

**Report of the
3rd Meeting of the International Steering Committee (ISC) of
the International Solar Alliance (ISA)**

Held on 21 April 2016 in New York, USA

The International Steering Committee of the International Solar Alliance, open to all member countries, held its third meeting on 21 April 2016 in New York, USA. India, represented by Mr Upendra Tripathy, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, chaired the meeting. France, represented by Ms Sylvie Lemmet, Director, European and International Affairs, French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, Government of France, Co-chaired.

2. Eighteen countries including India and France attended the meeting. List of country representatives is given in *Appendix-I*. Observers and potential partners who attended the meeting are listed in *Appendix-II*.

3. The agenda items were taken up in the following order:-

Agenda Item 1: Opening remarks by the Chair

4. Mr Upendra Tripathy, Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, serving as the Chair, International Steering Committee, welcomed all the participating Countries and thanked them for their continued support and engagement.

5. Major highlights of the Chair's opening remarks were as under:-

- i. India's deep appreciation for the support from France, as the co-chair of the ISC. France has been continuously engaged in developing proposals and structuring the ISA process. He greatly appreciated and emphasized the important role played by France in initiating the joint papers;
- ii. India is also deeply appreciative of France's support and collaboration in developing the initial ideas for ISA programmes. In particular, the programme for '*Scaling solar applications for agricultural use*' and '*Affordable finance at scale*' have been developed jointly and consideration of these programmes forms a part of today's Agenda;
- iii. The 1st and 2nd ISC meetings held in Paris and Abu Dhabi, respectively, were successful in establishing an Agenda for ISA's future direction and work;
- iv. Since ISA launched on 30 November 2015, a number of activities have been initiated. These include: a) laying of the foundation stone of the ISA Headquarters on 25 January 2016 in India by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Hon'ble President of France; b) constitution of the Interim Administrative Cell of ISA (ISA Cell) which has met four times, to carry out day-to-day functions of ISA; c) engagement with professional bodies, think tanks, and the corporate sector for developing ISA programme of activities;

- v. Inputs and feedback received in the meeting with resident diplomatic missions of 73 prospective ISA member countries in New Delhi on 6 April 2016 where Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister for Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy chaired, was very pertinent and helped in shaping the agenda for the 3rd ISC meeting;
- vi. The proposal for cooperation with the United Nations/ UNDP was very timely and will help in developing solar energy technologies and building capacity of ISA countries in solar energy development and deployment, as well as implementation of the two proposed field level programmes;
- vii. CII and Terrawatt Initiative could jointly work to engage the corporate sector in a major way, including through RE-INVEST in Indonesia, Kenya, Peru and India during the year 2017, which has been discussed with their contact points in Delhi, at the highest diplomatic level. They had suggested the timings as under:

India	February 2017
Peru	June 2017
Kenya	September 2017
Indonesia	December 2017

- viii. In order to accelerate solar energy deployment in ISA countries, the developed country members of ISA may consider earmarking 15 percent of their Overseas Development Assistance for solar projects in ISA countries; and
- ix. There are great expectations from ISA and the efforts should be towards translating the vision enshrined in the Paris Declaration of the ISA into action at the earliest. In this process, roadblocks in the rapid scaling up of solar energy would need to be addressed through concrete actions. The ISA cell was planning to develop a matrix reflecting what ISA could do during next five years.

6. The Chair also:

- i. Informed about the architectural design of ISA Headquarters, prepared by the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India. He requested for French assistance in finalizing the design. He further informed that in view of ISA's plans, an additional five acres of land has been earmarked for ISA Headquarters, including plans to construct some residential quarters;
- ii. Underlined the role of the corporate sector in ISA activities. He also appreciated the efforts by the Terrawatt Initiative and requested the Terrawatt Initiative to provide 10 action points that ISA could implement to ensure ISA's corporate engagement;
- iii. Thanked the countries for inputs and feedback that were very helpful in framing the ISA Agenda and in steering the on-going process for making ISA an innovative and sui generis international & inter-governmental organization;
- iv. Thanked Australia, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Congo, France, Mauritius, Madagascar, Netherlands, Nigeria, and Peru for designating national focal points.

He requested other countries to designate National Focal Points for ISA on a priority basis; and

- v. Thanked UNDP and other institutions for supporting ISA initiative. He also informed that the World Bank and New Development Bank had also shown a lot of interest in collaborating with ISA, particularly in the areas of: a) Providing a credit road map for renewable energy with earmarking of not less 15% of funds deployed by the Bank. b) Reduction of commitment fee through cross subsidization; c) Financial mechanism to reduce hedging risk; and d) Creation of renewable trust funds.

