## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY to RESETTLEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK

The World Bank is supporting the preparation of the Electricity Sector Transformation and Resilient Transmission (ESTART) Project in response to the Government of Uzbekistan's request to support energy sector.

1. The proposed Project would have the following four components: (a) Digitalization of the electricity transmission sector, (b) Power grid strengthening and renewable energy integration, (c) NES institutional development and project implementation support, and (d) Electricity market development.

The project foresees modernization of 22 priority substations that were identified for rehabilitation across the country; construction of new 500/220 kV substation ('Koltsevaya') to release overloading on neighboring substations and to meet the growing demand in the respective regions; construction of related 500 kV and 220 kV transmission lines to connect the aforementioned substation 'Koltsevaya' to the national transmission Grid.

Civil works to be undertaken for the above purposes will be conducted on public lands that have been designated for this purpose and on the premises of existing public institutions (substations), and partly on the territory of existing farms, for the new substation and transmission lines to be constructed. As such, they are not expected to result in involuntary physical resettlement, but temporary and permanent land acquisition is planned.

- 2. The RPF is prepared in order to appropriately identify, address and mitigate adverse socioeconomic impacts that may occur in relation to land acquisition, restrictions on land use, or resettlement. As a first measure, the project will attempt to avoid to the extent possible adverse impacts on private or privately-used land and property, and will clearly document all efforts made to avoid land restriction and resettlement impacts. Where such impacts are unavoidable, they will be minimized to the extent possible, and the project will follow the procedures laid out in the RPF to ensure that adequate compensation and rehabilitation measures have been provided to the project affected people. The RPF defines the procedures for: (i) acquiring land (after all technical alternatives have been exhausted), (ii) dealing with any residual impacts from land acquisition (i.e. identifying, establishing the valuation of, and compensating people that suffer economic losses or loss of private property, (iii) monitoring and verification that policies and procedures are followed, and (iv) consultations with affected people and description of grievance redress mechanisms.
- 3. This RPF is based on relevant National laws and Decrees as well as the World Bank Environmental and Social Standard (ESS) 5 on Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use, and Involuntary Resettlement. Particular attention will be paid to the needs of such vulnerable groups like women-headed households, low-income households, households headed by the elderly with no support, and households headed by physically challenged people.
- 4. The RPF serves the following specific purposes: (i) Reviews the existing national legal framework, compares it with the ESS 5 for gaps, if any, and indicates gap-filling measures; (ii) Describes the approach to the acquisition of private land, assets and other common property resources; (iii) Specifies the scope of the project with a well-defined exclusion list; (iv) Defines the eligibility criteria for defining various categories of affected people; (v) Defines the valuation process of impacted assets; (v) Defines the process for preparation of Social Impact Assessment and RAPs and their review; (vi) Defines of the cutoff date for Title and Non-Title holders; (vii) Identifies the consultation mechanisms/approaches to be adopted while preparing and implementing RAPs including public disclosures; (viii) Defines the monitoring and evaluation arrangements including Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM); and (ix) Defines the institutional and implementation arrangements --role/responsibilities of different stakeholders, (iix) Integrates environmental and social management into the design

and operation of the investments to be financed under the Project to ensure effective mitigation of potentially adverse impacts, while enhancing the benefits accrued.

- 5. **Site-specific RAPs will be prepared in accordance with the RPF.** The corresponding environmental and social instrument for other social and economic impacts not associated with land acquisition and restrictions is the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).
- 6. In the frames of actual RPF an Entitlement Matrix (EM) has been developed, that summarizes the types of losses and the corresponding nature and scope of entitlements. Compensation and rehabilitation assistance for various categories of losses based on the tenure and magnitude of impact has been provided. Additional assistance to vulnerable, reimbursement of transaction costs in relation to those who receive land for land compensation, assistance in acquiring land / property, in obtaining compensation for women, cash assistance for housing to physically displaced squatters, are some of the provisions contained in the EM.
- 7. Land acquisition and resettlement related documents will be disclosed to the **public**. Such documents include at minimum RPF, ARAP/RAP (in case of any type of Involuntary resettlement) and due diligence reports on the above.
- 8. The project will establish a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) which would function at local and project levels. The GRM will be well-fit to receive, evaluate and facilitate the resolution of displaced person's concerns, complaints and grievances, as well as deliver adequate and timely responses to the project affected people on the status and/or resolution of their concerns. GRM has been developed based on the existing complaint handling mechanism as well as the Decrees №911 from 16.11.2019 and №146 from 25.05.2011 which specifiy in detail the resettlement management including implementation arrangement and the review processes and compensation mechanisms.
- 9. In order to implement the Resettlement related measures, budgetary provisions will be made in the Project budget. Budgetary estimates for component where resettlement implementation is necessary, including resettlement management will be incorporated into sub-project cost estimates. The NENU will be responsible for provision of all types of compensation.
- 10. **NENU will be responsible for concurrent Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of RPF and RAP implementation**. Based on implementation reports any identified mid-term corrections, as appropriate, will be made.
- 11. This Resettlement Policy Framework forms a core part of the Environmental and Social Management Framework. It may be updated by mutual agreement between NENU and the World Bank.