

SECTION II – ANALYSIS OF COUNTRY CONTEXT

Objectives and Scope

This section aims to ensure that the MAPS assessment is based on a better understanding of the context in which public procurement institutions and other stakeholders operate in a particular country. During the assessment and in developing responses to the findings, the political and institutional environment can be considered, to ensure that reforms reflect the country's needs.

For optimum efficiency, this macro-level analysis should be brief. It should draw on easily accessible information and existing data and focus on a limited number of potentially important factors for procurement reform. These factors are: i) the country's political, economic, and geostrategic situation; ii) links between the public procurement system and the public finance management and the public governance systems, iii) national policy objectives affecting public procurement and iv) the public procurement reform environment.

The context analysis should provide a thorough mapping of key stakeholders formally and informally linked to public procurement structures. This will help to engage stakeholders as part of the assessment and as part of future reform processes. Stakeholder engagement in general helps to illuminate how interests, incentives, values and ideas are shaped by formal and informal rules. It can support the development and prioritisation of actions that are feasible and realistic to implement.

The contextual information gathered at this stage can also be used to ensure a targeted application of the MAPS tool. For example, the identification of national policy objectives and key challenges helps scope the MAPS assessment, in particular for the potential application of supplementary modules.

Structure

The analysis of country context should be structured as follows:⁹

Analysis of country context

1. Political, economic and geostrategic situation of the country:

- i)* economic structures (e.g. population, national income level, resources at the government's disposal vs. debt, geographic location, geopolitical situation, main challenges for growth and development)
- ii)* political structures, nature of the political governance system (e.g. type of government, history/legacies in the form of government, federalism vs. centralisation/roles of the national government and sub-national governments, distinctive features in the allocation of political power, marginalised groups, levels of crime and informality, aspects of fragility or conflict, level of perception of corruption, etc.)⁹
- iii)* international obligations (e.g. international/regional treaties and memberships, including information on potential/pending memberships)

2. The public procurement system and its links with the public finance management and public governance systems:

- i)* nature and scope of public procurement (e.g. procurement as a proportion of GDP/government expenditures)
- ii)* key institutions (formal and informal) and their roles in operating the procurement system, including its controls
- iii)* mapping of key external stakeholders formally and informally linked to public procurement structures, their interests and avenues for engagement.

3. National policy objectives and sustainable development goals:

- i)* general reform initiatives with a focus on issues that influence public procurement
- ii)* horizontal policy objectives.

4. Public procurement reform:

- i)* public procurement reform in the past (brief history/legacies; lessons learned)
- ii)* public procurement priorities, policies, strategies and goals/targets, and their links with public sector/governance/other related reforms
- iii)* incentives that can drive reforms; challenges that can impact the success of reforms.

⁹ Further information on how to conduct context/political economy analyses can be found in: UNDP (2012), "Institutional and Context Analysis – Guidance Note", http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/oslo_governance_centre/Institutional_and_Context_Analysis_Guidance_Note/; Overseas Development Institute (ODI) (2005), "Analytical Framework for Conducting Political Economy Analysis in Sectors", <http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/3898.pdf>.

¹⁰ Fragility can go beyond the categorisation of "fragile states". The OECD has defined the following five dimensions: i) violence (peaceful societies); ii) access to justice for all (including control of corruption); iii) effective, accountable and inclusive institutions; iv) economic foundations and v) capacity to adapt to social, economic and environmental shocks and disasters. OECD (2015), *States of Fragility 2015: Meeting Post-2015 Ambitions*, OECD Publishing, Paris. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264227699-en>.

Information Sources

The list of sources to be consulted is as follows:

- national statistics (e.g. Ministry of Finance, etc.),
- national development plans,
- indices, e.g. Doing Business project (World Bank), Government at a Glance (OECD), Country Classifications (World Bank and others), GDP growth rates, Corruption Perception Index, Global Competitiveness Report (World Economic Forum), Human Development Index (UN), etc.,
- databases on international memberships and treaties (e.g. General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT)/ Agreement on Government Procurement; OECD; regional organisations and trade agreements; signatories to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, etc.),
- previous studies/assessments,
- interviews with relevant experts or sources; critics in media.