Agenda Item 2: Remarks by the Co-Chair

7. The Co-Chair noted that the time had come to mark a new stage in the existence and functioning of the International Steering Committee:

- i. The first and foremost priority is that countries willing to participate in the consultative process designate a national focal point in their capital city and communicate the email address as specified in §2.1 of Annexure-2 of the Agenda ;
- ii. Designation of a national focal point in the capital city will allow full and formal membership in the ISC, as stated in §2.3 of Annexure-2 of the Agenda ;
- iii. From now on, the electronic mailing list of national focal points will serve as the legitimate and formal channel for consultation of ISC members, as stated in §2.7 of Annexure-2 of the Agenda; this will allow consultations on a continuous, open and transparent basis;
- iv. Physical meetings of the ISC members will give further opportunity to discuss and make decisions on written proposals and documents communicated well in advance, as explained in §3.4 and §3.5 of Annexure-2 of the Agenda.

Agenda Item 3: Confirmation of the Report of the 2nd meeting of the International Steering Committee (ISC) Meeting

8. The Chair placed the report of the 2nd meeting of the International Steering Committee (ISC) for consideration of members, including the note received from Nigeria. The Committee confirmed the report with the inclusion of the interventions from Nigeria as enclosed in ***Appendix III***.

Country Interventions

9. The Country interventions were as under:-

- a. The representative of Uganda mentioned that Uganda was fully supportive of the ISA initiative and that ISA should help to address the key challenges of their country i.e. access to energy, energy efficiency and water supply. Uganda also suggested that in addition to the National Focal Point, a provision for Alternate National Focal Point should also be made.

- b. The representative of Papua New Guinea thanked India and France for initiating activities under ISA, and mentioned that they have initiated a national process for joining the programmes and would designate a National Focal Point shortly. Papua New Guinea also requested some additional time to provide comments on the proposals submitted for ISC's consideration.
- c. The representative of Sri Lanka thanked India for its dynamic and friendly relationship with Sri Lanka and expressed their full support for the programmes on agriculture and finance, as well as to ISA.
- d. The representative of the Netherlands thanked India and France for the initiative, and opined that programmes on agriculture and finance will help ISA countries in addressing the two main barriers for accelerating solar energy deployment, and that these programmes should be implemented in a Mission mode on the lines of UN programme on SE4ALL. The Netherlands further suggested that RE-INVEST should be organized in a focussed manner, involving ISA countries and corporates.
- e. The representative of Brazil stated that ISA could be instrumental in reducing the cost of solar energy & technologies and the ISA governance structure should facilitate countries to be a part in the decision-making process. Brazil also mentioned that the value addition under ISA as a facilitator should be clearly spelt out.
- f. The representative of Chile expressed strong support for the ISA initiative. Chile further mentioned that the technology development and capacity building programmes should be initiated on a priority basis. Chile also suggested that ISA should act as an active and effective platform for capacity building and specific programmes should ensure effective value addition from ISA.
- g. The representative of Costa Rica thanked India and France for the initiatives and stated that proposed programmes are pertinent from their Country's perspective. Costa Rica expressed full support for the ISA and the Programmes to be launched.
- h. The representative from France stated that text of the Joint Declaration between ISA Cell and UNDP for promotion of Solar Energy has been circulated in the meeting and they will require time to reflect on the same. Responding to the observation the Chair, ISC stated that the agenda for the 3rd ISC meeting included discussions on MoU between UN and interim Secretariat of ISA as an agenda item for approval of ISC. However, in view of the UN's concern about ISA not yet being a legal entity, it has been changed in the form of a Joint Declaration to be signed between ISA Cell and UNDP. He further clarified that the areas for cooperation remain the same as were in the proposed MOU that formed part of Agenda notes. After this clarification French side agreed to the proposal for Joint Declaration between ISA Cell and UNDP. All other countries were in support of the Joint Declaration.

- i. The representative of the United States of America thanked ISA for moving ahead in a concrete manner. The United States raised a point that the solar energy for agriculture programme should not lead to over drawing of water and it should have full synergy with an energy and water conservation programme. The United States underlined the synergy between the programmes of ISA and the Clean Energy Ministerial and suggested that the two initiatives could collaborate for further value addition. The representative of the United States noted that the proposals for ISA programmes highlighted the collective desire that the ISA should be designed for maximum effectiveness.

Agenda Item 4: Adoption of Agenda for the 3rd ISC meeting.

10. The Chair presented the Agenda of the 3rd ISC meeting for consideration. The Committee adopted the Agenda.

11. The discussions on the Agenda items were held in the following order:-

Agenda Item 4.1: Joint proposals from India and France

i. Rules of Procedure for the consultative process

Uganda, Papua New Guinea and Brazil mentioned that the rules of procedure needed to be further examined, particularly with regards to the role of the ISC. They stated that the proposed provisions relating to quorum, linking the Co-chair of the ISC with the COP Presidency, the method for submission of proposals and documents to ISC, the specific provision for approval of documents and decisions regarding the overall orientation and structure of the Alliance, require further clarity and understanding. India opined that the countries may be requested to further examine the provisions and provide their suggestions. The ISA Cell may be requested to collate the suggestions, to revise the proposal, and to put up the same at the next ISC meeting for consideration and approval.

