



SOLAR POWER PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION, NEPAL

Press Release

Government Eases EIA Thresholds for Solar PV Projects Bringing Parity with Hydropower

Kathmandu, 12 October 2025 — SOPPAN welcomes the Government of Nepal's amendment to Environmental Impact Assessment requirements for solar photovoltaic projects, which raises the full EIA threshold from projects larger than 10 MW to projects larger than 50 MW in Hilly Regions and larger than 40 MW in the Terai Region. SOPPAN acknowledges that this change was among the issues brought to the Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation during our meeting on 26 September 2025 and has been a consistent ask in our advocacy for a proportionate regulatory approach.

SOPPAN notes that the revised thresholds align solar project EIA treatment with hydropower, where EIA is required for projects above 50 MW. This alignment removes the disproportionate regulatory burden on medium-scale solar projects such as 10–50 MW installations and corrects the unequal treatment that previously hindered timely investment and development in the solar sector.

Impact and Significance

- **Accelerates Deployment** of medium-scale solar projects by simplifying the approval pathway and reducing time and cost barriers.
- **Levels the Playing Field** between solar and hydropower development, promoting technology-neutral energy policy.
- **Attracts Investment** by providing a clearer, more predictable regulatory environment for developers and financiers.
- **Supports National Energy Goals** by fast-tracking capacity additions needed to meet domestic demand and to realize Nepal's potential as a regional energy supplier to BBIN countries.

SOPPAN Statement

SOPPAN extends sincere thanks to the interim Government of Nepal and to Hon'ble Minister Kulman Ghising for understanding the comparative processes for hydro and solar development and for taking decisive action to fast-track energy project development. SOPPAN recognises the



SOLAR POWER PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION, NEPAL

Minister's focus on creating conditions that enable efficient project delivery, strengthen energy security, and position Nepal to become an energy supply hub for the South Asian region.

SOPPAN reaffirms its readiness to support the Ministry and relevant agencies in implementing the amended EIA rules, in refining complementary regulations, and in accelerating responsible investment in solar development across Nepal.

About SOPPAN

SOPPAN is a coalition of industry stakeholders advocating for a fair, transparent, and investment-friendly policy environment for solar and other renewable energy technologies in Nepal. SOPPAN works with government, regulators, investors, and communities to promote sustainable energy solutions that deliver economic, social, and environmental benefits.
