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First Edition 31 July 2026
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NAMIBIAN STANDARD

NAMS 20400:2026 – Sustainable procurement — Guidance

This Namibian standard is the identical implementation of ISO 20400:2017 and is adopted with the permission of the International Organization for Standardization

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NAMS 20400: 2026

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National Foreword

This NAMS 20400:2026 is identical with (*the first edition of* ISO 20400:2017 — Sustainable procurement — Guidance. The Namibian Standards Institution Technical Committee responsible for the adoption of this International Standard is Technical Committee 2 on Quality Management and Quality Assurance.

No amendments, omission and additions have been made to the original ISO International Standard.

ISO Foreword

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www .iso .org/ iso/ foreword .html.

This document was prepared by Project Committee ISO/PC 277, *Sustainable procurement*.
In the development of this document, ISO Guide 82 has been taken into account in addressing sustainability issues.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 20400

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Sustainable procurement — Guidance

Achats responsables — Lignes directrices

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Foreword

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Introduction

Every organization has environmental, social and economic impacts.

Procurement is a powerful instrument for organizations wishing to behave in a responsible way and contribute to sustainable development and to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. By integrating sustainability in procurement policies and practices, including supply chains, organizations can manage risks (including opportunities) for sustainable environmental, social and economic development.

Sustainable procurement represents an opportunity to provide more value to the organization by improving productivity, assessing value and performance, enabling communication between purchasers, suppliers and all stakeholders, and by encouraging innovation.

This document assists organizations in meeting their sustainability responsibilities by providing an understanding of:

— what sustainable procurement is;

— what the sustainability impacts and considerations are across the different aspects of procurement activity:

  — policy;

  — strategy;

  — organization;

  — process;

— how to implement sustainable procurement.

Figure 1 presents the structure of this document.

This document is applicable to any organization, public or private, regardless of its size and location. It is intended to be understood by any stakeholder involved in, or impacted by, procurement decisions and processes. The implementation of this document takes into account the particular context and characteristics of each organization, scaling the application of the concepts to suit the size of the organization. The adoption of this document by large organizations promotes opportunities for small and medium-sized organizations in their supply chains.

Clause 4 provides an overview of sustainable procurement. It describes the principles and core subjects of sustainable procurement and examines why organizations undertake sustainable procurement. Important consideration is given to managing risks (including opportunities), addressing adverse sustainability impacts through due diligence, setting priorities, exercising positive influence and avoiding complicity.

Clause 5 provides guidance on how sustainability considerations are integrated at a strategic level within the procurement practices of an organization, to ensure that the intention, direction and key sustainability priorities of the organization are achieved. It is intended to assist top management in defining a sustainable procurement policy and strategy.

Clause 6 describes the organizational conditions and management techniques needed to successfully implement and continually improve sustainable procurement. The organization ensures that such conditions and practices are in place in order to assist individuals with responsibility for the procurement of goods or services integrate sustainability considerations into the procurement process.

Clause 7 addresses the procurement process and is intended for individuals who are responsible for the actual procurement within their organization. It is also of interest to those in associated functions, as it describes how sustainability considerations are integrated into existing procurement processes.