Thus it was agreed that prospective ISA member countries may provide their comments/suggestions, through the national focal point for the ISA, on the proposal within two weeks from the date of receipt of the Report of this meeting. The ISA Cell may be requested to collate the suggestions, to revise the proposal, and to resubmit the same to the ISC for consideration and approval.

ii. ISA concept – How it is innovative and new

The ISC took note of the paper ‘ISA concept – How it is innovative and new’, submitted for their consideration. India suggested that in paragraph 3 of the paper the reference “...in collaboration with Corporate sector, in particular through the Terrawatt Initiative, & Financial Institutions ...” shall be revised as “...in collaboration with Corporate sector, inter alia through the Terrawatt Initiative, & Financial Institutions” It was clarified that collaboration between ISA & TWI did not create any exclusivity for other organizations.

It was also decided that prospective ISA member countries may provide their comments/suggestions, through the national focal point for the ISA on this paper within two weeks from the date of receipt of the Report of this meeting.

iii. *Indicative Table “solar applications covered by the Alliance and main obstacles to deployment at scale”*

Representatives from Papua New Guinea, and Uganda, opined that the proposed template to understand the scope and vision of solar applications required more clarity in terms of suggested activities. With regards to this, specific reference of the “future solar technologies” and “mature solar applications” was made as regards what could be termed as the ‘*future*’ and ‘*mature*’.

It was also decided that prospective ISA member countries may provide their comments/suggestions, through the national focal point for the ISA on the table within two weeks from the date of receipt of the Report of this meeting.

iv. *Common guidelines for making a Programme proposal under ISA*

The issue as to why two countries only could initiate the programme was raised. Chairman clarified that two was the minimum number that could form a group and enabled India and France to propose two schemes. He also clarified that there was no prohibition for ISC to launch new and innovative programmes in consultation with prospective member countries. The ISC adopted the paper as enclosed in Annexure – 5 of the Agenda, without comments.

v. *Proposed Programme for ‘Scaling solar applications for agricultural use’*

The ISC adopted the paper as enclosed in Annexure - 6 of the Agenda with the following observations:-

- a. In the penultimate paragraph of the proposal, after the sentence “*They will report to us by the end of this year, and will propose a new set of objectives for the following year*”, the following sentence should be added: “*Their reports will also be forwarded to the Interim Administrative Cell of ISA for coordination and analysis purposes.*”
- b. The programme was very important from the perspective of scaling up solar applications in the agricultural sector and, therefore, all the ISA prospective member countries were invited to join the programme;
- c. The programme was approved for launching in the Ministerial Side Event on ISA scheduled on 22 April 2016;
- d. The national Representative, through a consultative process should further detail the programme in the form of a full programme proposal. ISA Cell will facilitate/coordinate the process and circulate among the prospective ISA member countries.
- e. The initial steps and full design of the programme could be presented at the Founding Conference, which would also serve as the first Ministers’ Conclave, scheduled in New Delhi in the near future; and

- f. The participating countries as well as the ISA cell will assess the financial means, institutional mechanisms, and required capacity building measures, required to implement the programme.

vi. *Proposed Programme for ‘Affordable finance at scale’*

The ISC adopted the paper as enclosed in Annexure - 7 of the Agenda with the following observations:-

- a. In paragraph 4. the text “...*Corporate sector, in particular through the Terrawatt Initiative, on the optimal terms ...*” shall be revised as “...*Corporate sector, inter alia through the Terrawatt Initiative, on the optimal terms ...*”.
- b. In the penultimate paragraph of the proposal, after the sentence “*They will report to us by the end of this year, and will propose a new set of objectives for the following year.*”, the following sentence should be added : “*Their reports will also be forwarded to the Interim Administrative Cell of ISA for coordination and analysis purposes.*”.
- c. The programme was approved for launching in the Ministerial Side Event on ISA scheduled on 22 April 2016;
- d. The programme was very important from the perspective of scaling up of solar finance and therefore all the prospective ISA member countries were invited to join the programme;
- e. The national Representative, through a consultative process should further detail the programme in the form of a full programme proposal. ISA Cell will facilitate/coordinate the process and circulate among the prospective ISA member countries.
- f. The early steps and full design of the Programme could be presented at the Founding Conference, which would also serve as the first Ministers’ Conclave, scheduled in New Delhi in the near future; and
- g. The participating countries as well as the ISA cell will assess the financial means, institutional mechanisms, and required capacity building measures, required to implement the programme.

vii. *Proposed key organizational principles*

The ISC noted the proposal and it was decided that prospective ISA member countries may provide their comments/suggestions, through the national focal point for the ISA within two weeks from the date of receipt of the Report of this meeting.

