

**FOURTH COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC PROCUREMENT
NETWORK TECHNICAL CONFERENCE
9 – 11 NOVEMBER 2009
GABORONE, BOTSWANA**

THE GABORONE STATEMENT

1. The Fourth Commonwealth Public Procurement Network (CPPN) Technical Conference was held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 9 to 11 November 2009 on the theme, *Leadership and Innovation in Public Procurement*. The Minister of Finance and Economic Planning of Botswana, Honourable O.K. Matambo opened the conference. Delegates conveyed their gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Botswana, in particular the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Board (PPADB) for hosting the event and for the warm hospitality accorded to delegates.
2. Delegates reaffirmed their commitment to *The Accra* and *The Freetown Statements*, and noted that networking and sharing of country experiences will continue to make significant positive impact on country reforms. In this regard, delegates called on regulatory agencies and central tender boards to work towards transforming the CPPN into a recognised professional body within the Commonwealth and to take ownership of the CPPN. They stressed the importance of expanding the network to other regions within the Commonwealth to achieve wider participation of

member countries. On this note, they encouraged St Lucia, which participated in the 2008 and 2009 conferences to serve as the CPPN ambassador in the Commonwealth Caribbean. St Lucia welcomed the proposal.

3. Technical Theme

Acting in accordance with its traditional peer-learning, the conference received country reports on the theme, *Leadership and Innovation in Public Procurement*. Regulatory agencies, central tender boards and procuring entities shared country innovations introduced since the 2008 Freetown Conference. Delegates welcomed the progress that has been made in member countries, and noted that country reforms will continue to benefit from shared commonalities and differences in procurement reforms. On this note, delegates stressed the significance of peer-learning and reaffirmed their commitment to future peer reviews. The conference received thematic presentations by selected procurement experts and a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) representative; these were complemented by country specific experiences on asset management, public private partnerships, procurement risk management and leadership, among others.

4. Supplier Engagement

Delegates called on member countries to strengthen relationships with the private sector and also underscored the need for engaging suppliers and contractors to enhance service delivery and infrastructural development in member countries.

5. Coordination and Collaboration

Delegates made a commitment to information sharing amongst members, as well as to link country websites to facilitate learning, information dissemination, research and experience sharing. Delegates noted the significance of effective coordination between member countries and the Commonwealth Secretariat. To this end, delegates called on each member country to nominate a coordinator by end February 2010, to facilitate effective networking and to take forward the CPPN Statements.

6. Capacity Development

Delegates called on the Commonwealth Secretariat to explore opportunities through partnerships that may lead to the development and delivery of sustainable online training programmes in public procurement by 2011, as well as, sharing of experiences related to institutional incentives, leadership accountability and knowledge.

7. Building Partnerships

Delegates commended the continued support of the Commonwealth Secretariat since the inception of the CPPN in 2006. They welcomed the participation of the Procurement Capacity Development Centre of the UNDP, and hoped it would develop into a fruitful collaborative relationship both with the CPPN and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

8. Theme and venue of the 2010 technical conference:

Reviewing Country Procurement Practices, Stakeholder Engagement and Managing Data for Results was identified as the theme for the 2010 technical conference to be held in Namibia.