



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

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# **International Steering Committee of the International Solar Alliance**

## **Summary**

The document reproduces full reports of the meetings of the International Steering Committee of the International Solar Alliance.

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## **1. Introduction**

As per Article IV (6) of the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), all decisions taken by the International Steering Committee (ISC) of the ISA established by the Paris Declaration on the ISA on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 are submitted to the Assembly for adoption at its first meeting.

This document reproduces below reports of all the six meetings of the ISC.

## **2. REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (ISCHELD ON 1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER, 2015 AT PARIS, FRANCE**

The Steering Committee of the International Solar Alliance, open to all member countries, held its first meeting during 0915-1100 hrs on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015. India, represented by Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, chaired the meeting and France, represented by Ms. Virginie Schwarz, Director, Energy, Government of France was the Co-chair.

Twenty-one countries, including India and France attended the meeting as members of the Steering Committee. List of participating countries is in Annexure-I. International and inter-governmental organizations attended the meeting as Observers, as listed in Annexure-II.

### **Agenda Item: Opening of the Meeting**

The meeting started with 2 minutes of silence in memory of those who lost their lives during the recent terrorist attacks in Paris.

Adoption of the Agenda

### **Address by the Chair (Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy)**

Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and the Chair formally opened the meeting, welcomed the country representatives and thanked all for their overwhelming support to the International Solar Alliance, jointly championed by India and France. He stated that launching of the ISA on the previous day was an historic event, and thanked more than 70 countries, including 33 Heads of State and Heads of Government, who participated and supported. He expressed deep gratitude to the Government of France for their support and cooperation in launching ISA from Paris.

The **Paris Declaration** was very fundamental to the future of spread of solar energy around the globe. He further stated that the Honourable Prime Minister of India would like to see the ISA translate its dreams into action in the shortest possible time. Government of India has offered to host the Secretariat, five acres of land, a corpus, and some recurrent expenditure for the first five years, including formation of an initial cell in the Ministry to coordinate ISA activities and programmes prior to holding the Founding Conference in New Delhi during April/May 2016.

He opined that the Steering Committee members could be in touch with one another *via* email before the second ISC meeting is held at Abu Dhabi during the middle of January 2016 and Steering Committee can discuss India's initiative and related proposals with more depth and focus. He requested members to provide views for devising future activities of ISA by email to the Ministry (secy-mnre@nic.in) with copies to their respective Embassies in Delhi.

**Address by the Co-Chair (Director-Energy) (MEDDE/DAEI), Government of France**

Director Energy, (MEDDE/DAEI), Government of France and the co-chair thanked India for supporting France in difficult times and thanked everyone present for the successful ceremony of the launch of ISA. She added that ISA should develop universal, inclusive and practical projects and programs. She stated that world has very high expectations from ISA initiative and developing an actionable plan is the bottom line. She suggested that we should start work on collaborative framework of ISA and a work plan in a manner that leads to delivering solutions, accelerate action, and with no duplication of work with the existing institutions. ISC deliberations will help develop this niche. France also emphasized that the ISA should give a role to the private sector, keeping organizations and initiatives like Terrawatt of ENGIE in view.

**Presentation by Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India**

Joint Secretary MNRE in his brief presentation introduced the agenda relating to objective, proposed activities, governance structure etc. He mentioned that these preliminary proposals were based on the Working Paper on ISA that had been circulated to all prospective ISA member countries, after two time consultation with the local Embassies in Delhi where the Honourable Minister for Renewable Energy addressed the audience and sought support for this innovative initiative from prospective member countries.

### **Views and Discussion of the Member Countries of the International Steering Committee (ISC)**

Thereafter, the floor was left open for interventions by member countries who were requested to provide their views, ideas and opinions on future shape of ISA. The country statements are summarized as under: -

- a) Australia, congratulated India and France for the ISA initiative and the speed at which the first Steering Committee had been convened. He stated that ISA, as a knowledge platform, could help in learning lessons from other member countries in undertaking ambitious solar energy programs. Solar technologies are of vital importance in meeting energy needs of the remote communities of Australia including the indigenous population. Australia also had rich experience in solar R & D to share with other member countries. However, in solar space, ISA needed: i) to find a niche for itself; ii) avoid duplication of efforts; iii) undertake tangible projects and programs over time; and iv) leverage and promote private sector involvement;
- b) Bolivia complemented India and France for undertaking the ISA initiative and stated that Bolivia will benefit from ISA initiative. She welcomed the road map proposed, and suggested for the inclusion of the needs of indigenous people and local communities, because the project could be critical to improving the lives of people in urban and rural areas, especially in the most remote areas. She further stated that the Alliance could contribute not only to climate change but also to sustainable development of the people of our countries.
- c) Chile complemented India and France for formation of the ISA and supported the initiative and desired to be an active member of the Steering Committee. However, Chile suggested that the proposed governance structure of ISA could be re-examined so that ISA is fully action oriented, addresses practical problems in member countries, promotes technology applications and appropriate R & D, and works for eradication of energy poverty. Chile also suggested that the role of the ISC should also be clearly laid out.
- d) China complemented India for the ISA initiative and suggested that the initiative should move forward quickly in terms of speed and scale. The focus should be towards combining existing interventions and work together with other interventions for doubling investment in renewable energy sector and aim at increasing the total investment by 100 times in the next 10 years. China further suggested that there should not be any specific decision in the first Steering Committee meeting as they would require time to study and suggest improvements on the

working paper circulated. Further, the ISC would have also to address issues of governance and Finance.

e) Dominican Republic congratulated Government of India for the ISA initiative. Suggested that focus of ISA should also be on 24x7 information sharing, technology dissemination and creation of skilled manpower. Desired that ISC should address the question of **membership fee** for becoming an ISA member in future and desired more clarity on the issue;

f) Ethiopia congratulated India and France on the timely launching of the ISA, which the Honourable Prime Minister of India had been advocating for quite some time. Renewable energy is the best answer to address lack of energy access. Ethiopia suggested that ISA should not be over bureaucratic; and procedure oriented, but should emphasize on action and delivery through partnerships with the member countries and other social organizations who could add strength to the solar movement to promote sustainable energy.

g) Grenada: While congratulating India and France for the ISA initiative, Grenada evinced keen interest in becoming an active member. Grenada suggested that ISA should base its projects and programmes on gap analysis, after mapping the existing initiatives and discussions with member countries. Programmes should have a geographic focus as problems and solutions may be somewhat common. ISC should also develop clarity on long term and sustainable sources of funding of the intergovernmental organization.

h) Maldives congratulated India and France for the ISA initiative. Maldives felt that ISA could play an important role in Maldives as Maldives spends 30 % of its GDP on oil import. From the wealth of experience in the 121 prospective member countries of the ISA, Maldives will be greatly benefitted through exchange of best practices. Maldives supported that ISA should also be a knowledge centre from where all member countries can benefit in solar policy formulation on a 24x7 basis. Further, Maldives suggested that ISA should also give a role to corporate sector and civil society for promoting market for renewable energy;

- i) Mauritius supported the ISA initiative as a member of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Mauritius intended to share sustainable development challenges, including issues related to access of energy and energy security. ISA has the potential to address many of the energy related issues. ISA should specially focus on addressing the energy needs of SIDS countries. IRENA does have some programs for island countries, but there is scope for expansion of even similar programs by ISA. SIDS needs more international organizations to focus on universal energy access in island nations and addressing climate change challenges.
- j) Seychelles welcomed the formation of ISA and hoped that ISA will focus on the island countries to ensure availability of low cost capital for utility scale deployment of solar energy. ISA should also focus on developing specific solutions for unique problems in these countries;
- k) The Netherlands complemented the Indian Prime Minister for creating history with the formation and launching of ISA and promised full support. The Netherlands suggested that ISA should focus on : i) International Architecture of ISA; ii) Clear and Concrete Road Map, plan and programme of future activities, iii) Avoidance of duplication of work with other organizations working in renewable energy area; and iv) Full involvement of private sector with no conflict of interest so that member countries benefit the most.
- l) Uganda congratulated India and France on the occasion of the successful launching of the ISA in Paris. Promised to play an active role in the ISA programs and projects as a member country. Supported the ISA as a viable means for accelerating development and deployment of solar energy in the member countries through facilitation and partnerships.
- m) United Arab Emirates: UAE thanked India and France for the ISA initiative and promised full support. Further UAE had welcomed ISA to have its second ISC meeting in Abu Dhabi in January 2016 on the side lines of IRENA Assembly. UAE further stated that promotion of solar energy was a clear priority for UAE. However, UAE suggested that ISA should have clear priorities and action plan for next five years. ISA's action plan should, *inter alia*, be focussed on market creation and businesses; ISA should also closely coordinate with IRENA to avoid unnecessary duplication of studies and projects wherever it is not required. This will also benefit ISA as IRENA

has rich experience over last five years and can guide ISA very well. UAE promised full support so that ISA had a good and smooth start.

n) The UK welcomed the Indian initiative in the formation of the ISA. The UK viewed ISA as positive development for accelerated deployment of solar energy, which should lead to enhanced market for solar products and higher investments in the member countries. In UK, the Feed-in-tariff policy has created significant market for renewable energy. There is clear evidence that low carbon economy provides employment to people at local level. UK stated that over 450,000 persons were employed in renewable energy sector in UK. UK further stated that Mission Innovation that was launched alongside of ISA was another positive development. ISA should work in tandem with Mission Innovation, IRENA and other Initiatives. ISA should, *inter alia*, position itself as an application oriented initiative and it should not duplicate efforts in the areas that are already being undertaken by IRENA and other organizations, unless expansions helped to enhance scale and speed of programs and projects.

o) Vietnam supported the ISA initiative, and stated that formation of ISA to promote solar applications, solar technologies, utilities, training, and R & D in member countries was very timely. Government of Vietnam has in fact announced ambitious goal of deploying 10 GW solar power by the year 2030 and 100 GW solar power by year 2050 and, as such, would play an active role in the running of ISA.

p) IRENA congratulated India for the ISA initiative and expressed support to the institution. The Director General, IRENA, stated that he had been in touch with the Ministry and the Honourable Minister for Renewable Energy in this regard. In fact ISA could play an important role in taking the solar component forward with skill, speed and scale in collaboration with IRENA and other existing organizations in the renewable space. He promised all the required assistance from IRENA.

q) International Energy Agency (IEA) congratulated India for ISA initiative and expressed its willingness to play an active role as an Observer.

r) Countries present in the meeting formed the Steering Committee. These countries, along with the other ISA country members will provide feedback and suggestions regarding the functioning of the steering committee of the ISA to India, and also their comments on the



working paper circulated by India, including suggestions and various options on long term funding and fee structure of ISA.

After discussion the following focal points emerged:

- a) ISA, in consultation with IRENA, IEA etc., will carry out an analysis so that there is no duplication in the area of conducting studies etc., or sanctioning similar projects in same places. Further, there should be an institutional mechanism for joint consultation to avoid such duplication in annual work plans;
- b) Make the proposed projects and programs in the road map more focussed which can be discussed in the subsequent meetings of ISC;
- c) Plan for private and corporate sector involvement in ISA activities and structure;
- d) ISA member countries will designate a nodal officer for ISA and related activities and inform the same to their resident diplomatic missions located in New Delhi; and to—
- e) The ISA Cell

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Block 14, First Floor

New Delhi, 110003

( secy-mnre@nic.in )

Fax: 00 91 11 2436 7329

Phone 00 91 11 2436 2772

A copy of all correspondence, including feedback on the working paper, should also be marked to the local Embassy/High Commission in Delhi;

- f) The next meeting of the steering committee of the ISA would take place in January, 2016 at Abu Dhabi which will be conveyed through diplomatic channels shortly.

Secretary (M&ER), Ministry of External Affairs stated that ISA will position itself as a credible organization with no duplication of work, focussing on creating businesses and sensitive to the needs of the island countries. ISA will also plan to suitably accommodate corporate sector and non-member countries. She mentioned that the documents circulated were only initial drafts and need not be construed as binding papers. She stated that India looks forward towards suggestions from the prospective ISA member countries for developing future plans,

projects and programs. She requested that the feedback from member countries should be provided within one month's duration, well before second meeting of ISC

### **Any Other Business**

1. No other business or agenda point was discussed.

### **Closing of the Meeting**

2. The Chair thanked delegations for their commitment and engagement, which provided productive feedback and guidance for the future activities of the Alliance, and closed the first meeting of the ISC.

### **3. Report of the 2nd Meeting of International Steering Committee (ISC) of International Solar Alliance (ISA) Held on 18th January, 2016 at Abu Dhabi, UAE**

The Steering Committee of the International Solar Alliance, open to all member countries, held its second meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC), Abu Dhabi, UAE. India, represented by Mr Upendra Tripathy, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, chaired the meeting. Ms. Sylvie Lemmet, Director, European and International Affairs, French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, Government of France was the Co-chair.

1. Thirty 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.
2. The agenda items were taken up in the following order: -

#### **Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks by the Chair**

3. Mr. Upendra Tripathy, Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, in the Chair, welcomed all the participating countries and thanked them for joining the 2<sup>nd</sup> ISC meeting of the ISA. He thanked the Ambassadors and High Commissioners of prospective member countries located in New Delhi who have been of great help in ensuring speed, skill and scale in the process that has made it possible to have two ISC meetings in a

time span of 49 days, since ISA was launched in Paris. He briefly apprised the members about the political declaration, enclosed with the joint invitation letter from the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and the President of France, that brought together in Paris on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 representatives from around 70 countries including more than 30 Heads of State Government, 500 high level representatives from government and international organizations, and 50 representatives from the industry. He thanked Government of France for their continued support and cooperation as an alliance and in organizing the 1<sup>st</sup> ISC meeting in Paris immediately thereafter. He also thanked all the countries who participated in the International Steering Committee meetings held at Paris and at Abu Dhabi. The chair gratefully acknowledged the help of IRENA and Government of UAE who facilitated the second ISC meeting at such a short notice.

