1. **Project and Activity Description**

1.1 Purpose and Scope” of RCE is to cover U.S. Embassy Tbilisi Cyber Security Working Group’s (CSWG) decision that USAID/Georgia utilizes $1,950,000 of cyber security FY2019 AEECA assistance resources to support the Central Election Commission (CEC) to strengthen its cyber security posture ahead of the 2020 parliamentary elections.

1.2 Project Overview: This assistance is in support of Integrated Country Strategy (ICS) sub-objective 1.1.2: more competitive, deliberate, and transparent electoral and political processes. The additional funding will be applied to the Mission’s current Elections and Political Processes Support activity, implemented by the Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS) partners, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES).

2. **Project Description and Climate Risk Screening**

USAID will manage the use of the FY2019 AEECA cyber security resources. As part of the assistance, USAID, via IFES, will provide the CEC backup data servers, software, hardware and software technicians for technical trainings for CEC IT staff, expert cyber security program writers to rewrite certain public-facing elections information management systems, cyber security hygiene training for CEC staff, and Georgia/EPPs
elections cyber disinformation awareness trainings for elections stakeholders. All equipment will be installed in facilities with adequate electrical supply; power surge protection; and cooling systems to ensure integrity of the USAID investment. These activities will contribute to the EPP PAD’s third objective related to leveling the electoral playing field and improving citizen confidence in the administration of Georgia’s elections.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Defined or illustrative activities under Component One— support to CEC</th>
<th>Potential Climate Risk</th>
<th>Climate Risk Rating*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Provide the CEC backup data servers, software</td>
<td>No adverse impacts expected</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Provide the CEC hardware and software technicians for technical trainings for CEC IT staff</td>
<td>No adverse impacts expected</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Provide the CEC expert cyber security program writers to rewrite certain public-facing elections information management systems</td>
<td>No adverse impacts expected</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 Provide cyber security hygiene training for CEC staff</td>
<td>No adverse impacts expected</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 Provide elections cyber disinformation awareness trainings for elections stakeholders</td>
<td>No adverse impacts expected</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The climate risk analysis was done using Climate Risk Screening and Management Tool and the Georgian Road Map on Climate Change Adaptation.

3. Justification for Categorical Exclusion Determination
The activities under the EPPs will not have an effect on the natural or physical environment and are among the classes of activities listed in 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2). Therefore, under §216.2(c)(1), neither an IEE nor an EA will be required for these activities. Instead, a categorical exclusion threshold determination is recommended for the following identified activities under 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2):

- Activity [1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5] under §216.2(c)(2)(i) Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.);

4. Limitations of the Categorical Exclusion Determination:
This categorical exclusion does not cover classes of actions normally having a significant effect on the environment under §216.2(d):

i. Programs of river basin development;
ii. Irrigation and water management;
iii. Agricultural land leveling;
iv. Drainage projects;
v. Large scale agricultural mechanization;
vi. Resettlement projects;
vii. New land development;
viii. Penetration road building and road improvement;
ix. Powerplants;
x. Industrial plants; and
xi. Potable water and sewerage projects

In addition, this categorical exclusion does not cover activities that:
- Support project preparation, project feasibility studies, engineering design for activities listed in §216.2(d)(1);
- Affect endangered species;
- Provide support to extractive industries (e.g. mining and quarrying);
- Promote timber harvesting;
- Lead to construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or renovation work;
- Support agro-processing or industrial enterprises;
- Provide support for regulatory permitting;
- Lead to privatization of industrial facilities or infrastructure with heavily polluted property;
- Assist the procurement (including payment in kind, donations, guarantees of credit) or use (including handling, transport, fuel for transport, storage, mixing, loading, application, clean-up of spray equipment, and disposal) of pesticides or activities involving procurement, transport, use, storage, or disposal of toxic materials—pesticides cover all insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, etc. covered under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; and/or
- Procure or use genetically modified organisms.

Any of these actions would require a Europe and Eurasia Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO) approved amendment to the categorical exclusion.

