

No. 10/01/2018-ISA
International Solar Alliance (ISA)
Secretariat

3rd Floor, Surya Bhawan
NISE Campus, Gwal Pahari
Gurugram Faridabad Road,
Gurugram-122003
Dated the 6th March, 2018

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Constitution of a Global Leadership Task Force of Corporates on Innovation by ISA.

The guiding principles of the Framework Agreement of ISA in Article II(I) stipulate that members take coordinated actions through programmes and activities launched on a voluntary basis, aimed at better harmonizing and aggregating demand for, inter alia, solar finance, solar technologies, innovation, research and development, and capacity building. As can be seen, innovations in the solar sector are not only important, but are also essential to realise the objective of collectively addressing key common challenges to the scaling up of solar energy in line with the needs (Article I) of member countries.

2. The Framework Agreement also gives specific position to the corporate sector and recognizes voluntary contributions from private sector without any conflict of interest as a source of revenue for the ISA budget. Both India and France, Chair and Co-Chair of International Steering Committee, respectively have laid great emphasis on public private partnership in identifying the common challenges, scaling up of solar energy, identification of needs of member countries, and strategy to address common challenges.

3. Addressing the issue of the innovations is a common challenge among most of the member countries. The International Steering Committee has also approved establishing the Solar Technology Application and Research Centre (STAR-C). It proposes to partner in the installation of 10 solar Centers of Excellence in various ISA countries. Each such center will network with 12 to 13 ISA member countries where innovations to address in areas of inter alia, solar finance, solar technologies, business models, solar applications, manufacturing, power generation, distribution, consumption, integration, research & development, and capacity building. In order to steer this process there is a need for ISA to constitute a Task Force on innovation for getting adequate inputs and ideas to chalk out and implement the future course of innovations in order to effectively implement the Programmes of ISA. The International Solar Alliance has three Programmes running (a) Scaling Solar Applications for Agricultural Use, (b) Affordable Finance at Scale and (c) Scaling Solar Mini Grids. ISA also envisages launching two more Programmes Scaling Rooftops and Scaling Solar E-Mobility and Storage in the near future.

4. In view of the justification given above, the Director General, in order to streamline three programmes approved by the ISC, hereby constitutes a Global Leadership Task Force on innovation with reputed corporate entities, that can help DG, ISA in making proper recommendations to promote innovation in the areas mentioned in para 3 above. One of the important areas is enabling all ISA member countries to be able to access solar energy in an



equitable manner so that no one is left behind. Access to energy is a fundamental right of each world citizen in the 21st Century and year 2030 is too distant for citizens to wait to have access to energy. Innovations can play a critical role in advancing the target year 2030 to 2025, when universal energy access can be realized.

5. In view of above and to develop to a proper innovation strategy to address challenges faced by the member countries and partner countries of ISA, the following Task Force is constituted under the aegis of ISA with the following:

- (i) Soft Bank, Japan - Chair
- (ii) State Bank of India, India - Member
- (iii) LG Chem, Korea- Member
- (iv) Total, France - Member
- (v) GCL, China - Member
- (vi) GE, USA – Member
- (vii) FICCI – Convener

A company each identified from Brazil and Germany to be included in the Task Force.

The Chairman with prior consultation with DG, ISA can co-opt other members. The report of the committee will be incorporated into the work plan of ISA.

Terms of Reference

6. The Terms of Reference of the Task Force will include the following:

- (i) Develop an innovation strategy with its recommendations on practical measures to promote innovation in the ISA Member countries for promotion of solar applications and other identified areas and list out common challenges to be addressed.
- (ii) Develop a concept document to create a secure environment and ecosystem for introduction and promotion of innovations in member countries.
- (iii) Present a strategy to involve public private platforms to aggregate demand, risk and resources through innovative mechanisms.
- (iv) List out key risks that hinder innovations in member countries and suggest measures how innovations can be promoted with risk mitigation measures.
- (v) Identify corporate and other sources of finance who can play a key role in promoting innovations in solar applications both in the lab and field to address issues of energy access.
- (vi) Will particularly suggest innovations that can solve problems of more than 1 billion people who are without access to energy and more than 2 billion people who still use traditional fuel for cooking with harmful impacts to their health in the 21st Century.
- (vii) Establishment of STAR-C related centres through Corporate involvement and contribution in Member Countries in a time bound manner.
- (viii) Create an action plan for 10 countries to start with on action towards transformational impact in the areas of inter alia innovation in technologies, business models, finance, research and development, and capacity building.



- (ix) The committee's annual report will be submitted to DG for incorporation of its recommendations in the annual work plan of ISA which is subject to approval by the Assembly.

Secretariat of the Task Force

7. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) will anchor and service the Task Force. The Task Force will remain in force for a period of three years unless ordered otherwise.



अग्रिम कांशाल
(Agrim Kaushal)
Economic Adviser