight bodies, private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders);

Action 4. Establish a robust Governance mechanism and Project Management Unit (PMU) to professionally monitor and manage e-GP system, the PMU will take efforts to acquire the technical know-how required to effectively retain management control over the e-GP system.;

Action 5. Develop and adopt indicators to measure the extent of e-GP implementation based on the objectives of the country reflected in the e-GP strategy;

Action 6. Progression of e-GP in Africa will be driven by innovation and integration with other e-Services. Design of e-GP implementations should consider the use of cloud services, geo-tagging, smartphone applications, social media and integration with other relevant e-Services, such as IFMIS, business registration, tax and banks;

Action 7. Dialog with Ministry of Finance to secure clear line of expenditure in annual budget and authorization of re-use of generated revenue through e-GP system for the sake of operation, enhancement, and management of e-GP System and its adaptation;

Action 8. Implementation of e-GP provides an opportunity for Government to re-engineer procurement processes and practices. The African Countries will undertake business process reengineering as part of the e-GP implementation preparation with consideration of a single unified e-GP platform for a Country, which will be used as a shared infrastructure by all government procuring agencies in the Country;

Action 9. Integration of e-GP with other e-services is an essential requirement to realize the full potential of e-GP. The African Countries will seek to integrate e-GP system with other systems such as Treasury and Commercial Banks to enable seamless data exchange;

Action 10. The Government agencies will subject the system to regular security audit to identify vulnerability if any in the e-GP software or hardware configurations, sharing knowledge on threats and risks to improve the security of each system;

Action 11. Rich data about procurement spend gets automatically recorded in e-GP system. The countries agreed to analyze this data and take suitable remedial course of action in Government procurement policies such that continuous improvement in procurement performance metrics can be observed;

Action 12. e-GP systems will be designed and implemented in compliance with Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS). The OCDS data will be freely made available using open APIs for public consumption;

Action 13. African countries agree to look at options for sharing business opportunities from their e-GP system to help promote regional trade amongst business within the continent; and

Action 14. Countries agree to share system developments, implementation approaches, challenges and use of new technologies with each other to help improve the benefits of country e-GP systems to all stakeholders through the community of practice (C4D).