

# Non-Technical Summary for the Design Consultation of the Programme of Activities:

## *Empower Solar PV & BESS Programme of Activities in Nigeria*

### 1. Purpose of this Non-Technical Summary

This Non-Technical Summary (NTS) is prepared for the purpose of conducting a Programme of Activities (PoA) Design Consultation under the Gold Standard for the Global Goals.

The objective of this consultation is to seek stakeholder feedback on the design, scope, eligibility criteria, implementation framework, safeguard approach, and sustainable development contributions of the proposed Programme of Activities “Empower Solar PV & BESS Programme of Activities in Nigeria”.

**The Public Consultation for the PoA:** “Empower Solar PV & BESS Programme of Activities in Nigeria” will be maintained online.

### 2. Relevant Information for the PoA - Empower Solar PV & BESS Programme of Activities in Nigeria (Design Stage)

Empower New Energy AS proposes to develop a Programme of Activities (PoA) that will support the deployment of distributed solar photovoltaic (PV) systems combined with battery energy storage systems (BESS) at commercial and industrial (C&I) facilities across Nigeria. The PoA is currently in the **design phase** and is intended to provide a harmonised framework under which multiple VPAs may be implemented over time.

The PoA will have up to 15MW of installed capacity distributed in different VPAs. Each Voluntary Project Activity (VPA) will involve the installation and operation of a rooftop or ground-mounted solar PV & BESS system, either grid-connected or off-grid, depending on the host facility and local network conditions to provide clean and renewable energy.

The PoA is designed to reduce electricity consumption from the national grid and on-site diesel generators by supplying clean, reliable renewable energy directly to commercial and industrial users.

All VPAs implemented under the PoA will follow harmonized eligibility criteria, design parameters and monitoring procedures established at PoA level.

The PoA will be registered under the Gold Standard for the Global Goals, with a start date of 01/01/2027 and a duration of 20 years. The goal is to generate carbon credits, measured in tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, to be traded on the carbon market.

Construction time: approx. 11 months

Operation begins: 01/01/2027

The creation of this PoA is a **voluntary action** by **Empower New Energy AS**.

### 3. Eligibility Criteria for Voluntary Project Activities (VPAs)

VPAs included under the PoA are expected to meet harmonised eligibility criteria defined at PoA level, including but not limited to:

- Installation of solar PV systems with battery energy storage systems (BESS).
- May be grid-connected or off-grid, depending on the characteristics of the host facility and local grid conditions.
- Compliance with applicable national and local regulations
- Mandatory site-specific stakeholder consultation and safeguard assessment prior to inclusion

These criteria may be refined based on stakeholder feedback received during this PoA Design Consultation.

#### **Illustrative Example of a Proposed Voluntary Project Activity (VPA)**

As part of the development of this Programme of Activities (PoA), Empower New Energy has identified an initial Voluntary Project Activity (VPA), the **Jendol Superstores project**, which is intended to be the **first real-case VPA** under the PoA. The VPA is located in Lagos State, Nigeria, across multiple supermarket sites.

The project consists of the installation of a rooftop solar photovoltaic system combined with battery energy storage, designed to supply renewable electricity primarily for on-site consumption.

This project reflects the typical characteristics of VPAs to be included under the PoA, including:

- Deployment of distributed solar PV technology & BESS at commercial or industrial sites;
- Displacement of electricity from the national grid and on-site diesel generators;
- Contribution to greenhouse gas emission reductions and improved energy reliability for industrial users.

The project is presented in this Design Consultation **as a concrete example of the type of activities to be implemented under the PoA**, in order to support stakeholder understanding of the PoA design, expected impacts, and safeguard approach. At this stage, any impacts associated with this project are indicative and will be assessed and confirmed at VPA level through site-specific studies and stakeholder engagement.

The formal inclusion of this VPA in the PoA will be subject to a **separate VPA-level stakeholder consultation, validation, and approval process**, in accordance with Gold Standard requirements.

### 4. VPA Development and Inclusion Process

Individual VPAs will be identified and developed in line with the PoA eligibility criteria. Prior to inclusion in the PoA, each real-case VPA will:

- Conduct a local stakeholder consultation in accordance with Gold Standard requirements
- Assess site-specific environmental and social impacts
- Establish a continuous input and grievance mechanism
- Demonstrate compliance with the PoA design and safeguards

Stakeholder feedback at the VPA level may result in modifications to project design or implementation measures.

## 5. Synergies with Similar Initiatives

This proposal supports technological innovation, installation of infrastructure in the rooftop or on the ground related to commercial and industrial clients. The PoA is designed to complement existing renewable energy initiatives and avoid overlap or double counting by ensuring clear project boundaries and exclusive attribution of emission reductions.

## 6. Target End Users

The PoA is expected to directly benefit the following groups:

- **Commercial and Industrial electricity consumers.** Empower will provide renewable energy, cutting emissions related to fossil fuels.
- **Local community.** Gains from local employment during construction, operation and maintenance. There will be strengthened partnerships between Empower, local EPC contractors and industrial associations.

## 7. Safeguards, Risk Management and Mitigation Measures

The Empower Solar PV & BESS Programme of Activities in Nigeria is designed to integrate environmental and social safeguards at programme level, in line with the Gold Standard for the Global Goals and applicable national regulations.

