



First Assembly of the International Solar Alliance
3 October, 2018
New Delhi, Republic of India

ISA/A.01/INF.06/Rev.1
02/09/2018

Report by the Secretariat - Key Achievements

Summary

The document presents the report by the Secretariat highlighting key achievements of the International Solar Alliance.

Introduction

Operationalization of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) is still a work in progress. However, the International Steering Committee (ISC) of the ISA has made significant progress in laying the building blocks to operationalize the ISA as a treaty based international intergovernmental organization. The document highlights key achievements of the ISA so far. The report of the Interim Director General is placed at Annexure 1.

International Solar Alliance: Key Achievements So Far

A. Operationalization of Framework Agreement:

Among 121 Prospective ISA Member Countries, 68 countries have signed and 40 countries have ratified the Framework Agreement. 8 countries falling outside the Tropic of Capricorn and Tropic of Cancer have evinced interest to have ISA partnership.

ISA became the first treaty-based inter-governmental legal organization on 6th December, 2017, having its headquarters in India after ratification by 15 Member countries and registration with United Nations.

ISA Founding Ceremony, in association with Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, was successfully held on 11th March, 2018 at New Delhi in the august presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Hon'ble President of France and Heads of State of 23 Member countries. Earlier, ISA organized numerous meetings of International Steering Committee at Paris, Abu Dhabi, New York and New Delhi.

ISA signed Headquarters' Agreement with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and notification to this effect was issued by the Government of India on 5th June, 2018. Government of India has committed US \$ 27 million for the first 5 years of ISA headquarters' administrative activities and 5 acres of land in NISE Campus for construction of a new headquarters building facility of international standards.

B. ISA Programmes:

ISA Secretariat so far launched 4 programmes namely **Scaling Solar Applications for Agriculture Use, Affordable Finance at Scale, Scaling Solar Mini Grids** and **Scaling Rooftop Solar** and through various promotional endeavours and initiatives viz. creating awareness and knowledge exchange programs; site visits; get-togethers; national and international conferences, workshops and

exhibitions; video conferencing with National Focal Point (NFP) etc., got the valuable support of ISA member countries for the specific programs. ISA Secretariat also extended assistance from Think Tanks/Knowledge Partners to NFPs for capacity building and in developing solar roadmaps for their respective countries during the two NFP conclaves organized by ISA with participation from 33 countries. A list of 238 prospective projects through **Action-to-Transaction** and 227 projects through EOI prepared for funding. A draft of ISA programme 5 **Scaling Solar E-Mobility & Storage** is ready for launch.

ISA Secretariat's endeavour towards programme 1, **Scaling Solar Applications for Agriculture Use** led to participation of 21 countries in this specific programme, supply-side aggregation of 730K+ numbers solar irrigation pumps from 12 different manufacturers & suppliers and demand-side aggregation of 487K+ numbers solar irrigations pumps from member countries for implementation. Efforts also resulted in demand aggregation of 100K Solar Street Lights, 7.2 Million Solar Lanterns, 3.2 Million Solar Home Systems, etc.

A Price Discovery Tender based on International Competitive Bidding (ICB) Route for installation and 5 years' O&M of 500,000 numbers solar irrigation pumps in respective member countries as per their indicated demand is in advanced stage of finalization. An online Solar Distance Learning Program being developed in association with IGNOU for Farmers' Awareness Program and Certification Course for Solar Mechanics is in final stages of launch.

To advance on ISA Programme 2 **Affordable Finance at Scale**, Joint Declarations to establish partnerships and seek support signed with Development Banks, namely, ADB, AIIB, AFDB, DFID, EBRD, EIB, GCF, NDB and World Bank for funding ISA Programmes, activities and development of solar projects in member countries. ISA has been able to mobilize US \$ 500,000 Technical Assistance from World Bank.

On ISA's request, the Government of India has earmarked 15–20 % of the US \$ 10 billion line of credit operated by EXIM Bank of India and setting-up of a Project Preparation Facility designed to develop bankable solar projects for implementation in ISA member countries. India announced a sanction of US \$ 1.4 billion concessional financing to 27 solar projects identified in 15 developing countries. France has committed Euro 1 billion out of which Euro 300 million got sanctioned for development of 17 solar projects in ISA member countries. European Investment Bank (EIB) has proposed to setup a pilot off-grid fund of US\$ 60 million for select South Asian countries.

