NOC Sustainability Project

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY
The world faces significant challenges across a wide spectrum of economic, social and environmental matters. The Olympic Movement has both an opportunity and a duty to actively contribute to the global sustainability debate in line with its vision of “Building a better world through sport”.

With this in mind, and in response to Olympic Agenda 2020, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) launched the International Federation (IF) Sustainability Project in 2016 to obtain an overview of IFs’ sustainability initiatives – identifying common topics, challenges and good practices while also sharing information among the IFs.

One outcome of the project was a series of case studies illustrating how IFs are actively contributing towards a more sustainable world.

As part of the IOC’s objective to “profile the role of the Olympic Movement in sustainability through the aggregation of information and collective reporting”, it was agreed that the identification and sharing of information contributes to the holistic integration of sustainability and should be continued. These case studies, which now also showcase National Olympic Committees’ (NOCs) best practices, form part of a strategic support system given to the Olympic Movement through the IOC Sustainability Strategy.

Each case study is aligned with one or more of the IOC’s five sustainability focus areas: infrastructure & natural sites; sourcing & resource management; mobility; workforce; and climate. They are also aligned with one or more of the United Nations’ (UN) framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which provide a common framework for organisations to explain how they plan to contribute to sustainable development and tackle the key global sustainability challenges.

This framework is pivotal for the Olympic Movement – in September 2015, the UN General Assembly confirmed the important role that sport can play in supporting the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

“Sport is also an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognise the growing contribution of sport to the realisation of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives.”

Paragraph 37, UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
UN SDGs

**IOC FOCUS AREAS**

**UN SDGs**

SWISS OLYMPIC IS PROMOTING HIGH SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL STANDARDS ACROSS ITS SUPPLY CHAIN THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT GUIDELINES

The activities and interactions between the Swiss Olympic Association (Swiss Olympic) and its stakeholders are guided by the Olympic values and its Code of Ethics, which states that “mutual relationships between people and the attitude towards nature shall be ‘respectful.’” Swiss Olympic encourages this behaviour in sport and integrates it into its procurement activities according to the following principles:

- product-specific requirements with regard to social and ecological standards;
- stakeholder consultation;
- transparency; and
- transition time for long-standing partnerships.

Swiss Olympic values its cooperation with stakeholders with regard to the definition of acceptable environmental and social standards, as it improves transparency, relevance and quality. Accordingly, Swiss Olympic decided to progressively integrate sustainability principles into its procurement processes and to professionalise them at the same time. During a test phase between 2008 and 2010, socio-ecological standards

“BY IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT, SWISS OLYMPIC CONSISTENTLY LIVES UP TO ITS OLYMPIC VALUES AND HELPS TO ANCHOR THEM IN SOCIETY. THE QUALITY OF THE PROCUREMENT AND ITS PROCESSES HAVE BEEN IMPROVED AT THE SAME TIME, WHICH MAKES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS STRATEGY A WIN-WIN SITUATION FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED.”

JÜRG STAHL, SWISS OLYMPIC PRESIDENT

**OBJECTIVES**

Swiss Olympic’s sustainable procurement strategy aims to:

- Respond to stakeholders’ concerns on the social and environmental credentials of products.
- Mitigate reputational risks.
- Use Swiss Olympic’s leadership position to positively influence its supply chain and its 84 member federations in the field of sustainability.
- Provide transparency and clarity to stakeholders on the tender processes and standards.

Each NOC/IF sustainability project contributes to one or more of the IOC’s sustainability focus areas and one or more of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
were created and applied to Swiss Olympic branded merchandising. After evaluating this phase, a comprehensive sustainable procurement strategy was launched in 2011.

In collaboration with sustainability and procurement experts, Swiss Olympic developed five mandatory product-specific guidelines for all suppliers of clothing, paper, branded (certified products, e.g. wood), hardware (e.g. computers) and other technology products. The guidelines are updated every year and cover key product categories corresponding to 84 per cent of the procurement spend (total procurement spend in 2017: 600,000 CHF). They also form an integral part of the contracts with Swiss Olympic partners.

Each guideline is divided into different sections depending on the type of product, and covers aspects related to:

- **Transparency** (e.g. traceability, production standards and audits);
- **Social welfare** (including labour conditions and ethical trade); and
- **Ecological impacts** (e.g. ecolabels).

The guidelines are divided into mandatory and recommended criteria (such as ISO certification). No specialist knowledge is required for assessment of the guidelines, which means that they can also be used by non-professional procurers. Swiss Olympic accepts alternatives to the required criteria if the supplier can prove equivalence.

### EVALUATION

The compliance rate is calculated by measuring the percentage of suppliers who have formally committed to complying with the guidelines for the five key product categories. This compliance rate is gradually improving: from 95 per cent in 2015 to 97 per cent in 2017. Thanks to the development and implementation of the guidelines, Swiss Olympic both maintains better and long-term relationships with its suppliers, and positively influenced some of the National Federations (NFs) who, in turn, implemented the guidelines in their procurement process of certain products.