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UNFICYP: Cost savings and reduced environmental footprint

Cost savings, greater synergies between Headquarters and the field and reduced environmental footprint. These were the goals set by UNFICYP when the Mission hosted a Bidders' Conference on 15 November 2017 on behalf of the United Nations Procurement Division (UNPD) for an ongoing procurement exercise for the Provision of Food Rations, Bottled Water and other services and equipment for the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

Bidders' conferences are normally routine events, conducted by the office in charge of the procurement process. In this case, UNPD and the Logistics Support Division (LSD) of the Department of Field Support (DFS) would have travelled to Cyprus and conducted the Bidders' Conference on site.

Largely due to travel budget constraints, UNFICYP proposed an alternative solution of a jointly conducted conference, with Headquarters colleagues participating remotely from New York. All parties welcomed and encouraged the idea, recognising that if successful, such an approach could be replicated and adopted in other field missions and offices away from Headquarters.

UNFICYP coordinated and facilitated the Bidders' Conference

on the ground, making all the necessary logistical arrangements and facilitating those elements of the Conference that physically took place in the mission area. UNPD together with LSD directed proceedings from Headquarters and conducted their presentations to the participants via video teleconference from New York.

The conference was deemed a great success by all parties, including the bidders' themselves and proved to be an excellent example of cooperation between UN offices while leveraging technology to achieve maximum results.

The successful implementation of this conference should encourage other field missions to consider such alternative methods of supporting solicitation exercises in the future. The approach used in UNFICYP should be viewed as a useful model that offices could employ in achieving cost savings, developing closer collaboration and cooperation between UN partners, as well as promoting the Organisation's commitment to environmental sustainability.

Great job UNPD, LSD and UNFICYP!



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