

Fifteenth Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP
Decision No. 9.2.2

Resolution on Sustainable Public Procurement

We, the Environment Ministers and Heads of delegation of the eight countries in the South Asia region viz. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and members of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, met at Dhaka, Bangladesh on 6 November 2019 at the 15th Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP):

Recalling the decision 10.2.2 of 13th meeting and the decision 9.2.2 of 14th meetings of the Governing Council of SACEP on promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production in South Asia;

Acknowledging Sustainable Development Goal 12 on 'ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns' and its specific target 12.7 on the need to "Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable in accordance with national policies and priorities";

Noting the outcome of the South Asia Training and Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Public Procurement held on 17 – 18 September 2018 at Bangkok, Thailand;

Underscoring the importance of public procurement, and the potential of Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) in transforming markets, fostering innovation and achieving the sustainable development goals;

Recognizing the role of the South Asia Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SAF SCP), to encourage and support Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) in the region;

Emphasizing that technical and capacity building support will facilitate achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals including Goal 12 in SACEP member countries;

Acknowledging the support provided by United Nations Environment Programme under the EU funded SWITCH-Asia Programme to support SPP related policies and action plans, working in partnership with SAF SCP;

Therefore, We

Reaffirm our commitment made at the previous meetings of the Governing Council of SACEP on promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production in South Asia;

Urge SACEP to play a role of regional coordinator in building national capacities on policies and action plans on SPP;

Emphasize the need to conduct national as well as regional awareness building and training programs and build training resources to promote SPP on a programmatic basis;

Encourage countries to identify and involve key relevant stakeholders, including governments, private sector and civil society in SPP through national and regional consultations/workshops;

Request to build a regional Community of Practice (CoP) of key stakeholders engaged in SPP for knowledge sharing;

Promote cooperation among member states to mentor each other by sharing of best practices and experiences on SPP through exchange of officials and professionals;

Urge United Nations agencies to continue to provide technical assistance, institutional support and assist SAF SCP in resource mobilization for SPP;

Invite bilateral and multilateral development partners to extend financial support for capacity-building activities, including demonstration and pilot projects, as well as for the development and implementation of policies, strategies, and action plans related to SPP in SACEP member countries.