ISA Secretariat's endeavour towards Programme 3 **Scaling Solar Mini Grids** for energy access to rural communities resulted in support from 24 member countries for this specific program and demand projection of aggregate capacity of 5300 MWP Solar Mini Grids by year 2025.

ISA Secretariat launched its Programme 4 **Scaling Rooftop Solar** on 11th March, 2018, during the founding ceremony of the ISA after extensive consultation with NFPs and stakeholders. Model Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for Rooftop RESCO projects is in the advanced stage of development for circulation to NFPs. Training modules developed under USAID/PACE- D program has been adopted by ISA for organizing capacity building programmes in member countries with support from Multi-Lateral Development Banks.

C. **ISA's Outreach Programme**

ISA Secretariat constituted a Public-Private Corporate Global Task Force on innovation and an International Committee of Chambers of Industry and Business (ICCIB) to guide ISA in meeting the challenges of mobilizing US \$ 1000 billion by the year 2030. A Credit Risk Mitigation Mechanism (CRRM), expected to help mobilize funds (low-risk capital leveraging 15X) to advance large scale solar deployment, got developed and findings launched during COP-23, Bonn, which is currently under study and review by AFD and World Bank to make it operational.

ISA-ISRO software application tool for calculating solar generation covering India and whole of Africa launched on 4th June, 2018. Extensive use of latest technologies viz. GIS tools, satellite imagery and drone applications are envisaged for assessment and implementation of Rooftop Solar Potential besides Twin- City collaborative programmes such as Chandigarh-Accra Solar City Program for sharing of best practices.

International Solar Technology Application and Resource Centers (iSTAR C) are being planned to be set up in member countries as a center for national & global excellence for innovation; technology dissemination/adoption; R & D networking; capacity building and e-learning; testing, certification, quality control, and standards among others.

A Digital INFO-PEDIA is also under development in collaboration with EU for showcasing 1000 Audio-Visuals on solar energy best practices and will enable Ministers, Policy Makers and Corporate Leaders of 121 countries to mutually connect communicate and collaborate. A Master Trainers' Program, Fellowship for mid-career professionals and a network of experts **Equinox Circle** are on the anvil.

ISA and its International Corporate Committee through advocacy and promotional endeavour has so far raised a total corpus fund of US \$ 9 million through voluntary Corporate Membership Subscription of US\$ 1 million each from IREDA, SECI, NTPC, POWERGRID, REC, CIL of India, CLP of China and US\$ 2 Million from Soft Bank of Japan. A USD 1.5 million **Kalpana Chawla International Award** has been instituted in association with State of Haryana, India for solar scientists.

D. Partnerships

Collaborative institutional and knowledge partnerships established with C-Step, CEEW, Climate Parliament, CII, CLEAN, ECREEE, EU, GSC, FICCI, INES, IEA, IRENA, NISE, PHDCC, TERI, UNDP UNIDO and UNCCD.

Annex I

Agenda item on Report by the Secretariat: Report of the Interim Director General

Hon'ble President and the Co-President of the Assembly, Vice-Presidents, Hon'ble Ministers, Rapporteurs, Excellencies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners, Heads of Partner Organizations, Observers and friends, it is my honour to present before you all a brief report on the progress made by the International Solar Alliance (ISA) so far.

With our collective efforts and under the guidance of the Chair and the Co-Chair of the International Steering Committee, we have been operationalizing the ISA into an action oriented and vibrant international organization. Our motto is, "let us together make the sun brighter." In my brief remarks I will focus on key activities undertaken to operationalize the ISA.

Let me highlight actions taken to establish the ISA as a treaty based international organization.

As you know, the ISA has been established as a treaty based international intergovernmental organization. Our outreach efforts have led to increasing number of countries joining the ISA. We currently have 70 countries that have signed the Framework Agreement out of which forty four have ratified the same. Following negotiations between the ISA secretariat and the Host Country, on 26 March 2018, the ISA Headquarters Agreement was signed with the Government of the Republic of India. The Government of Republic of India issued the Gazette notification on application of UN (privileges and immunities) Act, 1947 to representatives and officers of ISA on 5 June 2018. On 9 February 2018, the ISA was also registered under Section 102 of the UN Charter as a multilateral organization. The ISA has also been accredited recently as an Observer to the UNFCCC.