Agenda Item 4.2: Action taken report and proceedings of the meetings held by the Interim Administrative Cell of the International Solar Alliance (ISA Cell)

The ISC noted with appreciation day to day actions taken by the ISA cell, as the Interim Secretariat of ISA and wished that it would play an effective role in managing the first two programmes of the ISA. India informed that administrative and financial functions will be outsourced to UNDP to keep the Secretariat thin and slim.

Agenda Item 4.3: Finance for ISA activities.

ISC authorised ISA Cell to engage in discussions with relevant stakeholders including Governments, civil society, corporates, business chambers, financing institutions, United Nations, etc. for developing proposals for ISA financial sustainability and report the progress to the ISC periodically. ISA cell may engage an international consulting organisation, like McKinsey, BCG, KPMG etc for suggesting a model for ISA financial sustainability as well as its governance structure. The task may be completed within two months. Terms of Reference may include an analysis of governance structure of similar global organizations, and measures to keep the Secretariat lean & slim. Help of USAID may be taken to chalk out a plan for financial sustainability and innovative financing.

Agenda Item 4.4: Messages from ISA member countries on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of ISA Headquarters, for information of ISC.

The ISC noted with appreciation and thanked the countries namely Republic of Senegal, Kingdom of Netherlands, Republic of Mauritius, Republic of Seychelles, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Federative Republic of Brazil, Union of Comoros, Kingdom of Cambodia, Government of Madagascar, and Republic of Bangladesh who sent messages on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of ISA Headquarters at the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Gwalpahari, Gurgaon, India on 25 January 2016.

5. Any other Item with permission of the Chair.

5.1 Framework Agreement for Strategic Partnership between the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the United Nations.

12. The Chair introduced the Agenda and stated that the UN had evinced interest in collaborating with the ISA much before the ISA was formally launched and Paris Declaration on ISA was announced on 30 November 2015. For this reason, the UN Secretary General was on the dais with Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Hon'ble President of France at the ISA launch event. He further informed that, at the 2nd ISC meeting, the United Nations had made a presentation on the Strategic Partnership between ISA and UN. He said early partnership with UN would help, inter alia, in accessing the knowledge base, domain expertise, coordination mechanisms and field presence at the global, regional and country levels of the UN. Further a partnership with UN will create global visibility platforms for ISA. UNDP will also help in dissemination of and in the manpower recruitment, regional networking, technical expertise; establishment of a 24x7 solar cyber e-portal for knowledge generation and sharing; mobilizing funding and programmatic support etc. Moreover ISA could establish South-South and triangular cooperation platforms; and develop synergy with ongoing UN programmes and projects within ISA member countries. He further informed that on 10 March 2016, the UN office in India had submitted a Draft Framework Agreement

(MoU) for strategic partnership between ISA and UNDP. Accordingly, the agenda for the 3rd ISC meeting included discussions on MoU between UN and interim Secretariat of ISA as an agenda item for approval of ISC. However, in view of the UN's concern about ISA not yet being a legal entity, it was finally proposed to change the MOU to a Joint Declaration to be signed between ISA Cell and UNDP. He requested Mr Yuri Afanasiev, UN India Coordinator to read the proposed joint declaration for the benefit of members.

13. After deliberations and discussions, the ISC approved the proposal to read and exchange the Joint Declaration, in the Ministerial Side Event on ISA on 22 April 2016.

Focal Points

14. In summary, the following were the major decisions:-

1. Interventions made by Nigeria will form part of the report of 2nd ISC meeting (as enclosed in **Appendix III**).
2. Prospective ISA member countries will provide their comments/suggestions, through the national focal point for the ISA within two weeks from the date of receipt of the report of ISC meeting on the following proposals: a) Rules of Procedure for the consultative process; b) ISA concept – How it is innovative and new; c) Indicative Table “solar applications covered by the Alliance and main obstacles to deployment at scale”; and d) Proposed key organizational principles. The ISA cell will collate the comments and submit accordingly revised proposals for consideration of the ISC in its next meeting.
3. The document “Common guidelines for making a Programme proposal under ISA” was adopted without observations. Copy of the approved document is enclosed at **Appendix IV**.
4. The Programmes for ‘Scaling solar applications for agricultural use’ and ‘Affordable finance at scale’ were adopted with following observations:-

i. Specific to ‘Scaling solar applications for agricultural use’

In the penultimate paragraph of the proposal, after the sentence “*They will report to us by the end of this year, and will propose a new set of objectives for the following year*”, the following sentence should be added : “*Their reports will also be forwarded to the Interim Administrative Cell of ISA for coordination and analysis purposes.*”.

ii. Specific to ‘Affordable finance at scale’

- a. In paragraph 4. the text “*...Corporate sector, in particular through the Terrawatt Initiative, on the optimal terms ...*” shall be revised as “*...Corporate sector, inter alia through the Terrawatt Initiative, on the optimal terms ...*”. It was clarified that collaboration between ISA & TWI did not create any exclusivity for other organizations.

