

International Solar Alliance (ISA)

Press Release - Third Assembly of the ISA

India and France elected as President and Co-President of the Assembly, respectively. Eight New Vice Presidents of the Standing Committee elected from four regions of the globe.

President of the ISA Assembly, Shri RK Singh, Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy, GOI steered the action- packed agenda of the 3rd ISA Assembly with Energy Ministers and Representatives from more than 53 Member countries in attendance, charting the way forward for Energy Transition, Security and Universal Energy Access with solar

The One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG) Initiative, the clarion call for which was given by the Prime Minister of India in his address to the Assembly in 2018, and which is being implemented by ISA, in collaboration with GOI and the World Bank, was unanimously supported by the Assembly. The Assembly approved the OSOWOG Initiative to be implemented expeditiously to support energy transition.

The ISA Assembly also overwhelmingly supported the setting up of the World Solar Bank (WSB). The ISA Assembly constituted an International Steering Committee to draw up the framework of the proposed WSB and take further future measures to facilitate the establishment of the WSB. The UK visualises ONE SUN ONE WORLD ONE GRID (OSOWOG) and WSB as two key deliverables in Nov 2021 for COP in Glasgow and declared UK's support to finance the detailed Project Report of the WSB.

Comoros was congratulated for becoming the first country (excluding India, the host country) which made voluntary contribution to ISA for meeting secretarial expenses in the absence of Membership fee.

The Assembly constituted a Resource Mobilization Committee to ensure financial sustainability as ISA's finances may turn negative by 2022 unless additional fiancé flow is ensured towards projects and corpus.

Assembly approved ISA biennial budget of around 15 Million USD for two years and recruitment of 16 global staff with geographical diversity.

0.4 Million as support to UNIDO and other UN agencies to strengthen STARCs across member countries. Operationalization of STARCs project with financial assistance to be raised jointly by ISA and UNIDO.

Commencement of a new MBA course in energy management in IITD and an undergraduate course for SIDS and LDCs from 2021 academic year, in addition to the running cross country M.Tech course.

Virtual training of 35000 beneficiaries from member countries in diverse areas such as solar pumps, home power systems, finance and banking, mini grids and roof tops, storage

and solar e-mobility, solar parks, solar cooling and heating by professional agencies on a affordable and competitive cost basis.

The Assembly granted partner status to Climate Investment Fund and programme partner status to Global Off Grid Lighting Association, World Resource Institute, UK Climate Investments, Union Espanola Fotovoltaica, Barefoot College International, and International Water Management Institute.

The Assembly joined the Depositary in welcoming Nicaragua and Botswana who have signed the ISA Framework Agreement since last Assembly. It also welcomed the nine new member countries – El Salvador, Cambodia, Saudi Arabia, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Trinidad and Tobago, Algeria, and Tanzania - who have become members since last Assembly.

In the action agenda, a unique annual feature of the ISA Assembly, featured 13 items.

i) Launching Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action (CSCA):

Charter of the Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action (CSCA) was formally and collectively launched by all the members. Softbank from Japan and NTPC from India were elected as Chair and Co-Chair respectively for one year. Indian PSUs added over 10.5 million USD to ISA Corpus, underscoring the role that Corporate Sector will play in achieving the objectives of ISA. CSCA will take measures to attract corporate members who operate in member countries and can help fight climate challenges in all the four regions of the ISA.

ii) Presentation of Cheques by the Corporate Partners and statements by Chief Executives of:

State Bank of India (SBI);
Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL);
National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC);
Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVN);
Airports Authority of India (AAI);
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL);
Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL);
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL);
Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC);
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC);
National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO);
Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC);

iii) Roadmap for mobilization of USD 1 Trillion by 2030

iv) Ease of Doing Solar Report

v) ISA launched 47 demonstration projects for SIDS and LDC Member countries.

vi) ISA CARES Initiative: 2 million USD earmarked by ISA under ISA CARES Initiative. Australia was the first country to contribute to this Fund. ISA plans to raise 25 to 50 million for ISA CARES with the help of UNAIDS.

vii) 47 Million Solar Home Lighting System and 250 Million LED Lamps in ISA Member Countries by EESL.

viii) SAARC Development Fund Technical Assistance of USD 1 Million

ix) IBSA Fund Technical Assistance of USD 2 Million

x) Update on the Solar Risk Mitigation Initiative

- xi) Circular Economy in Solar Energy sector in partnership with UNEP
- xii) ISA Invest and ISA Solar Awards with award partners.

Seventh Program of the ISA - Solarizing Heating and Cooling Systems Launched.

One Sun One World One Grid as a global project: approved by Assembly.

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World Solar Bank (WSB): Based on a presentation made Mr Popli, Ex-CMD, IREDA, based on the work done by Brickwork Analytics, the ISA Assembly overwhelmingly supported the setting up of the World Solar Bank (WSB) and constituted an International Steering Committee to draw up the framework of the proposed WSB and take further future measures to facilitate the establishment of the WSB. The UK visualises ONE SUN ONE WORLD ONE GRID (OSOWOG) and WSB as two key deliverables in Nov 2021 for COP in Glasgow and declared UK's support to finance the detailed Project Report of the WSB.