Over the past two years, the ISA's Programmes and activities increased in coverage and new Programmes were initiated. The four ISA Programmes that have been launched so far are 1) Scaling Solar Applications for Agriculture Use; 2) Affordable Finance at Scale; 3) Scaling Solar Mini Grids; and 4) Scaling Solar Rooftop. To note the Programmes on scaling mini-grids and solar rooftop were launched recently.

Let me highlight a few achievements that cut across the four Programmes.

For mobilizing financing at scale to achieving 1000 billion mobilization target, the ISA has been working with various international and national financial institutions for scaling up financing ,

lowering the cost of capital and designing innovative financial instruments to accelerate the deployment of solar energy at a national scale.

The ISA has ramped-up its efforts for mobilizing financing for solar energy projects in ISA member countries. ISA's engagement with Indian Diplomatic Missions in member countries, financing by the Export Import Bank of India, among others, resulted in development of a portfolio of 27 solar projects in 15 countries. These projects are being supported with India's concessional financing of USD 1.4 billion.

In addition, through an innovative platform called "Action to Transaction Meets" where project developers and bankers are brought together, the ISA has facilitated a number of projects for rolling out in ISA countries. With the ISA's persuasion, France has also committed one billion Euros for financing solar projects during the Founding Summit, which has materialised. 17 projects have been funded by the French Development Financing Agency (AFD) for approx. Euro 300 million. Since the inception of the ISA, it is also noted that ISA's financial partners, i.e., multilateral development banks, global funds and bilateral financial institutions, have financed more than 123 solar projects worth USD 12.8 billion.

On designing innovative financial instrument to reduce risks reducing the financial cost of solar projects in the ISA member countries, a Task Force was constituted to design a Common Risk Mitigation Mechanism (CRMM). Taking this work forward, the World Bank is now designing the mechanism, to be completed by April, 2019.

The ISA is also working with the European Investment Bank to launch an off-grid fund for four member countries of the ISA, with grant funding from the EU.

The ISA has forged financial partnerships with all MDBs, many regional financial institutions like Development Bank for Latin America (CAF) and private sector Banks for scaling-up solar energy development and deployment, utilizing the strengths of respective organizations.

The ISA has been working for harmonizing and aggregating the demand for solar finance, technologies, innovation, capacity building, across countries, to provide a strong lever to lower cost, increase quality, and bring reliable and affordable solar energy within the reach of all

Various projects and activities have been undertaken for demand aggregation and bring about economies of scale.

With a view of demand aggregation target by 2025 and 2030 in terms of Capacity and MW, the ISA Secretariat had circulated Call for Expression of Interest. Experienced public and private

agencies have been contracted to conduct *Price Exploratory Global Tender* for solar water pumping systems. For developing a project pipeline, a call for Expression of Interest for fast-tracking project and solar portfolio development in ISA member countries led to identification of a project portfolio of 227 projects from 55 countries. Of these, 119 projects from 46 countries had already secured funding, where the ISA has undertaken capacity building activities to create employment and attract further investment.

Various activities were initiated for strengthening capacities of member countries and fostering innovation. Let me briefly highlight a few of the key activities.

For strategic and closer engagement with National Focal Points (NFPs), two NFP Conclaves were held at ISA Secretariat in Dec, 2017 and Mar 2018 and Solar Roadmaps of 33 ISA Countries were prepared.

The ISA has forged strategic partnerships with various stakeholders including governmental, non-governmental and private sector organizations. A forum, SUNMEET, for regular engagement with ISA stakeholders has been established. In all 15 SUNMEETs were held so far, regularly every month, where ISA's Contact Points from local Embassies meet along with other stakeholders and provide their feedback on several ISA related issues.

