

Sustainable Procurement Charter



The Sustainable Procurement Charter is the statement of our business plan that integrates a Corporate Social Responsibility approach in its long-term vision. This Charter is the adoption of CSR principles into our procurement processes and decisions.

The sustainable development model to which Aplix commits itself requires a common approach with all stakeholders, including suppliers and service providers, and is based on the following themes:

- The environment
- Respect for international labor and human rights standards
- Business ethics including the struggle against corruption
- The balance of responsible relationships that are sustainable
- The will to foster local relations
- Co-development and partnership

Responsible purchases are the ones with **the most positive possible** environmental, social and economic impact on the duration of the life cycle. At the same time, they search to reduce the negative impacts.

Their implementation will lead to the development of a social responsibility policy within our organization that supports the 10 universally accepted principles of the Global Compact and meets key economic challenges such as high market volatility and a material share beyond 50% of turnover.

As an extension of the deployment of its responsible purchases, Aplix expects its service providers and suppliers to agree on the following principles:

- ***Ensure financial equity (towards service providers and suppliers)***

Aplix is committed to pay according to regulations in force, by applying the provisions strictly and sincerely. Similarly, Aplix will avoid:

- Unilaterally apply an unreasonable withholding for a dispute at the time of settlement, unless otherwise specified in the contract.
- To withhold information in the event of a dispute.

- ***Enforce labor law and human rights***

Service providers and suppliers of Aplix must comply with the fundamental conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO) as well as any regulations in force in the country where the activity is carried out. Aplix expects them to promote and respect human rights within their sphere of influence.

Aplix will not work with suppliers who use child labor or forced labor. Service providers and suppliers must ensure that no illegal use of children's work occurs in the performance of their work.

- ***Social, environmental and economic responsibility***

Each Aplix buyer incorporates societal criteria in the selection and monitoring of the performance of their service providers and suppliers. We regularly conduct audits to assess the CSR performance of our service providers as priorities in terms of their volume of business, and assessment of the potential risk associated with the products / services or their geographical location.

- ***Limit the economic dependency ratio of service providers***

Aplix seeks to avoid any economic dependence that could jeopardize the company or put at risk one of its service providers or suppliers. A high percentage of sales to Aplix in the activity of a small business can be a risk factor in the case of sudden change in order volumes or technological evolution. If applicable, the eventual withdrawal of Aplix from a service provider or a supplier will be anticipated and progressive in order to take into account the number of years of relationship with the company, the potential degree of dependency, as well as its possibilities to diversify or adapt.

Aplix invites all its service providers to constantly diversify their customer base in order to avoid a significant economic dependence.

For each provider or supplier who acquires a market share of more than 10%, a disengagement plan will be initiated.

- ***Guarantee equity and support for service providers in the event of difficulties***

Aplix applies purchasing methods that stimulate real competition between providers, to do this:

Aplix purchasers are responsible to ensure an open, free and fair competition, a guarantee of efficiency on the basis of the following rules: free access to tenders, equal treatment of candidates, transparency and traceability procedures. Taken into account the total cost (full cost).

For tenders that allow it, Aplix wishes to promote the social and environmental clauses and requires its service providers and suppliers to present their Corporate Social Responsibility actions and value them as competitive advantages.

Relationships between Aplix and its service providers or suppliers are based on principles of transparency and integrity.

Aplix is committed to providing follow-up and constant support to the service providers and suppliers so as to improve their practices and their compliance with regulations.

- ***Fight against corruption***

In accordance with its Code of Conduct, Aplix selects its service providers and suppliers on the basis of objective criteria. To this end, Aplix purchasers are personally committed to ethical behavior, to impartiality and objectivity, avoiding any potential conflicts of interest.

Aplix expects from service providers and suppliers they appropriate the principles of this ethical charter and apply them to their own service providers, namely:

Anti-bribery laws: Aplix service providers and suppliers must comply with anti-corruption laws, guidelines and regulations in force in the countries where they operate.

Illegal payment: Aplix service providers and supplier must under no circumstances provide or collect illegal payments from a customer, a service provider or anyone else. The collection, payment and/or promise of payment, direct or indirect, of any sum of money or item of value to influence or improper advantage are not prohibited. This prohibition also applies to areas where such activities are not contrary to local law.

Competition and anti-trust: Aplix service providers and providers Act in competitive manner and any consultation or exchange between service providers on prices or offers is prohibited. Participation in any cartel is prohibited.

Commercial actions: Aplix service providers and suppliers are only evaluated on the actual quality of their products and services. They must ensure that any present or commercial gesture offered or received is in accordance with reasonable market practices and in no way against a law, a regulation or a standard.

Conflict of interest: Aplix service providers and suppliers guarantee the absence of any conflict of interest or any situation that is similar to a potential conflict of interest. When an actual or potential conflict of interest appears, all parties concerned must be informed.

- **The will to foster local relationships**

It is the responsibility of Aplix to create a network of relationships that leads to its development by ensuring good business relationships with customers and service providers located in the same geographic area.

Similarly, it is the responsibility of Aplix to seek out, within its geographic area, activities where Aplix may support the development of such economic activity.

These principles are the basis of a constructive and fair professional relationships between Aplix and its service providers and suppliers.

Any deviation from these principles could affect this relationship in a detrimental way. Conversely, any action, policy or commitment that tends to reinforce these principles is likely to foster this relationship.

**Gilles Roberton
Group Purchasing Director
Aplix**