

# Republic of Kazakhstan

## DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

For

Kazakhstan Digital Acceleration for an Inclusive Economy  
(DARE) Project (P179204)

January 2024

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Kazakhstan (the Borrower) will implement the Kazakhstan Digital Acceleration for an Inclusive Economy (DARE) Project (the Project), with the involvement of the Telecom Committee (TC) under strategic direction of Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation, and Aerospace Industry (MDDIAI), as set out in the Loan Agreement. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development has agreed to provide financing for the Project as set out in the referred agreement.
2. The Borrower will ensure that the Project is implemented in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) and this Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), in a manner acceptable to the Bank. The ESCP is a part of the Loan Agreement. Unless otherwise defined in this ESCP, capitalized terms used in this ESCP have the meanings ascribed to them in the referred agreement.
3. Without limitation to the foregoing, this ESCP sets out material measures and actions that the Borrower will carry out, including, as applicable, the timeframes of the actions and measures, institutional, staffing, training, monitoring, and reporting arrangements, and grievance management. The ESCP also sets out the environmental and social (E&S) instruments that shall be adopted and implemented under the Project, all of which shall be subject to prior consultation and disclosure, consistent with the ESS, and in form and substance, and in a manner acceptable to the Bank. Once adopted, said E&S instruments may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the Bank.
4. As agreed by the Bank and Borrower, this ESCP will be revised from time to time if necessary, during Project implementation, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes and unforeseen circumstances or in response to Project performance. In such circumstances, the Borrower, through the Telecom Committee, and the Bank will agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through the exchange of letters signed between the Bank and the TC, represented by the Chairman of TC. The Borrower shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

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**P179204 – KAZAKHSTAN DIGITAL ACCELERATION FOR AN INCLUSIVE ECONOMY (DARE) PROJECT (P179204)**

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONS
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	<p><b>REGULAR REPORTING</b></p> <p>Prepare and submit to the Bank regular monitoring reports on the environmental, social, health, and safety (ESHS) performance of the Project, including but not limited to the implementation of the ESCP, status of preparation and implementation of E&amp;S instruments required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, and functioning of the grievance mechanism(s).</p>	<p><i>Submit Semi-annual reports to the Bank throughout Project implementation, commencing after the Effective Date of the Loan Agreement.</i></p> <p><i>Submit each report to the Bank no later than 15 days after the end of each reporting period.</i></p>	MDDIAI/T
B	<p><b>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</b></p> <p>Promptly notify the Bank of any incident or accident related or having an impact on the Project which has, or is likely to have, a significant adverse effect on environment, affected communities, the public, or workers, including, inter alia, cases of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment (SH), and accidents that result in death, serious and/or multiple injuries, vehicle accidents, large spills of biological and chemical substances, such as oils or fuels, and serious environmental pollution.</p> <p>Provide sufficient detail regarding the scope, severity, and possible causes of the incident or accident, including immediate measures taken or that are planned to be taken to address it, and any information provided by any contractor and/or supervising firm, as appropriate.</p> <p>Subsequently, at the Bank's request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to address it and prevent its recurrence.</p>	<p><i>Notify the Bank within 48 hours after learning about the incident or accident.</i></p> <p><i>Provide subsequent report to the Bank within a timeframe acceptable to the Bank throughout Project implementation.</i></p>	MDDIAI/T
C	<p><b>CONTRACTORS' MONTHLY REPORTS</b></p> <p>Require contractors and supervising firms to provide monthly monitoring reports on ESHS performance in accordance with the ESHS metrics specified in the respective bidding documents and contracts, and submit such reports to the Bank, upon request.</p>	<p><i>Submit the reports to the Bank as annexes to the reports to be submitted under action A above.</i></p>	MDDIAI/T

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MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<b>ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS</b>			
1.1	<p><b>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</b></p> <p>Establish and maintain a PIU within Telecom Committee for the Project, with qualified staff and resources to support effective management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project, including one environmental specialist and one social development specialist responsible for ensuring full compliance with the ESF and relevant instruments.</p>	<p><i>Establish and maintain the PIU by Effective Date as set out in the Loan Agreement. An environmental specialist and a social specialist shall be recruited within 30 days after the Effective Date of the Loan Agreement and thereafter maintain these positions throughout Project implementation.</i></p>	MDDIAI/TC
1.2	<p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INSTRUMENTS</b></p> <p>1. Prepare, disclose, consult, adopt, and implement an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), for the Project, consistent with the relevant ESSs.</p> <p>2. Cause Selected ISPs to prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement the site-specific Environmental and Social Assessment (ESIA) and Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), as set out in the ESMF. The proposed Sub-projects described in the exclusion list set out in this ESCP, the ESMF and in the Loan Agreement shall be ineligible to receive financing under the Project.</p>	<p><i>Adopt ESMF during the first three months of the project implementation stage, and thereafter implement ESMF throughout Project implementation.</i></p> <p><i>Adopt the site-specific ESIA and ESMPs prior to the issuance of bidding documents for the relevant Sub-project that requires the adoption of such ESIA/ESMP. Once adopted, implement throughout Project implementation</i></p>	MDDIAI/TC
1.3	<p><b>MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS</b></p> <p>Screen any proposed Sub-project in accordance with the ESMF prepared for the Project and, thereafter, ensure the preparation, disclosure, and implementation of any required Sub-project ESIA/ESMPs in a manner acceptable to the Borrower and the Bank.</p>	<p><i>All Sub-projects are subject to post-review by the Bank team throughout Project implementation through the Semi-annual reports and implementation support missions.</i></p>	MDDIAI/TC
1.4	<p><b>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</b></p> <p>Based on conducted Sub-projects ESIA/ESMPs, ensure that the relevant aspects of this ESCP, including inter alia, the Labor Management Procedures, and code of conduct, are incorporated into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. Thereafter, ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply and cause subcontractors to</p>	<p><i>As part of the preparation of all bidding documents and contracts.</i></p> <p><i>Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation.</i></p>	MDDIAI/TC