Work Programme and budget for the calendar year 2021 and 2022:

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Honourable Ministers and many other heads of delegations spoke on their programmes, projects and policies to promote solar energy and reduce carbon foot print in power, building and transport sector and how to strengthen our collective leadership to strengthen ISA.

The Assembly decided to meet next year in October for the next Assembly and hold a Special session in mid-February to select the new and the next Director General. The President of the ISA Assembly, H.E. Shri RK Singh, was given the mandate to launch the search of the next Director General of the ISA as per procedure.

New Delhi, 16 Oct 2020: The International Solar Alliance (ISA) hosted its Third Assembly on 14 October 2020 on a customised virtual platform. More than 53 member countries attended the meeting from all across the globe. The Assembly was chaired by Mr RK Singh, Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, and the President of the ISA Assembly, and co-chaired by Ambassador of France to India, Mr Emmanuel Lenin who represented Ms. Barbara Pompili, Minister of Ecological Transition, Government of France, Co- President of the ISA Assembly. Following the presidential remarks, the Third Assembly also witnessed special address by the President of COP26, Glasgow, Rt Hon Alok Sharma, MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, UK.

On 14 October 2020, the Assembly gave direction to future endeavours of the ISA. On 15 Oct 2020 the Regional Ministerial meetings deliberated on the regional strategy and implementation plan with a clear focus on ease of doing solar in each region, covering also the broad facets of policy innovation and available instruments. Technical sessions on ISA's Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action and One World One Sun One Grid took place on 16 October 2020. The Host Country day witnessed investors from world over make interventions during the invest ISA session.

Over 400 delegates participated in the Assembly over the course of 3 days.

Opening the assembly, President of the ISA Assembly, Mr RK Singh, Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy, said, "ISA is a collective endeavour and it is driven by the combined efforts of all member countries to achieve its goals." The President further appealed to the other Member states to contribute to ISA in all possible ways, including through technology, finance and sharing of knowledge and expertise Mr RK Singh also emphasised that Home Power System for which ISA has aggregated demand will not only meet the energy needs of the rural households but, will also contribute to improving health services and availability of portable water in Member countries.

Co President of the ISA Assembly, Ms. Barbara Pompili, Minister for Ecological Transition, Government of France in her statement through a video message stated that ISA played an essential role to help redirect funding towards renewable energies, particularly in developing countries, and take up the challenge of an energy at the service of all. She reiterated France's involvement: pointing out that of the 1.5 billion

Euros of financing France committed for solar projects in ISA member states up until 2022, 1.15 billion € has been committed to concrete projects.

France has also supported the collaboration with the World Bank to mobilise financing: a facility “Sustainable Renewables Risk Mitigation Initiative” (SRMI) should help mobilize 18 billion € in private investment to finance more than 10 gigawatts of solar projects, and a first project is being launched in Mozambique with the support of France and the European Union. She further announced that, in the frame of the ISA Star-C programme, the French National Institute for Solar Energy (INES) will very soon launch a specific program for the small island states of the Pacific.

President of the COP 26, Glasgow, Rt Hon Alok Sharma, MP, Secretary of State for Business for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy, UK recalled the commitment of the United Kingdom to fight the climate change. COP 26 President discussed 5 key priorities: adaptation and resilience, nature, energy transition, accelerating the move to zero-carbon road transport, and finance. He invited all the Members to participate to the global climate summit on 12 December to mark fifth anniversary of Paris Agreement. Mr Alok Sharma stressed the UK’s three commitments to the ISA: providing a platform for the Alliance during the COP26; supporting a feasibility study on the implementation of a World Solar Bank; and assisting the ISA Secretariat on the implementation of the One Sun One World One Grid initiative by providing human and financial resources.

Director General ISA, Mr. Upendra Tripathy welcomed and thanked the member countries and partner organisations in rendering their relentless support to the ISA and emphasised on the importance of incubating innovation in policy decision making to bring energy access to all.

Important decisions taken during the Third Assembly official proceedings:

1. The ISA member countries unanimously elected Republic of India & Republic of France as the President & Co President of the ISA Assembly for a term of two years. It is noteworthy that both India & France will be repeating their term as President and Co-President respectively.

2. New Vice Presidents for the Standing Committee to assume office in the ISA governance structure will be:

Fiji & Nauru for Asia Pacific Region

Mauritius & Niger for Africa Region

UK & Netherlands for Europe and others Region

Cuba and Guyana for Latin America and Caribbean Region

3. The Third Assembly of the ISA approved the proposal for establishment of the World Solar Bank. A steering committee is constituted to take further steps.

The Steering committee will have following constituents:

President of the ISA Assembly

Co-President of the ISA Assembly

Eight Vice Presidents of the Standing Committee

Director General, ISA

Three External Members

Director Finance & Investment, ISA will be the convenor of this committee.