At the PoA level, potential risks associated with typical Voluntary Project Activities (VPAs) have been identified as low to moderate in nature and primarily related to:

- Temporary disturbance during installation works (e.g. noise, access constraints);
- Occupational health and safety risks during construction, operation, and maintenance activities.

To address these risks, the PoA establishes a harmonised safeguard framework that will apply to all VPAs, including:

- Compliance with applicable national and local regulations;
- Application of Empower's requirements and contractor standards;
- Mandatory site-specific environmental and social risk screening for each VPA prior to inclusion;
- Implementation of appropriate health and safety procedures during construction and operation.

Any site-specific risks identified at VPA level will be addressed through tailored mitigation measures and documented as part of the VPA Design Document (VPA-DD). Stakeholder feedback received during consultations may result in adjustments to project design or implementation measures to further reduce risks.

## 8. Summary of PoA's Economic, Social, and Environmental Impacts

- **Economic Impacts**

Impact Category	Description
Investment Catalyst	The PoA is expected to mobilise private capital for the deployment of distributed solar PV systems across Nigeria's commercial and industrial sector, supporting investment in clean energy

<b>Green Job Creation</b>	<p>infrastructure that would otherwise face financial barriers without carbon finance.</p> <p>The PoA is expected to support job creation during construction, installation, operation and maintenance of the solar PV &amp; BESS system.</p>
<b>Energy Security</b>	<p>Distributed solar generation reduces reliance on Nigeria’s fossil-dominated grid and diesel generators, increasing operational resilience for industrial users facing frequent power outages.</p>
<b>Technology Innovation</b>	<p>The PoA is expected to demonstrate a replicable and scalable business model for renewable energy deployment in the industrial and commercial sector, supporting broader market transformation.</p>

- **Social Impacts**

<b>Impact</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Improved public health and well-being</b>	<p>Reduced dependence on diesel generators lowers noise, air pollution, and occupational health risks for workers at industrial facilities.</p>
<b>Encouraging citizen participation and community empowerment</b>	<p>The PoA includes structured stakeholder consultations and continuous grievance mechanisms, ensuring transparency, inclusiveness, and consideration of local stakeholder concerns throughout the project lifecycle.</p>

The project applies a gender-sensitive approach to stakeholder engagement and employment opportunities, ensuring equal access to participation and benefits.

- **Environmental Impacts**

<b>Impact</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Contribution to climate change mitigation</b>	<p>The PoA is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by displacing electricity from Nigeria’s fossil-dominated grid and diesel generators with renewable solar PV electricity.</p>
<b>Improved soil health and biodiversity</b>	<p>When the VPAs use rooftops to install the solar PV pannels, the land-use impacts are minimal, avoiding pressure on natural or agricultural land.</p>

## 9. Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Empower Solar PV & BESS Programme of Activities in Nigeria is expected to contribute positively to sustainable development in Nigeria by supporting the deployment of renewable energy solutions in the commercial and industrial sector. Anticipated contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are based on the typical characteristics of VPAs and will be assessed and confirmed at the individual VPA level.

The PoA is expected to contribute to the following SDGs:

- **SDG 7 – Affordable and clean energy**
  - **Expected impact:** Increased supply of clean, reliable renewable electricity to industrial facilities, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and diesel generators.
  - **Monitoring approach:** Measurement of electricity generated by solar PV systems (MWh), based on calibrated meters and recorded annually.
  
- **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth**
  - **Expected impact:** Creation of employment opportunities during construction, installation, operation, and maintenance phases, with adherence to labour standards and health and safety requirements.
  - **Monitoring approach:** Number of jobs created, using contractor employment records.
  
- **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**
  - **Expected impact:** Strengthening of resilient and sustainable energy infrastructure for industrial and commercial users through distributed solar PV systems.
  - **Monitoring approach:** Number of VPAs implemented, installed solar PV capacity (MWp), and number of industrial facilities served.
  
- **SDG 13 – Climate Action**
  - **Expected impact:** Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through the displacement of grid electricity and diesel-based generation with renewable solar power.
  - **Monitoring approach:** Annual calculation of emission reductions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) using Gold Standard-approved methodologies, verified by an accredited Validation and Verification Body (VVB).
  
- **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals**
  - **Expected impact:** Strengthening partnerships between Empower New Energy, local EPC contractors, industrial associations, and host facilities to scale clean energy deployment.
  - **Monitoring approach:** Number of active partnerships and collaborative projects implemented under the PoA.

## 10. Contact Information

For any inquiries related to the PoA or VPA, or for those unable to attend the public consultation, you can contact:

- Contact Person: Raja Dasgupta; Michael IWU
- Email: [projects@empowernewenergy.com](mailto:projects@empowernewenergy.com)
- Phone: +47 934 10 055

All feedback and grievances received will be formally recorded, acknowledged, and addressed by Empower New Energy AS in accordance with the project's continuous input and grievance mechanism, and responses will be communicated to stakeholders.

This Non-Technical Summary and related project information will remain available to stakeholders throughout the minimum 30-day stakeholder feedback round.