4. Thereafter the Chair apprised the members about the follow up activities, since the first ISC meeting in Paris:

- a) An Interim Administrative Cell (IAC) of ISA (hereinafter referred as **ISA cell**) has been made functional in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, India. This cell will **coordinate ISA activities and programmes**, as stated in the Report of the first ISC meeting, paragraph 5, under the guidance of the ISC and in consultation with prospective ISA countries;
- b) On 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2015, discussions were held with ISA countries' resident diplomatic missions, United Nations, World Bank, Exim Banks, New Development Bank, United Nations Asia Pacific Centre for Technology Transfer (APCTT), and also with the corporate sector for developing ISA programme of activities and the Statute, which had been circulated earlier;
- c) After the participation of Secretary General of the UN in the Paris launching event, the United Nations has offered to have an MOU with ISA as a strategic partner in developing a Centre within ISA which would be dedicated for solar technology applications in ISA member countries. The centre would also facilitate implementation of ISA programmes and projects by way of letting ISA to utilize existing official UN infrastructure in 121 member countries;
- d) In order to facilitate investment for the solar energy projects and programmes in ISA countries, contacts were established with the New Development Bank, formerly known as BRICS Development Bank. The bank indicated its plans to earmark more than 15 percent of its credit for renewable energy in general and solar in particular. In order to minimize the hedging risk, the bank also has plans to examine the prospects of sharing the hedging cost by the lending banks and the borrowing

country. These initiatives will reduce the cost of fund for solar projects in ISA countries. This will be an exemplary step as this will ensure a road map of opening of credit facilities for solar projects and programmes in ISA member countries. Contacts with other bilateral and multilateral banks will also have to be established for facilitating investments in solar energy space;

- e) In order to develop modalities for establishing a corpus fund, discussions were held with Soft Bank and ENGIE, France. This is in context of India's proposal to create corpus of 1000 million dollars which includes 500 million dollars contribution from governments and public sector and 500 million dollars from private sector companies. A campaign will be launched to seek contribution and/or commitment pledge from the companies for augmenting ISA corpus (endowment) fund. It will be with the understanding that the corpus (endowment) fund will not be spent and only the interest earned thereon will be utilized for undertaking/facilitating projects and programmes in ISA member countries. This corpus fund would be deposited, in a bank chosen by the ISC, in perpetuity and interest amount would be utilized for ISA activities;
- f) From the available options, the website domain for ISA was selected as [www.intsolaralliance.org](http://www.intsolaralliance.org) which was going to be made shortly operational as a common source for information on ISA member countries;
- g) The chair also informed that India, as the host country, was considering offering of another five acres of contiguous land if required by the ISA to have a bigger complex; and was ready to transfer US \$ 16 million to the initial corpus of the ISA and US \$ 4 million towards building and annual secretarial expenses for 2016-17, once ISA was an international legal entity;
- h) India, in consultation with ISC and subject to its approval, was even prepared to launch a pilot action plan for 2016-17 of more than US \$ 16 million (involving both grants and lines of credits) as this will help the ISA to start working more effectively and efficiently soon after its establishment;
- i) The Chair informed that United Nations, World Bank, Exim Banks, New Development Bank, YES Bank, Soft Bank; UN-APCTT with whom IAC is engaged in discussions will make presentations on different aspects of cooperation for achieving ISA objectives in the ISC meeting today;
- j) The Chair also invited all member countries present for the event on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January, 2016 in the campus of the National Institute of Solar Energy, India, where H.E, the President of France and the Honourable Prime Minister of India would be laying the foundation stone of the ISA Headquarters and inaugurating the interim

Secretariat of the ISA which can start working as soon as ISA is an international legal entity; and

- k) The Chairman stated that while moving forward on the issues presented during the 1<sup>st</sup> ISC meeting, the views expressed by Australia, Bolivia, Chile, China, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Grenada, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, The Netherlands, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and Vietnam will be completely kept in view and followed. He particularly referred to views expressed by the Chile and the Netherlands on proposed governance structure of the ISA which was circulated as part of the agenda of the 1<sup>st</sup> ISC meeting (paragraph 8 of the first ISC report).

#### **Agenda Item No.2: Opening Remarks by the Co-chair**

- 5. Ms. Sylvie Lemmet, the Co-Chair, appreciated initiatives taken by India for the launch of ISA. She informed that the Heads of States and Government will sign CoP-21 Agreement in New York during April 2016 and the signing register will remain open for one month. As ISA was a product of COP 21 in Paris, she suggested that possibilities for signing on the same occasion, the 30<sup>th</sup> November Paris Declaration of ISA, together with the document(s) establishing the first Programme(s) in pursuit of the objectives of the Declaration, may be explored. This measure would also ensure that concrete programmes implementing the Paris Declaration start at the earliest.
- 6. The Co-Chair stated that concerted actions undertaken in the context of the Alliance should focus on realizing the objectives enshrined in the Paris Declaration, which included: bringing our efforts together to reduce the cost of finance for solar energy and mobilize up to 1000 billion USD investments by 2030, and developing new, cost efficient and reliable solar technologies and applications. As stated in the joint invitation letter sent to Heads of State and Governments, the Alliance will be a **global partnership of countries joining hands to accelerate the deployment and development of solar power**; therefore, the Alliance must focus on replication and diffusion of best practices and policies, aimed at pooling and better harmonizing the demand from solar-rich countries. The Alliance should function as a platform from which different programmes will be launched on a voluntary basis. She also suggested that ISA develops a motto of minimum duplication, with niche areas that international initiatives and institutions in the renewable space are not currently focussed on, as stated in the Report of the first ISC, paragraph 11 (i). These niche areas should be promptly identified through consultations with prospective member countries and with the help of think tanks (to be identified with inputs from ISA countries), IRENA, IEA, etc. She further emphasized that

a programme for reducing cost of financing for solar projects shall be launched as a part of effort to mobilize over 1000 billion dollars of investments up to the year 2030. She underlined the need of finalizing a slim and dynamic governance structure for the Alliance, tailored for the needs of the specific programmes that will be developed as a first step.

The Co-Chair also highlighted the long and strong friendship that exists between India and France and promised all support to make ISA a success as ISA took birth from the COP 21 in Paris at a time when the objectives of the Alliance are of critical importance to address issues of global warming and social poverty. The Alliance should be the driver of the **change of scale** which is indispensable for deploying solar energy in line with needs and with the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

### **Agenda Item No.3: Confirmation of Report of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the International Steering Committee (ISC) Meeting**

7. Tentative Agenda along with Report of the First Meeting of ISC held on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2015 at Paris, France was circulated to all member states of ISA through mails, with copies to local Embassies in New Delhi. Comments received from Bolivia were suitably incorporated in the report. Since no questions were raised or comments made by any other country, the Report of the First Meeting of International Steering Committee (ISC) was confirmed.

### **Agenda Item No.4: Adoption of Agenda for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ISC meeting**

8. The Chair opened the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the International Steering Committee (ISC) and requested for comments on the structure of agenda. On consensus, the agenda for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ISC meeting was adopted.

### **Agenda Item No.5: Presentations**

9. The presentations made in the 2<sup>nd</sup> ISC meeting are summarized as under:

**United Nations:** The presentation was on prospective cooperation with ISA. The highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- a) UN could support ISA through UNDP, UNEP and UNIDO currently. Some more UN agencies may join later;
- b) Capacity Building (skilled manpower and technical expertise);
- c) Knowledge Management (help in establishing e-portal, knowledge generation & sharing);

- d) Strategic Partnerships and Networking for Technology Transfer, Innovation and Manufacturing Hubs (CTCN, ISEC, Cleantech Innovation, R&D, Industrial Manufacturing Hubs, Incubators, IPR and so on);
- e) Synergy with Ongoing Projects and Programmes (Synergy of ongoing UN projects with ISA);
- f) Funding Mobilization and Programmatic Support (Multilateral Banks / Mechanisms, Bilateral Agencies, Financial Institutions, Private Sector and more); and
- g) UN could participate through MOU between UN and ISA and will help in preparing Roadmap through 2030 and will also help in attaining the key activities and milestones set for ISA for the year 2016.

The UN initiative was appreciated by the Chair.

The presentation is enclosed in Appendix-III

**Joint presentation made by YES Bank, India, World Bank and Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC):** The presentation, made by YES bank, detailed the opportunities towards mobilizing 1 trillion US Dollars for ISA solar projects. The actions suggested were: a) Green mandates by key Developmental Financial Institutions / Sovereign Funds / Funds which will facilitate availability of investments for solar projects in the needy ISA member countries; b) Green Commitments from Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs)/ Pension Funds/ Endowment Funds / Foundations etc., need to be explored; and c) Sharing of Global Best Practices, Teaming-up with Global Multilaterals / DFIs, Collaborate with Global Initiatives – like Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All), RE100 (commitments from businesses for Renewable Energy) etc., would help in increasing investment flow to Solar Energy Sector in ISA member countries.

The Chair appreciated the presentation as it highlighted that mobilization of US \$ 1 trillion for solar sector was not an impossible task. Global investors' meets that could bring governments, corporates and banks together will go a long way in facilitating green innovative financing in ISA member countries.

The presentation is enclosed in Appendix-IV.

**Terawatt Initiative:** The presentation underlined the need to bring together selected global solar energy companies, investors and power users to interact with government, international agencies and IFIs for designing new market and implementing the right legal

and financial tools and vehicles, which will minimize the perceived risk and will optimize returns. Emphasis should be given towards standardizations of large scale development, Cash-flow aggregation and de-risking of large solar portfolios. The Chairman requested Terawatt Initiative to email 10 action points that ISA should consider as priority action areas to promote mutual partnership.

The Chair appreciated the presentation.

The presentation is enclosed in Appendix-V.

**APCTT:** It mentioned about the possible synergy between their on-going efforts in technology transfer in developing countries and ISA mandate. It was informed that APCTT can support ISA through capacity-building, technology facilitation, knowledge-sharing activities and creating a solar energy technology facilitation platform. In this context, establishment of a framework agreement between ISA and UNESCAP was proposed.

The Chair appreciated the presentation.

The presentation is enclosed in Appendix-VI.

**Joint Presentation by NISE, India and NREL, USA:** The presentation detailed on the possible areas for research and development under ISA.

The Chair appreciated the presentation.

The presentation is enclosed in Appendix-VII.

**Joint Presentations by Exim Banks of India and China:** Suggested ways to promote 10,000 MW of solar projects in ISA member states and also the roles and responsibilities of Exim Banks of India, Australia and China. The EXIM banks and other related agencies could play a big role in attracting bilateral aid and project linked concessional finance to member countries. The Chair appreciated the presentation and thanked Australia, China and India for having taken trouble of sending their Exim Banks to the ISC meeting of ISA.

The presentation is enclosed in Appendix-VIII.

**IRENA:** DG, IRENA appreciated India's efforts for establishing ISA and stated that ISA initiatives would lead toward scaling up of solar energy in a big way. He assured that IRENA would work closely with ISA and extend all possible help and cooperation.



**Agenda Item No.6: The Discussion on Tentative Action Plan 2016**

10. The Chair recalled a recommendation made in the 1<sup>st</sup> ISC meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2015 that reads—*Make the proposed projects and programs in the road map more focussed which can be discussed in the subsequent meetings of ISC.* He informed about the initial exercise and the proposals presented in the agenda. He further suggested that in order to start the activities, Solar Network Groups of ISA member countries could be constituted for developing plans and initiatives for ISA member states. He also recommended that as a part of Action Plan for ISA, Global Investment meet could be organized in various regional zones to attract financial investments. He clarified that the activity relating to Solar Park and other proposed programmes would be initiatives taken from ISA member countries, on the basis of best practices sharing, with a view to pooling and better harmonizing the demand from solar-rich countries.
11. The Chair informed that India proposes to take the following activities as a part of ISA Annual Plan 2016 by way extension of country grants:
- a) Formulate projects and programmes through pooling and harmonizing the demand from solar rich countries, through concerted actions, aggregation of demand and best practices sharing to translate into action, what Hon'ble Mr P. Javadekar, Indian Minister of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change has said, "organize a buyers market for reducing costs, scaling up investments, and deployment of solar applications, etc."
  - b) Trainers Training support for 450 officers from ISA member countries at the National Institute of Solar Energy;
  - c) Financial support of approximately US\$ 15 million to ISA member countries for demonstration projects for solar home lighting, solar pumps for farmers and for other solar applications;
  - d) Facilitate organization of 3 Investor Meets, in member countries of ISA. These meetings will *inter alia* also be connected to the programme for **affordable finance at scale** to be undertaken by a national or an international agency in order to meet this larger and better structured demand.
12. The Chair requested other member countries, in a position to do so, to support activities under ISA Annual Plan. Thereafter, he invited the members to deliberate on the action plan as proposed in the agenda.

**Agenda Item No.7: Discussion on Work Plan 2016**

13. The Work Plan 2016 was circulated but not discussed due to lack of time. Hence deferred.

**Agenda Item No.8: Inauguration of ISA Interim Secretariat and Laying of ISA Head Quarters Foundation Stone Ceremony**

14. The Chair informed about inauguration of the interim Secretariat and laying of foundation stone of the ISA Headquarters in National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016, jointly by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and H.E. Mr Francois Hollande, President of France. He invited all the member countries to participate in the ceremony and informed that invitations had been dispatched through diplomatic channel.

**Agenda Item No.9: Country Interventions**

15. The country interventions were as under:

- a) Yemen stated that procedure for applications seeking support by the member countries under ISA to be made available to all member states;
- b) UAE suggested that a business plan on how to convert the proposed work plan into actions may be developed with analysis and elaboration. It also suggested that ISA should associate with Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) and Mission Innovation for increasing its outreach;
- c) The Kingdom of Netherlands asked that all agenda and proceedings be uploaded on the website; and
- d) Maldives said that information regarding financial support to the ISA and ISA plans for member countries may be circulated at the earliest.

