**Islamic Republic of Mauritania**

**Mauritanian national power utility (SOMELEC)**

**Mauritania Transmission Corridor project (P505173)**

**Phase 1(a) of the West Africa Regional Electricity Market Program**

**Negotiated**

**ENVIRONMENTAL and SOCIAL**

**COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)**

**November 21, 2024**

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN**

1. The Islamic Republic of Mauritania (**the Recipient**) will implement the Mauritania Transmission Corridor project which is the Phase 1(a) of the first phase of the WA-REMP MPA, with the involvement of the Mauritanian national power utility (Société Mauritanienne d’Electricité - SOMELEC), as set out in the Financing Agreement (the Agreement). The International Development Association (the Association), has agreed to provide financing for the Project, as set out in the Agreement.
2. The Recipient shall ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) and this Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), in a manner acceptable to the Association. The ESCP is a part of the Agreement. Unless otherwise defined in this ESCP, capitalized terms used in this ESCP have the meanings ascribed to them in the Agreement.
3. Without limitation to the foregoing, this ESCP sets out material measures and actions that the Recipient shall carry out or cause to be carried out, including, as applicable, their respective timeframes; institutional, staffing, training, monitoring, and reporting arrangements; and grievance management. The ESCP also sets out the environmental and social (E&S) documents that shall be prepared or updated, consulted, disclosed, and implemented under the Project, consistent with the ESSs, in form and substance acceptable to the Association. Said E&S documents may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the Association. As provided for under the referred Agreement, the Recipient shall ensure that there are sufficient funds available to cover the costs of implementing the ESCP.
4. As agreed by the Association and the Recipient, this ESCP will be revised from time to time, if necessary, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes or unforeseen circumstances or in response to Project performance. In such circumstances, the Association and the Recipient agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Association and the Recipient’s Representative specified in the Agreement or the Director of SOMELEC. The Recipient shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.
5. The subsection on “Indicators for Implementation Readiness” below identifies the actions and measures to be monitored to assess Project readiness to begin implementation in accordance with this ESCP. Nevertheless, all actions and measures in this ESCP shall be implemented as set out in the “Timeframe” column below irrespective of whether they are listed in the referred subsection.

