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Press release

For immediate release: Friday, 31 July 2020

UNOPS to support national medicine procurement in Mexico

A new agreement signed today by UNOPS, the government of Mexico and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) will improve transparency and value for money.


- UNOPS to procure medicines to **support national health institutions**, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Through international procurement processes, UNOPS will purchase **essential medicines and vital drugs** which will be distributed by national authorities
- UNOPS will **strengthen the capacity of national authorities** to manage consolidated medicine purchases in the course of the project

The agreement, signed on 31 July 2020, will mean that UNOPS will provide procurement support directly to the government for their medicines purchases beginning in 2021.

Signed in the presence of the President of Mexico, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, national authorities and representatives of UNOPS and PAHO in Mexico, the agreement will also see UNOPS supporting the government to strengthen capacity in procuring goods and services.

It will draw on UNOPS expertise in public procurement and successful track record in the procurement of medicines in Latin America and globally. UNOPS Regional Observatory for Medicine Prices allows for the comparison of medicine prices from official sources in 21 countries, in order to achieve the best prices and best use of public finances.

In 2019, UNOPS and Mexico signed a framework agreement to improve the management of public procurement and infrastructure projects in the country. Since then, UNOPS has been advising the government on improving public management which can generate cost

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savings, offering solutions to address corruption and to increase competitiveness and effectiveness. This has included supervision and tracking of national and federal contracts, projects, proposals and tenders and assisting with economic proposals.

United Nations Under-Secretary-General and UNOPS Executive Director, Grete

Faremo said: “We are delighted to be able to support Mexico with improved services and fair public management. We bring our expertise to challenges where maximizing transparency, effectiveness and efficiency are critical - this will be a game changer for quality healthcare and value-for-money for the people of Mexico.”

Andrés Manuel López Obrador, President of the United Mexican States, said:

“As a UN institution, UNOPS offers the possibility to obtain good quality medicines at low prices and without corruption. We are going to solve the problem of medicine shortage.”

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Marcelo Ebrard Casaubón said:

“It is the first time in history that an international agency is commissioned to carry out a tender of this nature. UNOPS will do the international tender, procurement, contracting and finally delivery to the Mexican Government.”

ENDS

Notes to the editors:

To arrange interviews please contact Tom Collins (tomco@unops.org / +45 4533 7708) or Taraneh Dadar (taranehd@unops.org).

About UNOPS

UNOPS mission is to help people build better lives and countries achieve peace and sustainable development. We help the United Nations, governments and other partners to manage projects, and deliver sustainable infrastructure and procurement in an efficient way. With decades of practical infrastructure experience, UNOPS is committed to supporting climate action and tackling the climate emergency.

Read more: www.unops.org