**Focal Points**

16. The following way forward is proposed:

- a) The Interim Administrative Cell of ISA (ISA cell) will share with prospective member countries a set of papers, including the following papers jointly prepared by India and France, as agenda for the next ISC meeting:

- 
- i. ISA concept and how it is innovative, new and ensure no duplication of existing international entities;
  - ii. assessment of solar applications and barriers to be addressed by the Alliance;
  - iii. examples of programmes which demonstrate the transformative value of the Alliance;
  - iv. proposal for common guidelines and methodology for programmes to be submitted by prospective member countries; and
  - v. proposal for working methods of the ISA.
- b) India and France will invite prospective ISA member countries for a side-event to be organized on 22nd April in New York in the margins of the signing ceremony of the Paris Agreement;
- c) To initiate the activities of the Alliance, a beginning could be made with the Government of India's proposal for training and support of 450 officers from ISA countries at the National Institute of Solar Energy. India also offers for providing financial support of approximately US\$ 15 million to ISA member countries for demonstration projects on 100% grant basis for solar home lighting, solar pumps for farmers and other such solar applications for the year 2016-17. Other countries in a position to offer support were invited to start identifying programmes focussing on specific goals to promote ISA objectives;
- d) ISA cell will engage in discussions with relevant stakeholders such as the Association of African Countries, Global Solar Council, International Solar Energy Society, Terawatt Initiatives and other such associations and organizations for raising investment required and facilitating flow of low cost capital into member countries in order to create a global buyer market;
- e) ISA cell will engage in discussions with the member countries and firm up plan for organizing Global Investment meet in various regional zones during 2016-17 in connection with specific programmes to be launched. These events could be entrusted to a specific and global grouping of private stakeholders interested in ISA activities, on a transparent, global and open basis, including but not limited to Confederation of India Industry (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). A calendar for organizing these meets will be informed to all members by email/posting at the website. ISA cell can hold discussions with host countries concerned;

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- f) The ISA website created by IAC shall be made interactive where latest information about ISA could be made available;
  - g) As discussed in the first ISC, all the countries agreed to designate a focal point for coordinating ISA activities. In this context the decision point of the 1<sup>st</sup> ISC meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2015 was reiterated wherein all the countries were requested to inform details of the identified focal point to the ISA Cell, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Block 14, First Floor, New Delhi, 110003. (secy-mnre@nic.in) Fax: 00 91 11 2436 7329; Phone + 91 11 2436 2772. It was also decided that a copy of all correspondence, should also be marked to the local resident diplomatic missions in New Delhi, who would act as alternate nodal points; and
  - h) An Interim Administrative Cell of ISA has been set up in New Delhi and will take all measures to follow up the discussion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ISC meeting and will keep ISC and prospective ISA member countries informed.

**Agenda Item No.9: Any Other Business**

17. No other business or agenda point was discussed.

**Agenda Item No.10: Closing of the Meeting**

18. The Chair and Co-chair thanked delegations for their commitment and time, which provided productive feedback and guidance for the future activities of the Alliance, and closed the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the ISC.

#### 4. **Report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the International Steering Committee (ISC) of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Held on 21<sup>st</sup> 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<sup>st</sup> 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.

1. 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.
2. The agenda items were taken up in the following order:

##### **Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks by the Chair**

3. 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.
4. Major highlights of the Chair's opening remarks were as under:-
  - a) 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;
  - b) India is also deeply appreciative of the support from France 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;
  - c) The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ISC meetings held in Paris and Abu Dhabi, respectively, were successful in establishing an Agenda for ISA's future direction and work;
  - d) Since ISA launched on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2015, a number of activities have been initiated. These include: i) laying of the foundation stone of the ISA Headquarters on 25<sup>th</sup> January,

2016, in India by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Hon'ble President of France; ii) Constitution of the Interim Administrative Cell of ISA (ISA Cell) which has met four times, to carry out day-to-day functions of ISA; iii) engagement with professional bodies, Think Tanks, and the corporate sector for developing ISA programme of activities;

- e) Inputs and feedback received in the meeting with resident diplomatic missions of 73 prospective ISA member countries in New Delhi on 6<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> ISC meeting;
- f) 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;
- g) 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

- h) In order to accelerate solar energy deployment in ISA countries, the developed country members of the ISA may consider earmarking 15 percent of their Overseas Development Assistance for solar projects in ISA countries; and
- i) 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 the next five years.

5. The Chair also:

- a) 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;

- b) 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;
- c) 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;
- d) 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
- e) 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: i) Providing a credit road map for renewable energy with earmarking of not less 15% of funds deployed by the bank. ii) Reduction of commitment fee through cross subsidization; iii) Financial mechanism to reduce hedging risk; and iv) Creation of renewable trust funds.

#### **Agenda Item 2: Remarks by the Co-Chair**

- 6. The Co-Chair noted that the time had come to mark a new stage in the existence and functioning of the International Steering Committee:
  - a) 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 ;
  - b) 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 ;
  - c) 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;
  - d) 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 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the International Steering Committee (ISC) Meeting**

7. The Chair placed the report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

8. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 the 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 3<sup>rd</sup> ISC meeting.**

- 9. The Chair presented the agenda of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ISC meeting for consideration. The Committee adopted the Agenda.
- 10. The discussions on the agenda items were held in the following order:

##### **Agenda Item 4.1: Joint Proposals from India and France**

###### **a) 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 the 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.

**b) 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.

**c) 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 the 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.

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**d) Common Guidelines for Making a Programme Proposal Under ISA**

The issue as to why two countries could only 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 the 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.

**e) 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:

- i. 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. 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;
- iii. The programme was approved for launching in the Ministerial Side Event in the ISA meeting scheduled on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2016;
- iv. 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.
- v. 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
- vi. 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.

**f) Proposed Programme for Affordable finance at scale**

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

- i. 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...**”.
- ii. 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. The programme was approved for launching in the Ministerial Side Event in the ISA meeting scheduled on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2016;
- iv. 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;
- v. 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.
- vi. 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
- vii. 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.

**g) Proposed Key Organizational Principles**

The ISC noted the proposal and it was decided that the 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 organization, 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 the 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 the ISA Headquarters at the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Gwal Pahari, Gurgaon, India on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2016.

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

11. 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<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 the 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<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

12. 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<sup>nd</sup> April, 2016.

### Focal Points

13. In summary, the following were the major decisions:

- a) Interventions made by Nigeria will form part of the report of 2<sup>nd</sup> ISC meeting (as enclosed in Appendix III).
- b) 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: i) Rules of Procedure for the consultative process; ii) ISA concept – How it is innovative and new; iii) Indicative Table—**solar applications covered by the Alliance and main obstacles to deployment at scale**; and iv) Proposed key organizational principles. The ISA cell will collate the comments and submit accordingly the revised proposals for consideration of the ISC in its next meeting.
- c) 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.
- d) 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**

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

- All the prospective ISA member countries will also be invited to join the two programmes;
- The programmes were approved for launching in the Ministerial Side Event in the ISA meeting scheduled on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2016;
- 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.
- 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
  - 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 in Appendix V and Appendix VI respectively.

14. 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;

15. The Joint Declaration between ISA Cell and UNDP was approved for being read and launched in the Ministerial Side Event of ISA on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2016. A copy of the Joint Declaration is enclosed in Appendix VII; and
16. As discussed in the 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**

17. The Chair requested all the members to participate in the Ministerial Side Event in the ISA meeting scheduled from 1130-1230 hrs on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2016 at the UN Headquarters.
18. 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.
19. The Chair and Co-Chair formally closed the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the ISC.

**5. Report of the 4th Meeting of the International Steering Committee (ISC) of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Held on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 in New Delhi, India**

The International Steering Committee of the International Solar Alliance, open to all member countries, held its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 in New Delhi, India. India, represented by Mr Upendra Tripathy, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, and ex-officio interim Director General of ISA chaired the meeting. France, represented by H.E. Ms Brigitte Collet, Ambassador for renewable energy, Co-chaired.

1. Sixty countries including India and France attended the meeting. List of country representatives is given in Appendix-I. Observers who attended the meeting are listed in Appendix-II.

**Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks by the Chair**

2. Mr Tripathy, the Chair formally opened the meeting, welcomed the country representatives and thanked everyone for their continued support to the International Solar Alliance. He



stated that the previous ISC meetings held in Paris, Abu Dhabi and New York have been successful in setting the agenda for the future work of the ISA and significant progress has been made in the last 10 months since the launch of ISA. He briefed the members about major activities undertaken as mentioned below:

- i. Two Programmes of the ISA—**Affordable Finance at Scale** and **Scaling Solar Applications for Agricultural Use**, have been launched in a Ministerial Side event on ISA on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2016 on the margins of signing of Paris Agreement on Climate Change in UN Headquarters in New York, USA;
  - ii. Representatives from India and France for the programme, **Affordable Finance at Scale** had telephonically interacted on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2016. For the programme, **Scaling Solar Applications for Agricultural Use** representatives had two video interactions on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 and 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2016. The first interaction was between India and France, and Uganda also joined in the second interaction;
  - iii. As mandated in the 1<sup>st</sup> ISC meeting held in Paris, France, an Interim Administrative Cell of International Solar Alliance (ISA Cell) has been set up to carry out day to day functions of ISA and implement the decisions taken in the ISC meetings. The Cell has so far met seven times, and report of the meetings are available at ISA website ([www.intsolaralliance.org](http://www.intsolaralliance.org));
  - iv. The ISA Cell and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) issued a Joint Declaration of cooperation for promoting ISA objectives in 121 prospective ISA member countries;
  - v. On the occasion of visit of the World Bank President to India on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2016, the ISA Cell and the World Bank declared their intention to promote solar energy globally; and
  - vi. In order to increase availability of investment for solar energy in prospective ISA member countries in Africa, India has earmarked 15-20 % of the US \$10 billion line of credit for solar projects in next five years.
3. The Chair thanked countries for providing comments/inputs on the draft Framework Agreement of ISA that was initially circulated in the 1<sup>st</sup> ISC meeting held in Paris, France on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2015 and also for providing their inputs in successive ISC meetings. He further, thanked 37 countries that have designated National Focal Points for ISA. He requested other countries to designate National Focal Points for ISA on a priority basis. He specifically mentioned about the ISA engagements with UNDP for sharing of knowledge, best practices, experiences, technology, and expertise and also proposing financial support to the ISA. He further, expressed thanks to the World Bank for signing the Joint Declaration with ISA that will help in lowering the cost of finance for solar power generation and also creating availability of adequate finance.

4. Shri Amar Sinha, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, stated that ISA is expected to be instrumental in bringing about a paradigm shift in solar deployment in developing countries by creating networks of institutions, scaling up successful example for achieving universal energy access and also creating an information grid for information sharing. Referring to earmarking of 15-20 % of Indian line of credit of US \$ 10 billion to Africa in next five years, Shri Sinha stated that similar efforts from the other ISA countries, which are in a position to do so will help in meeting affordable investment requirement in ISA countries for scaling up solar deployment. He specifically highlighted the role voluntary sector can play and cited example of Barefoot College, Tilonia, which has trained village women in installation, operation and maintenance of solar systems from across India, Africa and many other parts of the world. He expressed hope for the ISA to be instrumental in replicating such examples.

#### **Agenda Item 2: Remarks by the Co-Chair**

5. H.E. Ms Brigitte Collet, Co-chair of the ISC and Ambassador for renewable energy of France appreciated the tangible process made during the last 10 months since ISA was launched in Paris, France on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2015. She thanked India for the initiative and recalled the continuous support of France to the ISA. Ambassador Collet further stated that coordinated actions undertaken in the context of the Alliance should focus on realizing the objectives enshrined in the Paris Declaration. She stated that the proposed Framework Agreement of ISA strives to make ISA an innovative, implementation-oriented Alliance of solar-rich countries that will possess a simple, light and efficient structure. While explaining the key provisions, she mentioned that the Agreement provides a platform to bring together countries with rich solar potential to aggregate demand for solar energy, thereby reducing prices; promoting collaborative solar R&D and capacity; and facilitating the deployment of existing solar technologies at scale. All relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and financial institutions, will be closely associated to the programmes of the Alliance. She requested all the prospective member countries of ISA to contribute in the consultation process for finalizing the Framework Agreement and convey their support to the Agreement when it is opened for signature in Marrakech, Morocco on the side-lines of 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

#### **Agenda Item 3: Confirmation of Report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the International Steering Committee (ISC)**

6. The Chair placed the report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the International Steering Committee (ISC) for consideration of members. The Committee confirmed the report.

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## Country Interventions

### 7. The country interventions were as under:-

- a. The representative of Brazil congratulated India for the ISA initiative and opined that ISA will help in accelerating the deployment of solar technologies for meeting energy needs of the remote communities. Specific to the draft Framework Agreement he stated that Director General shall be accountable to the Assembly and not responsible, as stated in paragraph 2 Article V.
- b. The representative of Ghana thanked for the ISA initiative and stated that the procedures should be simplified so that the ISA does not repeat the works done by existing institutions in terms of bureaucratic process and shall seek to work with speed, achieve scale and empower the developing countries in information and knowledge sharing. He further suggested that in Article X paragraph 3 of the draft Framework Agreement of ISA that relates to immunities and privileges by other countries to ISA Secretariat, the reference of **may** needs to be changed to **shall**.
- c. The representative of Guyana thanked for proposing the draft Framework Agreement of ISA and stated that they will provide detailed inputs. The representatives from Guyana however opined that the reference of **Target** in Article III of the draft Framework Agreement could be construed as a means to introduce monitoring reporting and verification protocols under ISA, and therefore there should not be any reference of targets in the Framework Agreement.
- d. The representative of The Netherlands, Peru and the USA stated that the timeline for providing comments is short and may be considered for extension.
- e. The representative of Peru also stated that although the National Points will provide comments but it will for the Foreign Affairs Ministries/Departments in respective countries to examine the Framework Agreement from legal perspective. Further, it will be important if authentic translation of the text is also provided in other languages like Spanish, Portuguese, etc.
- f. The representatives of Senegal thanked for proposing the draft Framework of ISA and suggested that the text should provide further and specific focus on knowledge sharing, including in the areas of energy efficiency.

### Agenda Item 4: Adoption of Agenda for the 4<sup>th</sup> ISC meeting.

9. The Chair presented the agenda of the 4<sup>th</sup> ISC meeting for consideration. The Committee adopted the agenda.
10. The discussions on the agenda items were held in the following order:

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#### **4.1 Action Taken Report on the 3<sup>rd</sup> ISC meeting**

The Action Taken Report as enclosed in Annexure-II of the agenda was presented in the meeting. No comments were made and the report was adopted.

#### **4.2 Advice, Guidance and Directions on Major Action Points by the Interim Administrative Cell of International Solar Alliance (ISA Cell).**

The ISC was informed about the previously held seven meetings of the ISA cell and the Action Taken Report as enclosed in Annexure-III of the agenda was read by the Chair in the meeting. The agenda was opened for discussion.

#### **4.3 Discussion on the Framework Agreement of ISA.**

The Chair and Co-Chair presented the draft Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance. This draft was prepared on the basis of inputs received on the draft circulated in the 1<sup>st</sup> ISC meeting in Paris in December, 2015 and on documents circulated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> ISC meeting in New York in April, 2016. The draft was prepared by India and France. The draft Framework Agreement is a legally binding text. It may require ratification depending on national legal and legislative processes.