| **MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS** | | **TIMEFRAME** | **RESPONSIBLE ENTITY** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS AND CAPACITY SUPPORT** | | | |
| A | **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**   1. Establish and maintain a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) at SOMELEC with qualified staff and resources to support management of environmental, social, health and safety (E&S) risks and impacts of the Project including:  * a health and safety specialist, * an environmental specialist, * a social specialist skilled in resettlement.  1. The terms of reference for these positions and the necessary qualifications will be reviewed by the Association for no-objection. Additional consultants may be hired by the PIU during implementation as needed. | Establish a PIU and appoint the E&S specialists no later than 3 months after the Effective Date and thereafter maintain the PIU and these positions throughout Project implementation. | **SOMELEC** |
| B | **CAPACITY BUILDING PLAN/MEASURES**  Prepare and implement the annual capacity building plan following capacity building measures:   * training for the PIU staff, stakeholders, communities, Project workers and consultants on:   + World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (including the Environmental, Social Standards (ESSs): specific aspects of environmental and social assessment (such complex issue on ESIA, resettlement); labor management, stakeholder mapping and engagement, emergency preparedness and response, occupational and community health and safety, E&S monitoring and reporting   + Grievance mechanism: how to register and process complaints; complaints procedure; documentation and handling of complaints; use of the procedure by different stakeholders   + GBV/SEA prevention and mitigation, child protection, Gender, and Disability inclusion   + World Bank’s Safeguards Incidents Reporting Tool (ESIRT). | Throughout the project implementation period, prepare the annual capacity building plan prior to the approval of the Annual work plan and budget | **Project Implementation Unit (PIU)** |
| **MONITORING AND REPORTING** | | | |
| C | **REGULAR REPORTING**  Prepare and submit to the Association regular monitoring reports on the environmental, social, health and safety (E&S) performance of the Project. The reports shall include:   * Status of preparation and implementation of E&S documents required under the ESCP. * Summary of stakeholder engagement activities carried out as per the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. * Complaints submitted to the grievance mechanism, the grievance log, and progress made in resolving them. * E&S performance of contractors and subcontractors as reported through monthly contractors’ and supervision firms’ reports. * Number and status of resolution of incidents and accidents reported under action E below. | Submit quarterly reports to the Association throughout Project implementation, commencing after the Effective Date.  Submit each report to the Association no later than 15 days after the end of each reporting period. | PIU |
| D | **CONTRACTORS’ MONTHLY REPORTS**  Require contractors and supervising firms to provide monthly monitoring reports on E&S performance in accordance with the metrics specified in the respective bidding documents and contracts and submit such reports to the Association. | Submit the monthly reports to the Association upon request and as annexes to the reports to be submitted under action C above. | PIU |
| E | **INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS**  Notify the Association of any incident or accident relating to the project which has, or is likely to have, a significant adverse effect on the environment, the affected communities, the public or workers, including those resulting in death or significant injury to workers or the public; acts of violence, discrimination or protest; unforeseen impacts to cultural heritage or biodiversity resources; pollution of the environment; dam failure; forced or child labor; displacement without due process (forced eviction); allegations of sexual exploitation or abuse (SEA), or sexual harassment (SH); or disease outbreaks. Provide available details of the incident or accident to the Association upon request.  Arrange for an appropriate review of the incident or accident to establish its immediate, underlying and root causes. Prepare, agree with the Association, and implement a Corrective Action Plan that sets out the measures and actions to be taken to address the incident or accident and prevent its recurrence. | Notify the Association no later than 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident. Provide available details upon request.  Provide review report and Corrective Action Plan to the Association no later than 10 days following the submission of the initial notice, unless a different timeframe is agreed to in writing by the Association. | PIU |
| **ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS** | | | |
| 1.1 | **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENTS AND/OR PLANS**   1. Implement the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), and corresponding Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the high voltage (HV) transmission line (covering the entire 586 km) and associated substations in Mauritania, cleared by the WB and disclosed in-country and in the WB website on October 15, 2024, consistent with the relevant ESSs. 2. Implement the ESIA and corresponding ESMP for the solar photovoltaic plant in Kiffa, cleared by the WB and disclosed in-country and in the WB website on October 15, 2024, consistent with the relevant ESSs. 3. Prepare and implement an Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) and corresponding Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMPs) for Rural Energy Access (Part 1.2 of the Project), consistent with the relevant ESSs. | 1 and 2: Implement the ESIAs/ESMPs throughout Project implementation.  3. Prepare the ESIAs and ESMPs during project implementation and before launching procurement documents for the respective Project activity, and thereafter implement the ESIA and ESMP throughout Project implementation | PIU |
| 1.2 | **MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS**  Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia, the ESIAs and corresponding ESMPs, the Biodiversity Action Plan, the Labor Management Procedures, and codes of conduct, into the E&S specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. Thereafter ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply and that they require their subcontractors to comply with the E&S specifications of their respective contracts. Provide copies of the relevant contracts with contractors/subcontractors and supervision firms to the Association. | As part of the preparation of procurement documents and respective contracts.  Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation.  Copies of relevant contracts provided to the Association upon request. | PIU |
| 1.3 | **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**  Carry out the consultancies, studies (including feasibility studies), capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the Association, that are consistent with the ESSs. Thereafter prepare and finalize the outputs of such activities in compliance with the terms of reference. | Throughout Project implementation. | PIU |
| **ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS** | | | |
| 2.1 | **LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES**  Prepare and implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) for the Project, including, inter alia, provisions on working conditions, management of workers relationships, occupational health, and safety (including personal protective equipment, and emergency preparedness and response), code of conduct (including relating to SEA and SH), forced labor, child labor, grievance arrangements for Project workers, and applicable requirements for contractors, subcontractors, and supervising firms. | Prepare, disclose and adopt the LMP prior to the mobilization of project’s workers and thereafter implement the LMP throughout Project implementation. | PIU |
