

IMRANA JALAL Chair The Inspection Panel

August 18, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS AND ALTERNATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

NEPAL: Nepal-India Regional Trade and Transport Project (P144335)

Second Request for Postponement of the Inspection Panel **Report and Recommendation**

1. On April 25, 2020, the Inspection Panel received a Request for Inspection related to the Nepal-India Regional Trade and Transport Project in Nepal and registered it on The Panel received the Management Response to this Request on May 27, 2020. June 26, 2020.

2. According to its Resolution, the Inspection Panel was required to submit to the Board of Executive Directors its Report and Recommendation on July 29, 2020. On July 28, 2020, the Panel sought a postponement until August 24, 2020. This postponement was due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions and the difficulty in conducting field verification for the purposes of the Panel's eligibility assessment of the Request for Inspection and the related recommendation. At this stage, due to the lockdown in Nepal imposed by the pandemic, the Panel is still unable to conduct field verification through the adopted virtual format. This task will require additional time to be completed. The Panel therefore requests the Board to approve a postponement of the deadline for completion of the Inspection Panel Report and Recommendation until September 21, 2020. The Panel has consulted with Management and the Requesters on this matter.

3. Consistent with prior similar recommendations approved by the Board, in the absence of objection by the Board of Executive Directors, the Panel will advise the Requesters and Management accordingly.

Sincerely,