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	comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.		
1.5	<p><b>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</b></p> <p>Ensure that the consultancies, studies, capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project are carried out in accordance with terms of reference (TORs) acceptable to the Bank, that are consistent with the ESSs. Thereafter ensure that the outputs of such activities comply with the terms of reference.</p>	<i>Throughout Project implementation.</i>	MDDIAI/TC
1.6	<p><b>EXCLUSIONS:</b> The following type of activities shall not be eligible for finance under the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities that may cause long-term, permanent, and/or irreversible (e.g., loss of major natural habitat) adverse impacts on the environment)</li> <li>• Activities that may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflict:</li> <li>• Activities that may involve permanent resettlement or land acquisition or adverse impacts on cultural heritage.</li> </ul> <p>All the other excluded activities set out in the ESMF of the Project.</p>	<i>These exclusions shall be applied as part of the assessment process conducted under action 1.2 above.</i>	MDDIAI/TC
<b>ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS</b>			
2.1	<p><b>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</b></p> <p>Prepare, adopt, and implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) for the Project, including, <i>inter alia</i>, provisions on working conditions, management of worker's relationships, occupational health, and safety (including personal protective equipment (PPE), and emergency preparedness and response), code of conduct (including relating to SEA and SH), forced labor, child labor, grievance arrangements (GRM) for Project workers, and applicable requirements for contractors, subcontractors, and supervising firms.</p>	<i>Adopt and disclose the LMP during the first three months of the project implementation stage, and thereafter implement the LMP throughout Project implementation.</i>	MDDIAI/TC
2.2	<p><b>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</b></p> <p>Establish, maintain, and operate a Grievance Mechanism (GM) specifically for Project workers consistent with ESS2.</p>	<i>The grievance mechanism for Project workers shall be made operational prior to engaging Project staff and thereafter maintained throughout Project implementation.</i>	/ MDDIAI/TC

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<b>ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b>			
3.1	Ensure assessment of risks of pollutants that may include the use of hazardous material, hazardous waste (including asbestos during small-scale excavation works), and other construction wastes in accordance with the ESMF and incorporate pollution prevention and management measures in the ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.2 above.	<i>Same timeframe as for the preparation, adoption, and implementation of site-specific ESMPs under action 1.2 above.</i>	MDDIAI/TC
<b>ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>			
4.1	<b>TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY</b> Incorporate measures to manage traffic and road safety risks as required in the ESMP to be prepared under action 1.2 above.	<i>Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs.</i>	MDDIAI/TC
4.2	<b>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b> Assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities and include mitigation measures in the ESMPs to be prepared in accordance with the ESMF.	<i>Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs.</i>	MDDIAI/TC
<b>ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT</b>			
ESS 5 is not relevant for the Project			
<b>ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES</b>			
6.1	ESS6 is not relevant, however, the ESMF shall contain criteria for investment activities, including under any Sub-project, in or near protected areas or critical natural habitats.	<i>Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMF and ESMPs under action 1.2 above.</i>	MDDIAI/TC
<b>ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES</b>			
ESS 7 is not relevant for the Project			
<b>ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>			
8.1	<b>CULTURAL HERITAGE RISKS AND IMPACTS</b> Describe and implement the chance finds procedures as part of the ESMF and ESMPs for the Project.	<i>Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMF and ESMPs under action 1.2 above.</i>	MDDIAI/TC
<b>ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES</b>			

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ESS 9 is not relevant for the project			
<b>ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</b>			
10.1	<p><b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION</b></p> <p>Adopt and implement the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS 10, which shall include measures to, <i>inter alia</i>, 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.</p>	<p><i>The SEP has been prepared and shall be disclosed and adopted prior to Project Appraisal.</i></p> <p><i>Implement the SEP throughout Project implementation</i></p>	MDDIAI/TC
10.2	<p><b>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</b></p> <p>Establish, scale up, publicize, maintain, and operate an accessible grievance mechanism, to receive and facilitate the 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. GM of the existing HEP will be scaled up for the Project.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><i>The Project GRM is to be established within 30 days after the Effective Date of the Loan Agreement and thereafter maintained and operated the mechanism throughout Project implementation.</i></p>	MDDIAI/TC
<b>CAPACITY SUPPORT</b>			
CS1	<p><b>Training to be provided to PIU staff on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific aspects of environmental and social assessment (Screening and Scoping)</li> <li>• Orientation training on implementing the various provisions of ESF and ESMF</li> <li>• Implementation progress and monitoring report on ESMP</li> </ul>	<p><i>Training is to start within the two months after Effective Date of the Loan Agreement and to be provided throughout Project implementation; once a year as refresher training for each action point</i></p>	MDDIAI/TC

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<p>implementation compliance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Specific aspects of E&amp;S risks, Occupational and Community Health and Safety</li><li>• Implementation of LMP, its provisions, and labor complaints management</li><li>• Stakeholder identification, engagement, and GRM</li><li>• Emergency preparedness and response</li><li>• Labor Management Procedures</li><li>• Prevention of and response to SEA/SH sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment</li><li>• Incident reporting and understanding of ESIRT (Environmental and Social Incident Reporting Toolkit) provisions</li><li>• Training on stakeholder mapping and engagement</li></ul>		