In the penultimate paragraph of the proposal, after the sentence “*They will report to us by the end of this year, and will propose a new set of objectives for the following year*”, the following sentence should be added : “*Their reports will also be forwarded to the Interim Administrative Cell of ISA for coordination and analysis purposes.*”.

iii. Common to both programmes

- a. All the prospective ISA member countries will also be invited to join the two programmes;
- b. The programmes were approved for launching in the Ministerial Side Event on ISA scheduled on 22 April 2016;
- c. The national Representative, through a consultative process should further detail the programme in the form of a full programme proposal. ISA Cell will facilitate/coordinate the process and circulate among the prospective ISA member countries.
- d. The programme proposals so developed will also be presented at the Founding Conference, which would also serve as the first Ministers’ Conclave, scheduled in New Delhi in the near future; and
- e. The participating countries as well as the ISA cell will assess the financial means, institutional mechanisms, and necessary capacity building measures etc , required to implement the programme.

Copies of the approved programmes for ‘Scaling solar applications for agricultural use’ and ‘Affordable finance at scale’ are enclosed at **Appendix V** and **Appendix VI** respectively.

5. ISA cell will engage one international consulting organization, like McKinsey, BCG, KPMG etc. for suggesting a model for ISA financial sustainability and also its governance structure. The task will be completed within two months;
6. The Joint Declaration between ISA Cell and UNDP was approved for being read and launched in the Ministerial Side Event of ISA on 22 April 2016. A copy of the Joint Declaration is enclosed in **Appendix VII**; and
7. As discussed in previous ISC meetings, countries were requested to inform details of the identified National Focal Points to the ISA Cell, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Block 14, First Floor, New Delhi, 110003. (Email: secy-mnre@nic.in ; pcmaithani@nic.in; Fax: +91 11 2436 7329; Phone +91 11 2436 2772/+911124361830). It was also decided that a copy of all correspondence should also be marked to the local resident diplomatic missions in New Delhi, which would act as alternative nodal points/contact points.

Agenda Item No. 6: *Concluding remarks and proposed way forward, by the Chair and the Co-Chair*

15. The Chair requested all the members to participate in the Ministerial Side Event on ISA scheduled from 1130-1230 hrs on 22 April 2016 at the UN Headquarters.
16. The Chair and Co-chair thanked delegations for their commitment and time, and for providing constructive feedback and guidance for the future activities of the Alliance.
17. The Chair and Co-Chair formally closed the 3rd meeting of the ISC.

**List of Participants attended
3rd Meeting of International Steering Committee (ISC)
of International Solar Alliance; 21 April 2016 , New York, USA**

Sl. No	Countries	Name & Designation		E-mail
1	Republic of India	Mr Upendra Tripathy, Secretary, MNRE	Chair	secy-mnre@nic.in
2	France	Ms Sylvie Lemmet	Co-Chair	sylvie.lemmet@development-durable.gouv.fr
3	Argentina	Mr Federico Banttfild		Federiko25@hotmail.com
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11	Haiti	Mr Joseph Vernet Mr Azoua Poul Mr Astkide Wazare		josephvernet@yahoo.fr
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18	United States of America	Mr John Morton Mr Melanie Nakagawa Mr George Sibley Mr Andrew Greves		JMORTON@NSC.EOP.GOV
19	Vietnam	Mr LE Nuoc Than		lengoctuan@gmail.com

List of Observers

Sl. No.	Organisation	Name & Designation	E-mail
1	Council of Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)	Dr Arunabha Ghosh, <i>CEO</i>	arunabha.ghosh@ceew.in
2	Confederation of Indian Industry	Ms Soma Banerjee Principal (Energy & Infrastructure)	Soma.banerjee@cii.in
3	CLP India Pvt. Ltd.	Shri Rajiv Mishra Managing Director	Rajiv.mishra@clpindia.in
4	Cyril Shroff company	Shri Santosh Janakiram partner	Santosh.janakiram@cyrilshroff.com
5	Global Solar Council	Mr John Smirnow Secretary General	jsmirnow@globalsolarcouncil.org
6	Hindustan Powerprojects Private Limited	Shri Ratul Puri Chairman	Ratul-puri@hpppl.in
7	International Renewable Energy Agency	Ms. Elizabeth Press, Director	epress@irena.org
8	International Renewable Energy Agency	Mr Ortiz Year Senior Liaison Officer	Yortiz@irena.org
9	Mytrah	Shri Ravi Kailas	Ravi.kailas@mytrah.com
10	National Solar Energy Federation of India	Shri Pranav R Mehta Chairman	pranavcreative@gmail.com
11	Soft Bank Energy Group	Shri Manoj Kohli Executive Chairman	manoj@softbankenergy.com
12	South Centre	Mr Vicente Paolo Yu Head of Administration and Programme Coordinator (Global Governance)	yu@southcentre.int
13	United Nations Development Programme	Shri Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP	Yuri.afanasiev@undp.org