##### **Main Features of the Framework Agreement are as follows:**

##### **Objectives and Tools**

- The ISA Framework Agreement reflects the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi to accelerate the deployment of solar energy worldwide for energy access;
- The objective of the ISA is clearly mentioned: to aggregate the demand of finance, R&D, technologies and equipment to lower the cost;
- Countries will share on a voluntary basis, their needs regarding the development and solar energy, so that areas of cooperation can be clearly identified;
- This will be done through voluntary and targetted programmes set up by group of countries; all programmes will ultimately benefit all member countries;
- The programmes aim at aggregating the demand of solar-rich countries; ISA is not a financing agency that will undertake project development; institutional design.
- The institutional design of the ISA aims at providing support and coordination to member countries participating in programmes;

- The Assembly gives the political impetus needed to launch and run the programmes in an efficient manner; it will also assess the aggregated progress made with regard to the objective of the Alliance and make proposal for their further implementation;
- The Secretariat provides all necessary support to the Assembly and to the running of the Programmes through cross-cutting activities; it will ensure the coherence of all ISA activities; the Secretariat can also propose programmes and provide inputs to the existing programmes;
- A network of national focal points will serve as a permanent link.

#### **Administrative and Financial Arrangements**

- The administrative structure of the Alliance will be lean and efficient;
- Only voluntary contributions;
- A corpus fund will be established for ensuring sustained availability of funds.

#### **4.4 Interim Arrangement of Director General of ISA**

With increasing activities of ISA, there is a need of a full time Director General (DG) of ISA. A full time Director General may be appointed for the interim period as it is going to take some more time for ISA to become a Framework Agreement based organization with ratification of fifteen countries when Assembly can appoint the DG after taking country nominations. It was proposed that both India and France, as Chair and Co-Chair of ISC, may be authorized to jointly decide and appoint a suitable person for the interim period to serve as Interim DG of ISA on a full time basis, till ISA Assembly appoints a suitable person as per the proposal made in the agenda. A few countries suggested that such arrangement should be decided after consultation. The representative from Ghana suggested that the Interim Director General can be considered for the position of Director General if there is a need for continuity and consistency. However, after discussions the proposal from the US representative for authorizing Hon'ble Ministers from India and France was accepted by all the countries.

#### **4.5 Corpus Fund for ISA**

The Chair introduced the agenda and underlined the need for creating a robust corpus for ensuring sustained availability of funds for success of ISA. He opined that in order to make sustainable finance for ISA's activities, particularly when financial contributions are non-mandatory, there is a need to augment ISA corpus to a level of US \$ 1000 million. The corpus may

remain in perpetuity and the interest earned will be a regular source of finance for ISA programmes and activities. He requested ISC to consider the proposal for augmenting the corpus through various sources including through voluntary contribution from industry, corporates, public and private sector companies. He also suggested that the ISA Secretariat, with the help of the National Focal Points of ISA in the prospective member countries of ISA will engage with States, industry, corporates, public and private sector companies for augmenting the corpus fund.

After some discussions, the proposal was noted and it was decided that the ISA Secretariat with the help of the National Focal Points of ISA shall make efforts by developing a strategy for augmenting corpus fund from various sources. However, it must be ensured that there is no conflict of interest with those contributing to the ISA corpus fund. The activities detailed in agenda for acknowledging for contributions (as enclosed at Annexure-II) were also approved.

#### 4.6 Action Taken on Implementation of 2 Programmes

The Chair briefed about the progress in implementation of the two Programmes of the **ISAAffordable Finance at Scale** and **Scaling Solar Applications for Agricultural Use**. The Chair also requested the World Bank and UNDP to make brief presentations about their engagement with ISA.

Mr Simon Stolp, Lead Energy Specialist, the World Bank, India presented the World Bank engagement with the ISA. He stated that in pursuant to the joint declaration signed by the World Bank on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2016, as Financial Partner of ISA , the World Bank has initiated action for:

- a) developing roadmap to mobilize financing and financing instruments;
- b) technical assistance and knowledge transfer;
- c) supporting mobilization of concessional financing; and
- d) supporting country ISA RE-INVEST events. He stated that in the immediate term, the World Bank's focus will be on supporting ISA in the development of a financing roadmap within the framework of the broader ISA roadmap that is being supported by UNDP. Further, the bank will work to start building awareness of the financing agenda and that needs to be addressed in arranging affordable financing at scale. He informed about the proposal for organizing an event at Marrakech, Morocco during COP-22, where roadmap for the World Bank's engagements could be presented and a dialogue on financing for solar power generation could be initiated. He informed about the World Bank's intention to support specific financing focus within one of the upcoming ISA RE-INVEST events. He

also mentioned about initial in-kind support of US \$ 0.5 million from The Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) allocation. Copy of the presentation made by Mr Stolp is enclosed at Annexure- III.

Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Coordinator, India presented UN engagements with ISA. He informed that UNDP has undertaken an exercise for developing a document that provides framework of activities for the next 3 years. However, this is purely advisory in nature and once it is prepared, it is for the ISC to consider it as an input. Copy of the presentation by Mr Yuri is enclosed at Annexure- IV.

### **Focal Points**

11. In summary, the following are the way forward:

#### **12.1 Framework Agreement of ISA.**

- a) The Framework Agreement of ISA (enclosed at Annexure-I ) will be circulated to all prospective member countries of ISA through the network of National Focal Points, and also through French and Indian missions in these countries, and also through Missions of prospective countries in New Delhi and Paris;
- b) The countries will be requested to convey their acceptance, make comments (if any) or seek clarifications (if required) on the Framework Agreement of ISA, and convey through e-mail from their National Focal Points or through diplomatic channels, by the countries which are yet to designate their National Focal Points;
- c) The acceptance/comments may be sent to the French and Indian focal points (guycedric.werlings@diplomatie.gouv.fr) and (pcmaithani@nic.in) by 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016;
- d) Based on comments received from the prospective member countries of ISA, India and France will propose the revised version of the ISA Framework Agreement by 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2016;
- e) The finalized ISA Framework Agreement text may be opened for signature at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-22) scheduled to be held in Marrakech, Morocco during 7-18<sup>th</sup> November, 2016; and;
- f) The ISA Interim Secretariat will separately convey the exact date and venue for the ISA event in COP-22 where the Framework Agreement may be opened for signature.

## **12.2 Interim Arrangement of Director General of ISA.**

Hon'ble Minister for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines, India and Hon'ble Minister of the Environment, Energy and Marine Affairs, Government of France will consult with each other and will consider appointing a suitable person to serve as Interim DG of ISA on a full time basis, until ISA Assembly appoints a person. While appointing the interim DG, the Hon'ble Ministers may consider the eligibility criteria as contained in Annexure-IV of the Agenda notes.

## **12.3 Corpus Fund for ISA**

- a) The ISA Secretariat with the help of the National Focal Points of ISA in the prospective member countries will develop a strategy and make efforts for augmenting corpus fund from various sources including from States, public and private sector contributions;
- b) While accepting contributions, ISA Secretariat will ensure that there is no conflict of interest with those contributing to the ISA corpus fund, and the contributing entity will have no role or influence in determining ISA activities, including on spending the interest earned on the contributed amount; and
- c) The contributions made in the corpus may be acknowledged in the ways as mentioned in Annexure-II.

## **12.3 Engagement with the World Bank**

The ISA Secretariat will continue dialog with the World Bank for the following activities:

- a) Developing roadmap to mobilize financing, and financing instruments; and technical assistance and knowledge transfer;
- b) Supporting mobilization of concessional financing; and supporting country ISA RE-INVEST events; and
- c) Organizing an event on Financing at Marrakech, Morocco during COP-22 scheduled to be held during 7-18<sup>th</sup> November, 2016.

## **12.4 Engagement with the UN**

The ISA Secretariat will continue dialog with the UN for seeking UN support including for sharing of knowledge, best practices, experiences, technology, and expertise and also for financial support to the ISA.



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**Agenda Item No. 6: Concluding remarks by the Chair and the Co-Chair**

13. The Chair requested the members to convey their inputs on a priority basis on the Framework Agreement of ISA by 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2016.

14. 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.

15. The Chair and Co-Chair formally closed the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ISC.

**6. Report of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the International Steering Committee (ISC) of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Held on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 in New Delhi, India**

The International Steering Committee (ISC) of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), open to all member countries, held its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 in New Delhi, India. India, represented by Mr Anand Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India chaired the meeting. France, represented by H.E. Mrs Ségolène Royal, Ambassador for Arctic and Antarctic Poles and Special Envoy for the Implementation of the International Solar Alliance, Government of France, co-chaired.

1. The meeting started with submission of the instrument of ratification of the Framework Agreement (FA) of the ISA by Fiji, Niger and Tuvalu. On behalf of the respective Governments, H.E. Mr Yogesh Jitendra Karan, Secretary to the PM, Government of Fiji, H.E Mr Ali Illiassou, Ambassador of Niger in India, and Mrs Siema Patiale Apinelu, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Public Utilities, Government of Tuvalu handed over the instruments to Mr. K. Nagaraj Naidu, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India (The Ministry of External Affairs serves as depository of the Framework Agreement of the ISA). In statements, the representatives expressed their continued support for ISA and wished that ISA will be successful in addressing the barriers impeding the large scale development and deployment of solar energy in its member countries.
2. Sixty nine countries, including India and France, attended the meeting. List of country representatives is given in Appendix-I. Observers who attended the meeting are listed in Appendix-II. Participants from the ISA Secretariat are listed at Appendix-III.

**Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks by the Chair**

3. Mr Anand Kumar, the Chair formally opened the 5<sup>th</sup> ISC meeting of the ISA. He welcomed all the participating countries and expressed gratitude for their continued support, engagement and for joining the 5<sup>th</sup> ISC meeting. He specifically thanked the Government of France for their continuous engagement in structuring the ISA process. He recalled contribution of Co-chair H.E. Mrs Ségolène Royale in launching two initial programmes of the ISA and also conceptualizing ISA's third programme on mini grid for islands. He stated that the ISA is a reflection of common desire to significantly augment solar power generation in our countries, making joint efforts towards technology development, and mobilization of required investment to promote energy security and universal energy access. He further expressed the desire that the ISA put in place all required strategies and projects to realize the goal in Paris Declaration of realizing more than US \$ 1000 billion for solar sector by 2030. Availability of finance for solar projects globally is the key issue in making the ISA a 21<sup>st</sup> century organization.
4. While appreciating the progress made by the ISA under the leadership of Interim Director General of the ISA (IDG), the Chair apprised about the progress since the 4<sup>th</sup> ISC meeting. He specifically informed about the opening of the FA for signature on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 on the side-lines of COP-22, appointment of full time interim Director General of the ISA, Joint declaration of ISA with the Climate Parliament and launching of third ISA programme on mini-grids for remote islands. He stated that as on date 40 countries have signed, 9 countries have ratified the FA, and ratification instruments of 5 countries are awaiting their President's assent. He expressed confidence that very soon the minimum threshold of 15 ratifications will be achieved and the ISA will become a treaty based intergovernmental international organization. He urged the prospective member countries that have signed the FA to ratify the same and the remaining countries to sign and ratify the FA.
5. The Chair also stated that the Founding Conference of the ISA and Solar Summit has been scheduled on the margins of the second edition of the Renewable Energy Global Investors Meet & Expo (RE-Invest 2017) on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2017. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, His Excellency President of France, and the Secretary General of United Nations are likely to grace the ISA Founding Conference. He informed the members about the RE-Invest 2017 that will be held from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 in the National Capital Region of Delhi. He further stated that the RE-Invest 2017 is envisioned as a global event where strategies for development and deployment of renewable energy will be deliberated upon. He encouraged the countries for high level participation from the relevant stakeholders.

**Agenda Item 2: Remarks by the Co-Chair**

6. The Co-chair praised the leadership of India, who recognized the potential effects of climate change and, in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, opted for a clear priority towards renewable energy deployment. She stated that the ISA is one of the most important initiatives and a central piece for the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement. She recalled that France supported the ISA from its inception and now H.E. Mr Macron, President of France has reaffirmed support during Hon'ble Minister of India's visit to France in June, 2017.
7. The Co-chair further stated that together with India and partners, France is committed to make the ISA succeed in providing solutions for climate mitigation as well as to the critical energy needs for the poor. She mentioned that the ISA Summit on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 will be the opportunity to reflect on progress, showcase concrete potential of the ISA to scale up solar energy and gather additional support. She urged prospective member countries of the ISA to accelerate ratification process. The Co-chair also congratulated H.E Mr Upendra Tripathy, IDG for his strong determination to advance the ISA.

**Agenda Item 3: Adoption of Agenda for the 5<sup>th</sup> ISC Meeting**

8. The Chair presented the agenda of the 5<sup>th</sup> ISC meeting for consideration. ISC adopted the agenda.

**Agenda Item 4: Confirmation of Report of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of International Steering Committee (ISC)**

9. The Chair placed the report of the 4<sup>th</sup> ISC meeting for consideration. ISC confirmed the report.

**Agenda Item 5: Action Taken Report on the 4<sup>th</sup> ISC Meeting**

10. The Action Taken Report as enclosed at Annexure-II of the Agenda was presented in the meeting. No comments were made, and ISC adopted the report.

**Agenda Item 6: Taking Note of the Proceeding of the Meetings Held by the Interim Administrative Cell of International Solar Alliance (ISA Cell) since 4<sup>th</sup> ISC Meeting.**

11. The Chair informed the members that since the 4<sup>th</sup> ISC meeting, IAC cell met once on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2017 and proceedings of the same have been circulated to all Focal Points and are

also available on ISA webpage (<http://www.isolaralliance.org/>). There were no comments and ISC noted the Action Taken Report as enclosed at Annexure III of the Agenda.

### **Agenda item 7: Agenda Points for Discussion**

#### **Agenda Item 7.1: Resolution on welcoming the Countries that have signed the Framework Agreement and those who have ratified the same.**

12. The Chair introduced the agenda. Representatives from Maldives and Gabon informed that their countries have also signed the FA. However, Mr Naidu informed that the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has not yet received the information through the diplomatic channels and requested the representatives to expedite the process in their Capitals.
13. The Chair welcomed the countries who have signed and ratified the Framework Agreement of the ISA. He urged the prospective member countries of the ISA to expedite the ratification process.
14. Thereafter, the Chair presented the resolution for welcoming the countries who have signed FA. No comments were made, and the resolution for welcoming the countries that have signed the FA and those who have ratified the same, as enclosed at Annexure –IV of the agenda was adopted.

