



# INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS IN ELECTORAL PROCUREMENT

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# OBJECTIVE



- Understanding of ethical principles in the context of UNDP
- Understanding of impact of unethical behaviour
- How to handle ethical dilemmas and sharing best practices
- Highlighting where to find relevant documents

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# Context



- **Increased business volume => higher public pressure**
- **Added scrutiny (due to recent high profile cases ie. Oil for Food)**
- **No matter how seemingly insignificant, a breach of ethics at a minimum, effects credibility and is difficult to recover from**
- **Impropriety can harm UNDP reputation as a UN organization**



## WHAT IS ETHICS?

Ethics is the discipline relating to right and wrong, moral duty and obligation, moral principles and values, and to moral character.'

**ETHICS** Greek word 'ethos'... implies **character** and **customary behaviour**

**MORALITY** Latin word 'mores'.... refers to **social customs**

Each group (sub-group), organisation (sub-organisation) has an 'ethical code'.... whether written or not.

# TWO ETHICAL APPROACHES



## UTILITARISM

- Values the end result, end, utility of an action
- Often times seeks to answers the question, 'why not?'
- + Gets things done
- May be at the expense of integrity, ethics, etc.; can be short-sighted

## FORMALISM

- Values the intention, means, the form of an action
- Often times seeks to answers the question, 'why?'
- + Does things 'right', takes a longer-term perspective
- Creates bureaucracy, may take longer to get things done initially, and especially when proper form is not taken

# PUBLIC EXPENDITURES BY DEFINITION, APPLIES 'FORMALISM'



## GLOBALLY RECOGNISED PUBLIC EXPENDITURE VALUES

- Integrity, Transparency, Honesty, Fairness
- Competition
- Equal Treatment
- Organisational Objectives
- Client Service
- No Conflict of Interest
- Due Diligence
- Confidentiality

**EMPHASIS IS ON THE PROCESS**

# ETHICAL CODE HELPS TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS:



- **WHAT MUST I DO ?**
- **WHY MUST I DO THAT?**

Especially when there is not a specific law or procedure on the question

- **SPIRIT OF THE LAW vs. LETTER OF THE LAW**

**Ethical norms help compliance to spirit of the law**



**FEELS LIKE ...**

**ALMOST TIP-TOEING ON A FINE BALANCE BETWEEN TWO OPPOSITE POLAR**



# DIVERSITY OF CULTURES = DIVERSITY OF PERSPECTIVES



- Plural world
- Different backgrounds
- Different understanding of ethics

**ALTHOUGH WE MUST RESPECT  
DIVERSITY, WE ALSO MUST FIND A  
COMMON GROUND WHEN WORKING  
TOGETHER IN THE UN**



**UNDP'S 'COMMON GROUND'  
&  
OUR FORMALISTIC APPROACH  
ARE FOUND THROUGHOUT...**

# MISSION, RULES AND REGULATIONS DEFINE VALUES OF ORGANISATION & RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF STAFF



- UN Charter (Chapter XV, Article 101; signed in 1945)
- UN Staff Regulations (Art. I) and Rules (Chapter I) incl. Oath of Office
- Standards of Conduct in the International Civil Service (1954, revised in 2001)
- Status, Basic Rights and Duties of UN Staff Members (2002)
  - Incl. excerpts of UN Charter, relevant staff regulations and rules incl. comments, and Standards of Conduct in the International Civil Service (revised version of 2001)

# MISSION, RULES AND REGULATIONS DEFINE VALUES OF ORGANISATION & RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF STAFF



- UNDP's mandate
- UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules
- UNDP Fraud Policy Statement
- UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules
- UNDP Internal Control Framework
- UNDP Prescriptive Content “Legal Framework for Addressing Non-Compliance with Ethical and Professional Standards”

