



International Solar Alliance closes its historic meeting with a promise to increase solarisation in the Latin American & Caribbean region

5 August 2022 | GEORGETOWN, GUYANA: The International Solar Alliance's (ISA) Fourth Regional Committee Meeting for Latin America & the Caribbean ended its historic first in-person meeting today in Guyana. Leaders from across the region were gathered to accelerate impact, using solar solutions, on the adverse effects caused by climate change. The International Solar Alliance highlighted with the appropriate technology interventions and financial support, the adoption of solar energy offers unlimited opportunities for securing a sustainable future for all, accelerating global energy transition and addressing the multitude of economic and climate challenges that nations face today.

H.E. President Mohamed Irfaan Ali delivered the keynote address at the meeting. He said: "Today's meeting is on the backdrop of transitions. Transition does not mean the end of anything; it means there is a gap that needs to be filled. Transition is not a cheap process. We have not mastered the technology or financial and business models. This forum of the International Solar Alliance is to advance discussions on the challenges we will face with energy transitions and how we may find long-term solutions for them. We have to find answers but let those answers be based on realities we face."

The meeting was attended by Honourable Prime Minister of Guyana Brigadier (ret'd) Mark Phillips; Mr. Deodat Indar, Minister within the Ministry of Public Works of Guyana; Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General of International Solar Alliance; Mr Stuart R Young, Hon'ble Minister of Energy and Energy Industries, Trinidad & Tobago; Dr. William F. Duguid, Senior Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister Barbados; Mr. Jean Fanfan Jourdain, Director of Coastal and Maritime Coasts (Vice Minister), Haiti; Ms. Tania Masea, Vice Minister, Ministry of Electric Power, Venezuela. Delegates from 19 LAC countries participated in the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion **Honourable Prime Minister of Guyana Brigadier (ret'd) Mark Phillips** said "We are all aware of the value of solar in increasing access to energy, in advancing energy security, and driving transition to clean and modern energy. The substantial contribution of the ISA continue to reveal the importance of such partnerships in the region. The existence of ISA reminds us just how vital strategic alliances are in the increased deployment of solar energy technologies towards shared goal of sustainability. The government of Guyana has benefitted from ISA in technical cooperation and grant assistance and looks forward to opportunities for greater collaboration as our country embarks on tremendous transformation in the energy sector."

Speaking about the increase in solar adoption in the LAC region **Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General of International Solar Alliance** said that, "Solar PV capacity in the region increased by 44% in 2021, a much sharper growth than in the previous years - 15% in 2019 and 26% in 2020. We are happy to see that with this growth, the region is also evolving and diversifying its solar energy applications."



Dr Mathur added that, “The Latin America and the Caribbean region is uniquely important to the ISA and to the global solar energy ecosystem. The region is home to countries like Argentina, Brazil, Chile and El Salvador that have been prioritising solar in their energy mix and are among the Achievers in the ISA’s Ease of Doing Solar index. It is also home to countries like Barbados, Cuba, Guyana, Jamaica, Nicaragua and Peru that have been rising rapidly towards the Achiever status.”

During the Meeting, Mr Stuart R Young, Hon’ble Minister of Energy and Energy Industries, Trinidad & Tobago highlighted the need of financing in solar for small and developing states. Dr Mathur pointed out that owing to the perceived risk of investments in solar, out of the total 200 billion dollar investments globally, the investments in solar in LAC region was just about 7 percent. The Meeting highlighted the need of pools of finance from developed countries multilateral banks apart from private sector for greater uptake of solar.

ISA’s mission is to solarize the world by 2030, enabling 1000GW of solar capacity, reducing carbon emissions by 1000 metric tonnes, ensuring energy access for 1000 million people, and mobilizing solar investments of 1 trillion dollars. ISA is also planning Solar Technology and Application Resource Centre (STAR-Cs) in the region to become a Center of Excellence extending technical support to all member countries in the region, that includes training initiatives, testing and standardization services, and enabling research and development.

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About International Solar Alliance (ISA)

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform that was conceived as a joint effort by India and France to mobilise efforts against climate change through the deployment of solar energy solutions. It was conceptualised on the sidelines of the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris in 2015. The ISA strives to develop and deploy cost-effective and transformational energy solutions powered by the sun to help member countries develop low-carbon growth trajectories, with particular focus on delivering impact in countries categorised as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Being a global platform, ISA’s partnerships with multilateral development banks (MDBs), development financial institutions (DFIs), private and public sector organisations, civil society, and other international institutions is key to delivering the change it seeks to see in the world.