

THE TIME IS NOW TO ACCELERATE  
WOMEN'S PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

# Checklist: Minimal Government Measures For Creating A Women's Public Procurement Program



The following recommendations are reprinted with permission from the International Trade Centre.

The International Trade Centre's (ITC) Executive Summary in *Empowering Women Through Public Procurement* recommends that **at a minimum, governments should adopt the following measures.**<sup>1</sup>

- ❑ **Publish all procurement opportunities on a central electronic clearinghouse** and disseminate the same information directly to women's business organizations.
- ❑ **Streamline and standardize** tender documentation and prequalification procedures across procuring entities.

1. Keric Chin, *Empowering Women through Public Procurement* (Geneva, Switzerland: International Trade Centre, 2014), xiv-xv, <https://www.intracen.org/publication/Empowering-Women-Through-Public-Procurement/>.

The Time Is Now To Accelerate Women's Public Procurement is a 23-part toolbox and call to action series created by USAID.



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- ❑ **Permit women-owned businesses to prequalify** for groups of contracts or certain categories of goods, works and services.
- ❑ Ensure that one procuring agency can **use the results of prequalification procedures** conducted by another.
- ❑ Tailor the technical, financial and other qualification and prequalification requirements to the size and complexity of the procurement opportunities.
- ❑ **Avoid bundling** multiple requirements into one large contract.
- ❑ **Allow sufficient time** for firms to prepare tenders.
- ❑ **Encourage use of economically most advantageous or best value award criteria** where appropriate. (Caveat: The use of economically most advantageous award criteria may not be appropriate where the added discretion invites corruption or increases complexity.)
- ❑ **Provide meaningful feedback to unsuccessful bidders** on the strengths and weaknesses of their tenders and areas for improvement.
- ❑ **Implement and enforce rules regarding prompt payment** of women-owned businesses at the prime and subcontract levels, and hold procuring entities and government officials accountable for the same.

— *Empowering Women Through Public Procurement* (reprinted with permission)

Public procurement experts at Canada's Telfer School of Management (University of Ottawa) have created "[Action Strategies to Increase the Diversity of SME Suppliers to the Government of Canada](#)." While Canada does not yet have a national public procurement program fully focused on women-owned businesses, it is currently analyzing how to do this, and many of their action strategies can serve as key pillars of a robust checklist. Dr. Barbara Orser, Dr. Allan Riding and Diane Liao are authors of this study,<sup>2</sup> which summarizes key action strategies advanced in their comprehensive report, [Benchmarking Small and Medium Enterprises as Suppliers to the Government of Canada: Inclusion, Innovation and International Trade](#).<sup>3</sup>

2. Dr. Orser and Dr. Riding are two of Canada's top experts on public procurement. Dr. Orser was also Head of the Canadian Delegation to the W20 in 2020, and Co-Chair of the W20's Women Entrepreneurship Research Task Force.

3. Barbara Orser, Allan Riding, and Diane Liao, "Benchmarking SMEs as Suppliers to the Government of Canada: Inclusion, Innovation and International Trade" (University of Ottawa: Telfer School of Management, 2018), [http://www.sice.oas.org/sme\\_ch/publications/uo\\_telfer\\_Benchmarking-SME-report\\_03\\_e.pdf](http://www.sice.oas.org/sme_ch/publications/uo_telfer_Benchmarking-SME-report_03_e.pdf).

**The TIME IS NOW for Women's Public Procurement. [Read how the stage is set for action!](#)**