At a Glance: Governance Bodies of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)

The governance bodies of the ISA offer an integrated approach to decision-making within the Alliance and work towards making the programmes and initiatives of the ISA holistic and considered in its approach and implementation. Each body within the governance structure of the ISA informs the deliberations of the next body.

Regional Committee Meetings → Standing Committee Meetings → Assembly

- Region-wise inputs from the members of the ISA across its four regions of Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America-Caribbean, and Europe & Others are aggregated at the Regional Committees.
- The recommendations made by the Regional Committee are deliberated upon by the Standing Committee, consisting of the Hon’ble President, Co-President and 8 regional Vice-Presidents.
- The deliberations of the Standing Committee are then put to the Assembly, the apex decision-making body of the ISA, for its consideration and approval.
- The Regional Committee, Standing Committee and Assembly of the ISA are all convened at the Ministerial level. Delegations include the Hon’ble Minister, National Focal Point, and Contact Point. Such high-level participation ensures that the Governance Meetings facilitate in-depth analysis of the ISA’s strategic initiatives, programmes, and activities.
- These Meetings simultaneously extend the ISA Secretariat the opportunity to enhance cooperation with ISA Member Countries and provide Member Countries with the opportunity to improve collaboration among themselves and mutually identify avenues of cooperation and partnership.

Provision for the Committees of the ISA

- Rule 77 of the Rules of Procedure (RoP) of the Assembly of the ISA allows for the establishment of Committees that aid in the performance of the ISA’s functions and assist in decision-making regarding the implementation of all ISA programmes. Consequently, Rule 79 of the RoP establishes the Standing Committee, consisting of 10 members. The current members are:
  a) President of the Assembly: Republic of India
  b) Co-President of the Assembly - France
  c) Eight Vice Presidents\(^1\) of the Standing Committee – two from each of the four ISA geographical regions:
    - Africa: Republic of Mauritius and Republic of Niger
    - Asia-Pacific: Republic of Fiji and Republic of Nauru,
    - Latin America and the Caribbean – The Cooperative Republic of Guyana and Republic of Cuba
    - Europe & Others – The Kingdom of Netherlands and the United Kingdom

\(^1\) Vice-Presidents are selected based on seniority in the submission of the instrument of ratification to the Depositary of the ISA, i.e., Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.
The President and Co-President have a term of two years and may stand for re-election. The Vice-Presidents each have a term of one year and are selected to their position based on their seniority on the date of submission of the Instrument of Ratification.

The terms of the current President and Co-President will conclude in October 2022.

**Regional Committee**

The Regional Committees have been established as a forum to aggregate the regional inputs of the Member Countries towards the activities, programmes, and initiatives of the ISA and serve to enrich the geographical representation of the ISA’s membership in its work and ensure that the impact addresses the priorities of the region. The Regional Committees of the ISA span across the four regions of the ISA – Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe & Others and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Regional Committee also provides a platform for concerted engagement with National Focal Points (NFPs) of the ISA’s memberships, with input and feedback from the NFPs at the Virtual Briefing Meetings ensuring that the ISA’s work is responsive to the needs of its Members across the various regions.

The mandate of the Regional Committee includes, among other things, the following:

- Review the scope of solar applications for regional Member Countries through analytical mapping, sourcing relevant information regarding local needs and objectives. Subsequently leading to domestic measures and initiatives to achieve desired objectives.
- Committee strives to ensure maximum impact of the programmes and participation of the largest possible number of Members, including defining of simple, measurable, and mobilising targets to measure the impact of initiatives and activities.

**Standing Committee**

The Standing Committee is convened twice annually at the ministerial level among its ten members. The President serves as the Chair while the Co-President serves as Co-Chair.

The mandate of the Standing Committee includes, among other things, the following:

- Consideration and submission to the Assembly of the draft work programme and the draft budget of the ISA;
b. Approve arrangements for the sessions of the Assembly, including the preparation of the draft agenda;

c. Consider and submit to the Assembly the draft annual report concerning the activities of the ISA and other reports as prepared by the Secretariat and prepare any other reports which the Assembly may request;

d. Conclude agreements or arrangements with States, international organizations and international agencies on behalf of the ISA, subject to prior approval by the Assembly;

e. Substantiate the work programme as adopted by the Assembly with a view to its implementation by the Secretariat and within the limits of the adopted budget;

f. Have the authority to refer to the Assembly matters for its consideration; and

g. Establish subsidiary organs, when necessary, and decide on their terms of reference and duration;

h. Take stock of the programmes and advise on the activities for the successful implementation of the work programme of the ISA and provide guidance in achieving the objectives of ISA; and

i. Advise on emergent issues and on the matters pending approval of the Assembly, when so requested by the Secretariat. The Standing Committee may also advise on other matters, including reallocation of appropriations to different Programmes and activities in the approved Work programme when requested by the Secretariat.

j. Consider and recommend to the ISA Assembly those matters which have substantial financial implications for the ISA, including those recommended by the ISA Committees. Such matters will need to be specifically brought for consideration to the Standing Committee at the first instance in the Work Programme and Budget. Upon recommendation of the Standing Committee, the proposals may be brought for approval by the Assembly in separate agenda item(s) and will be cleared at various levels as per financial delegation for implementation.

k. Shall perform all the functions of the erstwhile Finance Committee, General and Legal Committee and Programme Committee.

ISA Assembly

The Assembly of the ISA is the apex decision-making body which comprises representatives from each Member Country. The Assembly convenes annually at the seat of ISA wherein ISA Member Country representatives exercise their votes to make all necessary decisions concerning the implementation of the ISA’s Framework Agreement and coordinated actions to be taken to achieve its objectives.

The 2022 Assembly envisages the participation of ministers and their delegations from 107 Member countries in addition to observers, prospective member nations, partner organisations and special invitees.