#### **Agenda Item 7.2: Enable member countries to sign the Framework Agreement and submission of the Instrument of Ratification in any one of the UN languages and Hindi.**

15. The Chair informed that two prospective countries of the ISA, namely, Chile and Yemen have expressed intention to sign the FA of the ISA in Spanish and Arabic languages respectively. As the FA of the ISA opened for signature provides for signing in English, French and Hindi only, ISC may consider to take a view on the request.
16. The representative of Peru informed that Spanish translation to the FA requires some corrections and a small committee may be constituted for authentic translation of the text. The representative of Bolivia informed that as per extant law they can sign any treaty in Spanish only.
17. IDG pointed out that revision proposed is a convention created by consensus on an issue, not prohibited under the treaty, and this is a sign of the ISA being a 21<sup>st</sup> century organization,
18. After some discussions, ISC approved the following:
  - a) The prospective member countries of the ISA will have an option to sign and ratify the FA in any one of the official UN languages, with all texts equally authentic; and

- b) The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India that serves as depository of the FA will arrange official translation of the FA in all UN languages to all the prospective countries of the ISA.

**Agenda Item 7.3: Founding Conference of ISA and Solar Summit on the Side-lines of the RE-Invest 2017 on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at in the India Expo Centre, Greater Noida, National Capital Region of Delhi, India.**

19. The Chair informed that the Founding Conference of ISA and Solar Summit will be landmark events in ISA history that will firmly put in place an institutional mechanism for Worlds transition towards sustainable energy future. Countries that have signed and ratified the FA by 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 will have the privilege of being instituted as the Founding Member of the ISA. Elaborating RE-Invest 2017, he stated that the event is expected to be attended by over 600 global investors, 10000 delegates (both domestic and international), and includes Ministerial level participation from more than 100 countries. Further, the activities in RE-Invest include series of seminars on different themes of renewables, conferences, and exhibition of manufacturers, project developers, investors and others in the renewable energy space to showcase manufacturing capabilities, latest technologies, financing options and investment opportunities. He invited all the ISA countries to participate in the event.
20. The Co-chair thanked India for hosting the Founding Conference of the ISA and stated that the Conference has been jointly announced by H.E Prime Minister of India and H.E President of France. She further mentioned that the event should firmly establish the ISA and demonstrate our joint commitment to harness solar energy potential as solutions to critical climate and development issues. She stated that it is important that all 121 prospective member countries of the ISA are invited to participate in the events. She urged the members to look beyond the entry into force of the FA and aim to send a strong signal of our collective engagement to scale up solar energy harnessing. She proposed that ISA's efforts should take the form of a cumulative goal for solar investment in the next five to ten years. She further suggested that at the end of the Summit re-affirmed commitment could be communicated in a Joint Statement from all participating countries. This would show commitment to the private sector to deploy solar energy at a large scale.
21. Thereafter, ISC approved India's proposal for holding the Founding Conference of ISA, and ISA Secretariat's plans to organize Solar Summit on the margins of RE-Invest 2017 on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2017. ISC urged the prospective member countries of the ISA to expedite signing and ratification of the FA. ISC also approved the proposal for providing status of the Founding Member Country to all the countries that ratify the FA by 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2017. It was also clarified that the Founding Conference of ISA on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 will be held at

New Delhi and the Solar Summit will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at the India Expo Centre, Greater Noida, National Capital Region of Delhi, India.

**Agenda Item 7.4: Organization of ISA Pavilion in COP 23 (Bonn), World Future Energy Summit (Abu Dhabi) and other such events to create awareness about ISA programmes and attract more members.**

22. The Chair briefed about ISA Secretariat plans to set up ISA Pavilion in the major national and international events. He mentioned that participation in such events would help in broadening ISA's base and outreach.
23. The Co-chair also welcomed the idea of organizing an ISA event during COP-23 and other major events. She stated that it can be useful to reflect on programme implementation and notably on the establishment of the common risk mitigation mechanism.
24. The Chair invited the IDG to elaborate the Agenda. The IDG explained that ISA Pavilion in such events is vital for creating awareness about ISA plans and vision would help in disseminating and fulfilling ISA objectives. IDG also pointed out that all such events of the ISA will focus on at least 20 solar projects at the field level, initiated in any of the 121 prospective member countries of the ISA, with emphasis on action.
25. After some discussions the proposal was approved and it was decided that while organizing such events, the ISA Secretariat will keep the National Focal Points of ISA abreast of the plan and seek their involvement.

**Agenda Item 7.5: Decision on the pay, benefits, protocol and level of Interim Director General (IDG) of ISA *vis-à-vis* similar Intergovernmental Bodies.**

(On his request the Interim Director General of ISA was granted permission of absence while this Agenda was discussed.)

26. The Chair introduced the agenda. He briefed the ISC that as per the 4<sup>th</sup> ISC decision, after fulfilling the procedure, on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, H.E Mr Upendra Tripathy took charge as IDG of the ISA. The resolution of the IAC cell for Mr Tripathy's appointment states that, "the terms and conditions, including remuneration, perks and protocol, have to be decided by the ISC." At present, pending ISC decision on an interim basis, the IDG is being provided salary equivalent to last pay drawn minus pension and other benefits keeping in view his former position of being a Secretary to the Government of India. Under these provisions, in July 2017, total cost to ISA for paying remuneration, hiring a rent free accommodation was around US \$ 3400 per month. He informed that the IDG has requested that pending finalization of Host Country Agreement, the incidental taxes on pay and perks may be borne by the ISA.

27. The Chair requested ISC to deliberate on the level of Interim Director General / Director General of the ISA. He suggested that the level shall be attractive and have parity with other international and inter-governmental organizations working in energy space.
28. After some discussion, the ISC approved that: a) level of Interim Director General / Director General of ISA shall be equivalent to the Assistant Secretary General (ASG) of UN from 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 when the Interim Director General joined as per offer letter given by the interim Secretariat; and b) the incidental taxes on pay and perks of the Interim Director General / Director General of the ISA will be borne by the ISA until the same is exempted under the Host Country Agreement.

**Agenda Item 7.6: Preparation of ISA Manual of Rules & Regulations.**

29. The Chair introduced the agenda and informed that an elaborate ISA Manual of Rules and Regulations is under preparation. Considering that ISA Secretariat has already started functioning, there is a need for putting in place an interim arrangement.
30. ISC deliberated on the proposal made in agenda and approved that: a) ISA Secretariat will develop draft ISA Manual of Rules and Procedure and bring the same for consideration of ISC in its next meeting, or place draft rules for consideration of ISA Assembly in its first meeting; b) Till ISC / ISA Assembly approves the ISA Manual of Rules, UN rules and procedure may apply to the ISA *mutatis mutandis* from the date that ISA secretariat notifies the same.

**Agenda Item 7.7: Host Country Agreement between ISA and India.**

31. The Chair recalled that the draft Host Country Agreement was first circulated in the 1<sup>st</sup> ISC meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2015 and subsequently in various meetings, inputs were received from the prospective member countries. He quoted the Article X of the FA that details the status, privileges and immunities of the ISA. He stated that on these lines the interim Secretariat of the ISA is developing another version of the draft Host Country Arrangement. He requested the IDG to brief the ISC on the matter.
32. The IDG informed that in absence of the Host Country Agreement the Secretariat is facing difficulties in its day to day operations. He specifically cited the issue of tax liability on contribution to ISA Corpus Fund and also contributions towards instituting awards under the ISA. He suggested that until the host country agreement is finalized and signed, an Interim Headquarters Agreement between the ISA Interim Secretariat and the Government of the Republic of India may be put in place.
33. ISC deliberated on the agenda and decided that: a) the interim Secretariat of ISA will submit revised draft host country Agreement for consideration of the Government of the Republic of India; and b) Recognizing the need to regulate the legal relations with Government of the



Republic of India, the ISA Secretariat will submit an Interim Headquarters Agreement for consideration of the Government of the Republic of India.

**Agenda Item 7.8: Adoption of Secondment Policy of ISA.**

34. The Chair highlighted the salient features of the proposed secondment policy that provides an avenue to ISA for mobilizing expertise, skills and know-how to reinforce activities and objectives. He explained that secondees will get an opportunity to gain experience in a dynamic international environment and allow them to showcase expertise that is relevant to ISA's mandate. He further mentioned that the proposed policy provides for secondment of the experts by member states, non-governmental/international organizations, multilateral agencies, bilateral agencies, universities, or the corporate/private sector. He added that the experts to be seconded shall be deployed for a fixed period of time in response to specific needs of the ISA.
35. Thereafter, the Chair presented the secondment policy of ISA. No comments were made, and the secondment policy of ISA, as enclosed at Annexure –VII of the Agenda was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.9: ISA Policy on Partner Organizations.**

36. The Chair drew attention towards Article VIII of the FA that provides for granting Partner Organization status by the ISA Assembly to organizations that have the potential to help the ISA to achieve its objectives. He thereafter introduced draft policy on Partner Organizations developed by the Secretariat of the ISA for consideration.
37. The Co-chair commended the on-going engagement of the ISA Secretariat with the international organizations and encouraged the Secretariat to continue its work. She informed that in the course of her mission on the ISA, she will reach out to potential member countries to accelerate the number of ratifications and also to prospective partner organizations for gathering additional financial and technical support to contribute to ISAs objectives. She expressed confidence that the forthcoming Summit could be an opportunity to confirm partnerships and investment pledges by the Partner Organizations. In order to have tangible progress she suggested that outreach efforts with multilateral development banks, international energy organizations and the financial and private sector needs to be intensified ahead of the Summit.
38. After some discussions, ISC approved the ISA Policy on Partner Organizations as enclosed in Annexure –VIII of the Agenda, and authorized the Secretariat of the ISA to undertake minor changes in the draft policy as deemed necessary.



**Agenda Item 7.10: ISA Solar Award Policy.**

39. The Chair informed that the ISA Secretariat has developed a Solar Award Policy to promote and incentivize advances in the solar energy sector under the aegis of ISA. He requested the IDG to elaborate the proposal.
40. The IDG stated that the draft policy provides for funding Solar Awards by any ISA prospective member country(ies) or their institutions and organizations, with no financial implication for ISA. The Award can be given for outstanding work in the field of solar energy to the Head of the Government or State / Scientist/ Academician etc., from ISA member countries. He also informed about the enthusiastic response received, including from the State of Haryana in India, which has proposed to institute an Award in the name of Indian born astronaut late Kalpana Chawla. He informed that it has been proposed to institute a Solar Noble (subject to validity of the nomenclature) during each Olympic year, and the award amount may be higher than the Noble prize amount by US \$1.
41. After some discussions, ISC approved the ISA Solar Award Policy as enclosed in Annexure –IX of the Agenda.

**Agenda Item 7.11: ISA Strategy and Policy to Replicate RE-Invest Outside India**

42. The Chair introduced the agenda and stated that RE-Invests are aimed at investment promotion through conference sessions, exhibitions, business to business meetings. He informed about India's RE- Invest and stated that the event helped in developing a vibrant and enabling environment on renewable energy in the country. He stated that the aim is to develop a transparent strategy, common and standard approach including an action plan with clear roadmap of activities for holding ISA- RE-Invests that have very clear outcomes.
43. After some discussions, ISC approved the strategy to organize RE-Invest Events in ISA member countries as enclosed at Annexure –X of the agenda.

**Agenda Item 7.12: ISA's Logo Policy.**

44. The Chair underlined the need for registering the ISA name and logo with the World Intellectual Property Organization and protecting the same worldwide under the Madrid Protocol. He informed that ISA's logo policy as developed by the Secretariat of the ISA is aimed at safeguarding name and logo of the ISA from possible misuse.
45. ISC deliberated on the draft prepared by the Secretariat and approved the draft Logo Policy of ISA as enclosed at Annexure-XI of the Agenda and authorized the ISA Secretariat to undertake minor changes in the draft policy as deemed necessary.

**Agenda Item 7.13: Announcement of the Fourth Programme on Rooftop Solar During Solar Summit.**

46. The Chair stated that solar roof top provides an opportunity to the households and commercial establishments to become electricity producers, meet their electricity demand partly or fully by themselves, and even sell excess electricity to the distribution utilities through net or gross metering. He informed that based on its interaction with ISA countries, the ISA Secretariat has proposed a programme on Solar Rooftop Power Generation.
47. The Co-chair thanked the ISA Secretariat for the initiative and stated that this programme has great potential for ISA member countries. She however suggested that before this programme is announced at the Solar Summit in December, 2017, at least two countries should own the programme and ISA Secretariat should develop a work plan for implementation of the programme.
48. The Co-chair further suggested a programme on solar supported e-mobility may be launched under the *agies* of ISA. She informed that the world is moving towards e-mobility rapidly and ISA should use its collective might and work towards creating an eco-system for solar supported e-mobility in its member countries. She expressed confidence that this programme will help in mitigating climate change. She also informed that France has set a timeframe of 2040 for powering its entire mobility with electricity.
49. The Chair appreciated and supported the suggestions from the Co-chair and invited the members to deliberate on the agenda. After some discussions, the ISC approved the following:
- a) The ISA Secretariat will develop a programme on solar rooftop through consultative process with ISA countries, garner support of at least two countries for owning the programme and also develop work plan for implementation. Thereafter, the programme shall be launched in the ISA Solar Summit in December, 2017;
  - b) The Secretariat of the ISA will develop a programme on solar supported e-Mobility through consultative process with ISA countries, garner support of at least two countries for owning the programme and also develop work plan for implementation. Thereafter, the Programme shall be launched in the ISA Solar Summit in December, 2017; and
  - c) The above-mentioned programmes will be open for the countries that have ratified the Framework Agreement of the ISA.

**Agenda Item 7.14: Ratification of Third Programme of ISA on Scaling Solar Mini Grids**

50. The Chair informed the members about launching of the third programme of ISA on **Scaling Solar Mini Grids** in a side event of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the African Development Bank (AfDB) on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 in Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat, India. He stated that the programme would cater to the energy needs of ISA member states in identified areas with unreliable or no grid(s), and in island member states having abundant potential to tap solar energy. He also put on record appreciation of the ISC to the Co-chair, H.E. Ms. Royal, who was the main architect and motivator to launch this programme.
51. After deliberations, ISC ratified launching of the third Programme of the ISA on **Scaling Solar Mini Grids**.

**Agenda Item 7.15: Ratification of ISA's Joint Declaration with the World Bank and Climate Parliament**

52. The Chair informed that the World Bank and the ISA cell signed a Joint Declaration on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2016, in New Delhi to promote solar energy globally. In addition, ISA cell and Climate Parliament signed a Joint Declaration on 15<sup>th</sup>, November, 2016 at Marrakech, Morocco on global cooperation to promote solar energy among ISA member countries.
53. ISC ratified ISA's Joint Declaration with the World Bank and Climate Parliament and desired that ISA and its Partners should finalize a two year plan of action which will help implement solar programmes.

