

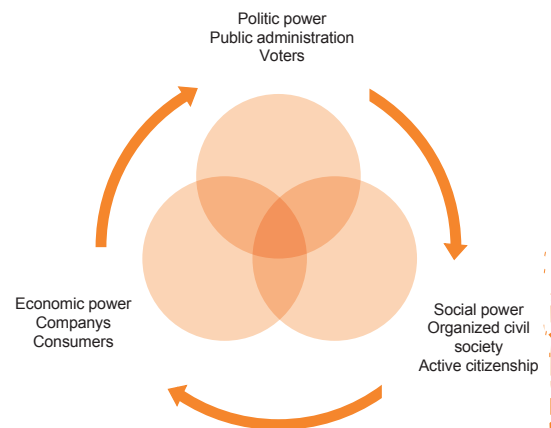
FOR ETHICAL PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

We can represent a healthy society, a society in which the three spheres of power—political power, economic power and social power—are balanced.

Political power is related to Public Administrations, which are backed by executive and legislative power, what we usually call the state. The public can influence this sphere through active citizenship, with citizens who exercise their rights and duties as members of society by demanding compliance with international standards and law. Citizens must also demand that politicians enact rules and laws that reflect an ethical approach and serve to create the type of society and world we want to build.

Economic power, popularly known as the market, encompasses everything that can be categorised under the sale of goods and services. People can influence this sphere as consumers. In classic market theory, these forces are governed by supply and demand. The balance between the two defines what is produced, how it is produced and for whom it is produced. The public can therefore influence this sphere by exercising our power as consumers through what we purchase (and don't purchase), creating a demand that makes companies produce differently, and advocating for products that ensure that human and environmental rights are respected. We can also use other mechanisms of direct impact, using the direct communication channels that companies have (customer service), for example.

Finally, in terms of **social power**, associations and organisations can design concrete responses through critical and active citizenship. This includes awareness-raising, training, information and mobilisation activities, as well as civil society responses to the gaps that neither the market nor the state covers. This is the sphere known as the "third sector", or organised civil society.







At ALBOAN, we believe that it is these three spheres that we must influence and propose measures to understand and change the current situation.

In the **political power** sphere, we are focusing efforts on the Ethical Public Procurement Initiative. We are developing a request to public institutions to ensure that they incorporate criteria for responsible corporate behaviour when replacing their equipment, with the aim of positively assessing those companies that carry out good practices to manage the risks associated with the violation of human rights in their mineral supply chains. To that end, in addition to the initiative, we will propose mobilisation and advocacy activities to help put pressure on political leaders to pass a regulation that meets expectations to prevent minerals and other raw materials suspected of fuelling conflict from ending up in our products and lives.

How can this change be achieved? To promote this proposal, we will enhance awareness-raising and knowledge about the real story behind tech products. As conscious consumers, we will be able to send signals to the market that are more aligned with ethical values. Rational use is also crucial, weighing the existing purchasing options (we can use rankings like Enough and Greenpeace, for example) and thinking about whether a new purchase is necessary before buying.

Finally, in the social power sphere, we include proposals for mobilisation and training related to the Conflict-Free Technology campaign:

-  1- Being locally active in the defence of conflict-free technology.
-  2- Informing and training other local people or groups.
-  3- Publicising the campaign and helping to spread its reach.
-  4- "Móviles por la Tierra (Móviles for the Earth)" collections in your community; the donations will be used to finance projects to support people who suffer the consequences of this conflict.

ACTIVITY PROPOSAL

WHO WANTS WHAT?

Objectives: To raise awareness about the different points of view encountered when discussing this topic and to try to find solutions that can meet demands or find new solutions for progress

Materials: Campaign website. Campaign newspaper. Cards with additional campaign information. Cards with actors and their descriptions.

Development: Ask the group to identify agents from each of the spheres of power. Once these agents are defined, ask participants describe them, including their needs and objectives. (depending on the time available, the activity can be limited to only one sphere, or all three spheres can be included at the same time. Likewise, a list of actors and their description can be provided for groups with less time or who do not want to spend much time on this first phase, and they can use the provided information either as an example or during the debate).

Assign a role to each individual or group and give them 5 or 10 minutes to develop their argument.

Once this preparatory phase is completed, ask participants to hold a debate or put on a skit about our proposals and how different actors respond to them. A second aspect of the activity would be to have the group propose new actions to take beyond those included in the sheet

Political power

Greens MEP (whose campaign platform included a section on environmental protection and human rights)
European Commissioner for Trade (whose main objective is to ensure trade in raw materials with countries in the south and to establish a framework that ensures that European companies are not disadvantaged compared to other countries)
Company representative (who advocates CSR and free trade and argues that their work creates jobs and investments in countries)
Representative of a trade union of women who work in electronic sweatshops (trade unionist who calls for ILO-based labour rights agreements, that wages cover people's basic needs, an end to workplace and sexual harassment, and an end to products harm the health of the people who work with them)
The following are the main actors in this process:
Local NGOs (that work with one of the countries where conflict minerals are mined) and voter (person worried about their job, who does not know where the minerals in their smartphone come from, nor the manufacturing process of the device that ends up in their pockets).

Economic power

Multinational company (a large, leading company in the electronics sector)
Consumers' co-operative (they have started to provide food and are looking into the possibility of expanding their scope after collectively purchasing ecological cleaning products, researching alternatives in other areas, including electronics)
"Fair" smartphone company (initiative created by a group of people who, tired of using phones that fell short of their ethical standards, have come together to make a "fair" smartphone)
Consumer (person struggling between not knowing what is in their smartphone, the price, and their employment and social situation).

Social power

Representative of the international network of NGOs working to develop the DRC (wants the conflict in the DRC to end and to provide training and raise awareness)
Representative of a local NGO in our area (person looking for spaces to organise discussions on these issues)
Person who knows about development aid (person who has the passion, information, and desire to make things happen, but who doesn't have much free time and is somewhat burned out)
Person unfamiliar with the topic (who has no special awareness or free time)

RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION



Signature drive for ethical public procurement:

<https://www.alboan.org/es/actualidad/local/compra-publica-etica-pidele-tu-ayuntamiento-que-consuma-tecnologia-responsible>

https://www.visibles.org/es/causas/democracia-y-participacion/compra-publica-etica-pidele-tu-ayuntamiento-que-consuma-tecnologia?utm_source=alboan&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=visibles



Ethical public procurement video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTIZFCfs4h4>



Raise hope for Congo:

<https://enoughproject.org/about/past-campaigns/rhfc>

A project from:



ALBOAN
ONG - Jesuita - Fundazioa

www.alboan.org

For a:



www.tecnologia.libredeconflicto.org

Cooperate:

