



INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE
Session on 'One Sun, One World, One Grid'

28 NOV 2020 (Saturday) | 11.30 – 13.00 Hrs. (IST)

BACKGROUND AND PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, at the First Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in Oct 2018, had called for connecting solar energy supply across borders with the vision of 'One Sun One World One Grid' (OSOWOG). The concept behind the OSOWOG is 'The Sun Never Sets' and is a constant at some geographical location, globally, at any given point of time.

ISA Member countries are located across the regions of Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Europe. Development of large-scale solar generation capacity in various regions and development of bi-lateral, regional and inter-regional transmission inter-connections has the potential to eventually lead to global inter-connection of solar energy resources and solar energy transfer from one part of the world to other. The fundamental concept behind OSOWOG is to develop a trans-national grid that will be laid all over the globe to transport the solar power generated across the globe to different load centres. It would thus help in realizing the vision of "One Sun, One World, One Grid" articulated by India.

As a first step to implement the OSOWOG initiative, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed among the ISA, the Government of India and the World Bank at the First World Solar Technology Summit on September 8, 2020. As per the MOU, the ISA will act as the Nodal Agency for all activities, including implementation of the OSOWOG study for developing a long-term vision, implementation plan, road map and institutional framework for implementing the initiative. The MNRE will approve the selection of the Consultant for implementation of this study for evaluating the feasibility and implementation of the global OSOWOG project. Sustainable Partnership for Rooftop Solar Acceleration in Bharat (SUPRABHA), a technical assistance programme of the World Bank through SBI, will fund this study. This partnership will herald the creation of a multi-sectoral and global collaboration to build an ecosystem of interconnected renewable energy resources.

The OSOWOG study will be implemented in three phases. In the first Phase, the Indian Grid interconnects with the Middle East, South Asia, and Southeast Asia grids to share solar and other renewable energy resources for meeting electricity needs including during peak demand. It is then interconnected with the African power pools in the second Phase and the third phase would vie for global interconnection of the power transmission grid to achieve the One Sun One World One Grid's vision.

The Covid-19 pandemic represents the biggest shock to the global energy system in decades. The recovery strategies that a country decides will present opportunities for it to become greener and more resilient. OSOWOG can catalyse investments in sustainable energy solutions, expand energy access, create jobs, improve health, make economies more competitive and resilient and advance the SDGs. Resultant economic benefits would positively impact poverty alleviation and support in mitigating water, sanitation, food and other socioeconomic challenges. At the same time, OSOWOG can reinstate the global interdependencies threatened by the pandemic.

The current levels of ambition, related to increased renewable energy use, do not match the efforts needed for meeting the mitigation targets, set out in the Paris Agreement. Countries must enhance their NDCs by committing to more ambitious targets and policies to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 to pursue the 1.5°C goal. An intercontinental grid, like OSOWOG, can be instrumental in achieving this goal through increased deployment and trading of renewable energy. This is entirely sustainable power producing no carbon emissions and no air or water pollution.



The initiative will help to realize “three transitions” of energy development. The transition of energy production from fossil fuel to clean energy dominance. The transition of energy allocation from local balance to cross-border and global distribution and the transition from coal, oil, and gas in energy consumption to electric-centric consumption.

The ball has been set rolling. The first plenary on OSOWOG was organized along the side-lines of the recently concluded Third Assembly of ISA- Member countries during 14-16 October 2020. In its first positive response to the initiative, the United Kingdom (UK), during the Assembly visualised OSOWOG and World Solar Bank as two key deliverables in November 2021 at the 26th Conference of Parties COP26 to be held in Glasgow. Rt Hon. Alok Sharma (Member of Parliament, Secretary of State for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy) offered UK’s support to ISA Secretariat on implementation of OSOWOG initiative.

The roadmap for implementing the OSOWOG vision is anticipated to be ready by next year. There exists a robust economic and environmental imperative. With the technology for transmitting electricity through sub-sea cables also well established and proven, the onus is on the global leaders to leverage and garner political will and mobilize financing to make this a reality.

To capitalize on the progress achieved thus far on this subject, a second plenary has been planned at the Third Global RE-Invest Meet & Expo between 26-28 November 2020. This plenary will be a corollary to the First plenary, reinforcing the value, need and criticality of this global initiative. Appended below is the brief Agenda for the second plenary.

<u>PROVISIONAL AGENDA</u>	
SESSION BRIEF:	
The Session will bring various stakeholders to deliberate upon the challenges & opportunities, and the roadmap for realisation of the “One Sun One World One Grid’ initiative.	
11:30-11:35 HRS	Welcome and Setting the Context H.E Mr. Upendra Tripathy Director General, International Solar Alliance.
11:35 – 11:40 Hrs	Special Address H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Lenain* Ambassador of France to India, New Delhi <i>*To be confirmed</i>
11:40– 11:50 Hrs	Inaugural Address H.E. Mr. R.K. Singh Hon’ble Minister for Power, and New & Renewable Energy, Govt. of India, and President of ISA Assembly
11:50– 12:45 Hrs	Moderated Panel Discussion

<p>Moderator</p> <p>PANELISTS</p>	<p>Dr. Amit Jain Senior Energy Specialist, World Bank</p> <p>Presentation on OSOWOG by: Mr. Nicholas Dunlop Secretary General, Climate Parliament</p> <p>Mr. K Sreekant Chairman and Managing Director, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.</p> <p>Ms Anita Marangoly George Executive Vice-President and Deputy Head CDPQ Global</p> <p>Prof. Christian Breyer Lappeenranta University of Technology, Finland.</p> <p>Prof. Lawrence Kazmerski International Solar Energy Society, Germany</p> <p>Mr. Gavin McGillivray Economic Minister and Counsellor, British High Commission in India</p>
<p>12:45-12:55 Hrs</p>	<p>Closing Remarks H.E. Mr. Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Govt. of India</p>
<p>12:55 – 13:00 Hrs</p>	<p>Vote of Thanks Mr. Jagjeet Sareen Director (F), International Solar Alliance</p>