World Bank GovTech Innovation Challenge 2026

Public Procurement Control

Challenge Statement - Version 3-1

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Note: This challenge statement reflects the perspective of the Supreme Audit Institution (Cour des Comptes, CDC) of Morocco and the twelve (12) Regional Courts of Accounts (Cours Régionales des Comptes, CRC) and is provided for reference purposes. Innovative approaches and alternative methods to achieve the intended outcomes are encouraged.

Public Procurement Control

1. Executive Summary

As part of the GovTech Innovation Challenge, the Supreme Audit Institution (Cour des Comptes, CDC) of Morocco and the twelve (12) Regional Courts of Accounts (Cours Régionales des Comptes, CRC) are seeking innovative companies to develop a solution to automate public procurement control across the three phases most exposed to the risk of irregularity: competitive tendering, bid evaluation and contract award. This challenge aims to strengthen regulatory compliance, ethics and transparency controls across these phases by systematically exploiting structured data from the Public Procurement Portal (Portail des Marchés Publics, PMP) and unstructured documents from tender dossiers. Candidates are also encouraged to draw on available public websites (ethics platforms, anti-fraud and anti-corruption platforms, international good practice databases) when defining the technical and functional specifications of their solution and establishing their financial estimates. The use of standards and good practices in corruption and fraud detection is particularly expected in the evaluation of criteria and the development of financial costings.

This challenge combines two complementary components forming an end-to-end audit workflow:

1. Compliance Analysis and Predictive Detection: An automated analysis engine for procurement data from the PMP and DAOs, executing standard compliance tests and ethics checks, with detection of irregularity patterns.
2. Deliverable Generation: An assisted drafting module for audit mission deliverables, enabling the automatic production of formal documents from control work.

Challenge elements:

- Automation of regulatory compliance tests for the competitive tendering, evaluation and award phases
- Semantic analysis of unstructured documents
- Detection of irregularity patterns
- Automated cross-referencing of data
- Assisted generation of standard audit mission deliverables

2. Context and Challenge Statement

2.1 Public Procurement Control

Public procurement is governed primarily by Decree No. 2-22-431 of 15 Chaabane 1444 (Décret n° 2-22-431 du 15 Chaabane 1444) on public contracts, founded on three fundamental principles: freedom of access, equal treatment of competitors and transparency of procedures. Competitive tendering, bid evaluation and contract award form the core of the competitive process. It is at these phases that the majority of risks of breach of these principles are concentrated.

The risks specific to this scope are well documented: technical specifications in tender documents directed towards a particular tenderer, insufficient publication timelines limiting access to competition, poorly defined or mid-procedure evaluation criteria, failure by commission members to declare conflicts of interest, and contract awards not corresponding to the apparent results of the evaluation.

Control of these phases currently relies on manual analyses of tender dossiers, commission minutes and Public Procurement Portal (PMP) data, generally carried out on samples of contracts. Semantic analysis of contractual documents, which would enable the detection of directed specifications or discriminatory clauses, is rarely practised due to a lack of appropriate tools. Verification of probity obligations (Probity Obligation Declarations) is carried out manually and does not systematically cover all commission members.

2.2 Deliverable Generation

Public procurement control audit missions carried out by the CDC and CRCs produce several formal deliverables whose drafting takes up significant team time. These deliverables follow standardised formats defined by the CDC/CRC.

The solution must enable these documents to be generated automatically from audit mission work, with a review module allowing CDC/CRC controllers to adjust content before final sign-off.

Key contextual characteristics:

- Public Procurement Portal (PMP) available as a structured data source (publications, award results, amounts, timelines, tenderers)
- Contractual documents in varied formats: digital (Word, PDF) and paper requiring prior digitisation

- Current controls carried out on a sample basis, without comprehensive coverage of contracts within an audit project's scope
- Existing control reference framework: CDC public procurement audit guide, regulatory texts (Public Procurement Decree, General Administrative Clauses Booklet (Cahier des Clauses Administratives Générales, CCAG), sectoral texts)
- Audit mission deliverables following standardised formats defined by the CDC/CRC, whose manual production is time-consuming
- For certain types of projects, contract execution can be verified using remote control mechanisms, notably satellite imagery. This approach is particularly relevant for infrastructure projects, construction works (public buildings), agricultural or environmental programmes, in order to monitor the actual progress of works or developments carried out.