**Agenda Item 7.16: Implementation Status of Three Programmes of ISA**

54. The Chair presented the progress under the programmes of ISA as detailed in the agenda.
55. ISC noted the progress under the three programmes of the ISA.

**Agenda Item 7.17: Status on the Joint Declarations with World Bank, UNDP and Climate Parliament**

56. The Chair presented the status on the Joint Declarations with World Bank, UNDP and Climate Parliament as detailed in the agenda.
57. ISC noted the progress under the Joint Declarations signed by the ISA.

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**Agenda Item 7.18: Appeal to ADB, AfDB, AIIB, NDB, IADB, and GCF for signing joint declarations to support ISA in the model laid down by the World Bank.**

58. The Chair introduced the agenda. He informed that the ISA Secretariat has requested major multilateral banks and GCF for collaboration with ISA for promoting solar energy. To this effect the ISA Secretariat has proposed signing Joint Declaration to support ISA in the model laid down by the World Bank.
59. ISC noted the initiative and authorized the ISA Secretariat to pursue with multilateral banks and GCF for enhancing cooperation in solar energy area.

**Agenda Item 7.19: Appeal to Multilateral Banks**

- a) To earmark at least 15 % of their annual credit for solar sector for next five years to attract corporate sector to plan and invest in solar space;
  - b) To raise financial resources in local currencies in major countries to support solar projects that help achieve SDGs of the UN and thus reduce hedging costs; and
  - c) To approach countries with ODA budgets, GCF and other investors attract investments to create Mega Risk Mitigation insurance funds for solar projects.
60. The Chair informed the members about ISA Secretariat's initiative for garnering support of various multilateral, bilateral donor agencies and banks for promotion of solar energy in ISA countries.
61. The Co-chair expressed support to the outreach efforts of ISA secretariat towards multilateral development banks. She suggested that efforts should be made to obtain concrete commitment from the multilateral banks towards the specific ISA programmes in the form of PPA harmonization and contributions towards risk mitigation mechanism.
62. The IDG stated that the ISA Secretariat will be requesting all prospective member countries of the ISA for support to ensure investment/credit commitments for solar projects.
63. ISC noted the ISA Secretariat's initiative.

**Agenda Item 7.20: Deliberations on future roadmap of ISA Paris Risk Mitigation Fund led by World Bank, TWI, CEEW, CII and TCX.**

64. The Chair introduced the agenda and requested the IDG to detail the proposal.
65. The IDG of the ISA informed that the **Common Risk Mitigating Mechanism (CRMM)** was launched on May 18<sup>th</sup> in New Delhi. Its objective is de-risking and reducing the financial cost of solar projects in the ISA member countries. The instrument will help diversify and pool risks on mutual public resources and unlock significant investments. He informed that an

international expert group comprising representatives from the World Bank, TWI, CEEW, CII and TCX has been working on the blue print of the mechanism and it will be rolled out by December, 2018.

66. The IDG, keeping in view the big picture of ISA's mega goal of US\$ 300 billion fund in ten places during next ten years interval, informed that the first CRMM launched on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2017, is known as the Paris Risk Mitigation Fund. The second fund that will be known as the Delhi Fund is being worked at, and will be modelled over the Global Fund for Malaria, Tuberculosis & HIV.
67. With the permission of the Chair, he requested CEEW to present salient features on CRMM. Presentation made by Ms Kanika Chawla, CEEW is enclosed at Annexure.
68. The Co-chair supported the initiative and opined that the risk mitigation mechanism will act as a trigger that will allow a deployment of solar energy on a very large scale and at a very low cost. The Co-chair opined that the ISA countries need a common tool to address financial risk and therefore enable greater investment flows to solar projects. In this context she informed about the genesis of common risk mitigation mechanism. She invited the ISA countries to contribute to the launching of the mechanism. She suggested that our efforts should focus on the concrete programmes to show that the ISA can be useful for its members.
69. ISC noted the ISA Secretariat's initiative for developing Common Risk Mitigating Mechanism (CRMM).

**Agenda Item 7.21: Taking Note of France for their Support of Euro 300 Million of Soft Loan for ISA Countries that have Signed and Ratified the ISA framework Agreement**

70. The Chair informed that on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2016, the Hon,ble President of France declared that the Government of France will contribute 300 million Euros to finance the initial projects to be undertaken by the ISA member countries. He thanked the Government of France for the initiative, and requested other countries in a position to do so to earmark funds for solar energy development and deployment in ISA countries.
71. The Co-chair supported the Chair in requesting other member countries to follow suit, and informed that the Government of France has already invested funds in excess of Euro 300 million for supporting solar energy projects in ISA countries. The co-chair also recalled that France committed 3 billion euros to the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative.
72. ISC noted the Government of France initiative and requested the Secretariat to post the list of projects financed under the scheme on its website to attract more countries to sign the ISA treaty.

**Agenda Item 7.22: Taking Note of India for their Support of US \$ 2 Billion Soft Loan for African Countries that have Signed and Ratified the ISA Framework Agreement**

73. The Chair stated that the Government of India has earmarked 15-20% of the US \$10 billion Line of Credit (LOC) for Africa for undertaking solar related projects on the request of ISA. He informed that the LOC will be extended to all those African countries that have signed and ratified the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement. He thanked the Government of India for initiatives and requested other countries in a position to do so, to earmark funds for solar energy development and deployment in ISA countries.
74. ISC noted the Government of India initiative, and requested the Secretariat to post the list of projects financed under the scheme on its website to attract more countries to sign the ISA treaty.

**Agenda Item 7.23: Inauguration of UN-ISA Solar Technology Application Centre at ISA Ccampus during Solar Summit by Secretary General of the UN to Strengthen Solar Research and Applications**

75. The Chair introduced the agenda and requested the IDG to detail the proposal.
76. The IDG informed that the proposed centre has been envisioned to carry-out R&D activities mostly through National Institute of Solar Energy, India and other such National R&D centres in ISA countries. He further elaborated that these centres will be virtually networked and the focus will be on identification of solar technologies which are publicly funded and which are available in the public domain. He however, informed that United Nations has difficulties in associating with the centre till ISA becomes a de-jure entity. He suggested that ISC may consider the proposal for inauguration of the centre as ISA Solar Technology Application Centre at ISA campus during the solar summit.
77. ISC approved launching of ISA Solar Technology Application Centre at ISA campus. The ISC also mandated the ISA Secretariat to develop details of the proposed centre including its work plan before its launch during the ISA Summit in December, 2017. UN can be requested to lend its name once ISA is a legal entity.

**Agenda Item 7.24: Launch of e-learning Platform with IGNOU, as One of the Measures, to Train 100000 Solar Mechanics in ISA Countries in Five Years.**

78. The Chair informed about the proposal for e-learning platform with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi, India. This platform will be one of the measures

undertaken for training solar mechanics in ISA countries. He stated that this programme will help in capacity building of ISA countries by way of creating a cadre of trained man power.

79. ISC approved e-learning platform with IGNOU. The ISC also mandated the ISA Secretariat to develop work plan before it is launched during the ISA summit in December, 2017.

#### **Agenda Item 8: Other Item with Permission of the Chair**

80. No additional agenda was introduced, as additional agenda on interim host country agreement has been subsumed in the related agenda point (7.7).

#### **Decisions Taken**

81. In summary, the following decisions were taken in the 5th ISC meeting:-

- a) The following are the action points for the ISA Secretariat:
  - i. Develop draft ISA Manual of Rules and Procedure and bring the same for consideration of ISC in its next meeting, or place draft rules for consideration of ISA Assembly in its first meeting. Till ISC / ISA Assembly approve the ISA Manual of Rules, UN rules and procedure may apply to the ISA *mutatis mutandis* from the date that ISA secretariat notifies the same (Agenda Item no 7.6);
  - ii. Submit revised draft Host Country Agreement for consideration of the Government of the Republic of India ( Agenda Item no 7.7);
  - iii. Submit an Interim Headquarters Agreement for consideration of the Government of the Republic of India ( Agenda Item no 7.7);
  - iv. Develop programmes on solar rooftop and solar supported e-Mobility through consultative process with ISA countries, garner support of at least two countries for owning the programme and also develop work plan for implementation. Thereafter, the programme shall be launched in the ISA Solar Summit in December 2017. These programmes will be open for the countries that have ratified the Framework Agreement of the ISA ( Agenda Item no 7.13);
  - v. Pursue with multilateral banks and GCF for enhancing cooperation in solar energy area( Agenda Item no 7.18); and
  - vi. Post the list of projects financed under the Government of France and Government of India with the support of Euro 300 Million and US \$ 2 billion soft loan respectively for ISA countries on its website to attract more countries to sign the ISA treaty (Agenda Item no 7.21 and 7.22).

b) The following were approved:-

- i. Resolution for welcoming the countries that have signed the Framework Agreement (FA) and those who have ratified the same, as enclosed at Annexure –IV of the Agenda (Agenda Item no 7.1);
- ii. The prospective member countries of the ISA will have an option to sign and ratify the FA in any one of the official UN languages, with all texts equally authentic; and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India that serves as depository of the FA will arrange official translation of the FA in all UN languages to all the prospective countries of the ISA ( Agenda Item no 7.2);
- iii. India's proposal for holding Founding Conference of ISA, and ISA Secretariats plans to organize Solar Summit on the margins of the Renewable Energy Global Investors Meet & Expo (RE-Invest 2017) on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2017. ISC urged the prospective member countries of the ISA to expedite signing and ratification of the FA ( Agenda Item no 7.3);
- iv. Proposal for providing status of the Founding Member Country to all the countries that ratify the FA by 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2017( Agenda Item no 7.3);
- v. ISA Pavilion in major events to create awareness about ISA programmes and attract more members. While putting ISA Pavilion, the ISA Secretariat will keep the National Focal Points of ISA abreast of the plan and seek their involvement ( Agenda Item no 7.4);
- vi. Level of Interim Director General / Director General of ISA shall be equivalent to the Assistant Secretary General (ASG) of UN from 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 when the Interim Director General joined as per offer letter given by the interim Secretariat. The incidental taxes on pay and perks of the Interim Director General / Director General of the ISA will be borne by the ISA until the same is exempted under the Host Country Agreement (Agenda Item no 7.5)
- vii. Secondment policy of ISA, as enclosed at Annexure –VII of the Agenda (Agenda Item no 7.8);
- viii. ISA Policy on Partner Organisations as enclosed at Annexure –VIII of the Agenda, and authorized the Secretariat of the ISA to undertake minor changes in the draft policy as deemed necessary ( Agenda Item no 7.9);
- ix. ISA Solar Award Policy as enclosed at Annexure –IX of the agenda ( Agenda Item no 7.10);
- x. Strategy to organize RE-Invest Events in ISA member countries as enclosed at Annexure –X of the agenda ( Agenda Item no 7.11);



- xi. Logo Policy of ISA as enclosed at Annexure-XI of the Agenda and authorized the ISA Secretariat to undertake minor changes in the draft policy as deemed necessary (Agenda Item no 7.12);
  - xii. launching of ISA Solar Technology Application Centre at ISA campus, and mandate the ISA Secretariat to develop details of the proposed Centre including its work plan before its launch during the ISA Summit in December, 2017. UN can be requested to lend its name once ISA is a legal entity( Agenda Item no 7.23); and
  - xiii. e-learning Platform with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi, India and mandate the ISA Secretariat to develop work plan before it is launched during the ISA Summit in December 2017 ( Agenda Item no 7.24).
- c) The following were ratified:
- i. Launching of the third Programme of the ISA on **Scaling Solar Mini Grids** (Agenda Item no 7.14); and
  - ii. ISA's Joint Declaration with the World Bank and Climate Parliament and desired that ISA and its partners should finalize a two year plan of action which will help implement solar programmes (Agenda Item no 7.17).

Concluding remarks, and proposed way forward, by the Chair and the Co-Chair.

82. The Chair thanked the Co-chair H.E Mrs Royal and delegations for their engagement with the ISA process and for providing guidance for the ISA activities. He stated that the world is witnessing rapidly changing innovation landscape in solar energy area. Innovations in thin film technology, solar nano-tubes, infrared spectrum solar panels, storage technologies, micro inverters are aiming to deliver cheaper and more efficient solar energy. He solicited each and every one's support in ISA journey for realizing its vision and objective. He once again reiterated invitation to all the countries for participation in RE-Invest 2017. Finally he expressed thanks to the ISA Secretariat for their efforts in making the meeting a success.
83. The Co-chair thanked India, countries participating in the meeting, and the ISA Secretariat and stated that the presence shows our collective determination and commitment to, make ISA a success and to deliver its full transformation potential. She mentioned that as take-away messages, she would like the ISA countries to intensify efforts to ratify the FA. She also encouraged countries to participate effectively and contribute with expertise and experiences. She invited the ISA countries to make contributions to and participate in the first ISA summit in December, 2017 that will firmly establish the Alliance and demonstrate our joint commitment to harness the solar energy potential as solution to critical climate and development issues.
84. The Chair and Co-Chair formally closed the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ISC.

## **7. Report of the 6th Meeting of the International Steering Committee (ISC) of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Held on 20 February 2018 in New Delhi, India**

1. The International Steering Committee (ISC) of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), open to all member countries, held its 6th meeting on 20 February 2018 in New Delhi, India. India, represented by Mr Anand Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India chaired the meeting. France, represented by H.E. Mrs Ségolène Royal, Special Envoy for the Implementation of the International Solar Alliance, Government of France, co-chaired.
2. Fifty countries, including India and France, attended the meeting. List of country representatives is given in Appendix-I. Observers, Partner Organizations who attended the meeting are listed in Appendix-II. Participants from the ISA Secretariat are listed at Appendix-III.