| 2.2 | **OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT PLAN**  Require contractors and subcontractors to prepare and implement OHS Management Measures or Plan in accordance with the ESIAs/ ESMPs. | Prepare the OHS Management Plan as part of the C-ESMP prior to commencement of any civil works, and thereafter implement the plan throughout Project implementation. | PIU  Contractors |
| 2.3 | **GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS**  Establish and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2. | Establish grievance mechanism prior engaging Project workers and thereafter maintain and operate it throughout Project implementation | PIU  Contractors |
| **ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT** | | | |
| 3.1 | **WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  Require contractors and subcontractors to prepare and implement a Waste Management Plan (WMP), as part of the contractors’ ESMPs, to manage hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, consistent with ESS3. | Prepare the WMP prior to the commencement of any activities which will generate hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, and thereafter implement the WMP throughout Project implementation | PIU  Contractors |
| 3.2 | **RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT**  Incorporate resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures in the ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.1. above. | Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the ESMPs. | PIU |
| **ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY** | | | |
| 4.1 | **TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY**  Incorporate measures to manage traffic and road safety risks as required in the C-ESMPs to be prepared prior to commencement of any civil works. | Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the C-ESMPs. | PIU |
| 4.2 | **COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY**  Assess and manage the specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project's activities, including risks of labor influx, potential use of security forces, risk of collapse of power transmission towers, behavior of Project workers, response to emergency situations etc., and include mitigation measures in the ESMPs to be prepared. | Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the ESMPs. | PIU |
| 4.3 | **SEA AND SH RISKS**  Prepare and implement a SEA/SH Action Plan to assess and manage the risks of SEA and SH. | Prepare the SEA/SH Action Plan prior to the commencement of works, and thereafter implement the SEA/SH Action Plan throughout Project implementation. | PIU |
| 4.4 | **SECURITY MANAGEMENT**  Assess and implement measures to manage the security risks of the Project, including the risks of engaging security personnel to safeguard project workers, sites, assets, and activities as set out in the C-ESMP to be prepared, consistent with ESS4 and acceptable to the Association. | Prior to engaging security personnel, and thereafter throughout the Project implementation. | PIU |
| **ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT** | | | |
| 5.1 | **RESETTLEMENT PLANS**   1. Finalize and implement the Resettlement Plan (RP) (including Livelihood Restoration Plan) for the high voltage (HV) transmission line (full 586 km) and associated substations, consistent with the relevant ESS5. 2. Prepare and implement a Resettlement Plan (RP), (including Livelihood Restoration Plan) for Rural Energy Access (Part 1.2 of the Project), consistent with ESS5. 3. Prepare and implement a Resettlement Plan (RP) (including Livelihood Restoration Plan) and accompanying Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP) for any other activity under the Project for such RP or LRP is required, consistent with ESS5. | Prepare and implement the respective RPs (including Livelihood Restoration Plans) prior to carrying out the relevant works, including ensuring that before taking possession of the land and related assets, full compensation has been provided and displaced people have been resettled and moving allowances have been provided. | PIU |
| **ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES** | | | |
| 6.1 | **BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS**  Implement the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for the mitigation of adverse impacts on biodiversity, consistent with the relevant ESS6, cleared by the WB and disclosed in-country and in the WB website on October 15, 2024. | Implement the BAP throughout Project implementation. | PIU |
| **ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES** | | | |
| 7.1 | Not relevant |  |  |
| **ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE** | | | |
| 8.1 | **CULTURAL HERITAGE RISKS AND IMPACTS**  Prepare and implement a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) as part of the ESMP, in accordance with the guidelines of the ESIA prepared for the high voltage transmission line and associated substations in Mauritania, and consistent with ESS8. | Same time frame as for the preparation and implementation of the ESMP for the high voltage transmission line and associated substations in Mauritania. | PIU |
| 8.2 | **CHANCE** **FINDS**  Describe and implement the chance finds procedures as part of the ESMP of the project. | Describe the chance find procedures in the ESMP and Implement the procedures throughout Project implementation. | PIU |
| **ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES** | | | |
| 9.1 | **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (ESMS)**  Not relevant |  |  |
| **ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE** | | | |
| 10.1 | **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN**  Update and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the Project, consistent with ESS10, which shall include measures to, inter alia, provide stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable, and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination, and intimidation. | Update, finalize and disclose the SEP prior to the completion of Appraisal stage and implement the SEP throughout Project implementation. | PIU |
| 10.2 | **PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM**  Establish, publicize, maintain, and operate an accessible grievance mechanism, to receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances in relation to the Project, promptly and effectively, in a transparent manner that is culturally appropriate and readily accessible to all Project-affected parties, at no cost and without retribution, including concerns and grievances filed anonymously, in a manner consistent with ESS10.  The grievance mechanism shall be equipped to receive, register, and facilitate the resolution of SEA/SH complaints, including through the referral of survivors to relevant gender-based violence service providers, all in a safe, confidential, and survivor-centered manner. | Establish the grievance mechanism no later than 3 months and thereafter maintain and operate the mechanism throughout Project implementation. | PIU |
| **INDICATORS FOR IMPLEMENTATION READINESS** | | | |
| The following actions are indicators for implementation readiness:   1. establishment of E&S risk management units in the Project Implementation Entities, 2. recruitment and training of E&S staff within Project Implementation Entities, 3. Memorandums of Understanding or other written agreements/arrangements between Project Implementation Entities and other concerned agencies to ensure proper coordination of E&S risk management activities. 4. E&S effectiveness or disbursement conditions, if deemed warranted, 5. E&S assessments and plans to be prepared by the Recipient at the onset of implementation. 6. other project-specific requirements related to E&S readiness for implementation. | | | |