		Resident Representative in India	
14		Shri Yizoanchen Gu	myzbeg@colambiaeda
15	United Nations Development Programme	Mr Oliver Waissbein, Finance Specialist	Oliver.waissbein@undp.org
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17	United Nations Development Programme	Mr Marcel Alers	Marcel.alers@undp.org
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19	Welspun	Shri Nitin Mittal Assistant Vice President-Finance	Nitin_mittal@welspunenergy.com
20	Yes Bank	Shri Pawan Kumar Agrawal, President	Pawan.agrawal@yesbank.in

Country Intervention from Nigeria to become part of the Report of Second Meeting of the Steering Committee of the International Solar Alliance

In response to your request on the above subject, I am directed to forward the intervention made by Nigeria, through its Acting High Commissioner in India, Ambassador Sola Enikanolaiye in the Second Meeting of the Steering Committee of the International Solar Alliance for inclusion in the final report.

2. During the Intervention by representatives of member countries, Ambassador Sola Enikanolaiye, lauded India and France for the ISA initiative. He however expressed concerns at the apparent lack of clarity of the objectives of the Alliance and advised that the group should not duplicate what other organizations with similar mandates such as the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the International Energy Agency (IEA) were already promoting. He said the organization needed to identify and develop effective mechanisms for private sector engagement in a manner that drives inclusive growth and development, especially job and wealth creation with particular emphasis on the rural communities.

3. Ambassador Sola Enikanolaiye further noted that Nigeria was pleased to be associated with the noble initiative of ISA and stands ready to continue its engagement with India and other members of the Steering Committee towards the effective and successful take-off of the Alliance. He noted that the current administration of President Muhammadu Buhari has developed a vision of reform and policy implementation aimed at moving away from over reliance on thermal and hydro sources for the generation of electricity to renewable energy, especially solar power. As part of this agenda, the Federal Government is committed to developing about 13,000 megawatts (13 gigawatts) of off-grid electricity from solar energy within the next few years.

4. While commending India for the commitment already made towards the effective take off of the organization, Ambassador Sola Enikanolaiye said Nigeria is ready to join hands with member countries of the Alliance to resolve the energy challenges facing developing nations. To achieve this vision, therefore it is imperative that Nigeria and other like-minded countries should key into the objectives of the Solar Alliance. This initiative, he noted, would not only enhance the income generation of the poor masses but will also promote their standard of living, especially the millions of rural dwellers who are not connected to the national grid.

Common guidelines for making a Programme proposal under ISA

One key objective of the Alliance is to leverage innovative proposals from the Member Countries. ISA member countries can make proposals for Programmes, provided that the proposal is submitted jointly with at least one other member country. Participation will be on a voluntary basis and in an open and continuous manner. It is suggested that the proposal for a Programme be concise and structured as per parameters mentioned below:

1. Objectives of the Programme

- Explicit connection to the Paris Declaration read with ISA working paper and to the core principle of the Alliance to pool and aggregate the demand across solar rich countries ;
- Identification of a major obstacle to deployment at scale of a solar energy solution adapted to a specific need common to several ISA member countries;
- Identification of the need and technology application covered by the Programme;
- Broad lines of the proposed way out and how it will contribute to scaling up the required solution ;

2. Actions to be taken under the Programme

- List of actions to be taken, by categories of stakeholders, if relevant (Member countries, ISA Secretariat, others if any)

3. Implementation process

- Timeframe and mode of implementation ;
- Stock taking process & Monitoring;

Programme ‘Scaling solar applications for agricultural use’

In furtherance of the Paris Declaration and subject to discussion and approval by the International Steering Committee, it is proposed that the following Programme be launched by Ministers of countries willing to join, during the side event to be held in New York City on 22nd April 2016. It is envisioned that countries willing to join will collectively contribute to the full design of this Programme, and will take the initial steps towards its implementation, in the weeks following the 22nd side event in New York.

In pursuit of the objectives set by the 30 November 2015 Paris Declaration on the International Solar Alliance¹ and of the core endeavour of the Alliance, to pool and harmonize the demand for investments and technologies from solar-rich countries,

Recognizing the role decentralized solar applications can play in order to improve quality of life in rural and peri-urban areas; and improve productivity and incomes, especially of farmers,

Acknowledging that an uncoordinated approach results in small volumes, and small volumes result in the use of products not tailored to needs, poor quality control, leading to high operational costs, lack of know-how dissemination and skilled people;

Recognizing that poor quality, lack of reliability, lack of skilled people are major obstacles to deployment at scale of decentralized solar applications for agricultural use and discourages investment in such technologies and applications,

Affirming that a more coordinated approach and larger volumes will result in affordable quality for all; higher value for similar or smaller budgets; lower operational costs; products better tailored to specific needs and on-ground requirements etc.

