

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON ISA

Q.1 What is International Solar Alliance?

Ans. International Solar Alliance (ISA) is a coalition of solar resource rich countries lying fully or partially between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn to specifically address energy needs by harnessing solar energy. The Alliance aims to provide a platform for prospective member countries to collaborate and address the identified gaps through a common agreed approach. ISA has been envisioned as a dedicated platform that aims to contribute towards the common goal of increasing utilization and promote solar energy and solar applications in the prospective member countries to help the world transform to a low-carbon and greener society.

Q.2 Why is there a need for an International Solar Alliance (ISA)?

Ans.

- There is no specific body in place to address the specific solar deployment needs of solar rich countries located between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. While most of these countries are located in a zone which is optimal for the absorption of solar energy, they also suffer from lack of access to affordable sources of energy.
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is conceived as a coalition of solar resource rich countries to address their special energy needs and will provide a platform to collaborate on addressing the identified gaps through a common, agreed approach.
- ISA is being designed as a unique, lean and action-oriented hands-on organization and will have member-driven plans and programs to achieve collective objectives as highlighted in the working paper.
- ISA will create cross-country platforms and deliver programs through institutional partnerships and institutional networks.
- ISA will make solar energy affordable for the poor by way of channelizing capital, reducing cost of capital through innovative financial mechanisms, aggregating demands, promoting universal energy access and spread of best practices, promoting networked R&D in solar applications, and helping in the creation of test centers and common standards to ensure proper quality of products used by member countries.
- ISA will also ensure training of thousands of youth to create a workforce for looking after maintenance of solar works, facilitating investments to create employment in the member countries.

Q.3 When was ISA launched?

Ans. ISA was launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris on 30th November, 2015 by Mr. Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Mr. François Hollande former President of France, in the presence of H.E. Mr. Ban Ki Moon, the then Secretary General of the United Nations.

Q. 4 Is ISA a treaty-based organization? Who can join the ISA?

Ans.

- **Yes.** The ISA has been conceived as a treaty-based intergovernmental international organization.
- The 121 prospective member countries (those falling between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn) of the ISA and are also the United Nations member, can join the Alliance by signing and ratifying the Framework Agreement or by acceptance or approval.
- The ISA Framework Agreement has a total of **14** articles. There are **no targets or legal obligations** imposed on member-countries.
- 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.
- UN member countries which are located beyond the Tropics can join the ISA as **“Partner Countries”**.
- Organizations that have potential to help the ISA achieve its objectives including regional inter-governmental economic integration organizations constituted by sovereign states at least one of which is a member of the ISA can join the ISA as a **“Partner Organization”**.
- United Nations including its organs can join the ISA as **“Strategic Partners”**.

Q.5 What is Paris Declaration on ISA?

Ans. The Paris Declaration was issued on 30th November, 2015 at the time of launching of International Solar Alliance. It *inter alia* states that the prospective member countries share the collective ambition to undertake innovative and concerted efforts for reducing the cost of finance and cost of technology for immediate deployment of competitive solar generation. It further aims to formulate financial instruments to effectively mobilize more than US\$1000 billion dollars in investments that will be required by 2030 for the massive deployment of affordable solar energy and pave the way for future solar generation, storage and good technologies for each prospective member country’s individual needs.

Q.6 Where is the seat of the ISA?

Ans. As per the Article XII of the ISA Framework Agreement (FA) the seat of ISA shall be in India. On 25th January, 2016 the Prime Minister of India and the then President of France jointly laid the foundation stone of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Headquarters and inaugurated the interim Secretariat of the ISA in National Institute of Solar Energy campus, Gurugram, Haryana.

Q.7 What is the structure of the ISA? How are decisions taken?

Ans.