### **Agenda Item 1: Opening remarks by the Chair**

3. Mr Anand Kumar, the Chair formally opened the 6th ISC meeting, welcomed the participating countries and thanked everyone for their continued support to the ISA. He congratulated the ISA member countries on the accession of the ISA to the status of an international organization on 6 December 2017. He opined that accession of the ISA to the status of a treaty based international intergovernmental organization provides it with a clear framework and solid foundations to undertake its action in the long term and mobilize all its partners.
4. The Chair put on record his deep appreciation to Government of France for continued and profound support in shaping ISA vision. He welcomed the Co-chair, H.E. Mrs Ségolène Royal, the Co-chair and stated that she has been untiringly working on a mission mode for making ISA a success.
5. The Chair also informed that in his inaugural address at the World Sustainable Development Summit, in New Delhi, on 16 February 2018, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India referred to the ISA as the single most important global achievement after the Paris accord on Climate Change. He opined that the ISA Summit will help in facilitating progress on

identifying activities within the ongoing ISA programmes and explore prospects for undertaking new programmes and activities. He echoed the general sentiments that the ISA in a way is a dream realized to see the world achieving a faster transition to solar (and clean) energy, where countries are energy secure; energy is sustainable, convenient, efficient, safe and affordable; and, most importantly, energy access is universal. He further informed that Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble President of France, H.E. Mr Emmanuel Macron will host the Founding Conference of the ISA on 11 March 2018 in New Delhi. Countries that ratify the Framework Agreement until the ISA Founding Ceremony will be treated as Founding Members.

6. The Chair highlighted major activities undertaken by the ISA Secretariat after the 5th ISC meeting and stated that advice, guidance and directions on major action points form part of the 6th ISC Agenda. He invited the ISC members to provide inputs for making the action points more concrete and actionable. He appreciated the role played by the ISA Secretariat and stated that ISA is witnessing a dawn full of hope, aspirations and also challenges and we should work together for translating the ISA vision into action.

#### **Agenda Item 2: Remarks by the Co-Chair**

7. The Co-chair commended the government of India and the ISA secretariat for their leadership in putting the alliance into speed. She stated that ISA is a central piece for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and that this coalition has raised a lot of hope. She informed that ISA stood as a key common engagement in the One Planet Summit held in Paris, France on 12 December 2017. She congratulated the ISA secretariat for presenting the good progress on the five ISA programmes and opined that these programmes are a clear reflection of ISA countries' needs and demand for action. She also thanked the countries for participating in ISA programmes and activities and informed that the consultation process has resulted in compilation of more than 100 projects, which are at different levels of maturity.
8. The Co-chair mentioned that the proposed ISA Summit on 11 March 2018 will be an opportunity to demonstrate support from countries and partners to the Alliance, celebrate its entry into force and provide clear engagements for projects and financing instruments. She further mentioned that this Summit will contribute to speed up and scale up the deployment of available solar technologies and to facilitate strategic and collaborative R&D. It will offer opportunities to lower the cost of finance for solar power projects and capacity building in the field of solar energy. She further opined that the Summit will demonstrate clear action and deliverables on the engagements made two years ago, at COP21.

9. The Co-chair suggested that the ISA Summit shall aim at: a) Setting clear priority for further collective action of a first group of solar resource rich countries; b) Engaging partner countries, which are not solar resource rich countries to support the aims of ISA; c) Announcing concrete support from major international organizations and financial institutions for scaling-up of solar technologies and reducing costs; d) Engaging private sector partners to achieve ISA objectives, for high quality, maintenance and rapid deployment of solar technologies; and e) Establishing financial instruments to lower the cost of capital, development and transaction costs through the harmonization of regulations and contractual framework and implementation of risk mitigation tools. She suggested that France and India, in close partnership with the ISA secretariat, should take forward the Expression of Interest gathering ISA countries' needs and have a first overview of demand in the operational programmes on agriculture uses, mini-grids, rooftops and e-mobility etc.

**Agenda Item 3: Adoption of agenda for the 6th ISC meeting**

10. The Chair presented the Agenda of the 6th ISC meeting for consideration. ISC adopted the Agenda.

**Agenda Item 4: Confirmation of Report of the 5th Meeting of International Steering Committee (ISC)**

11. The Chair placed the report of the 5th ISC meeting for consideration. The ISC considered the report and confirmed the report subject to the changes as enclosed at Annexure-I of this report.

**Agenda Item 5: Action Taken Report on the 5th ISC Meeting**

12. The Action Taken Report as enclosed at Annexure-II of the Agenda was presented in the meeting. No comments were made, and ISC adopted the report.

**Agenda Item 6: Agenda Points for Discussion****Agenda Item 6.1: ISA Framework Agreement enters into force**

13. The Chair informed that 15 countries namely Bangladesh, Comoros, Fiji, France, Ghana, Guinea, India, Mali, Mauritius, Nauru, Niger, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan and Tuvalu had deposited their Instruments of Ratification by 6 November, 2017. In conformity with the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), 30 days after ratification by the 15th country, on 6 December 2017, ISA became a treaty based international

intergovernmental organization. The Chair also informed that as of date out of 53 countries that had signed the Framework Agreement of the ISA, 26 countries had already ratified the same.

14. ISC noted the ISA becoming a treaty based organization and invited all potential member countries that are yet to sign the Framework Agreement to do so, and those that have already signed, to finalize their ratification procedure as soon as possible.

#### **Agenda Item 6.2: Headquarters Agreement between ISA and Host Country**

15. The Chair informed that as per the decision of the 5th ISC meeting, the ISA Secretariat submitted the draft Headquarters Agreement to the Government of India. The same was examined and on 2 February 2018, the ISA Secretariat sent a revised draft. He informed that the draft is being processed for necessary approvals within the Government of India system.
16. ISC authorized the Interim Director General (IDG) to sign the Headquarters Agreement between the ISA and the Host Country. ISC also desired that efforts shall be made to finalize and enter into the Headquarters Agreement before 11 March 2018 when the Founding Conference of the ISA is scheduled.

#### **Agenda Item 6.3: Review of progress of ISA programmes**

17. The Chair briefed the ISC about the progress under on-going programmes and also about the plans to launch programmes on solar rooftop and solar e-mobility. H.E High commissioner of Ghana suggested that ISA should consider launching a programme on solar parks. Responding to an observation by H.E. Ambassador of Senegal about effectiveness of the ISA programmes, the Co-chair suggested that accurate need assessment is the primary requirement for undertaking an appropriate programme that meets the aspiration of the respective country. On this point the IDG informed that ISA Secretariat has initiated interactions with ISA countries for identifying appropriate programme activities and informed that the Hon'ble Minister has also suggested programme on solar parks, as well as sending trade delegations to member countries for facilitating projects under Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) route.
18. The Energy Efficiency Services Limited, a public sector undertaking of Government of India presented a model on aggregated demands for solar pumps and explained its plans to float an exploratory global tender to discover prices for aggregated demand of solar pumps. (Annexure-II).

19. ISC noted the progress under three on-going programmes of the ISA and approved launching of new programmes on Solar Roof Top and Solar Supported mobility. ISC also advised the ISA Secretariat to develop business models for dissemination of solar pumps and other solar systems and devices in ISA member countries and also explore possibilities of coordinated action with stakeholders for arranging finance from corporate, bilateral and multilateral financial institutions, philanthropies etc.

**Agenda Item 6.4: Paris Risk Mitigation Fund with updated status.**

20. The Chair apprised the members about the background and CEEW presented the updated status on the Paris Risk Mitigation Fund (Annexure-III). The Co-chair suggested that the blue print of the Fund may be finalized before 11 March 2018. IDG informed about the ISA Secretariat's internal work to consider the possible launch of a dedicated Fund with the help of European Investment Bank (EIB), to be christened as Delhi Risk Mitigation Fund for off grid and decentralized application of solar energy.
21. ISC noted the status of Paris Risk Mitigation Fund, and advised the ISA Secretariat to expedite launching of the Fund. ISC also suggested that ISA member countries should participate in the Risk Mitigation Fund as well as institute such Funds at the national level. ISC further suggested that efforts should be made to develop a platform for managing the Fund by an independent body at no profit no loss basis, and there should be no major financial implication for ISA.

**Agenda Item 6.5: Resolution on welcoming the Countries that have signed the Framework Agreement and appreciating those that have also ratified the same along with status update.**

22. The Chair welcomed the countries that have signed and ratified the Framework Agreement of the ISA since the last ISC meeting and moved resolution for welcoming the countries. Representatives from Sri Lanka and Republic of Guyana informed that their countries have also signed and ratified the ISA Framework Agreement. Representative from Gabon announced that they are in a process submitting the instrument of ratification.
23. ISC passed the resolution.

**Agenda Item 6.6: Energy Efficiency as an integral area of activity of ISA under Article II (1)**

24. The Chair introduced the Agenda and opined that solarisation leads to energy efficiency by cutting down consumption of fossil fuel based energy. Therefore, combining energy efficiency with solar will broaden the appeal, scope and area of ISA activities. The representative from Brazil opined that the ISA should focus its resources for faster deployment of solar energy systems and devices in ISA member countries.

She informed that there are dedicated international bodies for looking into energy efficiency aspects.

25. ISC advised the Secretariat to re-examine the matter and limit energy efficiency issues to solar sector and solar related areas.

#### **Agenda Item 6.7: ISA Founding Conference on 11 March 2018**

26. The Chair informed that the ISA Founding Conference has been rescheduled to 11 March 2018. Joint invitation letter from Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Hon'ble President of France have been sent to all the ISA signatory countries for participation in the event.
27. ISC noted and approved the proposal for holding the Founding Conference of the ISA on 11 March 2018.

#### **Agenda Item 6.8: Rescheduling of Global REINVEST 2017 India-ISA Partnership**

28. The chair informed that the 2nd Global RE-INVEST 2018 India with ISA Partnership has been re-scheduled to 19 – 21 April, 2018. He invited all ISA member countries to attend the second RE-INVEST.
29. ISC approved the proposal for ISA partnership in 2nd Global RE-INVEST.

#### **Agenda Item 6.9: Selection of Director General of the ISA in the first Assembly of the ISA**

(On his request the Interim Director General of ISA was granted permission of absence while this Agenda was discussed.)

30. The Chair introduced the Agenda and stated that in accordance with the provisions of the Framework Agreement of the ISA, the Director General is selected as per the procedure approved by the General Assembly, and till such procedure is established the Interim Director General may continue. The Chair requested ISC to deliberate on the proposal.
31. The Dean of Africa Mission and also the Ambassador of Eritrea to India supported the proposal. He stated that ISA is at its crucial phase and appointment of Interim Director General as Director General will help in keeping the momentum, continuity and consistency of the policies. The representative from Tonga referring to the excellent work record of the Interim Director General and also the need for continuity at the present initial phase of ISA supported the proposal for the appointment of Interim Director General as the Director General. The representative from Senegal stated that at this stage ISA not only require continuity in activities but also the continuity of people working in the organization. He opined that appointing Interim Director General as the Director General as per the due

procedure will help in perpetuating the ISA activities. The representative from Comoros seconded the proposal made by the Ambassador of Eritrea.

32. The ISC approved the proposal and noted the suggestions.

**Agenda Item 6.10: Proposal for appointment of a Pro-term President for the First Assembly & holding of the first Assembly of International Solar Alliance**

33. The Chair informed that now ISA has become a treaty based international intergovernmental organization and the ISC ceases to exist. He stated that in accordance with Article IV of the Framework Agreement of the ISA, the Assembly of the ISA shall meet annually at the Ministerial Level at the seat of the ISA. He suggested that the ISC may consider recommending holding of the first Assembly close to the RE-INVEST in April 2018. He suggested that in the interest of continuity, till the General Assembly of the ISA is convened, India as Chair and France as Co-Chair of the ISC may continue to steer the process of putting in place ISA's instruments, rules and regulations. He further proposed that the ISA Secretariat may initiate the process for holding first General Assembly of the ISA including logistics, Agenda and other institutional requirements for the purpose.

34. After some discussions, the ISC decided the following:-

- i. The IDG was authorized to initiate the process and undertake all activities as deemed necessary for holding first General Assembly of the ISA on a earliest possible date or on the side-lines of the 2nd Global RE-INVEST ; and
- ii. In the interest of continuity and under the mandate of the Paris Declaration, ISC recommended that the General Assembly of the ISA in its first meeting keeping in view the need for continuity and consistency, consider continuance of India as Chair and France as Co-chair for a period of one year for putting in place ISA's instruments, rules and regulations.

**Agenda Item 6.11: Ratification of ISA's Joint Declaration with European Investment Bank (EIB) and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)**

35. The Chair informed that the ISA signed Joint Declarations with EIB and EBRD on 6 October, 2017 and 2 November, 2017 respectively for mobilising finance to develop and deploy affordable solar energy in solar rich countries. The Chair further stated that ISA is developing an action programme with each such partner.



36. The Co-chair appreciated the on-going outreach efforts and encouraged ISA to develop strong links and collaboration with partner organizations, to contribute to developing common tools and programmes.
37. ISC ratified signing of Joint Declarations with EIB and EBRD.

**Agenda Item 6.12: Proposed Joint Declaration with Commonwealth Secretariat**

38. The Chair informed about the proposal for entering into a partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat for deployment of solar energy in ISA member Countries. He stated that ISA Secretariat plans to sign a Joint Declaration with the Commonwealth Secretariat on the side-lines of the Commonwealth Summit during April 2018. IDG informed that efforts are on to rope in more partners, such as UNIDO, UNWOMEN, ESCAP, GGGI, etc. so that ISA can have more coordinated action to enable the National Focal Points (NFPs) implement ISA programmes in their respective countries.
39. ISC approved the proposal and authorized the IDG ISA to sign the Joint declaration with Commonwealth Secretariat.

**Agenda Item 6.13: Review of progress on the Solar Technology Application and Resource Centre**

40. The Chair introduced the Agenda and requested the Interim Director General to detail the proposal. The Interim Director General informed that Detailed Project Report for setting Solar Technology Application and Resource-Centre (STAR-C) is under preparation. Broadly, STAR-C envisages establishing 10 Solar Centres of Global Excellence by upgrading National Solar Energy Centres in the ISA countries. ISA proposes to define common standards of such centres. These centres are expected to be leaders in areas of solar innovation, solar R&D, testing, certification, quality control etc. ISA has plans to invite existing 28 solar centres, both in and outside the ISA and discuss the plan. Currently National Institute of Solar Energy, (NISE), India and INES, France are jointly working on the idea. Asian Development Bank (ADB) has evinced interest in financing some such centres through technical assistance.
41. While supporting the proposal the co-chair stated that training for all ISA actors from policy-makers to technicians and consumer is key to achieve ISA goals. Such programme will help to ensure that solar applications are well maintained and follow high level of quality requirements in all ISA countries. Local populations should be the main targets of this programme, in particular women, so they can reap most benefits from solar energy for their day-to-day needs.

42. After some deliberations, the ISC appreciating the proposal, suggested that first DPR for establishing STAR-C should be prepared. ISA Secretariat may consider placing the same for approval of the Assembly in the near future.