The ISA Secretariat has launched a Solar Technology Application and Resource - Centre (ISTAR-C) to support capacity building efforts in the ISA member countries. DIGITAL INFOPEDIA platform is being designed to enable policy makers, private sector players and other stakeholders from ISA countries to interact, connect, communicate and collaborate with one another. European Union has earmarked 300000 Euros for the Infopedia. The ISA, in collaboration, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has also organized a training course of 21 days for Engineers/Technicians working in Solar Energy area from ISA member countries. It is expected that these Master Trainers, on return to their respective countries, would train others to build up network of trained manpower.

To foster innovation and research in solar technologies, ISA Solar Award has been instituted. The ISA Solar Award (named Kalpana Chawla Solar Award) has been instituted for Solar Scientists doing extraordinary work across the ISA countries with an one-time corpus contribution of USD 1.5 Million contribution from the Government of Haryana, a province of India when the ISA Headquarter is located.

Let me also highlights the **efforts made to strengthen the financial health of the organization.** It is worth highlighting that the ISA Corpus Fund has been augmented by 50 percent. Efforts for mobilizing financial resources for ISA activities resulted in augmenting initial corpus of USD 16

million (Government of India contribution) to USD 24 million, wherein USD 3 Million came from Japanese and Chinese companies. This is of crucial importance to an organization that has no membership fee and plans to meet its administrative expenses with interest income from the Corpus funds.

With the above progress, I am happy to note that **the ISA is well on track to deliver on the 10 points action agenda set-out by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and the Delhi Agenda agreed at the Founding Ceremony held in March, 2018 (refer Appendix 1 for detail).**

To summarize, operationalization of the ISA is still a work in progress. We are building the ISA ship as we are sailing. However, significant progress has been made in laying the key building blocks to operationalize the ISA as a treaty based international intergovernmental organization. Good progress has also been made in designing and implementing four Programmes launched by ISA Members. See Annex for actions taken to implement 10 Points Action Plan, laid out by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in his speech at the Founding Ceremony Conference of International Solar Alliance(ISA) on 11th March 2018 in New Delhi

A presentation on ISA's progress so far is also circulated with this Report. True to its motto ISA from scratch has now transformed into an action oriented international organization, ready to take off to newer heights under continued, consistent and collective leadership and supervision of the member countries. Decisions made by the Assembly today would guide us to fully operationalize the ISA.

As always, an Action Agenda is part of the ISA's core agenda. In keeping with this tradition, today's Action Agenda is having three key components:

A. Tentative list of Joint Declarations proposed to be signed

1. UN Environment,
2. Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
3. Others, if any.

B. Presentation of Cheques by ISA Corporate Partners towards Corpus Fund of ISA

1. Coal India Ltd,
2. Power Finance Corporation, and
3. India Trade Promotion Organization

C. Announcement of the Solar Awards by State Government of Haryana, India.

I thank you for your kind attention!

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Appendix I

Actions taken to implement 10 Points Action Plan, laid out by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in his speech at the Founding Ceremony Conference of International Solar Alliance(ISA) on 11th March 2018 in New Delhi.

Action items	Actions Taken
Steps to be taken for better and affordable Solar Technology availability and accessibility to everyone in ISA Member Countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Solar Technology platform is being established in INFOPEDIA. Work has started with contribution of 300000 Euros from European Union. This will include solar technologies available in public domain. ➤ Joint Declaration to be signed with Asian Pacific Centre for Technology Transfer and other technology platforms. ➤ National Institute of Solar Energy is being assisted to patent and market solar applications. ➤ Task Force on Solar Innovations constituted under Soft Bank of Japan as the chairperson. One meeting held in April, 2018 and four technology missions constituted.
Encouraging Innovation through STAR-C program so that Solar Solutions can be provided for various needs of ISA Member Countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 40 STAR Centres sanctioned, one to each member country. These Centres will work on Capacity building, Quality control, Innovation, Incubation and Standards. ➤ Financial assistance arranged from corporate sector. Asian Development Bank is likely to offer technical assistance. ➤ Formulation of standards for STAR Centres is being worked out by an International Working Group chaired by the Bureau of Indian Standards.
Need to develop Solar Roadmaps and Standards unit which will speed up adoption and development of Solar Solutions in ISA Member Countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 33 Solar roadmaps in two Conclaves of National Focal Points finalized and sent to member countries for implementation. ➤ Member countries have worked out financial targets to implement these road maps. ➤ ISA has incorporated setting of a standards Group in the Secretariat in its work plan for 2019.
Means to increase the solar proportion in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Five Programmes ✓ Scaling Solar Applications for Agricultural Use. ✓ Affordable Finance at Scale ✓ Scaling Solar Mini-Grids ✓ Scaling Solar Rooftop