- The ISA will have a ***two-tier*** structure – the **Assembly** and the **Secretariat**.
- Each member-country is represented on the Assembly, which meets annually at the Ministerial level at the seat of the ISA. The Assembly may also meet under special circumstances.
- The Assembly makes all necessary decisions regarding the functioning of the ISA, including the selection of the Director General and approval of the operating budget.
- Each Member has one vote in the Assembly.
- *Partner Countries, Partner Organizations, Strategic Partners, and Observers* may participate without having the right to vote.
- Decisions on questions of procedure are taken by a simple majority of the Members present and voting. Decisions on matters of substance are taken by two-third majority of the Members present and voting. Decisions regarding specific Programmes are taken by countries participating in this Programme.
- The Secretariat comprises of a Director General, who is the Chief Executive Officer, and other staff as may be required. The Director General is selected by and responsible to the Assembly, for a term of four years, renewable for one further term.
- The Secretariat shall prepare matters for Assembly action and carries out decisions entrusted to it by the Assembly. It will ensure that appropriate steps are taken to follow up Assembly decisions and to coordinate the actions of Members in the implementation of such decisions.
- The ISA is envisioned to have a lean Secretariat including outsourcing of Human Resources & Finance functions to the maximum extent possible; the architecture and governance will be tailored through a consultative process

Q.8 Is there a membership-fee to join the ISA?

Ans.

- There is ***no membership-fee*** to join the ISA.
- All costs relating to the running of the ISA will be funded through voluntary contributions of member-countries, partner countries, partner organizations and Strategic Partners.
- Funds will also be raised through specific activities approved by the Assembly of the ISA.

Q.9 What are the key challenges that the ISA will address?

Ans.

- All obstacles to the deployment of solar energy currently not being addressed by existing international, national and regional initiatives.
- The ISA will particularly address the issues relating to solar energy such as (i) High cost and low availability of finance (ii) Inadequate speed, scale, and skill for deploying available solar technologies and (iii) Lack of appropriate R&D in future solar technologies etc.

Q.10 How can the ISA help in solar deployment?

Ans.

- The ISA will help aggregate and harmonize demand across solar rich countries, thus creating a large “buyers’ market”.
- A larger and better organized demand will lead to lower costs, catalyse innovation and investments. It will enable participating countries to leverage the opportunities of a greater market power and the learning and network of developers, financiers, innovators and existing institutions in all parts of the globe.
- As an example of a similar approach, in India, massive aggregation of demand for LED bulbs, innovative use of a digital platform, replication of a successful business model and strong political leadership through the Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme, have resulted in a 83 % decrease of the price of LED bulbs. Even if the challenge in the case of solar is more complex, what has been achieved at a national level for LED bulbs in India is a model of what can be replicated at the international level for solar energy.
- Similarly a common tender for acquiring electric vehicles in India by the Government of India has resulted reduction per unit/vehicle price by 25-30%. The same model can be replicated and adopted in ISA member countries.

Q.11 Can ISA help in ensuring access to low cost finance?

Ans.

- ISA can assist the member country in finding suitable bilateral or multilateral funding agency that can finance, based on sovereign guarantee or otherwise.
- ISA can also help find out the cheapest multilateral / bilateral agencies for projects. ISA will assist the member country in developing innovative financial packages to bring down the cost of capital and ensure that multilateral financial institutions provide a financial road map for the future to promote a global solar market. A clear financial

roadmap will help countries and their corporate players to properly provision for future expansion and consequent reduction in SOLAR tariff to reach grid parity.

