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Sustainable Purchasing in an International Context: A relational perspective

Ko Koens and Harry Reinders

Learning goals

After studying this chapter, readers will have the ability to:

- 1 Appreciate the difference between standard purchasing and *sustainable* purchasing;
- 2 Understand the complexity of ensuring sustainable development in international purchasing;
- 3 Know that sustainable purchasing goes further than environmental sustainable purchasing;
- 4 Appreciate solutions to ensure more sustainable international purchasing practices.

Introduction

Sustainable value creation depends not only on the internal organisation of businesses, but also on their relations with others in the wider international supply chain. With increasing levels of outsourcing, businesses are now only as sustainable as their suppliers (Sönnichsen & Clement, 2020). This is recognized within the manufacturing industry and is equally true for service-oriented industries like hospitality and tourism. Integrating sustainability into purchasing and supply management has long received limited attention from hospitality and tourism stakeholders, however (Galeazzo *et al.*, 2021). The academic literature also reflects this, with little focus on achieving sustainable development within purchasing and supply chain management in the hospitality industry. Some even argue that “*there is a clear dearth in existing research*” (Al-Aomar & Hussain, 2017: 42; Gruchmann *et al.*, 2022).