Nordic Joint Statement on Sustainable and Ethical Healthcare Procurement

Holmenkollen, 13 May 2026

Public procurement is about securing the goods and services needed to deliver vital public functions, while creating economic value and supporting robust and resilient supply chains. We share an ambition to ensure that this is done in ways that promote sustainable and ethical production, respect for people and the planet, and reduce negative impacts throughout the life cycle of products and services.

We will support this ambition through structured and continuous work across the procurement cycle, focusing our joint efforts on purchasing categories of common concern where Nordic cooperation can have the greatest impact. In these areas, we aim to harmonise sustainability and ethical requirements and follow-up methods as far as possible, while respecting national legal frameworks, policy priorities and market conditions.

Our cooperation is guided by Agenda 2030, in particular target 12.7 on sustainable public procurement, and the Paris Agreement.

Greater Nordic alignment creates clearer and more predictable expectations for suppliers, reduces duplication of effort and strengthens our collective market influence. We aim to develop and implement this work in dialogue with suppliers, industry associations and other relevant stakeholders. More aligned requirements and follow-up methods can reduce administrative burden, support long-term improvements, and help the Nordic regions build capacity, share competence and use resources more effectively.

We recognise that sustainable healthcare procurement is a shared responsibility. As public buyers, we also have a responsibility to consider how our procurement processes, purchasing practices and contract management may affect suppliers' ability to meet sustainability expectations.

By 2030, we aim to:

1

Establish a harmonised Nordic approach to due diligence

Apply risk-based and proportionate due diligence requirements aligned with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct. Where possible, harmonise requirements across the Nordic countries to reduce unnecessary complexity and duplication for suppliers, and promote practical supply chain transparency, including information on where products are produced, to support due diligence and more resilient healthcare supply chains.

2

Strengthen low-carbon healthcare procurement

Use reliable data to support reduced greenhouse gas emissions and promote multiple use instead of single use products in prioritised healthcare product categories.

3

Phase out chemicals of concern in healthcare products

Promote safer product and material flows by using the European Phase-Out List (EPOL). This ensures that harmful chemicals are phased out of material flows for the safety of patients, healthcare professionals, workers and the environment, contributing to a circular economy that also provides resource and financial savings in a long-term and holistic perspective.

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