Success Indicators (KPIs):

- Comprehensive coverage of contracts within the PoC scope, replacing manual sampling
- Reduction in time spent executing control tests on the competitive tendering, evaluation and award phases
- Relevance rate of generated compliance and ethics alerts, assessed with control teams on the pilot dataset
- Full traceability: every alert references the source data, the document and the applicable control rule
- Reduction in audit mission deliverable production time, measured by comparison with the CDC/CRC's current manual process

3. Experience and Lessons Learnt

The CDC and CRC control teams have been carrying out public procurement controls for many years, following formalised audit guides and test batteries. The partial digitisation of public procurement via the PMP has provided a usable base of structured data, but semantic analysis of contractual documents remains manual. Likewise, the production of audit mission deliverables relies entirely on manual drafting by controllers, without automated assistance.

4. Expected Outcomes

The CDC and CRCs wish to strengthen their public procurement control capacity by moving from manual sample-based analysis to comprehensive and systematic coverage of contracts within an audit project's scope. The objective is to detect irregularities more effectively in the competitive tendering, evaluation and award phases, whilst fully documenting the factual basis of each finding.

4.1 Public Procurement Control

Expected outcomes:

- Automated execution of regulatory compliance tests on the competitive tendering, bid evaluation and award phases, based on the CDC audit guide and regulatory reference framework
- A semantic analysis of contractual documents enabling the identification of qualitative irregularities such as directed specifications, discriminatory evaluation criteria or insufficient publication timelines
- Detection of signals of ethics breaches, in particular regarding the probity obligations (Probity Obligation Declarations) of commission members
- An alert dashboard with full traceability for each alert (source, triggering control rule, expected value vs observed value)

4.2 Deliverable Generation

The CDC wishes to reduce the time taken to produce audit mission deliverables whilst maintaining their quality and compliance with institutional templates, so that controllers can focus their efforts on analysis, high-value-added investigations and recommendations.

Expected outcomes:

- Assisted generation of standard deliverables (orientation note, provisional report, final report, findings summary sheet, transmittal letter), in accordance with formal templates, with a review interface
- Compatibility of generated deliverables with official circulation formats and the requirements of the audit mission management tools in use

5. Potential Impacts and Benefits

For the CDC, CRCs and control teams: Move from sample-based control to comprehensive coverage of contracts within an audit project's scope. Reduce document analysis time and free up controllers for high-value-added investigations. Strengthen the rigour and consistency of ethics controls, particularly regarding probity obligations.

For Moroccan public procurement: Strengthen the effectiveness of the principles of freedom of access, equal treatment and transparency. Improve the detection of irregularities in the competitive tendering and award phases. Contribute to deterring anti-competitive practices and conflicts of interest.

For economic operators and citizens: Promote fairer competition amongst tenderers. Strengthen confidence in the integrity of public contract award processes.

6. Potential Risks

Technical risks:

- Variable quality of contractual documents depending on the entity and period (aged scans, handwritten Arabic documents, proprietary formats)
- Complexity of semantic analysis across varied legal and technical formulations
- Risk of false positives on ethics alerts if the model is not sufficiently precise
- Risk of generating incomplete deliverables or ones not conforming to templates

Operational risks:

- Access to PODs: their format and storage method vary depending on the entities under control
- Confidentiality of control data: strictly limited and traceable access

Organisational risks:

- Sensitivity of ethics alerts: a clear protocol must define the follow-up actions for conflicts of interest alerts prior to operational deployment

Annex and resources

- Link to the Public Procurement Portal (PMP) : https://www.marchespublics.gov.ma/pmmp/