

# Lighthouse Webinar – Scaling Solar: A Knowledge Exchange between India and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

## Session Agenda

February 7, 2023



British  
High Commission  
New Delhi



## 1.1. Background

The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are considered to be highly vulnerable to the impact of global warming, despite being the lowest contributors to climate change. Their power generation depends largely on imported fossil fuels, which has an adverse impact on their emission footprint and import bills. Therefore, renewable energy is increasingly becoming a significant part of the energy transition plans of SIDS.

Solar technologies are essential for the energy transition for SIDS. The high solar irradiation and potential in these countries provides a favorable ecosystem for deployment of solar energy and energy storage technologies. However, several challenges exist including land scarcity, high cost of procurement and project development, and lack of access to finance. According to UNCTAD, SIDS received only \$1.5 billion out of the \$100 billion climate finance pledged to developing countries in 2019.

Several lessons can be borrowed from India’s solar journey for enabling the energy transition and solar deployment in the SIDS. These include building a comprehensive ecosystem by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, with the help of World Bank’s financing programs which was responsible for leveraging nearly 40 times the initial climate finance invested in the country. This has been particularly responsible for scaling up solar parks and rooftop solar segments in India, taking India’s solar deployment to over 60 GW in six years. Similarly, there are significant lessons to be learnt from India’s programs for energy storage, decentralized solar for mini-grids and solar home systems that can be applied for scaling up these segments in SIDS.

As part of the World Bank-ISA Lighthouse Initiative, we would like to convene key stakeholders in the solar energy ecosystem, share success factors and learnings, and discuss the challenges and potential opportunities that could be tapped considering the requirements in SIDS. We aim to bring together all the stakeholders to identify the key gaps, consolidate relevant learnings, and engage proactively with entrepreneurs, investors, donors, civil society, and policymakers to discuss the way forward for the replication of lessons from the solar sector in these countries.

## 1.2. Key Objectives

**The key objectives of the session are to:**

- Highlight current drivers and challenges of the solar energy sector in SIDS and the key learnings from India;
- Understand existing ecosystem in discussion with key stakeholders such as financiers, government, support networks, others;
- Understand the energy transition plans of SIDS and role played by solar;
- Explore the private sector enterprise experience and perspective on challenges and opportunities and the ecosystem support required;
- Identify key gaps and opportunities that need to be tapped for promotion of solar energy sector;
- Understand replication requirements and key considerations based on the relevant country context;
- Define the way forward and identify potential collaboration opportunities for scaling the solar energy sector.

## 1.3. Discussion Areas

<b>Key success factors for scaling the solar energy sector – Lessons from India</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation on key programs and projects from the private sector to support solar energy sector in India</li> <li>• Showcasing of success factors and key interventions from the solar energy sector in India</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing regulatory and financing support that enabled enterprises to help expand the operations, improve efficiencies, provide quality power, among others</li> <li>Case studies from the work of ISA, World Bank, and others ecosystem players on key success factors that supported solar energy sector in the country/region</li> </ul>
<b>Discussion on key requirements in SIDS for scaling solar – challenges and opportunities in the solar energy sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion between stakeholders including Government, financial institutions, and, the private sector on key requirements and challenges in the deployment of solar energy projects in SIDS</li> <li>Opportunities and interventions required by stakeholders to promote solar energy sector across the regions</li> </ul>
<b>Way forward and recommendations to promote the solar energy sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunities for collaboration to promote solar sector in SIDS by replicating learnings from India’s success in the solar sector</li> <li>Information/roadmap on schemes/subsidies for different segments such as for project installations, ensuring evacuation of power with utilities, among others</li> <li>Roadmap/ plan to support member countries for the implementation of solar energy sector at scale</li> </ul>

#### 1.4. Agenda of the Webinar

**Date of webinar:** February 7, 2023

**Time:** 10:00 am – 12: 15 pm (IST)

**Mode:** Hybrid (virtual and physical)

**Venue:** Physical event will be held at the G20 ISA Pavilion

Time (IST)	Duration	Discussion Points	Speakers*
10:00 am-10:05 am	5 mins	<b>Welcome Address by World Bank</b> , introducing the Lighthouse initiative	Mr. Simon Stolp, Practice Manager, South Asia, The World Bank
10:05 am-10:15 am	10 mins	<b>Opening remarks and context setting</b> on key learnings from India’s solar energy sector for SIDS	Dr. Ajay Mathur, DG, ISA/ Mr. Remesh Kumar, Chief of Unit (PPIC), ISA
10:15 am-10:25 am	10 mins	<b>Keynote Address</b> to share India’s journey in the solar sector and MNRE’s role in shaping the sector	Senior representative, MNRE, Government of India
10:25 am-10:35 am	10 mins	<b>Address by the World Bank</b> on the Bank’s key programs and initiatives to help scale the solar sector in SIDS	Dr. Amit Jain, Senior Energy Specialist, The World Bank
10:35 am-10:45 am	10 mins	<b>Special Address:</b> Accelerating deployment of solar energy in Maldives	Mr. Ali Majid, Deputy Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Technology, Republic of Maldives
10:45 am-11:05 am	20 mins	<b>Presentation on the solar energy landscape in SIDS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specific insights including opportunities, challenges, and roadmap for scaling solar</li> </ul>	Mr. Santosh Singh, Managing Director, Intellicap

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Success stories from India, prevalent business models, case studies, learnings, supportive programs, etc.</li> </ul>	
11:05 am-12:05 pm	60 mins	<p><b>Panel discussion on Challenges and Opportunities for Scaling Solar in SIDS</b></p>	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Dr. Amit Jain, Senior Energy Specialist, World Bank</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Solar Alliance</li> <li>• MNRE, GoI</li> <li>• Private sector enterprises in India and SIDS</li> <li>• Government representatives from SIDS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mr. Tony Imaduwa, CEO, Seychelles Energy Commission, Republic of Seychelles</li> <li>➤ Ms. Simona Kilei, Director of Energy, Republic of Tuvalu</li> <li>➤ Ms. Hawwa Liuza, Assistant Director of Energy Department, Republic of Maldives</li> <li>➤ Ms. Mani Khurana, Senior Energy Specialist, The World Bank</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Financial institutions</li> </ul>
12:05 pm-12:15 pm	10 mins	<p><b>Closing remarks by The World Bank</b></p>	<p>Dr. Xiaodong Wang, , Lead Energy Specialist, The World Bank</p>

\*List of speakers will be confirmed in consultation with the World Bank and ISA