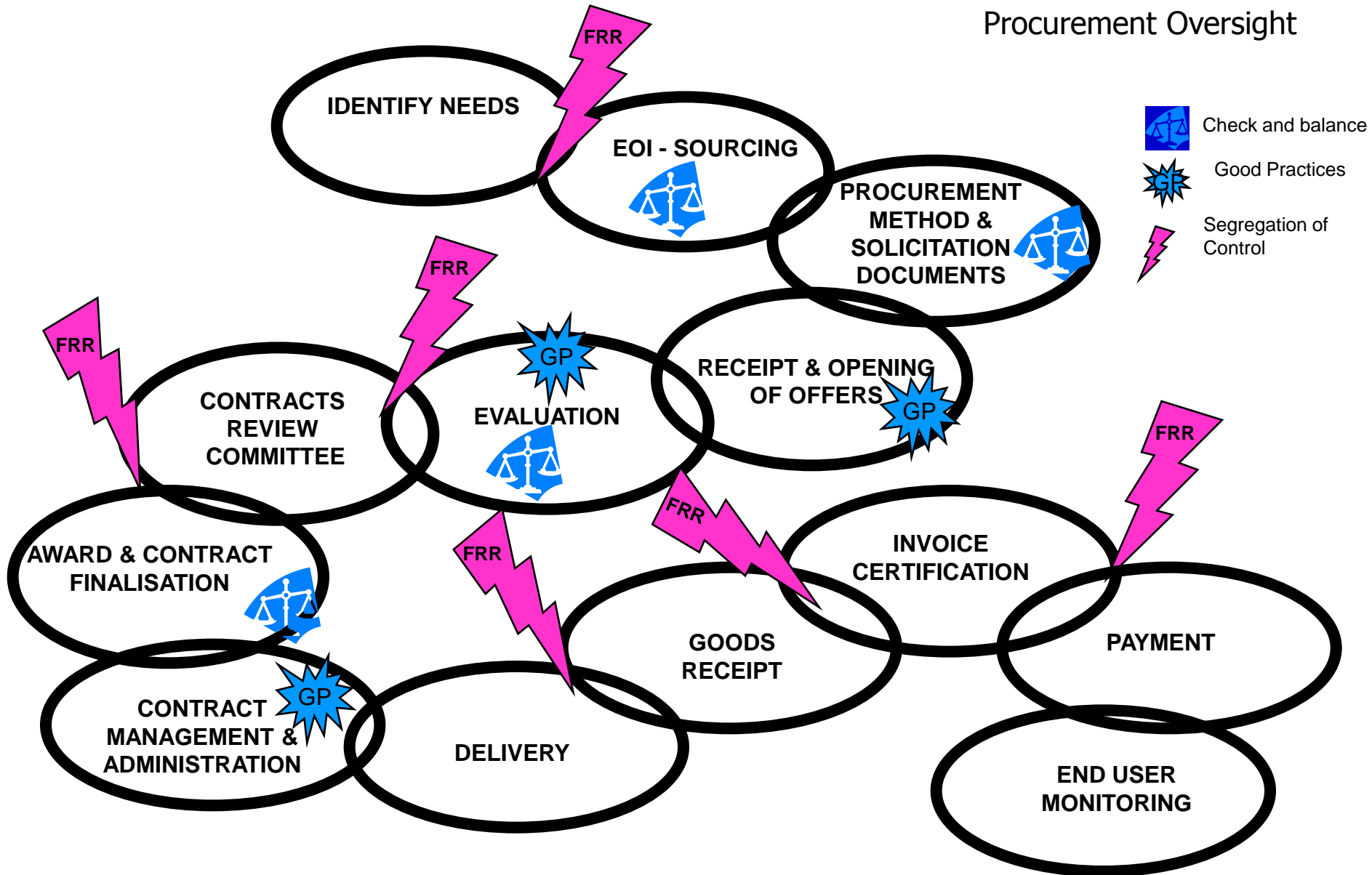
# UNDP's GUIDING PROCUREMENT PRINCIPLES



- **Best Value for Money**
- **Fairness, Integrity and Transparency**
- **Effective International Competition**
- **In the interest of UNDP**

# SEGREGATION OF DUTIES

Procurement Oversight



# GOOD PRACTICE WHEN WORKING WITH SUPPLIERS



- **Business should be conducted during normal working hours**
- **Meetings with suppliers should take place in the presence of at least two UNDP staff members**
- **Suppliers should not be invited to UNDP staff's personal workstation but to common areas i.e. canteen**
- **Meetings should have an agenda and minutes**
- **Ensure sufficient distance when working with suppliers**

**The intention is to protect the suppliers and the staff**

# GOOD PRACTICE - GIFTS



- Gifts from suppliers must not be accepted – Zero Tolerance Policy
- Seek to avoid lunches and dinners with suppliers altogether
- Invitations of social kind – sporting/cultural events, holidays etc must always be refused

**Avoid to place yourself in a position of conflict of interest by accepting gifts**



# WHAT CAN WE DO IN OUR DAILY WORK TO MAINTAIN THE ETHICAL VALUES OF UNDP?



- **Know regulations, rules and procedures, including the spirit of the law**
- **Know and apply the UNDP's ethical values**
- **Be self reflective & when in doubt, ask**
- **Discuss openly difficult situations and examples of good behavior**
- **Help create a culture of ethical behavior**



**Thank You**