

# Devising a Participatory Approach for Effective Policymaking in the Power and Energy Sector

# Context

- A dedicated policy for the power and energy sector in Bangladesh, namely the “**National Energy Policy**”, was formulated in 1996.
- An effort was made to update the NEP in **2004**.
- In 2008, the “**Renewable Energy Policy of Bangladesh**” was formulated and approved.

Since 2010, there have been three major masterplans for the power sector and two major masterplans for the gas sector, which are:

- PSMP 2010, 2016
- IEPMP 2023
- GSMP 2017, 2019

# A Complete List of Sector Specific Policies, Master Plans, and Guidelines

Sl. No.	Name	Year
1.	National Energy Policy (NEP)	1996
2.	National Energy Policy (NEP) (Updated)	2004
3.	Renewable Energy Policy	2008
4.	Power Sector Master Plan (PSMP)	2010
5.	Gas Development Fund Policy	2012
6.	Renewable Energy Policy Guidelines	2013
7.	LPG Bottling Plant Installation Policy	2016
8.	Power System Master Plan (PSMP)	2016
9.	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Master Plan	2016
10.	Policy on Installation and Operation of Wind Ethanol Plants	2017
11.	Gas Sector Master Plan (GSMP)	2017
12.	Net Metering Guidelines	2018

# A Complete List of Sector Specific Policies, Master Plans, and Guidelines (contd.)

Sl. No.	Name	Year
13.	Gas Sector Master Plan (GSMP)	2019
14.	Domestic Natural Oil/Gas Exploration Policy	2019
15.	Natural Gas Allocation Policy	2019
16.	Private Sector Construction, Import, and Supply of LNG/RLNG Installations Policy	2019
17.	Prepaid or Smart Gas Meter Policy	2019
18.	LNG Infrastructure Formation, Importing & Distribution in Private Sector Policy	2019
19.	LNG Import Policy (Draft)	2019
20.	Grid Integration Guideline for Solar Irrigation Pumps	2020
21.	Electric Vehicle Charging Guideline	2022
22.	Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP)	2023
23.	Private Sector Construction, Import and Supply of LNG/RLNG Installations Policy (Revised)	2023

# Policy vs Masterplans: Any difference?

- According to the policy experts, there is a **critical difference** between a national policy and master plans or guidelines **in principle**.
- A national policy should fundamentally uphold the **constitutional spirit** and the elements of **public welfare and rights**, and it should work as a **base or foundation** for the master plans and/or guidelines.
- Although we have had a host of master plans in the power and energy sector, their **alignments** have gone under the scrutiny of experts due to a **lack of robust policy backing ensuring participation from the relevant stakeholders**, which integrates the whole sector in line with the overall economic growth and sustainable development goals.

# Major Concerns Regarding the Existing Policies/Plans

This absence of a cohesive policy framework and implementation raises several concerns:

- Ad hoc decision-making processes leading to inconsistencies and inefficiencies in the sector's development.
- Lack of participation leading to the exclusion of domestic public opinion, civic consultation, and scholarly intervention, resulting in a disconnect between policy outcomes and the needs and expectations of stakeholders.
- Lack of coordination among the government bodies as well as private sector stakeholders, and inadequacy in the alignment with other policy documents.

# Primary Objectives of the Webinar

- ❖ To critically examine the current state of policymaking in the power and energy sector of Bangladesh.
- ❖ To identify the gaps and challenges arising from the absence of a guiding policy since 1996.
- ❖ To explore the benefits and methodologies of incorporating participatory approaches in policy formulation.
- ❖ To propose a framework for integrating domestic public opinion, civic consultations, and scholarly inputs into the policymaking process.

Thank You!!!