We hereby announce our intention:-

1. To adopt common methodologies and procedures for needs assessment for decentralized solar applications for agricultural and rural use, based on best practices and with the guidance and assistance of a pool of public technological research centers from member countries in a position to provide so;
2. To facilitate the setting up of a network of technological research centers (including through twinning and teaming of centers from developed and developing member countries), and a digital platform that will ensure the pre-design and clustering of technological solutions that can meet the identified needs;

¹ «Acknowledging that clean and renewable energy needs to be made affordable for all » ; «We intend working together towards the development of appropriate benchmarks, facilitating resource assessments, supporting research and development and demonstration facilities, with a view to encouraging innovative and affordable applications of solar technologies ».

3. To harmonize the tendering, documentation & processes for procurement of systems and components based on global best practices;
4. To develop common standards, and protocols for testing, monitoring, verification and certification;
5. To set up a network of test platforms (including through twinning and teaming of such platforms from developed and developing member countries) to ensure quality control and better protection for the buyer (factory and on-site commissioning, testing before approval and larger-scale dissemination);
6. To share the monitoring of projects and actual performance of applications (operational experience, field data, actual performance assessment, automated diagnosis) as a way to further improve standards, labels and recommended practices and enrich the understanding of specifications;
7. To set up common training courses, e-learning for most actors involved in all the phases of projects: need survey, design phase, tendering process, installation, operation and maintenance, based on know-how dissemination, with the guidance and assistance of a pool of experts from technological centers in member countries;
8. To consider the innovations and technology transfers that can be undertaken to further improve decentralized solar applications for agricultural use, in the context of another specific Programme.

We will take the initial steps towards the full design and implementation of this Programme at the earliest. To this end, a Representative responsible for this Program will be clearly identified in our respective countries. The Representatives so designated will communicate through an appropriate digital platform and will meet as often as required in order to achieve the above mentioned objectives, in coordination with the National focal points for the International Solar Alliance in our countries. They will assess the financial means and institutional mechanisms required to further implement the objectives. They will report to us by the end of this year, and will propose a new set of objectives for the following year. Their reports will also be forwarded to the Interim Administrative Cell of ISA for coordination and analysis purposes.

We propose that the process be continued under our collective leadership until the objective of bringing affordable and reliable solar applications for agricultural use within the reach of all in our countries, is reached.

Programme ‘Affordable finance at scale’

In furtherance of the Paris Declaration and subject to discussion and approval by the International Steering Committee, it is proposed that the following Programme be launched by Ministers of countries willing to join, during the side event to be held in New York City on 22nd April 2016. It is envisioned that countries willing to join will collectively contribute to the full design of this Programme, and will take the initial steps towards its implementation, in the weeks following the 22nd side event in New York.

In pursuit of the objectives set by the 30 November 2015 Paris Declaration on the International Solar Alliance² and of the core endeavour of the Alliance, to pool and harmonize the demand for investments and technologies from solar-rich countries,

Recognizing that deployment of solar energy in line with our countries’ needs and with the objectives set during the Paris Conference on Climate Change will require investments at the trillion USD scale by 2030 and earlier if possible,

Acknowledging that deployment at this scale is not possible in the current fragmented regulatory landscape where a multiplicity of small-sized, heterogeneous projects lead to complex and working capital intensive development, high due diligence and transaction costs, lack of visibility on the market, misperception of risk and insufficient risk mitigation mechanisms; and that due to this fragmentation, only high cost and limited capital is available today for solar projects in our countries,

Recognizing the specific role solar energy can play in the development of our countries, due to its dissemination, adaptability and low operating costs, whereas existing regulations and legal practices in the field of energy have been designed decades ago for technologies that where essentially centralized and less capital-intensive,

Acknowledging that many countries are in the process of designing regulations for solar energy deployment; and that ISA member countries will attract large size and low cost investments more easily if, based on shared best practices and successful case studies, they join forces by adopting convergent regulatory frameworks,

Affirming that mobilizing the low cost capital available in some countries to ISA member countries implies a joint effort to set up : large portfolios of projects; common credit enhancement mechanisms to de risk these portfolios; appropriate vehicles to channel these de-risked cash flows to the international financial markets, and strong ethical rules and practices,

We hereby announce our intention:-

² «We intend making joint efforts through innovative policies, projects, programmes, capacity building measures and financial instruments to mobilize a large share of the more than 1000 Billion US Dollars of investments that are needed worldwide by 2030 for the massive deployment of affordable solar energ.» ; «We share the collective ambition to undertake innovative and concerted efforts with a view to reducing the cost of finance for immediate deployment of competitive solar generation »