5. Mandatory Inclusion of Environmental Compliance Requirements in Solicitations, Awards, Budgets, and Work Plans
- Appropriate environmental compliance language, including limitations defined in Section 4, shall be incorporated into solicitations and awards for categorical exclusions.
- The implementing partner shall ensure annual work plans do not prescribe activities that are defined as limitations in Section 4.

6. Revisions
Under §216.3(a)(9), if new information becomes available that indicates that activities covered by the categorical exclusion might be considered major and their effect significant, or if additional activities are proposed that might be considered major and their effect significant, this categorical exclusion determination will be reviewed and, if necessary, revised by the Mission Environmental Officer (MEO) with concurrence by the BEO. It is the responsibility of the USAID Contract Officer’s Representative (COR)/Agreement Officer’s Representative (AOR) to keep the MEO and BEO informed of any new information or changes in the activity that might require revision of this determination.
7. **Recommended Determination for Categorical Exclusion to cover U.S. Embassy Tbilisi Cyber Security Working Group’s (CSWG) decision that USAID/Georgia utilizes $1,950,000 of cyber security FY2019 AEECA assistance resources to support the Central Election Commission (CEC) to strengthen its cyber security posture ahead of the 2020 parliamentary elections:**

**Approval:**

[Signature]

Peter A Wiebler, Mission Director

Date

**Clearance:**

[Signature]

Gocha Lobzhanidze, Mission Environmental Officer

Date

**Clearance:**

[Signature]

Jay Totte, AOR/COR

Date

**Concurrence:**

[Signature]

Mark Kamiya

E&E Bureau Environmental Officer

Date

**Distribution:**

IEE File

MEO (to also provide a copy to AOR/COR)

Attachments: Annex A Climate Risk Screening and Management Tool for Activity/Project/Strategy Design
## Annex A: Climate Risk Screening and Management Tool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.1: Defined or Anticipated Tasks or Interventions*</th>
<th>Elections and Political Processes (EPPs)</th>
<th>Next step: Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.2: Time-frame</td>
<td>FY19-FY23</td>
<td>Next step: Geog.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3: Geography</td>
<td>The project will be implemented in Georgia</td>
<td>Next step: Climate Risks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2: Climate Risks*</td>
<td>In 2017-2050: The average annual air temperature throughout Georgia will increase by 1.3 C to 1.6 C, the number of summer days (above 25°C) will increase; in contrast to all other cases, the temperature increase in West Georgia will be higher than in East Georgia. The absolute minimum air temperature by 1 C is probable in the mountain zone; the overall tendency is for an increase. The number of frost days is decreasing throughout Georgia. The annual number of hot days will increase about 2.5 times. The percentage change of annual total precipitation is within a range from an 11% decrease to an 8% increase. A number of days of heavy rain will increase by 2 to 5 days; a decrease is more observable in the southeast, also in Adjara and a large part of Imereti; and an increase will take place in mountain regions, mostly within the Greater Caucasus.</td>
<td>Next step: Adaptive Capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3: Adaptive Capacity</td>
<td>support the Central Election Commission (CEC) to strengthen its cyber security posture ahead of the 2020 parliamentary elections</td>
<td>Next step: Risk Rating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4: Climate Risk Rating*</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Next step: Opps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Enter rating for each risk: High, Moderate, or Low]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5: Opportunities*</td>
<td>Work with relevant government stakeholders to develop their capacity to plan for and respond to disasters in a timely and efficient manner.</td>
<td>Next step: Risk Mgmt. Options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1: Climate Risk Management Options</td>
<td>Support facilities that maintain air conditioning and evacuation plans (in case of disaster)</td>
<td>Next step: Selected Options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2: How Climate Risks Are Addressed in the Activity*</td>
<td>Not currently addressed</td>
<td>Next step: Next Steps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7: Next Steps for Activity Implementation</td>
<td>Will consider opportunities to build capacity for disaster risk planning and response.</td>
<td>Next step: Accepted Risks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8: Accepted Climate Risks*</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Finished!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Georgia/EPPs**