<p>Energy Mix of ISA Member Countries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Scaling Solar e-mobility and Storage (under preparation) ➤ Expression of interest for engaging EESL, on a Swiss challenge mode, has been advertised. EESL will float to discover price for 500000 pumps. Countries included are India, Uganda, Bangladesh etc. ➤ Similar exercises will be made for mini-grids, street lights, roof tops and other solar applications. ➤ Two batches of ISA Investors delegations have been planned for visiting Africa in October, 2018. These teams will promote investments under OPEX model, under which investments will be brought by the corporate sector. Countries will sign only PPAs. ➤ One Common Expression of Interest has been launched that attracted more than 240 project profiles. Second expression of interest, programme wise, is being planned.
<p>Action to provide concessional financing and low risk finance for Solar Projects in ISA Member Countries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A Task Force constituted to introduce a Billion USD Common Risk Mitigation Fund with 500 Million USD from Green Climate Fund. TWI, AFD and World Bank (WB) are engaged to finalize a product by early next year. WB has provided one Million USD for this purpose. ➤ MIGA of World Bank is working on a special scheme of insurance for solar projects in ISA member countries. ➤ EIB has started working on a 60 Million Euros grant project to create a concessional financial facility and risk mitigation Fund to promote off grid applications. Announcement is likely to be made to early October. ➤ EXIM Bank has taken up projects worth 1.4 Billion USD with the help of India. ➤ AFD has taken up solar projects worth 1 Billion Euros with the help of France. ➤ EESL Tender will aggregate demand to bring down cost and accelerate implementation of solar projects. ➤ With the help of DFID, different business models for solar pumps with no subsidy are being worked out. ➤ Requests have been made to Australia, the UK and the Netherlands, to emulate France and India in their overseas funds.
<p>Initiative to develop Consultancy support for bankable solar projects in ISA Member Countries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Equinox circle of solar experts, in the line of “Doctors without Borders”, is being developed in INFOPEDIA to help member countries to access solar experts easily on an affordable basis. ➤ India has opened a project preparation fund. ➤ Project unit started in ISA which will help member countries to prepare small and medium size projects.

Initiative to approach for emphasizing greater inclusiveness and participation within ISA Member Countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 14 SUN-Meets, 6 ISC meetings and one Summit have been organized. SUN-Meet is a monthly meeting where in all Contact Points are being invited. ➤ Action oriented Outreach events have been organized in Abu Dhabi, Noida, New Delhi and Munich. ➤ 54 Foreign delegations have visited ISA office so far. ➤ IDG and ISA officers have participated in many international events to make the presence of ISA felt. ➤ UN registration of ISA under Article 102 has been completed.
Action to build an extensive network of Centre of Excellence that can take care of the local conditions and factors within ISA Member Countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 40 STAR Centres sanctioned one to each member country. These Centres will work on capacity building, quality control. Innovation, incubation and standards. These will be networked through IFOPEDIA in a hub and spoke manner. There will be Centres of excellence and Centres of Global Excellence.
Initiate Solar Policies such that it encompasses the total development so as to achieve more contribution towards achievement of SDG's in ISA Member Countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ As stated, 33 solar roadmaps in two Conclaves of National Focal Points finalized and sent to member countries for implementation. ➤ 2. A new Task Force i.e. ISA Global Task Force of Foundations has been constituted which will help member countries to achieve SDGs goal.
Make the ISA Secretariat more strong and professional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1 Professionals from France, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, UNDP, and EESL have been taken to strengthen the Secretariat. Work force. DFID and EIB are in the process of seconding more professionals the Secretariat will remain slim and will not have not more than 50 personnel. ➤ Preparation of rules and regulations on ISA manuals. ➤ ISA Corpus has been increased by 8 Million USD with contributions from public and private sector. WB has given ESMAP funding of USD 500000 to help in outreach activities. ➤ India and France are extending all support to strengthen ISA secretariat and ensure ISA success.