**Agenda Item 6.14: Office Memorandum on Financial Delegation**

43. The Chair informed that currently financial regulations and procedures are being finalized. Once financial regulations and procedures are finalized, the same will be placed for approval to the General Assembly. He informed that for day to day activities of ISA, the Interim Director General has specified financial delegation that forms Annexure VII of the Agenda.
44. ISC approved the financial delegation as contained in Annexure-VII of the Agenda and authorized the Interim Director General to make the expenditures with modifications as deemed necessary until regular rules are in place after approval by the Assembly and duly notified by the Interim Secretariat.

**Agenda Item 6.15: Extending the Scope of Application of the ISA Framework Agreement and granting voting rights to Partner Countries**

45. The Chair informed that a number of countries that do not lie between the Tropics, namely Nepal, Germany, Republic of Korea, Tunisia and Italy have expressed their interest for becoming a full-fledged member country of ISA. He suggested that opening membership to all countries that are UN members will make ISA a global initiative. He further stated that the process of enlarging the ambit of ISA will require amendment in the Framework Agreement of the ISA that can only be considered by the General Assembly. He however, requested members to deliberate whether the ISC as the constituent Assembly may create a constituent convention and consider granting membership to countries outside the inter-tropical zone.
46. The representative of Australian High Commission in India requested for clarification on the proposal for creating constituent convention. He suggested that such a decision shall be taken by the General Assembly where countries may consider introducing amendment to the Framework Agreement for revising the membership norms.
47. The Co-chair welcomed and supported the proposal for enlarging coverage by granting membership to countries outside the inter-tropical zone. She suggested that ISC may recommend the proposal to enlarge the ISA scope and decision on process and modalities should be taken by the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the Framework Agreement of the ISA. She also suggested that the ISA secretariat shall

develop the process for granting membership to all the UN member countries outside the inter-tropical zone.

48. ISC recommended a decision for amending the membership norms shall be taken by the General Assembly on amendments to the Framework Agreement. Meanwhile the ISA secretariat shall develop the process for granting membership to all the UN member countries outside the inter-tropical zone and take measures to introduce a suitable amendment proposal in the first General Assembly.

**Agenda Item 6.16: Notification of the Framework Agreement entering into effect under article XIII (1)**

49. The chair stated that in conformity with the Framework Agreement of the ISA on 6 December 2017, ISA became the treaty based international intergovernmental organization. He informed that notification for ISA Framework Agreement coming into force, issued by the ISA Secretariat forms Annexure VIII of the Agenda.
50. ISC noted the notification issued by ISA Secretariat.

**Agenda Item 7: New Proposals**

**Agenda Item 7.1: First Outreach Programme of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)**

51. The Chair informed that the ISA hosted the ISA Forum during 17-18 January, 2018 at the Future World Energy Summit (WFES) 2018, Abu Dhabi, UAE. He stated that details of activities in the Forum have been detailed in Agenda.
52. ISC with appreciation noted the ISA Secretariat's initiative.

**Agenda Item 7.2: Proposed Joint Declaration between ISA and Green Climate Fund (GCF)**

53. The Chair introduced the Agenda and requested GCF representative to present the collaboration proposed between ISA and GCF. The GCF representative underlined synergies between ISA and GCF activities, and suggested that both the organizations could jointly work for mobilizing finance for development and deployment of affordable solar energy. Presentation by GCF representative is enclosed as Annexure IV.
54. ISC approved the proposal and also authorized the Interim Director General to sign the Joint declaration with GCF.

**Agenda Item 7.3: Appeal by ISA to the ISA Member countries contributing to the Solidarity Tax on airplane tickets to apportion a part of such contributions to ISA to fund capacity building projects in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) & Small Islands Countries**

55. The Chair mentioned that apportioning a part of Solidarity Tax on airplane tickets for solar energy activities will generate significant financial resources and the same could be utilized for capacity building for deploying solar energy projects in Least Developed and Small Islands Countries.
56. ISC suggested that ISA Secretariat may undertake an analysis of the prospects and likely gains. Thereafter with proper rationale approach the ISA Member countries for apportioning a part the Solidarity Tax to fund capacity building projects in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) & Small Islands Countries.

**Agenda Item 7.4: To establish the Solar Energy Deployment Fund similar to the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund (LDN Fund) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in order to promote public private partnership for blended finance.**

57. The Chair introduced the Agenda and requested Ms. Mohua Mukerjee, Programme Ambassador, ISA to present the proposal. In her presentation Ms Mukerjee highlighted that abandoned coal mines not suitable for agriculture may be used for solar farming. The Interim Director General mentioned that ISA would explore with UNCCD the prospects of utilizing LDN Fund for solar energy deployment in the degraded lands in the ISA member countries.
58. ISC authorized the IDG to takes necessary steps for partnering with UNFCCD to enable the utilization of the LDN Fund for promoting solar energy deployments and applications in the degraded and waste lands in the ISA member countries.

**Agenda Item 7.5: Creation of a UN International Day dedicated to Access to Energy (SDG7)**

59. The Chair informed that the United Nations has been observing international days on various themes. He opined that considering overarching importance of access to energy for human well-being there is ample rationale and justification to dedicate a day for access to energy. He suggested that UN General Assembly may be requested to earmark 6 December as the UN day dedicated to Universal Energy Access to be known as Universal Energy Access Day of the UN.
60. ISC agreed that such a UN Energy Day is the responsibility of the United Nations. ISA Secretariat can propose assistance to the UN to implement the proposal.

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**Agenda Item 7.6: National Focal Point Conclave**

61. The Chair stated that first National Focal Point Conclave report, organized from 6 - 15 December 2017, has been detailed in the Agenda. He informed that second Conclave has been scheduled from 11 March 2018.
62. ISC noted the initiative of the ISA's Secretariat and the progress made.

**Agenda Item 7.7: ISA Experts without Borders: The Rainbow Circle**

63. The Chair introduced the Agenda and stated that the expert empanelment proposal is primarily aimed at facilitating ISA member countries 'to access experts for development and deployment of solar energy project and programme. He requested members to deliberate on the contours of the proposal that forms Annexure-X of the Agenda.
64. The representative from High Commission of Australia suggested for a revisit the name of the initiative. The representative from TONGA stated that most of the small islands countries and least developed countries can't afford to pay the cost on hiring the expert and the provisions suggested in Annexure-X needs to be accordingly modified or ISA to explore measures to extend financial assistance to meet the costs.
65. ISC approved the proposal for establishing panel of ISA experts with an alternative appropriate nomenclature. ISC further suggested that in the light of discussions the ISA Secretariat the may revise the provisions and develop guidelines for selecting the panels of experts for approval of General Assembly.

**Agenda Item 7.8: Proposal for Solar Rooftop Demonstration Projects in Member countries**

66. The Chair introduced the Agenda and opined that the proposal as contained in the Agenda has significant demonstration effect. Such projects will help in creating awareness about potential of solar energy in meeting energy needs. The Chair suggested that such projects should be established through transparent procedure of selecting the vendor for implementation of the project. The representative from Comoros supported the Chair and suggested that all countries that have ratified ISA Framework Agreement should be eligible. Presentation by Tata representative is enclosed as Annexure-V.
67. ISC approved the proposal and suggested that ISA Secretariat shall adopt transparent procedure for selecting reputed companies for implementing the projects ISC further suggested that all countries that have ratified and signed ISA Framework Agreement should be eligible.

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**Agenda Item 8: Other Item with permission of the Chair.****Agenda Item 8.1: ISA Solar Fellowships for “Midcareer Professionals”.**

68. The Chair introduced the additional agenda (enclosed as Annexure-VI) and stated that ISA secretariat proposes to initiate a new ISA programme, apart from training of master trainers, as par of its capacity building activity in member countries. Under this programme 20 fellowships will be offered in the field of Solar Energy for pursuing Master’s degree in Renewable Energy Management & Economics, for Midcareer Professionals from ISA member countries. The fellowship programme will be implemented through the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), India.
69. ISC approved the proposal for instituting Fellowships for Midcareer Professionals and suggested that the ISA Secretariat should develop guidelines for the programme and constitute an International Committee to finalise the list of selected candidates for ISA Solar Fellowships for Midcareer Professionals.

**Decisions Taken**

70. In summary, the following decisions were taken in the 6th ISC meeting:-

70.1 The following are the action points for the ISA Secretariat:-

- i. Sign the Headquarters Agreement between the ISA and the Host Country before 11 March 2018 when the Founding Conference of the ISA is scheduled. On behalf of the ISA, the IDG was authorized to sign the Headquarters Agreement (Agenda Item 6.2);
- ii. Develop business models for dissemination of solar pumps and other solar systems and devices in ISA member countries and also explore possibilities of coordinated action with stakeholders for arranging finance from corporate, bilateral and multilateral financial institutions, philanthropies etc. ( Agenda Item 6.3);
- iii. Expedite launching of the Paris Risk Mitigation Fund (Agenda Item 6.4);
- iv. Re-examine the proposal for Energy Efficiency becoming as an integral area of activity of ISA and limit energy efficiency issues to solar sector and solar related areas (Agenda Item 6.6);
- v. Initiate process and undertake all activities as deemed necessary for holding first General Assembly of the ISA on a earliest possible date or on the side-lines of the 2nd Global RE-INVEST (Agenda Item 6.10);
- vi. In Interest of continuity and under the mandate of the Paris Declaration, ISC recommended that the General Assembly of the ISA in its first meeting keeping in view the need for continuity and consistency, consider continuance of India as Chair and France

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- as Co-chair for a period of one year for putting in place ISA's instruments, rules and regulations. ( Agenda Item 6.10).
- vii. Prepare Detailed Project Report (DPR) for establishing Solar Technology Application and Resource-Centre (STAR-C) and place the same for approval of the Assembly in the near future (Agenda Item 6.13).
  - viii. The IDG will make expenditures as per the financial delegation, as contained in Annexure-VI of the Agenda, with modifications as deemed necessary until regular rules are in place after approval by the Assembly and duly notified by the Interim Secretariat (Agenda Item 6.14).
  - ix. Shall develop the process for granting membership to all the UN member countries outside the inter-tropical zone and take measures to introduce a suitable amendment proposal in the first General Assembly according to the Framework Agreement provisions (Agenda Item 6.15);
  - x. Undertake an analysis of the prospects and likely gains from apportioning apart of the Solidarity Tax on airplane tickets for solar energy activities. Thereafter with proper rationale approach the ISA Member countries for apportioning a part the Solidarity Tax to fund capacity building projects in Least Developed
  - xi. Countries (LDCs) & Small Islands Countries (Agenda Item 7.3);
  - xii. Take necessary steps for partnering with United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to enable the utilization of the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Fund for promoting solar energy deployments and applications in the degraded and waste lands in the ISA member countries (Agenda Item 7.4);
  - xiii. Outreach to the United Nations regarding a proposal for 6 December as the UN day dedicated to Universal Energy Access to be known as Universal Energy Access Day of the UN (Agenda Item 7.5);
  - xiv. Shall revise the provisions of the proposal for establishing panel of ISA experts with an alternative appropriate nomenclature, and develop guidelines for selecting the panels of experts for approval of General Assembly (Agenda Item 7.7);
  - xv. Develop a transparent procedure for selecting reputed companies for implementing the projects for setting up solar Rooftop Demonstration Projects in Member countries. Countries that have ratified and signed ISA Framework Agreement will be eligible ( Agenda Item 7.8); and
  - xvi. Develop guidelines for the programme and constitute an International Committee to finalise the list of selected candidates for ISA Solar Fellowships for Midcareer Professionals. (Agenda Item 8.1).

70.2 The following were approved:-

- i. Launching of new programmes on Solar Roof Top and Solar Supported e-mobility ( Agenda Item 6.3);
- ii. Proposal for holding the Founding Conference of the ISA on 11 March 2018 (Agenda Item 6.7);
- iii. Proposal for ISA partnership in 2nd Global RE-INVEST ( Agenda Item 6.8);
- iv. The ISC approved the proposal for selection of Director General of ISA and noted the suggestions (Agenda Item 6.9);
- v. Proposal for signing the Joint declaration with Commonwealth Secretariat and authorized the IDG to sign the same (Agenda Item 6.12); and
- vi. Proposal for signing Joint Declaration between ISA and Green Climate Fund

(GCF) and also authorized the IDG to sign the Joint declaration (Agenda Item 7.2).

70.3 The following were ratified:-

- i. Passed the resolution on welcoming the Countries that have signed the Framework Agreement and appreciating those that have also ratified the same along with status update (Agenda Item 6.5); and
- ii. Signing of Joint Declarations with European Investment Bank (EIB) and

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) (Agenda Item 6.11).

70.4 The following were noted:-

- i. Notification for ISA Framework Agreement coming into force issued by ISA Secretariat( Agenda Item 6.16);
- ii. ISA Secretariat's initiative for hosting first Outreach Programme during 17-18 January, 2018 ( Agenda Item 7.1);and
- iii. The progress under the ISA's Secretariat initiative for organizing the first National Focal Point Conclave from 6 - 15 December 2017 (Agenda Item 7.6).

**Concluding remarks, and proposed way forward, by the Chair and the Co-Chair.**

71. The Chair thanked the Co-chair H.E Mrs Royal and delegates for their intense engagement with the ISA process and for providing guidance for the ISA activities. He stated that he firmly believed that ISA as an action oriented alliance would become instrumental in transforming



solar energy landscape. This would require each and every one's support and assured that Government of India will continue to provide all possible support to the ISA initiative. He stated that the Founding Conference of the ISA on 11 March 2018 will be a milestone for achieving solar energy revolution and urged each and every one to contribute in the process. He once again thanked the members for participation and interventions, and also the ISA Secretariat for making the meeting a success.

72. The Co-chair thanked India, countries participating in the meeting, and the ISA Secretariat, and stated that the presence shows our collective determination and commitment to make ISA a success and to deliver its full transformation potential. She further stated that we work together for the ISA Founding Conference and the General Assembly. She encouraged countries to participate effectively and contribute with expertise, experiences and needs to the different ISA programmes in order to make them even more relevant for the objectives that ISA is pursuing. She hoped that the ISA will be successful if it shows clear leadership from member countries and strong ownership of the common tools that are developed. She finally stated that ISA is a great tool to pool in our efforts, instruments to attract more finance, develop new projects and eventually meet our global ambition.

73. The Chair and Co-Chair formally closed the 6th meeting of the ISC.

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