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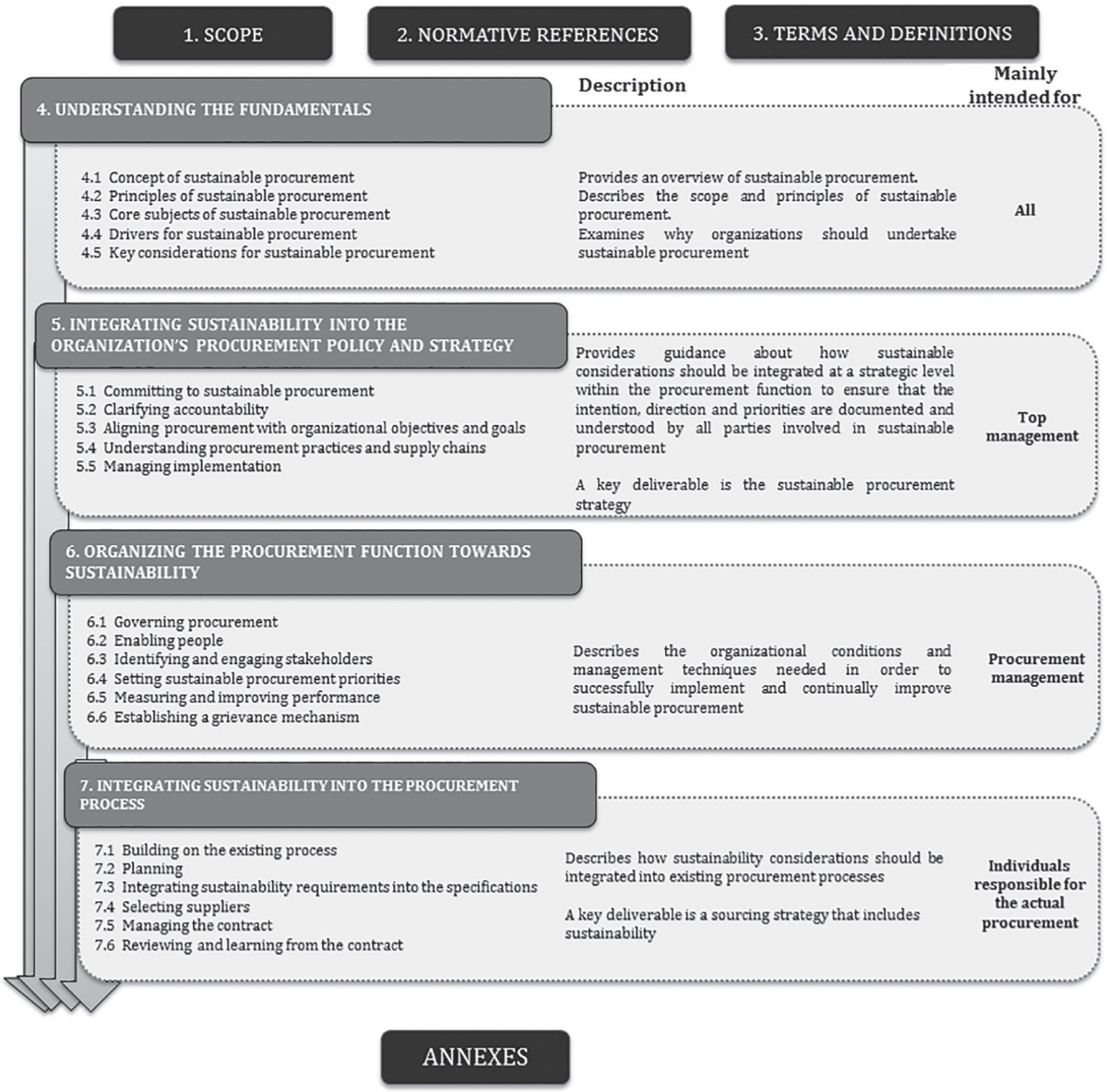


Figure 1 — Schematic view of the content of ISO 20400

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Sustainable procurement — Guidance

1 Scope

This document provides guidance to organizations, independent of their activity or size, on integrating sustainability within procurement, as described in ISO 26000. It is intended for stakeholders involved in, or impacted by, procurement decisions and processes.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at http://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
circular economy
economy that is restorative and regenerative by design, and which aims to keep products, components and materials at their highest utility and value at all times, distinguishing between technical and biological cycles

[SOURCE: Adapted from Ellen MacArthur Foundation[24]]

3.2
decent work
work performed in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity

[SOURCE: Adapted from ISO 26000:2010, 6.4.1.1, Box 8]

3.3
due diligence
process through which *organizations* (3.16) proactively identify, assess, prevent, mitigate and account for how they address their actual and potential adverse impacts as an integral part of decision-making and *risk management* (3.22)

3.4
environmental label
claim which indicates the environmental aspects of *goods* (3.7) or *services* (3.23)

Note 1 to entry: An environmental label or declaration may take the form of a statement, symbol or graphic on a product or package label, in product literature, in technical bulletins, in advertising or in publicity, amongst other things.

[SOURCE: ISO 14020:2000, 2.1, modified — The alternative term “environmental declaration” has been deleted, and the words “product or service” have been replaced by “goods or services” in the definition]

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