

PRIORITIES OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REFORM IMPLEMENTATION FOR 2023

In line with the National Reform Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2024 approved by the Council of Ministers (Decision no.66 of May 20, 2022)

Priorities related to High-level commitment

1. **Maintain the commitment of the Government of Lebanon to advance Public Procurement Reform**, and thus the implementation of the related Reform Strategy and its Action Plan (2022-2024) that was approved by COM decision no.66 of May 20, 2022
2. **Maintain the engagement of the international donor community to advance public procurement reform through the allocation of proper financial, human and technical resources for its implementation.**

Priorities related to the Institutional set-up

3. **Appointments by Council of Ministers of the Public Procurement authority (PPA) members – Art. 74, 75 & 78 of PP Law 244:** Currently, the PPA is led by its President, which is not a good signal, and it represents a risk for the efficiency of the PP system. The PPA shall function as a collegial authority (decisions taken by the majority of its 5 members). The PPA shall be assisted by a Technical Support Unit (TSU).
4. **Establishment and appointments by Council of Ministers of the President and members of the Complaints Authority (CA) – Art. 89, 90 & 91 of PP Law 244:** Currently, the CA is absent from the system, knowing that its role is crucial for the system to ensure fair treatment and equal opportunities to all bidders. The CA shall be assisted by a Technical Support Unit (TSU).
5. **Support the National Coordinator (NC) of the Public Procurement Reform (Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan):** The national strategy of the reform (2022-2024) mandates the Institute with a coordination role for the reform implementation, to ensure its proper coordination and synchronization, and instill inter-institutional dialogue across the public sector, and dialogue with the international community. The NC shall be assisted by a Technical Support Unit (TSU). (National reform strategy Section IX).
6. **The Public Procurement Authority to establish and operationalize a fully functional central electronic platform** as a critical component for effective PP law implementation and for transparency, integrity and accountability requirements -Art. 76 of PP Law 244.
7. **Establish dedicated unit for public procurement within procuring entities** organizational structure, with clearly defined functions and responsibilities - Art.73 of PP Law 244.

8. **Set up the framework for professionalization of the public procurement function - Art. 73 of PP Law 244:** Set up competency frameworks, standard job descriptions and qualification requirements for public procurement officials at different levels, and across procuring entities.

Priorities related to national capacity building

9. **The Institut des Finances – Ministry of Finance to continue providing training and capacity building to relevant civil servants at central and local levels, as well as other involved stakeholders - Art. 72 of PP Law 244:** This training function is crucial for change management and to reduce resistance to the implementation of the law. It is needed to equip all procuring entities with trained and highly skilled professionals in public procurement, and appropriate tools, while ensuring a high quality and specialized training content and **technical assistance to procuring entities (Help Desk)**. The training shall also **cover the private sector, continuous capacity building for national trainers while using new technologies and tools (e-learning)**.
10. **Ensuring public procurement integration into the budget preparation process (Art. 11 of PP Law 244)** through specific training and awareness raising to procuring entities, Ministry of Finance, and other concerned stakeholders.

Priorities related to the legal and policy framework

11. **Ensuring that any future amendments to the PP Law 244 are evidence-based and aligned with the Law's international standards and guiding principles.**
12. **Initiating evidence-based dialogue around key policy areas** such as sustainable public procurement, participating of small and medium enterprises, gender responsive procurement, etc.
13. **Aligning other decrees and bylaws related to oversight and control bodies with the Public Procurement Law – Pillar IV of the national reform strategy:** for example, Court of Accounts bylaw, decrees governing the cycle of pre-approvals of municipalities procurement, etc).