

IADB-INTAL Workshop on GPA accession for Brazilian
Sub-central Government Officials
18-21 May 2021

Some Key Take-aways from Day 1

(A very informal summary by the Workshop Chairman, R. Anderson)

- 1) Brazil is off to a good start on its GPA accession process. It is already garnering much favorable attention from the GPA Parties. Also, its progress is being carefully watched by: (i) other Latin American countries (many of whom are GPA observers); and (ii) transition and developing economies around the world.
- 2) As Professor Schooner has said, the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement is based directly on best practices in public procurement internationally, as they are perceived and practiced by the GPA Parties. Everything in it is intended to support good procurement practices (transparency, open markets and procedural fairness).
- 3) The revised GPA adopted in 2012 is easier to implement than the previous version of the Agreement (from 1994). It encourages the use of e-procurement tools. These have greatly facilitated compliance with the GPA's transparency standards. The revised Agreement also gives greater prominence to the objective of good governance (anti-corruption) and the scope for advancement of sustainability objectives.
- 4) The philosophy and approaches of the Inter-American Development Bank with respect to government procurement are highly congruent with those of the GPA. It is a good source of support.
- 5) While there will be some new things to learn, participants are encouraged to view GPA accession as an opportunity. It can provide: (i) the occasion for reassessment of current practices and fine tuning; (ii) additional tools and avenues to achieve good value for citizens; (iii) the opportunity to exercise leadership nationally and locally; and (iv) membership in a global community of persons (like the current participants) interested in obtaining good value for money in public procurement processes.
- 6) (From the Q&A session). Especially for sub-central contracting authorities, a large number of the procurements of interest to local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) will be below the relevant GPA thresholds (details to be presented tomorrow/also available here: <https://e-gpa.wto.org/en/ThresholdNotification/FrontPage>). This means that the GPA rules/requirements do not apply and local procuring entities retain broad scope for awarding contracts to local SMEs (below the thresholds).