The Assembly deliberated the importance and need of creating dedicated World Solar Bank which will accelerate deployment of Solar in ISA Member countries and also ensure that Solar is deployed in countries where it is most required, like in SIDS and LDCs, where the investment and deployment has been least.

4. The Assembly approved following initiatives and guided the Secretariat on way forward :

(1) Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action (CSCA) to institutionalise the ISA's engagement with the private and public corporate sector.

Following organisations presented cheques worth 1 million USD each:

- i. State Bank of India (SBI)
- ii. Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)
- iii. National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)
- iv. Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVN)
- v. Airports Authority of India (AAI)
- vi. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
- vii. Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL)
- viii. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)
- ix. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC)
- x. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)
- xi. National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO).
- xii. Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC)

(2) Roadmap for mobilization of USD 1 Trillion by 2030: the ISA Secretariat has partnered with World Resources Institute (WRI) to develop a 'Draft Roadmap for mobilization for USD 1 Trillion by 2030'. Kingdom of the Netherlands, Bloomberg Philanthropies and Climate Works Foundation has provided the financial assistance for preparation of the Roadmap. The report identifies the sources of funds, opportunities and constraints, in scaling up solar investments and the contribution of ISA in assisting Member countries. The roadmap will also analyse the potential for mobilising further investments in solar energy going beyond solar power projects to solar energy applications in transportation and cooling and heating and for implementing the vision of One Sun, One World, One Grid.

(3) Ease of Doing Solar Report: The objective of the 'Ease of Doing 2020' report is to assess and improve eighty-six (86) Member Countries' preparedness to attract and sustain investments in the solar energy. The report is prepared in collaboration with the global consultancy, Ernst and Young (EY).

(4) The Assembly approved 47 demonstration projects in LDC/SIDS Member countries. An MOU is signed with NTPC Ltd, for the development of these projects.

(5) ISA CARES Initiative dedicated to deployment of solar energy in healthcare sector in LDC/SIDS ISA Member countries. The initiative aims to solarize one primary health sector in each district of the target Member countries. Australia has committed AUD 92,000 for the ISA CARES initiative in the Pacific, while the ISA has committed USD 2 Million out of its budgetary resources for the ISA CARES initiative. A brief note on the 'ISA CARES' Initiative, contained in the Working Document.

(6) Demand aggregation initiative for 47 Million Solar Home Systems and 250 Million LED Lamps in ISA Member Countries.

(7) SAARC Development Fund Technical Assistance of USD 0.5 Million to Five Prospective Member and Member countries of the ISA- The Technical Assistance is proposed to be implemented jointly with the Asian Development Bank.

(8) IBSA Facility Technical Assistance of USD 2 Million for deployment of Solar Water Pumping Systems demonstration projects in ISA Member countries, in partnership with UNDP, under Programme: 'Scaling Solar in Agricultural Use' of the ISA.

(9) The Haryana Chief Minister, Shri M. L. Khattar announced the Kalpana Chawla awards named after the American astronaut of Indian origin, to Dr. Bhim Singh from IIT Delhi (India) and Dr. Ayesha Alnuaimi from Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (United Arab Emirates). The awards recognise outstanding contribution of scientists and engineers working in the field of solar energy.

(10) Mr. Mahendra Jain, Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Karnataka, announced the awards named after Bharat Ratna M. Visvesvaraya to the representatives of the countries of Japan for the Asia and the Pacific region and the Kingdom of the Netherlands for Europe and other region. The award carries an amount of 12,330 USD as prize money, a scroll and a certificate

(11) The Diwakar award instituted by ISA out of the contribution made by India's Minister for Railways and Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal of 25,000 USD received by him from the University of Pennsylvania, has been awarded to Arpan Institute (Haryana) and Arushi Society. The award recognizes organisations & institutions that have been working for the benefit of differently-abled people and have maximised the use of solar energy in the host country.

During the high- level segment, more than 53 countries read out their statement with special focus on deployment of solar energy, performance, reliability as well as cost and scale of finance in their respective countries, including an update on the achievement of financial mobilization target agreed at the conclaves of NFPs or as part of National Solar Roadmaps. Member countries congratulated ISA Secretariat and commended the efforts made by the Secretariat in taking the historical steps in establishing the World Solar Bank and One World One Sun One Grid initiative.

Setting a record for virtual meetings, the Third Assembly of ISA met continuously over nine hours on the 14th of October, without a break. It commenced at 15.00 Hours and



continued uptill 23.00 Hrs (IST) to enable maximum number of member countries to participate across more than 24 time zones of the world. It had 27 agenda items.

The ISA is an initiative that was launched by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France on 30 November 2015 at Paris, France on the side-lines of the COP-21. The overarching objective of the ISA is to collectively address key common challenges to the scaling up of solar energy in ISA member countries. It also aims to undertake joint efforts required to reduce the cost of finance and the cost of technology, mobilize investments needed for massive deployment of solar energy, and pave the way for future technologies adapted to the needs. ISA has been positioned to help create the conditions that would make funding, developing and deploying solar applications on a large scale a reality. ISA is perceived as a key organisation working towards achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and objectives of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.