



MDB Heads of Procurement Joint Communication **The New Development Bank, Shanghai, August 27-29, 2025**

The 2025 meetings of the Heads of Procurement (HOP) of the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) were hosted by the New Development Bank (NDB) in Shanghai from August 27 to 29, 2025.¹

The 2025 meetings deepened collaboration among MDBs and reaffirmed their collective commitment to shaping procurement as a strategic tool for sustainable and resilient development — aligned with global priorities and responsive to emerging challenges. During the 2025 meeting, the HOP:

1. Explored how procurement can drive sustainable development by advancing green and inclusive practices, strengthening country systems, facilitating digital transformation, and fostering resilient supply chains.
2. Took note of growing adoption of advanced technologies, particularly artificial intelligence and machine learning, to modernize procurement processes. These innovations are being leveraged to improve efficiency, enhance transparency, and support data-driven decision-making.
3. Shared progress on procurement reforms aimed at enhancing quality, boosting resilience, unlocking innovation and increasing competition to enhance the value and development impact of MDB-financed procurement.
4. Undertook to collaborate to further the use of Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) practices on MDB operations, including through examining avenues to develop and pilot carbon reduction tools, exploring opportunities for job creation and circular economy approaches and furthering the dissemination of SPP best practice, through mediums such as the HOP Sustainable Procurement Resource Hub.

¹ This communication reflects key outcomes of the August HOP Meeting. MDBs continue to advance these initiatives; readers are invited to consult their respective institutional websites for the latest updates.

5. Discussed harmonised procurement practices and strengthened national systems, while maintaining fiduciary standards using harmonised tools such as the Methodology for Assessing Procurement Systems to develop recommendations and action plans for reforms.
6. Reviewed approaches to determine and monitor Value for Money under MDB operations, including the development of appropriate guidelines.
7. Agreed to form a working group to align procurement practices under operations involving both public and private sector investments, and to further early market engagement.

The HOP has been meeting regularly for the past 25 years and serves as a key mechanism for MDBs to promote harmonisation in procurement principles, policies, and practices. It facilitates project co-financing initiatives through mutual reliance and other collaborative arrangements and promptly addresses current priorities and challenges.

The Heads of Procurement from the African Development Bank (AfDB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), European Investment Bank (EIB), Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (EFSF), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and the World Bank (WB) participated in the three-day meeting along with their delegations.

Prior to the formal meetings, the HOP hosted a full-day SPP Forum, featuring internal and external participants who covered a wide range of related topics, including reducing carbon emissions and socially inclusive procurement.

The next full meeting of the HOP will be hosted by the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) in Paris in the fall of 2026.