- ISA will also assist member countries in accessing Climate finance through formulation of suitable projects.
- ISA is the first International organisation headquartered in India. Government of India has committed to host ISA Secretariat for 5 years duration from 2016-17 to 2020-21 and will contribute US\$ 27 million to the ISA for creating corpus, building infrastructure and recurring expenditure over 5 years duration. On the request of the International Solar Alliance the Government of India has earmarked around US \$ 2 billion Line of Credit to the African countries for implementation of solar and solar related projects. Government of India is further contemplating extending US \$ 1 billion Line of Credit for Non-African countries for implementing solar and solar related projects. Strategic and financial partnerships have been entered into with the UNDP, the World Bank and the Climate Parliament to further the mandate of ISA. Financial partnerships have also been entered with European Investment Bank (EIB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The proposals of entering into financial partnerships with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the New Development Bank (NDB) are also at an advanced stage. All UN and its subsidiary organs are ISA's strategic partners.
- A Common Risk Mitigation Mechanism (CRMM) instrument study has been launched with the Terra Watt Initiative (TWI) of France. Once commissioned the mechanism shall help reduce credit risk in solar sector investments. The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has developed a risk mitigation and credit enhancement mechanism in Solar which can be replicated among ISA member countries. The final structure has been unveiled in the report presented in the CoP 23 at Bonn.
- India's Ministry of External Affairs through its Development Partnership Administration program has set aside US\$ 1.5-2 billion as a line of credit facility to undertake solar projects in those African countries that have signed and ratified the ISA Framework Agreement.
- As a member of the ISA, France through the *Agence Française de Développement*, has offered €300 Million for solar projects in ISA member countries.
- ISA will similarly persuade other countries to contribute to the case of solar deployment globally.

Q.12 What important initiatives has the ISA undertaken so far?

Ans. (i) As an action- oriented organization three programmes of ISA namely “Scaling up solar applications for agricultural use”, “Affordable finance at scale” and “Scaling up Solar Mini-grids” have been launched. Drafts of the fourth and the fifth programmes are nearing completion and are proposed to be launched in the near future.

ii. On 22nd April 2016, the ISA and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed and issued a Joint Declaration for cooperation in promoting ISA objectives in prospective ISA member countries.

iii. On 30th June, 2016 the ISA and the World Bank signed and issued a Joint Declaration for the promotion of solar energy globally.

iv. On 15th November, 2016 the ISA and the Climate Parliament signed and issued a Joint Declaration on global cooperation for promoting solar energy.

v. On 2nd November, 2017 The International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) signed the Joint financial partnership Declaration in the presence of H.E.Mr. Arun Jaitley, Hon'ble Minister of Finance, Government of India and Sir Suma Chakrabarti, President EBRD with an objective to deepen their cooperation in support of Renewable Energy.

Q.13 What are the likely benefits of ISA membership?

Ans. ISA will be a collective voice in the international fora and benefit prospective member countries in many ways, including the following:

i. Group Identity: ISA will provide a group identity that will be dynamic, situation-responsive and will protect against monopolistic international groups.

ii. Long term and low cost finance: ISA will facilitate the prospective member countries in developing innovative financial packages to bring down the cost of capital to a level lower than the local interest rates on loans in prospective member countries. ISA will facilitate conducive conditions for credit flow on concessional terms in prospective member countries. This will aggregate demand for solar applications, thereby creating a buyers' market. ISA will also explore possibilities of arranging long term and low cost finance from multilateral and bilateral agencies as and other financial institutions.

iii. Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) for solar energy development and deployment: ISA will work with countries that provide ODA and are ready to assist in identifying solar programmes in ISA countries.

iv. Identifying technological solutions: ISA will facilitate the prospective member countries in selecting, procuring and aggregating technologies so that the cost and terms and conditions of procurement are friendly.

v. Capacity Building: ISA will facilitate in building a pool of local technicians, entrepreneurs etc. and will help impart training to prospective entrepreneurs and local technicians in assembling solar home lighting systems, solar pumps, solar mini grids etc.

vi. Productive solar applications in agriculture for increasing farmers' income: ISA will facilitate exchange of information among policy makers in data-mining and analytics to find out the best financial and social lessons on how solar can double their income.

vii. Universal solar lighting: ISA will partner with the prospective member countries and the UN agencies present in those countries to synergize activities in promoting universal energy access.

viii. Access to solar technologies in public domain: In order to reduce the cost of technology, ISA will establish linkage with the technology owners to place solar technologies in public domain to make it accessible to as wide set of users as possible. Further, ISA will explore possibilities to finance the royalties payable for licences on solar technologies and make them available to the disadvantaged prospective ISA member countries.

ix. ISA Solar awards: ISA will administer global awards for solar R&D, applications and innovative financing. Membership will enable the prospective member countries to nominate suitable candidates in appropriate areas.

x. Knowledge access to 24x7 networking centre: Prospective ISA member countries will have access to the 24x7 solar networking centre which will connect all prospective member countries in an interactive mode. The centre will have a solar library of 1000 best practices from various countries.

Q.14 Will ISA member countries have access to solar-related information and capacity building programmes?

Ans.

- ISA will arrange capacity building in member countries with help of expert Agencies to make Detailed Project Report for solar projects.
- ISA will partner with the member country in developing various innovative models to bring down cost of projects.
- ISA will partner with member countries and UN agencies to synergize activities in promoting universal energy access.
- ISA will develop and provide member countries with standardized documents for preparation of solar mission, designs and DPRs of existing solar parks, canal parks, roof top solar projects, and green energy corridor projects for guidance and training purpose.
- ISA will assist in training of local technicians, entrepreneurs etc. who can be employed to look after O&M of the solar systems such as solar pumps, solar rooftops, solar driers, solar parks and such other systems.
- ISA will promote local entrepreneurship and local assembly of solar home lighting systems and fans.
- ISA will provide online training courses for solar mechanics with access to virtual labs. Trainings will be planned in consultation with the country and corporate sector, at subsidised rates of tuition fee for students from member countries.
- ISA member countries will be eligible for internships / scholarships programs managed by the ISA Secretariat.

- A ISA member country will have opportunity for its citizens to compete for placements in ISA secretariat and depute officers on secondment basis.
- ISA will assist member countries to organize global investor meets on renewables which will give a boost to investments in the member country.

Q.15 How to designate National Focal Points of ISA?

Ans. The first International Steering Committee meeting of ISA was held on 1st December, 2015 during which it was decided that the prospective ISA member countries will designate a nodal officer for ISA and related activities. The National Focal Point would be the key point person in the Capitals of prospective ISA countries to receive and provide information about ISA events, programmes and activities.

ISA Interim Secretariat is in the process of collecting contact details of Focal Points in all the prospective ISA member countries. The following details of focal point(s) are requested from prospective member countries of ISA:

- i) Name of the Focal Point
- ii) Email of the Focal Point
- iii) Cell number of the Focal Point for adding to the Whatsapp group
- iv) Photograph of Focal Point for uploading on the website

The above details of Focal Points may be forwarded to Dr. O. S. Sastry, Programme Director and Senior Consultant at sastry284@isolaralliance.org or Dr. P.S Akella, Consultant at sastryakella@isolaralliance.org.

Q.16 How to designate Contact Points for ISA?

Ans. Prospective ISA countries can designate a Contact Point in their respective diplomatic mission in New Delhi, India. The Contact point serves as key person to receive and provide information about ISA activities, to represent the prospective country in regular meetings of ISA and to help in arranging inputs and sending information about ISA activities to the country's Capital.

Q.17 How can an ISA country launch a programme under ISA?

Ans. An ISA member country can make proposal for a programme, provided that it is submitted jointly with at least one other member country. Participation will be on a voluntary basis and in an open manner. The Secretariat can also launch a programme with the approval of Assembly.

Q.18 What is India's contribution to ISA?

Ans. The Government of India will contribute US \$ 27 million to the ISA for creating corpus, building infrastructure and towards recurring expenditure over a 5 year duration from 2016-17 to 2020-21. An initial donation of US \$ 16 million has already been made. In addition, public sector undertakings of the Government of India namely *Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)* and *Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)* have made contributions of US \$ 1 million each for creating the ISA corpus fund. In addition, the Government of India has offered training support for prospective ISA member countries at the National Institute of Solar Energy. They have also offered to support the prospective ISA member countries by organising demonstration on projects like solar home lighting, solar pumps for farmers and for other solar applications. The Government of India has dedicated 5 acres (over 20,000 Sq. meters) of land in the *National Institute of Solar Energy* campus for the construction ISA Headquarters. Proposal for allocating additional 5 acres of land is also under consideration.

Q.19 What is the linkage between INDC and solar energy?

Ans. Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) outlines actions on climate change that countries intend to take in the post 2020 period under the new international climate change agreement. In the run up to the climate change negotiations in Paris in December, 2015 for the new climate agreement, many countries communicated their INDCs to the UNFCCC Secretariat. All Parties included information on their mitigation contributions, in which solar energy forms a significant part. ISA efforts shall supplement the nationally determined contributions and contribute to the fight against climate change. At CoP23 Bonn it has been clarified that the efforts and targets set out by the International Solar Alliance (ISA) are over and above the INDCs.

Q.20 Where to find regular updates on progress of ISA?

Ans. The ISA quarterly journal reports on the progress made by ISA during each quarter and demonstrates its mission for future. The first journal was launched on 8th October, 2016 in the presence of H.E. Mr. Upendra Tripathy, the then Ex -Officio Interim Director General, ISA & Secretary, MNRE, Govt. of India and H.E. Ms. Brigitte Collet, Ambassador for Renewable Energy, Special Representative of the French Government for the International Solar Alliance in a ISA Track event during The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2016, themed, 'Beyond 2015: People, Planet & Progress'. The ISA journal fills the need for improved information and regular communication from and about the ISA. Besides small number of printed copies, ISA Journal it can be viewed and downloaded from ISA website: www.isolaralliance.org.

Q.21 Can ISA help in identifying the right technological solutions for solar deployment?

Ans.

- ISA will assist the member country in selecting, procurement and aggregating technologies so that cost of procurement and terms and conditions of procurement are comparatively less. For example, ISA will arrange, on request, free and reliable software platforms for member countries to carry out reverse bidding for solar procurements.
- ISA will also encourage strategic and collaborative solar R&D, to improve the efficiency and integration of solar power as well as increase the number of solar applications available; this could be achieved through, among others, enumerating market needs assessments; setting common performance benchmarks; instituting prizes for collaborative research, projects development and innovative applications; pilot projects to test technologies; training solar professionals to support technology development and transfer, and so on.
- To reduce the cost of technology, the ISA will establish linkages with technology owners/providers to ensure access to solar technologies for the widest set of users as possible. Further, ISA will explore possibilities to finance the royalties for licences for patents on solar technologies and make them available to needy ISA member countries.
- ISA will also maintain a dedicated data base of renewable technologies in the public domain. ISA member countries will have access to this database and a variety of other databases from which the member country will greatly benefit.
- ISA member countries will have free access to the 24x7 solar networking centres which will connect 121 countries in an interactive mode. The Centre will have a solar library of 1000 best practices from various countries. The member countries will have access to talks from corporate leaders which will be organized, to begin with, on a monthly basis. The member country can even send its own corporate representatives to use the forum. Policy makers can interact with each other and one another. More importantly, the country will have cloud space to project its own policies and analytics that attract solar investment into the member country for which dedicated space will be provided.

Q.22 The Framework Agreement of ISA does not have a dispute resolution clause presently. What is the possibility of inclusion of such a clause in the future for settling disputes?

Ans. At present, the Framework Agreement contains no provision for disputes settlement. However, as per Article XI of the Framework Agreement, any member may propose amendments to the Framework Agreement after expiry of 1 year from commencement of the Framework Agreement. Amendments to the Framework Agreement shall be adopted by the Assembly by two thirds majority of the Members present and voting. The amendments shall come into force when two thirds of the Members convey acceptance in accordance with their respective constitutional processes.

Q.23 What is the process for becoming an Observer, for States? Can any State become an Observer permanently?

Ans. Under Article IX, Observer status may be granted by the Assembly to applicants for membership or partnership whose application is pending. Therefore, the Observer status is only for a limited period of time wherein application of a State is pending approval by the ISA assembly. Observer status is also granted to organizations which can further the interests and objectives of the ISA.

Q.24 What is the process for becoming a Partner? Article VII (2) says Partner Country status “may be granted by the Assembly.” Does this mean that an application needs to be made to the Assembly? If so, how and in what form? Is it correct to assume, therefore, that the Entry into Force procedure in Article XIII does not apply to Partners?

Ans.

- To obtain the status of a ‘Partner’ under the ISA Framework Agreement, the interested State may send a letter/proposal expressing their interest to become a ‘Partner Country’ to the Interim Secretariat/Secretariat of ISA and thereafter, this proposal may be taken for approval to the ISA International Steering Committee (ISC)/ISA Assembly during its next meeting. Once the proposal is considered and approved by the ISC/ISA Assembly the status of a ‘Partner Country’ may be granted by the ISC/ISA Assembly at their discretion.
- It may also be noted that the Partner Country will also need to sign/ratify the Framework Agreement of ISA as per Article XIII of the Framework Agreement.

Q.25 Are there any obligations on Partners? In Article VI there is a mention of voluntary contributions; are there any other expectations?

Ans.

- There is *neither mandatory membership fees, nor legal binding commitments* for joining the ISA.
- A “Partner Country” (those that fall beyond the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn), will also have to sign and ratify the Framework Agreement.
- Article VI of the Framework Agreement permits *voluntary contributions* by member countries, observer/partner organizations, UN agencies, government and private corporates etc.

Q.26 Are Observers/Partners expected to contribute?

Ans.

- Under Article IX, Observer status may be granted by the Assembly to applicants for membership or partnership, for a temporary period, when the application is pending approval.

- Observer Status is granted on a permanent basis only for Organizations.
- Currently, there are no budgetary implications for Members, Observers and Partners.
- Observers and Partners are free to attend and participate in ISA events and meetings; although they will have no voting rights in the decision making of the ISA.
- In case a Member/Partner/Partner Organization/Strategic Partner/Observer decides to participate in a programme, depending on the nature of the programme, the Member/Partner/Partner Organization/Strategic Partner/Observer could voluntarily contribute by way of knowledge support or even financial contribution.

Q.27 Will ISA act as a funder of projects or as a facilitator?

Ans.

- ISA will be a facilitator of technology, knowledge and finance. However, the decision on the role of ISA as a funder for projects has not yet been taken.

- ISA is the first treaty based intergovernmental international organisation headquartered in the India. Government of India has committed to host ISA Secretariat for 5 years duration from 2016-17 to 2020-21 and will contribute US\$ 27 million to the ISA for creating corpus, building infrastructure and recurring expenditure over 5 years duration. On the request of the International Solar Alliance the Government of India has earmarked around US \$ 2 billion Line of Credit to the African countries for implementation of solar and solar related projects out of its total \$ 10 billion developmental LoC to various African countries. Government of India is further contemplating extending US \$ 1 billion Line of Credit for Non-African countries for implementing solar and solar related projects. Similarly the Government of France has also earmarked around € 300 million for solar in ISA member countries. Strategic and financial partnerships have been entered into with the UNDP, the World Bank and the Climate Parliament to further the mandate of ISA. Financial partnerships have also been entered with European Investment Bank (EIB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The proposals of entering into financial partnerships with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the New Development Bank (NDB) are also at advanced stages. The United Nations including its organs are ISA's strategic partners.

- Also for mobilising finance for its programmes ISA has approached various multilateral and bilateral funding agencies for earmarking a certain percentage of their overall credit portfolio for solar and solar-related projects. The ISA Interim Secretariat is in the process of tying up finance for solar energy with ADB, AfDB, AIIB, EIB, IDB, NDB and GCF etc. In addition to this bilateral and other possible sources of funds such as sovereign wealth funds, pension funds are also being approached. ISA is approaching the World Bank and other participating Multilateral/Bilateral donor agencies to sign the commitment letters striving for the following:

(a) Earmarking at least 15% of its annual credit portfolio per annum for solar sector globally

(b) Raising loans and green bonds in local currency for solar projects in ISA member countries

(c) To create a global risk mitigation fund for US \$ 300 Billion over ten years that can be used to create innovative financial mechanism in ISA countries (credit risk guarantee fund, first loss facility, hedging mechanism, security payment etc.) to leverage investment from the Private Sector.

A Common Risk Mitigation Mechanism (CRMM) instrument study has been launched with the Terra Watt Initiative (TWI) of France under the aegis of ISA. The final report of the study was released on 7th November, 2017 at CoP 23. The study says that once commissioned the mechanism shall help reduce credit risk in solar sector investments and help leverage 10x investment into solar. ISA plans to establish 10 such funds of US \$ 30 billion each. First such fund shall be in Paris.

The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) the largest green energy funder in India has developed risk mitigation and credit enhancement mechanism for solar industry which can be replicated among ISA member countries. The IA Interim Secretariat is also working to build a sizeable fund corpus which can help sustain ISA's activities in a smooth and impartial manner over time.

- Further, US\$ 2 billion out of the US\$10 billion Government of India Line of Credit for Africa has been set aside for solar projects in Africa. Such projects will be undertaken in those African countries which have signed and ratified the Framework Agreement.

Further details in this regard may be seen at ISA website: www.isolaralliance.org.

Q.28 How many countries have signed and ratified the ISA Framework so far?

Ans. As of 10th November, 2017, forty- four countries have signed the ISA Framework Agreement. These are

1. Commonwealth of Australia	11. Republic of Djibouti	21. Republic of India	31. Republic of Peru	41. Tuvalu
2. Peoples Republic of Bangladesh	12. Dominican Republic	22. Republic of Kiribati	32. Republic of Rwanda	42. United Arab Emirates New

3. Republic of Benin	13. Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	23. Republic of Liberia	33. Republic of Senegal	43. Republic of Vanuatu
4. Federal Republic of Brazil	14. Republic of Equatorial Guinea	24. Republic of Madagascar	34. Republic of Seychelles	44. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela New
5. Burkina Faso	15. Republic of Fiji	25. Republic of Malawi	35. Federal Republic of Somalia	
6. Kingdom of Cambodia	16. France	26. Republic of Mali	36. Republic of South Sudan	
7. Republic of Costa Rica	17. Gabonese Republic	27. Republic of Mauritius	37. Republic of Sudan	
8. Democratic Republic of Congo	18. Republic of Ghana	28. Republic of Nauru	38. United Republic of Tanzania	
9. Union of Comoros	19. Republic of Guinea	29. Republic of Niger	39. Kingdom of Tonga	
10. Republic of Cote d'ivoire	20. Republic of Guinea-Bissau	30. Federal Republic of Nigeria	40. Togolese Republic	

and there is a growing interest amongst many other ISA prospective countries to sign the FA. Out of the above 44 countries the following 15 have also submitted the formal Instrument of ratification to the depository i.e. Ministry of External Affairs of India:

1. Peoples Republic of Bangladesh	4. France	7. Republic of India	10. Republic of Niger	13. Federal Republic of Somalia
2. Union of Comoros	5. Republic of Ghana	8. Republic of Mauritius	11. Republic of Mali	14. Republic of South Sudan
3. Republic of Fiji	6. Republic of Guinea New	9. Republic of Nauru	12. Republic of Seychelles	15. Tuvalu

Q.29. What is the process of engaging Interns in the Interim Secretariat of ISA?

Ans. International Solar Alliance (ISA) invites application from Graduate / Master's or Ph.D. level students from any discipline of various Colleges / Universities / Educational Institutes for an internship at the Interim Secretariat of ISA. Intern must be interested in learning about and working for renewable energy sector especially solar sector. Interested students will get exposure on the mission and objectives of ISA and access to solar energy research facilities in National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) campus, Gurugram. The duration of the internship varies from one to twelve months. All internships are non-remunerative. All costs related to travel, insurance, accommodation and living expenses must be borne by either the interns or their sponsoring institutions. Applicants from prospective ISA member countries are encouraged to apply.

In addition, ISA is accepting applications for internship through the United Nations Development Programme and are governed by UN norms.

The International Solar Alliance's Interim Secretariat looks forward to welcoming successful applicants to the team.