1. To design and gradually adopt, on a voluntary basis, a set of converging best practices and measures required to set up large scale portfolios of projects eligible to common credit enhancement mechanisms; as well as common operational conditions with reduced transaction costs, for commercial solar power projects at various scales;
2. To settle as a first step, by the end of 2016, a common set of contractual documentation and practices for Power Purchase Agreements in public tenders and power procurement processes, that will make solar projects more easily bankable in member countries and will reduce the due diligence costs and risk perception; and support its adoption by the relevant stakeholders;
3. To set the ground by the end of 2016 for the establishment of an international Credit Enhancement Mechanism that will help de-risk investments and reduce the cost of financing for solar projects in eligible ISA member countries, in collaboration with the United Nations, the Green Climate Fund, Multilateral Development Banks, investors, insurers, private financial institutions and any other interested stakeholder;
4. To conduct discussions with the Corporate sector, *inter alia* through the Terrawatt Initiative, on the optimal terms and conditions for investment flows in ISA member countries; and ask them by letter, as a first step, to clarify by the end of 2016 the risk analysis criteria used for solar power generation asset financing, and their expectations in terms regulatory environment;
5. To organize on an annual basis RE-Invest fora that will materialize this multi-stakeholder dialogue based on mutually conditional objectives from governments, solar projects developers, investors and any other interested stakeholders in terms of solar deployment, electricity demand growth, development pipeline and financing capacities.

We will take the initial steps towards the full design and implementation of this Programme at the earliest. To this end, a Representative responsible for this Program will be clearly identified in our respective countries. The Representatives so designated will communicate through an appropriate digital platform and will meet as often as required in order to achieve the above mentioned objectives, in coordination with the National focal points for the International Solar Alliance in our countries. They will report to us by the end of this year, and will propose a new set of objectives for the following year. Their reports will also be forwarded to the Interim Administrative Cell of ISA for coordination and analysis purposes.

We propose that the process be continued under our collective leadership until the objective of 1 000 billion USD investment in photovoltaic power generation assets in member countries is reached.

**Joint Declaration
between
Interim Administrative Cell of International Solar Alliance (ISA Cell)
and
the United Nations Development Programme
for Promotion of Solar Energy Globally Through Support to and Collaboration with
the International Solar Alliance**

April 22, 2016

On the occasion of the Side event on International Solar Alliance at the UN Headquarters in New York, the Interim Administrative Cell of International Solar Alliance (ISA Cell) and the United Nations Development Programme (hereinafter referred to collectively as “the Parties”):

Considering that the International Solar Alliance (ISA) has been launched on the 30th November 2015 in Paris thereby creating a platform for the promotion of solar energy across prospective ISA member countries;

Recognizing that the UNDP serves in many respects as the operational arm of the United Nations at the country level and works with partners in numerous countries to promote among other things sustainable development, eradication of poverty, advancement of women, good governance and the rule of law;

Recognizing that the ISA Cell mandated by the International Steering Committee constituted under Paris declaration, is located in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to carry out day to day functions of ISA;

Noting that the ISA has invited UNDP to become a Strategic Partner of ISA to leverage UNDP’s global development network to promote solar energy and sustainable development; and for UNDP to act as a lead agency facilitating the engagement and collaboration of the wider UN system to contribute technical expertise and inputs to ISA;

Desirous to deepen their cooperation in areas of mutual concern, the Parties declare their intention to promote solar energy globally inter-alia in the following areas:

- i) Development of synergies with ongoing UNDP programmes and projects on solar energy in and across ISA member countries;
- ii) Creation of complementary linkages with ongoing global and regional efforts as pursued by a variety of multi-lateral and bilateral agencies and organizations as well as academic and civil society partners in the field of solar energy;
- iii) Strategic cooperation in programmatic and technical expertise, and facilitating the participation of the wider UN system towards the creation of innovation hubs in and technology transfers between ISA member countries;

- iv) Support the establishment of knowledge management systems as well as electronic networks and/or e-portals for the sharing, creation and management of knowledge on solar energy;
- v) Strengthening the development of ISA's institutional structure, and enhance its capacity development efforts through the support of training programmes and/or the exchange of technical experts, officials and technology specialists through UN Global Policy Centers;
- vi) Any other work areas and themes jointly discussed and decided by ISA and the UNDP.

The Parties agree to maintain their separate and unique missions and mandates, and their own accountabilities. The cooperation among the Parties as outlined in this declaration shall not be construed as a partnership or other type of legal entity or personality. Any activity undertaken by the Parties hereunder shall follow their respective rules, regulations, policies and procedures. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, this declaration shall not be construed as an obligation of funds, nor does it constitute a legally binding commitment by any Party or create any rights in any third party. Any such legally binding commitment shall be set out in a separate document between the Parties.

New York