Focus Group Discussion on updates of implementation of the Smooth Transition Strategy (STS) as per M & E Framework

Date: 04 January 2026 Time: 10:00 pm
Venue: Asia, JEC and F&F Wing Conference Room, ERD

Outcome Document

Support to Sustainable Graduation Project (SSGP) of the Economic Relations Division (ERD) organized a Focus Group Discussion on 'M&E Framework for Implementation of the Smooth Transition Strategy (STS)' on 04 January 2026 at the Asia, JEC and F&F Wing Conference Room of ERD. Additional Secretary of ERD and the Project Director of SSGP, Mr. A H M Jahangir chaired the event. Project Adviser of SSGP Mr. Abdul Baki moderated the discussions. Major discussions and decisions of the event are documented below.

Welcome Remarks by the Chair: Mr. A.H.M. Jahangir, Additional Secretary and Project Director, SSGP, Economic Relations Division:

Mr. Jahangir, in his welcome remarks, underscored the need for a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework to track and coordinate the implementation of the STS and its action plan. He mentioned that consequently, STS M&E frameworks have been devised for 35 ministries and organizations. Mr. Jahangir also recalled that during a meeting of the National Steering Committee held on 08 October 2025 and chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Adviser, it was decided that the concerned ministries would send monthly progress reports on STS implementation to ERD while quarterly meetings would be held to track and analyze the progress of STS in line with the M&E framework. Mr. Jahangir also recalled that in order to facilitate effective discussions on implementation of STS, ministries/agencies had been divided into four clusters. Against this backdrop, he explained that this focus group discussion had been organized to review the progress of STS implementation with the ministries/agencies coming under Cluster C. At this stage, representatives from the concerned ministries and agencies were asked to provide updates on the measures taken based on their respective M&E frameworks.

Open Floor Discussion:

At this stage, representatives from the following ministries/ agencies concerned presented the progress of the implementation of the STS as per their respective M&E frameworks.
Ministry of Science and Technology

- Power Division
- Energy and Mineral Resources Division

- Health Services Division
- Information and Communication Technology Division
- Ministry of Expatriate's Welfare and Overseas Employment

Feedback:

At this stage, the following feedback came from participants:

- Concerned ministries and agencies will provide quantifiable and timebound progress against their specific actions.
- Concerned ministries and agencies may consider including an indicator in their respective M&E frameworks regarding the initiatives taken by their respective entities to strengthen their focus on Research and Development (R&D).
- Energy and Mineral Resources Division, Health Services Division and ICT Division will review and update their M&E frameworks after consultation with the relevant supporting agencies.
- It was also affirmed that the lead ministries/ agencies can revise the recommended target completion dates of their specific actions if circumstances require them to do so.

Concluding Remarks from the Chair:

The Chair, in his concluding remarks, thanked all the participants for their input and feedback. He asked the relevant ministries and agencies to send detailed updates on the measures undertaken in light of the actions outlined in their respective M&E frameworks in writing to ERD by 08 January 2026. He also asked the ministries/ agencies to provide specific and measurable progress against the specific actions outlined in their M&E frameworks.

25.01.2026
MD IQBAL AKTAR
Deputy Secretary
Economic Relations Division
Ministry of Finance
Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh