
Sixth Session of the Assembly of the International Solar Alliance

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Report of the Sixth Session of the Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)

Summary

The document presents the Report of the Sixth Session of the Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)

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Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

1. The President of the ISA Assembly opened the Sixth Session of the ISA Assembly and welcomed Vice Presidents of the International Solar Alliance, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Honorary Consuls, and other distinguished guests to India. He reminded the gathering of the immense challenges and opportunities lying ahead in the collective pursuit for a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable planet.
2. He noted that the world is facing an unprecedented climate crisis, marked by rising temperatures, extreme weather events which calls for a palpable sense of urgency. The President emphasized that our commitment to solar energy is imperative for the planet's survival and future generations' well-being.
3. Addressing the audience, he highlighted that renewable energy sources have the potential to supply 65% of the world's total electricity by 2030 and decarbonize 90% of the power sector by 2050. The recent G20 summit in New Delhi underscored the urgent need for a transition to clean energy, acknowledging the complexities involved. The President informed the Assembly that the International Solar Alliance membership has grown to 116 members and signatory countries, fostering a collaborative environment for shared learning and innovation. He expressed hope for more countries to join the alliance in the future.
4. Reflecting on the journey of the International Solar Alliance, the President highlighted notable milestones, including progress in programs spanning various sectors such as agriculture, health, transport, battery storage, heating and cooling, green hydrogen, and capacity building. He mentioned the successful establishment of the Solar Technology and Applications Resources Centre in five countries and the International Solar Alliance Global Solar Facility aimed at raising \$100 million. Discussing the challenges faced by the African region in deploying solar energy capacities, the President emphasized the role of the Global Solar Facility in addressing investment risks and providing security. Drawing from India's experience, he cited private sector investments, a strong legal framework, and dispute resolution mechanisms as crucial factors in attracting foreign investments.
5. The President outlined two priorities for future missions of the International Solar Alliance. The first, to constitute a group of experts in generation, distribution, and transmission to develop a strong regulatory framework for beneficiary Member Countries. The second, to establishing a fund as payment security for investments in Member Countries, particularly in Africa, to de-risk investments and attract more investment in renewable energy.
6. In conclusion, the President invited all Member Countries, International Solar Alliance partner organizations, and other organizations to collaborate in making these initiatives catalysts for transformative change. He reiterated the vision of creating a sustainable world by adopting solar energy solutions and set the objective of tripling global renewable energy capacity by 2030. The President expressed confidence that, together, they could rise to the challenges of climate change.

7. Finally, he welcomed all attendees to the Sixth Session of the ISA Assembly and invited the Co-President of the Assembly and the Co-chair of the meeting, the French Republic, to deliver the opening remarks.
8. The Co-President of the ISA Assembly expressed her thanks to all the esteemed delegates. She mentioned that on 14 July, French President Emmanuel Macron welcomed Prime Minister Modi as the Chief Guest on their National Day, celebrating 25 years of strategic partnership between India and France. The Co-President stated that global issues remained at the heart of their partnerships and emphasized the importance of continuing to work together.
9. Regarding the International Solar Alliance, she highlighted that it had evolved into a truly multilateral project, extending beyond being a bridge between India and France. She confirmed France's commitment to the Solar Alliance as a key initiative to promote clean energy. She appreciated the growing support for the projects of International Solar Alliance.
10. The Co-President acknowledged the significant changes in the geopolitical and energy context since the Alliance's launch in 2015. She noted the urgency of addressing climate emergencies and the acceleration of the solar revolution. The challenges, she stated, were no longer just supporting the development of solar energy but redirecting momentum toward specific countries and populations to contribute to sustainable development goals.
11. She outlined three challenges for the Alliance: accelerating solar energy deployment in major markets, ensuring equitable distribution of solar energy investment, and focusing on people. The Co-President discussed France's commitment to increase renewable energy in the European Union and highlighted the need for equitable distribution of solar benefits, particularly in Africa.
12. She emphasized the importance of improving access to finance and restructuring international financial architecture to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The Co-President discussed France's initiatives, partnerships, and financial support for clean energy projects in various countries.
13. The Co-President concluded by addressing the importance of human capacity building in the solar revolution, emphasizing the role of engineers, technicians, and training centres. She mentioned France's contribution to capacity building through the STAR-C program. She expressed confidence in the International Solar Alliance's ability to provide solutions to global challenges, calling it a force for progress. She highlighted the upcoming COP 28 as a crucial test for the Alliance and its members, thanking the audience for their attention.
14. The President of the ISA Assembly thanked the Co-President for her remarks. He announced the completion of demonstration projects in four countries with the aid of the International Solar Alliance that would be dedicated to the people. He then invited the Director General, ISA to brief the Assembly on the details of these projects.
15. The Director General (DG), ISA explained that these projects were a part of the 27 initiatives in the Least Developed Countries and the Small Island Developing States, which had received support from the International Solar Alliance due to their potential for replication. The DG ISA mentioned that projects in Jamaica, Togo, and Guyana had been completed. Additionally, three more projects in

Uganda, Comoros, and Mali had been successfully completed and launched during the fifth meeting of the ISA Regional Committee in Africa.

16. He informed that, amidst the presence of esteemed ministers from Malawi, Fiji, Seychelles, and Kiribati, the ISA Assembly would be dedicating demonstration projects setup in the respective countries. The first project highlighted was the one in Malawi, specifically the solarization of the parliament building with a total capacity of 25 KW. The project, undertaken in two phases, currently lacked battery backup in its initial phase. The second phase was expected to cover a 105 KW solar PV system and a new carport structure of suitable size, equipped with battery backup. This initiative aimed to support Malawi's efforts to enhance reliable and affordable power through clean solar energy.
17. The DG ISA then requested the video presentation of the Malawi project. After the video, he invited the Minister for Energy for the Republic of Malawi, to present a brief on the demonstration project.
18. The Minister of Energy of the Republic of Malawi extended thanks to the International Solar Alliance on behalf of the Government and the people of Malawi for the generous sponsorship of phase one of a transformative and demonstration solar project at the parliament building in Lilongwe, the capital city of Malawi. The Minister reported that the installation would not only illuminate the parliament building and reduce energy bills but also enhance political will for the implementation of solar projects, paving the way for a more sustainable and energy-resilient Malawi. The installation was seen as a beacon of hope, demonstrating that with shared vision and collaboration, the One Sun, One World, One Grid initiative proposed by the Honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, could be successfully implemented, leaving no one behind.
19. Furthermore, the Minister was delighted to inform the assembly that the ISA support extended beyond the parliament building installation. ISA intended to provide technical support to Malawi in constructing 100 MW solar parks, and a pre-feasibility study had already been conducted. The ambitious undertaking promised to meet growing energy demands and significantly reduce carbon footprints, showcasing ISA's dedication to transforming the nation's energy landscape and collective commitment to a greener and more sustainable future.
20. The Minister emphasized the pivotal junction in Malawi's energy journey and expressed gratitude for the International Solar Alliance's unwavering support in realizing the vision of clean, renewable energy. In conclusion, he urged everyone to move forward together.
21. The Minister envisioned harnessing the power of the sun to propel Malawi and other countries into a future of energy security, economic prosperity, and environmental stewardship. On behalf of the Malawi government, he once again thanked the International Solar Alliance for their invaluable partnership and unwavering commitment to sustainable energy solutions, expressing confidence that together, they would forge a brighter and more sustainable future for all.
22. The DG ISA mentioned that the subsequent project, which received support from the International Solar Alliance, had been executed in Fiji. In this initiative, two rural health centres underwent solarization. Specifically, each of these centres was equipped with 8 kW systems accompanied by 20

kWh batteries, resulting in a cumulative installation of 16 kW and 40 kWh batteries. It was explained that these systems effectively met the total energy requirements of each health centre within a daily cycle of approximately 20 kWh—approximately 7.7 kWh during daylight hours and 12.1 kWh during non-daylight hours. The speaker further highlighted that because of the implementation of these two solar systems, both healthcare centres now enjoy a continuous power supply.

23. The DG ISA then requested the Minister of Fiji to present a brief on the pilot project.
24. The Minister of Fiji expressed gratitude on behalf of the government and the people of Fiji and acknowledged the International Solar Alliance for their generous assistance in solarizing two health centres. Despite having observed only one, the Minister clarified that two health centres were benefiting from the initiative. The health centres, situated in the maritime areas of the islands had been grappling with challenges related to maintaining a consistent power supply. These challenges adversely affected various aspects, including the limited use of medical equipment due to insufficient electricity, storage concerns, communication difficulties, staff safety, and retention issues.
25. The first health centre, located on Kadavu Island, serves eleven villages with approximately 1800 residents. Despite being the fourth largest island in Fiji it faces infrastructure challenges, particularly with a gravel road. The Minister highlighted the ongoing efforts to address these challenges.
26. The second health centre, situated on Banga Island near the capital, caters to two districts encompassing ten villages, three primary schools, and a secondary school, with a population of around 1,700. The installed solar systems supported by the International Solar Alliance instil confidence in the health sector and significantly enhance services to the people.
27. Expressing the nation's gratitude to the ISA, the Minister underscored the positive impact on health services and the overall well-being of the population. In this first meeting since the new government took office before the November 2022 elections, the Minister conveyed pleasure at witnessing ISA's active involvement in Fiji. Anticipating further engagements and expressing full government support for ISA activities, the Minister pledged to fulfil any obligations that may arise in the future.
28. The President thanked the Hon'ble Minister for his remarks.
29. The DG ISA informed that the third project was located in the Republic of Seychelles. The project involved the Solarization of a cold storage facility, which included a refrigeration unit and a cold room capable of holding 250 crates, each weighing 20 kg, totalling about five metric tons. This initiative aimed to benefit agricultural stakeholders on La Digue Islands in Seychelles. The project was executed in collaboration with the Nodal Agency, NTPC, the Seychelles Energy Commission and the Department of Agriculture.
30. He further explained that because of the project, agricultural products could now be stored at a temperature ranging from 4 to 10 degrees Celsius at a steady state. Additionally, the facility provided precooling of fresh farm produce at ambient temperature. The DG ISA concluded the statement by requesting the video documentation of the project.

31. After the video, the DG ISA requested Mr Flavian Zubert from the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment of the Republic of Seychelles for his remarks on the demonstration project.
32. The Minister stated that it was an honour for him to represent the Republic of Seychelles and to present the recently commissioned demonstration project to the Assembly. He emphasized that the plant stood as a testament to their unwavering commitment to sustainability and progress, highlighting the strength of international cooperation fostered by the ISA. In partnership with ISA, they successfully implemented the solar-powered cold storage unit on the island of Praslin, showcasing their dedication to sustainable energy solutions for all sectors of the economy.
33. He explained that the agreement for the project was signed in 2022, and the project itself was completed in October 2023. Acknowledging agriculture as one of the important pillars of their local economy, he noted that the cost of utility for the sector, particularly for services such as the provision of coal storage for agricultural produce postharvest, posed a significant challenge.
34. The Minister highlighted that cooling represented one of the biggest drivers of energy and cost in all sectors in Seychelles. He expressed the view that renewable energy technology, alongside demand-side management, was the solution to this costly issue. In executing the project, their primary objective was to provide vital support to agricultural stakeholders through the solar-powered cold storage facility, maintaining a controlled temperature range between four to ten degrees Celsius. The Minister stressed that the project aligned perfectly with their commitment to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), promising improved productivity, affordable and clean energy, and reduction in carbon emissions, with the overall goal of climate-proofing the economy. He anticipated that the project would improve the lives of agricultural communities on the island of Praslin by reducing the cost of utilities improving security and safety around storage areas.
35. The Minister expressed expectations that this pilot project would pave the way for other similar facilities in the country, either on farms or as common facilities to serve as outlets for locally produced agricultural products. On behalf of the government officials, he extended heartfelt gratitude to the ISA, all supporting partners of the ISA, the project implementation partner, the NTPC, and all those who played a vital role in turning the project into reality. He emphasized that together, they were shaping a brighter and more sustainable future for Seychelles.
36. The Minister looked forward to continuing the conversation on future programs that would accelerate solar applications at the 6th Assembly and concluded by expressing gratitude to the Chairman.
37. The President thanked the Hon'ble Minister for his remarks.
38. The DG ISA introduced the fourth project, involving the solarisation of the Nawai Junior Secondary School on Tamana Island in the Republic of Kiribati. He noted that Tamana Island is a remote outermost island of the Southern province. The Tamana Island school had been equipped with a solar energy storage system, addressing a daily energy requirement estimated at about 22 kWh. Within this, 12.1 kWh were needed during daylight hours and 9.3 kWh during non-daylight hours.

39. He explained that the solarisation project included both a PV system and battery storage. He mentioned the availability of a picture depicting the Kiribati School solarisation system, and he expressed the intention to present the image before inviting the Honourable Minister to share insights about the project. Consequently, the Hon'ble Minister, Mr. Willie Tokatake, Minister for Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy of the Republic of Kiribati, was requested to brief the audience about the solarisation project at the Nawai Junior Secondary School on Tamana Island.
40. The Minister expressed that it was a great honour for him to represent the Government of Kiribati in inaugurating the Nawai Junior Secondary School Solar Licensing Project on Tamana Island. In collaboration with ISA, they successfully implemented a 7-kW solar PV rooftop system with a 24-kWh battery storage system at the school. The demonstration project not only confirmed their commitment to energy transition in Kiribati but also complemented the efforts of the Ministry of Education to introduce computing studies in rural junior secondary schools.
41. He further stated that Kiribati was committed to cooperating with ISA and other partners in scaling up the solarization of schools and healthcare centres in rural areas in Kiribati. He extended his gratitude to the President for allowing Kiribati to participate in the inauguration of this critical ISA demo project. The Minister concluded, expressing his thanks to the President.
42. The DG ISA thanked the Minister and requested the President to dedicate the projects.
43. The President congratulated the four countries and extended gratitude for their commitment to the projects and dedication to advancing the ISA and its initiatives.
44. He noted the inauguration of three projects on October 22 during the last Assembly, in Jamaica, the Togo Republic, and Guyana. Additionally, three projects were inaugurated during the Fifth meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for the African Region on August 23 in Kigali, covering the Republic of Uganda, the Union of Comoros, and the Republic of Mali. With the four projects inaugurated today, a total of 10 out of the 27 projects undertaken by the International Solar Alliance have been successfully inaugurated.
45. The Minister announced that twelve (12) more projects would be completed by December, with the remaining to be finalized by March 2024. He congratulated the ISA Secretariat and all Member Countries, emphasizing that this was just the beginning. He envisioned a future where all Member Countries ensure universal access to their people through renewable energy, specifically solar energy.
46. He expressed dedication to realizing this future and concluded by thanking everyone.

Agenda Item 2. Adoption of the Agenda

47. The President invited the Assembly to consider the provisional agenda for the Sixth Session of the ISA Assembly as contained in the working document ISA/A.06/WD.01 and provide their inputs and guidance.
48. ***Decision: The Assembly adopted the Provisional Agenda for the Sixth Session of the ISA Assembly, as contained in the working document ISA/A.06/WD.01.***

Agenda Item 3. Selection of Rapporteurs

49. The President informed the Assembly that the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Republic of Guinea have agreed to be the rapporteurs for the Sixth Session of the ISA Assembly.
50. The President thanked the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Republic of Guinea on behalf of the ISA Assembly for their support.
51. ***Decision: The Assembly appointed the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Republic of Guinea as the Rapporteurs for the Sixth Session of the ISA Assembly.***

Agenda Item 4. Report of the Credentials Committee

52. The President introduced the agenda item and invited the Credentials Committee to present its report to the Assembly. He informed that the members of the Credentials Committee for the Sixth Session, approved during the Fifth session of the International Solar Alliance Assembly, were the Federal Republic of Germany, the Kingdom of Netherlands, the Republic of Cuba, the Cooperative Republic of Guinea, Guyana, the Union of Comoros, the Republic of Ghana, Nepal, and Japan.
53. The President then invited the chair of the Credentials Committee, the Union of Comoros, to present the Committee's report.
54. The Committee recommended that Rule of Procedure 36 be amended so that Credentials, seen by the relevant ministry and diplomatic mission in the prescribed form, may be accepted as duly signed and beheld by the Government.
55. The Committee also recommended that the Assembly call upon all ISA members to submit to the Secretariat the credentials of the representatives, if possible, not less than seven days in advance of the relevant session of the Assembly, as provided in Rule 36 of the Procedure of the Assembly, to offer the committee ample time for deliberation before delegates prevail for the assembly. The representative concluded by expressing gratitude to Mr. President.
56. ***Decision: The Report of the Credentials Committee as presented by the Union of Comoros at the Assembly was adopted.***

Agenda Item 5. Granting of Observer status

57. The President invited the Assembly to grant observer status to the countries that are Signatories and Prospective Member Countries to the Framework Agreement of ISA, as contained in the information document **ISA/A.06/INF01.Rev01** and the special invitee organisations that have registered to attend the Assembly as contained in the information document **ISA/A.06/INF02.Rev01**.

58. The President urged the Signatories to the ISA Framework Agreement to ratify the Agreement and invited the prospective Member Countries to join ISA by signing and ratifying the Framework Agreement.
59. ***Decision: The Assembly granted observer status to Signatory Countries that had signed the Framework Agreement of the ISA but are yet to ratify the Agreement and to the Prospective Member Countries of ISA and to the special invitees registered for the Assembly as per the list contained in the information document ISA/A.06/INF01.Rev01 and information document ISA/A.06/INF02.Rev01.***

Agenda Item 6. Confirmation of the Report of the Fifth Session of the ISA Assembly

60. The President invited the Assembly to consider the report of the Fifth Session of the ISA Assembly as contained in the working documents ISA/A.05/WD.19 and ISA/A.05/WD.19A for its approval.
61. He invited the ISA Secretariat to brief the Assembly on the observations.
62. The DG ISA informed the Assembly that the summary report and the detailed report of the Fifth session of the ISA Assembly had been distributed to all members on 4th April 2023. Additionally, a comment from the Federative Republic of Brazil had been received by the ISA Secretariat.
63. In compliance with the request of the Government of Brazil, as now reflected on page 35 of the report, conveyed the following information in paragraph 188: The Kingdom of Netherlands, the Republic of Fiji, the Republic of Suriname, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and the Republic of Congo expressed their support for the proposed voluntary contribution mechanism of ISA. The Federal Republic of Brazil indicated its preference for maintaining the system of voluntary contributions. It noted that a request for mandatory contributions would necessitate restarting the ratification process of the ISA framework in the Brazilian Parliament. The DG ISA proposed the adoption of the presented corrigendum by the Assembly.
64. The President remarked that the request had always been for voluntary contributions, and that was how it was reflected in the report. It was mentioned that they had asked for voluntary contributions, and several countries had either given or agreed to give such contributions. The President noted that there had been no additional comments from any other country. Consequently, it was conveyed that the report and the corrigendum were adopted.
65. ***Decision: The Assembly adopted the corrigendum as presented. The report of the Fifth Session of the ISA Assembly was approved as contained in the working document ISA/A.05/WD.19 and ISA/A.05/WD.19A with the inclusion of the corrigendum as adopted.***

Agenda Item 7. Action Taken Report of the Fifth Session of the ISA Assembly

66. The President invited the Assembly to consider the Action Taken Report summarising the activities undertaken by the Secretariat in response to the guidance provided by the Fifth Session of the ISA Assembly as contained in the working document ISA/A.06/WD.03.

67. The representative of the French Republic expressed gratitude towards the International Solar Alliance for the actions taken since the Fifth Assembly of the Solar Alliance. It was conveyed that France wanted to acknowledge the significance of the first draft policy on gender equality as a substantial step forward. Emphasis was placed on the progress achieved in the internationalization of the Solar Alliance Secretariat. Additionally, it was asserted that the modernization of electricity grids, incorporating a larger share of renewable energy, was deemed essential to ensure the security and reliability of electricity supply.
68. The representative conveyed the desire to stay informed and contribute to the work of GGI-OSOWOG, requesting information on progress made on the feasibility study for phase 1 of this project.
69. Furthermore, it was conveyed that a French company, EDF, was involved in the mentioned work, and France's readiness to provide support was conveyed. The statement concluded with gratitude for the opportunity to address the Assembly.
70. In response the President responded that they would schedule a presentation on the progress of One Sun, One World, One Grid. In summary, he conveyed that a framework agreement had been drafted, which would be circulated for adoption in an upcoming meeting. The organization for One Sun, One World, One Grid would be distinct and new technical organization.
71. The President mentioned ongoing discussions with neighbouring countries, including Singapore and ASEAN countries to the east and the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the west. Agreements had been signed with the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for grid interconnection, indicating advancements in the Middle East connecting to the Middle East grid. He concluded by stating that the progress of One Sun, One World, One Grid was underway, and a separate meeting would be scheduled to address further developments.
72. ***Decision: The Assembly took note of the actions taken by the ISA Secretariat, as contained in the Working Document ISA/A.06/WD.03.***

Agenda Item 8. Audited Financial Statement of the ISA

73. The President briefed the agenda item and invited the ISA Secretariat to present the annual the audited financial report of the ISA for the calendar year 2022.
74. The DG ISA apprised the Assembly that the previous year's audit of ISA financial statements had been completed and that the independent auditors had submitted their report. He remarked that in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the ISA Assembly, the report is being presented to the Assembly for its review and approval.
75. The President invited the Assembly to consider the working document ISA/A.06/WD.04 containing the report of the auditors along with the Audited Financial Statements and approve it.
76. ***Decision: The Assembly adopted the Audited Financial Statement of the ISA contained in the Working Document ISA/A.06/WD.04.***

Agenda Item 9. Granting of Partner Organisation status

77. The President informed the Assembly of the new Partnerships established by the ISA with International Organisations. These include:
 - i. International Civil Aviation Organization
 - ii. The West African Development Bank
 - iii. Africa50
78. The President conveyed that the Ninth Meeting of the Standing Committee recommended these partnerships to the Assembly for ratification. He invited the Assembly to consider the working document ISA/A.06/WD.05 containing the copy of the memoranda of partnerships signed by ISA with these organisations.
79. The President invited the Assembly to take note of these partners and ratify the Partner Organisation Status of these organisations.
80. ***Decision: The Assembly ratified the Partner Organisation status of the Organisations, as per the list contained in the information document ISA/A.06/WD.05.***

Agenda Item 10. Report of the Depositary

81. The President invited the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, as the Depositary of the ISA to present its report to the ISA Assembly.
82. The Depositary thanked the President and conveyed that the ISA was designed to bring nations together and offer a collective response to the challenges encountered in the deployment of solar energy, encompassing aspects of technology, finance, and capacity building. It has emerged to provide energy access, ensure energy security, and drive energy transition in its Member Countries. The amendment to the Framework Agreement of ISA became effective on January 8, 2021, opening ISA membership to all UN member states, including those situated beyond the tropics.
83. The Depositary conveyed that the Ministry of External Affairs, acting as the depositary of the ISA Framework Agreement, facilitated the ISA application for observer status at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The Depositary was pleased to report that the UN General Assembly granted the International Solar Alliance observer status through the adoption of resolution 76/123 on December 9, 2021. The depositary expressed gratitude to all the countries that supported the resolution.
84. As of September 20, 2023, 116 countries have signed the Framework Agreement of the ISA, and out of these, 94 have deposited their instruments of ratification, attaining full membership. The depositary was pleased to announce that Spain, the Republic of Congo, and New Zealand had signed the ISA Framework Agreement following the Fifth General Assembly. Chile has submitted its instrument of ratification, while Brazil, Cyprus, Solomon Islands, and Singapore have completed the

formalities and are now full-fledged members. The depositary urged the remaining 22 signatory countries to ratify the ISA Framework Agreement.

85. The Depositary also looked forward to the 19 prospective countries initiating the process of joining ISA. It expressed hope that ISA membership would increase, further enhancing its institutional and human resource capacity in fulfilment of the strategic plan, encompassing key initiatives such as the Green Grids Initiative-One Sun One World One Grid Initiative, Global Solar Facility, Solar Technology Application Resource Centre (STAR-C) Project, the Solar Grand Challenge, the Blended Finance Risk Mitigation Facility, and others. The depositary extended best wishes for a productive 6th Assembly of ISA and expressed gratitude.
86. The President thanked the Depositary for their report and continued support of ISA.
87. The President welcomed the new Member Countries and the new Signatories to the ISA Framework Agreement. He further invited the Signatories to ratify the Framework Agreement and join ISA as full members.
88. ***Decision: The Assembly adopted the report of the Depositary as presented at the Assembly.***

Agenda Item 11. Adoption of the report of the ISA Standing Committee Meetings

89. The President introduced the agenda item by informing the Assembly that the Eighth and Ninth Meetings of the Standing Committee of the ISA Assembly were held on 6 June 2023 and 25 September 2023, respectively. He invited the Assembly to consider the working documents ISA/SC.08/WD.13 and ISA/SC.08/WD.13A for the Eighth Meeting of the ISA Standing Committee and ISA/SC.09/WD.13 and ISA/SC.09/WD.13A for the Ninth Meeting of the ISA Standing Committee.
90. In the absence of any further comments, the Assembly adopted the reports of the Eighth and the Ninth Meeting of the Standing Committee.
91. ***Decision: The Assembly adopted the reports of the Eighth and the Ninth Meetings of the ISA Standing Committee as contained in the respective working documents.***

Agenda Item 12. Adoption of the report of the ISA Regional Committee Meetings and address by the Chair of the ISA Regional Committees

92. The President apprised the Assembly that the meetings of four Regional Committees of ISA were held during July and August 2023. He added that the Fifth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean Region had taken place virtually, while the rest three has been conducted in-person. The ISA expressed gratitude to the host countries, namely the governments of the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Rwanda, and the European Union, for their support in organizing these meetings.
93. The President invited the Assembly to consider the reports of the four Regional Committee Meetings contained in the working documents ISA/RCEOG.04/WD.09 for the Europe and Other

- Region, ISA/RCAP.05/WD.09 for the Asia and the Pacific Region, ISA/RCLAC.05/WD.09 for Latin America and the Caribbean Region and ISA/RCA.05/WD.09 for the African Region.
94. The President invited the representative of the Kingdom of Denmark, as the Regional Vice-President for the Europe and Other Region, for brief remarks.
 95. The Vice President of Europe and Other Region highlighted some key takeaways of the Regional Meeting. These include the emphasis of involving women in achieving net zero goals and pledged ongoing collaboration with partners such as the World Bank and the World Resources Institute. The ISA was lauded as a strategic platform for promoting decarbonization and energy security, particularly in Africa. The push for a global solar energy rollout and the need to diversify manufacturing for resilience were emphasised. Support for the ISA STARC initiative, addressing financial challenges in solar development, was expressed.
 96. The European Union was present and highlighted collaboration with the US on alternative solar value chains. They stressed the importance of a diversified private sector engaged in the green transition value chain. Over the past year, the region witnessed remarkable advancements in solar technology policy implementation and cross-border cooperation. One of the key initiatives has been the promotion of research and development in solar innovation.
 97. Through strategic partnerships with leading research institutions and industry stakeholders, the region has fostered an environment conducive to breakthroughs propelling solar technology to new heights. However, there is still much work to be done as challenges persist and new ones emerge.
 98. It was emphasized that it is imperative to continue to collaborate, innovate, and advocate, for the changes necessary to realize the full potential of solar energy. While acknowledging that the road ahead may be challenging, the representative expressed confidence that, with the spirit of cooperation defining the International Solar Alliance, they can overcome any obstacle. They expressed honour in having served as Vice President of the Standing Committee of ISA alongside the Kingdom of Sweden and as Chair of the Regional Committee meeting in 2023, a role which Sweden will take on in 2024.
 99. The President thanked the representative of the Kingdom of Denmark for his remarks and invited the Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean Region to present his remarks at the Regional Committee Meeting for the region.
 100. The Vice President of Latin America and the Caribbean Region reported that the Regional Meeting saw active participation and spirited discussions among the attending members. The representative expressed confidence that the ISA Secretariat duly took note of the feedback and guidance provided by the esteemed members, anticipating positive actions in response. Key agenda items tabled during the meeting were outlined, including the Action Taken Report of the Fourth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee, the Director General's report on ISA programs and activities, updates on initiatives such as STAR-C and the SolarX Startup Challenge, as well as Reports on the ISA Global Solar Facility, private sector engagement strategies, and solar manufacturing.

101. The representative further reported that the Regional Committee members provided valuable insights into the challenges faced while implementing solar energy solutions in their respective countries. Highlighted takeaways included expressions of satisfaction and gratitude for ISA proceedings, with countries pledging support. Venezuela sought ISA support for Solar Pumping, and joint efforts on Rural Electrification were proposed. Commitments to Low Carbon Development were reiterated, and Brazil reported the establishment of "More Power for the Amazon" for clean energy in remote areas. Appreciation was voiced for ISA support in Solar Pump implementation, and another country emphasized Electric Vehicle (EV) adoption and a multisectoral agenda focusing on Green Hydrogen. The representative noted that the region had witnessed remarkable strides in advancing solar energy initiatives in recent years. Member Countries were commended for their unwavering dedication to expanding solar infrastructure, leading to a significant increase in the deployment of solar panels and Solar Farms. This collective effort strengthened energy security and propelled the region towards achieving climate goals.
102. The President thanked the representative of the Latin America and the Caribbean Region and invited the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Vice President of Asia and the Pacific region for their remarks.
103. The Vice President of Asia and the Pacific region expressed gratitude to the Government of India for its warm hospitality and support. He highlighted that in the Fifth Regional Committee meeting held in Abu Dhabi, over 20 countries had participated. A comprehensive report on the meeting's outcomes was presented, emphasizing the progress toward ISA goals. Acknowledgement was extended to the United Arab Emirates for hosting the meeting, and appreciation was conveyed for active participation and discussions. Based on the feedback provided, the representative anticipated positive actions from the ISA Secretariat. Key agenda items included reports on past meetings, ISA programs such as STARC initiative, SolarX Startup Challenge, Global Solar Facility, private sector engagement, and solar manufacturing.
104. During the meeting, members shared insights on challenges in implementing solar solutions. The STAR Centre's initiative received praise, and recommendations were made to collaborate with organizations like PECREE. Countries commended ISA energy transition efforts, expressed interest in the Solar Rooftop program and inquired about the Global Solar Facility's timelines. Countries praised ISA's commitment to net zero emissions and emphasized support for a tracker system, addressing project challenges, ensuring affordable financing, and including the Asia Pacific region in the Global Solar Facility. Member Countries affirmed strong support for ISA's role in a cleaner and sustainable future.
105. The representative concluded by stating that, despite achievements, challenges persist, and the focus must remain on mitigating the impact of climate change. The commitment to solar energy should serve as a beacon of hope. The representative trusted that the International Solar Alliance would continue playing an instrumental role in achieving a sustainable and resilient future.

106. The President thanked the Vice President of the Asia and the Pacific region for his brief remarks and invited the Federal Republic of Somalia, Regional Vice-President for the Africa region, to present his remarks.
107. The Vice President of the Africa region expressed gratitude to the Republic of Rwanda for hosting the meeting and extending hospitality. Active participation and discussions occurred, and confidence was expressed that the ISA Secretariat noted the feedback and guidance. Key agenda items included reports on the Fourth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for the Africa Region, STARC Initiatives, ISA Programs and Activities, Solar Startup Challenge, ISA Global Solar Facility, private sector engagement strategies, and solar manufacturing.
108. Members highlighted challenges in implementing solar solutions, emphasizing diverse financing sources and the need for large-scale initiatives in Africa. Despite Africa's solar potential, installed capacity is only 1% due to financing, regulatory gaps, and limited domestic capacity. Concerns were raised about waste recycling, grid integration, universal access to STAR Centre, creating a regional pool for project development, and formalizing contributions to the Global Solar Facility. Discussions also included private sector engagement in energy production and distribution.
109. The representative acknowledged achievements but highlighted the challenges ahead, including climate change, energy poverty, and economic disparities. The commitment to the International Solar Alliance's principles remains steadfast. In conclusion, the representative urged collective efforts, emphasizing the impact on the future energy landscape for a sustainable, prosperous future. Rededication to the principles of the International Solar Alliance was encouraged for positive global change through collaboration and innovation.
110. The President thanked the Vice Presidents for their remarks and directed the Secretariat to consider all recommendations made by the Regional Committees during its meetings and extend support and assistance as necessary.
111. ***Decision: The Assembly adopted the reports of the Regional Committee meetings of the four regions of the ISA:***
 - i. ***Report of the Fourth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Europe and the Others Region as contained in the working document ISA/RCEOG.04/WD.09.***
 - ii. ***Report of the Fifth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific Region as contained in the working document ISA/RCAP.05/WD.09.***
 - iii. ***Report of the Fifth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean Region as contained in the working document ISA/RCLAC.05/WD.09.***
 - iv. ***Report of the Fifth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for the Africa Region as contained in the working document ISA/RCA.05/WD.09.***

Agenda Item 13. Report of the Director General on ISA programmes, activities, and initiatives: Annual Report

112. The President invited the Director General to present the Assembly with an overview of the work done over the past year.
113. The Director General presented the Annual Report of the International Solar Alliance for 2023. The DG ISA reported that the annual report is a comprehensive document encapsulating the progress, pivotal initiatives, and focus areas of the ISA. The report highlights three key aspects. Firstly, it outlines the activities of the alliance. Secondly, as an international multilateral agency, it aims to create markets for solar energy, expecting support from well-established agencies for large-scale replication. Thirdly, it emphasizes regulatory interventions to attract private sector support for project implementation.
114. He said that reports on the Assembly, ISA participation in the conference of parties to the UNFCCC and the other activities completed between the Assembly and the end of the year 2023 shall be added to the annual report before it was published in January 2024, as was the case for 2022.
115. The DG ISA stated that the ISA remains aligned with the strategic program endorsed during the Fifth session of the ISA Assembly, focusing on energy access, energy security, and the energy transition. The report outlines three crucial issues addressed simultaneously: Analytics and Advocacy, Capacity Building assistance for developing countries, and Programmatic Support, predominantly for developing nations. Through its emphasis on Analytics and Advocacy, the ISA promotes the adoption of policies conducive to solar energy across Member Countries. Notably, the recently released Ease of Doing Solar Report for 2022 provides insights into crucial drivers for solar investment attractiveness in Member Countries.
116. The DG highlighted the importance of the Ease of Doing Solar initiative, including the Global Trends in Solar Power 2023 report, exploring key trends in global solar markets with a focus on ISA Member Countries. The ISA remains committed to producing annual editions of flagship reports. Regarding policy and capacity-building initiatives, as of June 2023, the ISA provided technical training programs to approximately 3,500 individuals in 78 countries. Significant progress has been made in the STAR-C Initiative, with Memoranda of Understanding established with eight countries.
117. The DG reported ongoing discussions with various countries to establish STAR centres, including formal expressions of interest from nodal ministries. Collaborations with the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France on STARC projects and the introduction of the Corporate Advisory Group were highlighted. Under the Programmatic Support Initiative, the ISA actively engaged with Member Countries through nine programs across 53 nations, easing solar procurement and facilitating large-scale solar projects. The ISA has aggregated about 7.65 GW of capacity across 19 countries through solar parks. Partnerships with multilateral development banks and collaboration with 33 global partner organizations were reported. The ISA has formalized a country partnership agreement with the Ministry of Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources of the Government of

Bangladesh. On the human resources front, the ISA Secretariat has recruited 16 staff members since May 2023, with remaining roles at various stages of recruitment.

118. The DG mentioned notable contributions to the G20 process, including support for the Energy Transitions Working Group, the launch of the Green Hydrogen Innovation Centre, and the identification and strengthening of solar start-ups in Africa. Similar exercises are planned for the Asian Pacific region and, pending approval, the Latin America and Caribbean region next year.
119. The President thanked the Director General and invited the Assembly to adopt the Annual Report of the International Solar Alliance for 2023 as contained in the working document ISA/A.06/WD.06, with the additions to make it complete for 2023.
120. The representative of Malawi informed that they had two proposals for the report. Firstly, the establishment of a legal framework concerning the vandalism aspects of solar equipment. Secondly, a request was made for the creation of a task force on ISA between the ministers of finance and energy. The purpose of this alliance was to address solar-related issues with utmost seriousness in the national budget. The representative emphasized the necessity of a specific allocation for solar, asserting that this could only be achieved through the collaboration of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Energy. Despite efforts to remove VAT and taxes on solar appliances, the representative stressed that the most effective approach would be to incorporate the ISA share in the national budgets.
121. In response, the President expressed gratitude to Malawi and acknowledged that they had taken note of the country's input. It was stated that efforts would be made to carry the feedback forward.
122. The DG ISA replied that ISA would develop a note on the two points and take it forward.
123. ***Decision: The Assembly adopted the Annual Report of the ISA for CY 2023, contained in the Working Document ISA/A.06/WD.06.***

Agenda Item 14. Update on the revised organisational structure and status of ISA Secretariat Staff

124. At the invitation of the President, the Director General briefed the Assembly on the agenda item under discussion. He announced that the ISA Secretariat had proposed new staff positions. It was mentioned that the proposal was detailed in the working document ISA/A.06/WD.07, which had been distributed to all the members. The President then invited the ISA Secretariat to brief the assembly on the proposed new positions.
125. The ISA Secretariat presented the update on the revised organisational structure and status of ISA Secretariat Staff before the Assembly.
126. The President of ISA conveyed that all appointments or secondments would strictly align with the organization's needs. The process, as reiterated, will maintain an international and transparent approach. If the organization necessitates a position through secondment, this requirement will be disseminated to all nations. Various countries can propose candidates, and the selection will prioritize the most qualified individual. This practice aligns with the standard procedure.

Furthermore, any appointments will adhere strictly to the transparency guidelines set forth by the United Nations. Secondments will occur at the ISA request, ensuring transparency and meeting the organization's requirements. In instances where the ISA seeks to fill a specific position with a qualified individual, the ISA secretariat will circulate the requirement, allowing different countries to propose candidates for secondment, with the best candidate ultimately being chosen.

127. The representative of the French Republic conveyed his satisfaction in announcing that France had seconded a new expert to the ISA Secretariat, who had assumed the position since October 10. He expressed support for the proposal to incorporate secondment posts for projects in the ISA Secretariat's organization chart.
128. The representative emphasized that this measure ensures transparency and clarity regarding the Alliance's activities. He also asserted that it demonstrates the ISA capability to attract international expertise from its Member Countries, solidifying its status as a full-fledged international organization. Consequently, the representative conveyed the belief that these experts, despite not being permanent members of the ISA staff, should be seamlessly integrated into the team and prominently featured on the ISA website.
129. The representative of Fiji expressed that Fiji would like to convey sincere appreciation to the Director General and the working staff. He mentioned that they are beginning to collaborate with other countries to realize the benefits of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), particularly in relation to the organizational structure. The representative noted the exemplary efforts observed in Fiji and other Member Countries. Additionally, he affirmed their support for the reorganization and the recommendations for additional resources and staff, particularly in the areas of strengthening, monitoring, and evaluation. He emphasized the importance of these measures for learning lessons and ensuring the successful implementation of projects in the future.
130. The President thanked the representatives of the French Republic and Fiji for their comments and approved the proposed update proposed update on the revised organisational structure and status of ISA Secretariat Staff.
131. ***Decision: The Assembly noted the update on the status of ISA Secretariat Staff and approved the revised organisational structure and new positions as contained in the working document ISA/A.06/WD.07.***

Agenda Item 15. Proposal for establishment of an Administrative Tribunal in accordance with the requirement of the ISA Staff Regulations

132. The President invited the ISA Secretariat to brief the Assembly on the proposal for establishment of an Administrative Tribunal in accordance with the requirement of the ISA Staff Regulations as contained in the working document ISA/A.06/WD.08.
133. The ISA Secretariat presented the proposal for the establishment of an Administrative Tribunal in accordance with the requirement of the ISA Staff Regulations.

134. The representative of Fiji sought clarification concerning Annex Two, which mentions a retention fee of \$10,000, and the daily rate was established at \$2,000. The representative requested clarification on these points and inquired whether it was accurate that the retention fee, in addition to the \$2,000 per day, would be remitted.
135. The President explained that the retention fee would be separate and the \$2,000 per day would be for the sitting fees.
136. No additional interventions were made by any other member on the working document ISA/A.06/WD.08.
137. ***Decision: The Assembly approved the proposal for the establishment of an Administrative Tribunal in accordance with the requirement of the ISA Staff Regulations as contained in the working document ISA/A.06/WD.08.***

Agenda Item 16. Proposal for restructuring of the ISA Viability Gap Funding Mechanism

138. The President briefed the Assembly that the proposals had not been received despite disseminating the VGF Mechanism guidelines to the least developed countries and small island developing countries. Following further consultations, Member Countries expressed that the maximum available VGF was inadequate for their projects. In response to this challenge and guided by the ISA Standing Committee during the Eighth meeting on June 23, the ISA Secretariat presented a restructured VGF mechanism in the 9th Standing Committee. Under the revised framework, the VGF allocation was proposed to range from 10% to 35% per project cost, tailored to the capacities and requirements of the Member Countries and their specific projects. However, it was emphasized that merely increasing the VGF would not be sufficient to attract investment unless the necessary conditions were established to de-risk the investments.
139. The President highlighted that achieving this objective would necessitate the implementation of a regulatory framework and the establishment of a payment security fund or insurance mechanism to safeguard projects against expropriation. It was emphasized that these measures needed to be implemented, and once in place, the VGF requirement itself would decrease as investors would perceive their investments to be secure.
140. In addition, it was stated that efforts would be made to assist Member Countries in setting up this fund. Alongside the VGF, a fund would be established to provide investment security, and support would be provided to countries in implementing the required mechanisms and technological-legal frameworks. The President invited the ISA Secretariat to brief the assembly regarding the proposals.
141. The ISA Secretariat while briefing the Assembly through its presentation, expressed gratitude to the Honourable Chair, the Co-President, Director-General, and esteemed Dignitaries and Excellencies present at the assembly.
142. The ISA Secretariat initiated its briefing by providing context regarding the approval granted for the VGF (Viability Gap Funding) mechanism in 2021. The Secretariat referenced the prior assembly in

2021 where the VGF support was sanctioned at \$150,000 per project or 10% of the project cost for each of the ten countries involved, totalling an outlay of USD 1.5 million.

143. The primary objective behind this support was to substantially reduce project costs, thus lowering the cost of funds, and consequently rendering it financially viable for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). However, despite the approval, no proposals were received. The Chair acknowledged this and subsequently, during the 8th Standing Committee, suggested further consultations leading to the need for a new proposal in the 9th Committee.
144. Following this direction from the 8th Standing Committee, the ISA Secretariat detailed the steps taken, including the circulation of a questionnaire to all member countries and consultations with multilateral banks. The consensus that emerged indicated that a Viability Gap Funding of 10% might not suffice. It was recognized that the funding percentage might vary based on project size and could differ from one country to another. Several countries, including Rwanda, Nigeria, Mauritius, Bangladesh, and Bhutan, showed interest in this initiative.
145. Subsequently, a revised proposal was presented to the 9th Standing Committee, proposing a VGF ranging from 10% to 35% of the project cost, subject to case-by-case evaluation depending on the country or project. The projects would first undergo endorsement by the respective Regional Committees before approval by the Standing Committee. This scheme was proposed to be valid for three years, starting from 2024, and would operate on a first-come, first-serve basis.
146. Furthermore, the ISA Secretariat outlined a timeline for the proposal's implementation. This timeline included the approval of guidelines by the Standing Committee (which shall be tabled at the forthcoming 10th Standing Committee Meeting), inviting proposals from LDCs and SIDS, submission of proposals to Regional Committees, a 45-day evaluation period by the Regional Committee, and subsequent presentation to the Standing Committee for project approval. Approved projects would then be communicated to the respective countries. In the event of remaining budgetary provisions after the first cycle, the process would be repeated.
147. Conclusively, the ISA Secretariat presented this proposal for the consideration of the assembly and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to share these details.
148. The representative of Nigeria intervened, explaining that, upon examining the funding structure, it was observed that it ranges from 10 to 35%. Additionally, it was highlighted in the presentation that the approval level needs to go through the regional body, involving various processes. He further conveyed that, following discussions with the Hon'ble Minister before arriving at the meeting, there is a consideration in Nigeria to streamline the approval authority. The suggestion is to empower the Director-General of the ISA with the aim of expediting the implementation of crucial projects, particularly in the context of solar initiatives. The concern raised is that adhering to the regional processes might lead to delays in project implementation. It is believed that vesting the powers of approval with the DG ISA would significantly reduce the implementation timeline, yielding tangible results. The objective is to comprehensively assess how the funding impacts economic sustainability and contributes to the advancement of solar initiatives within the country.

149. The President assured that the suggestion shall be considered. He then invited the representative of Germany for his remarks.
150. The representative of Germany conveyed that they fully welcomed the proposal and viewed the VGF as a very valuable mechanism. He requested that the process for approval of projects be documented in the future. This documentation would enable them to use it for various purposes in the future, such as deriving best practices for subsequent long-term projects. Additionally, he expressed interest in obtaining further information about the minimal criteria for projects eligible for funding and would greatly appreciate receiving such details.
151. The President of ISA requested Germany and other developed countries to contribute to the fund. He emphasized that the purpose of the fund was to support the development of capacity in countries in Africa and those where people lacked access to energy. The President urged Germany and other developed nations to consider participating in the fund. A similar appeal was extended to France, urging them to also contemplate contributing to the fund to facilitate the enhancement of capacities in various countries.
152. The representative of the French Republic responded they had a suggestion concerning the criteria. According to them, VGF subsidies should be grounded in the principle of additionality. They proposed that projects should only be considered if they adhere to this concept, meaning that without VGF, these projects will not have materialized. The representative emphasized the importance of incorporating the notion of additionality into future proposals.
153. Additionally, he put forward a second suggestion about the possibility of obtaining more detailed information on the pilot projects mentioned. This, they explained, would enable them to spotlight these projects during bilateral exchanges with states, thereby fostering cooperation through the Alliance.
154. The President of ISA responded that he would like to clarify that bilateral assistance is provided to neighbouring countries, which is one aspect. However, contributing to the program of the International Solar Alliance is another matter altogether.
155. The representative of Gabon expressed the desire to endorse the presented proposals. However, the representative indicated a need to revisit Agenda item 13, specifically addressing the Malawi proposal. Emphasizing the importance of collaboration between the Ministries of Finance and the Ministries of Energy on all solar projects, the representative underscored that the core issue lies in the financing and the overall project cost. In reference to the proposal put forth by the VGF, the representative emphasized the significance of giving serious consideration to Malawi's proposal. The representative advocated for substantial support from the Ministry of Finance, suggesting a commitment to back 30% of the funding for the proposed project that would be submitted to the VGF.
156. The President ISA mentioned that they had taken note of Malawi's comments. Additionally, the President emphasized that renewable energy is currently more cost-effective than energy derived from fossil fuels. He explained that renewable energy, especially solar power, is much cheaper than

- electricity produced from coal, diesel, or gas. He pointed out that opting for renewables, specifically solar, not only aligns with environmental considerations but also makes economic sense, as solar electricity costs significantly less than electricity generated from natural gas or coal.
157. The representative of Bangladesh said that if the amount of VGF is up to USD 500,000, then the Director General can be empowered to take the decision.
 158. The representative of Gambia requested the Republic of India to share their experiences in renewable energy installation and growth.
 159. In response, the President agreed to organise a presentation. The President of the ISA explained that in their system when a generation company produces electricity and supplies it, separate entities manage generation, transmission, and distribution. Each company is compensated for its specific service: the generation company for power supply, the transmission company for transmission, and the distribution company for managing the distribution system. Consumers are required to pay for electricity, and the government provides subsidies for the less affluent consumers through cross-subsidization, where wealthier consumers bear slightly higher costs to support the subsidy. The generation company supplies power to the distribution company, which pays for the power and collects tariffs from consumers.
 160. Payment security mechanisms are in place to ensure payment; if the distribution company fails to pay, the connection is cut off, and the payment security mechanism compensates the generation company. Regulations are established to secure payment to the generation company, eliminating perceived risks in setting up a generation unit. Additionally, a dispute resolution mechanism resolves issues within 30 days, avoiding the need for legal action.
 161. Regarding renewable capacity, the ISA president expressed satisfaction with the private sector's contribution of 185,000 renewable capacity without public investments. The proposal to increase viability gap funding was welcomed, and suggestions for improvement would be adopted. The procedure for sanctioning proposals, particularly the idea of holding meetings with both energy and finance ministers, was deemed valid. The president proposed organizing such meetings in Regional Committee sessions every six months to avoid delays in proposals. Overall, the President acknowledged the validity of all suggestions and expressed a willingness to share more details through a separate presentation.
 162. ***Decision: The Assembly considered the proposal for restructuring of the ISA Viability Gap Funding Mechanism as contained in the working document ISA/A.06/WD.09. The Assembly considered to approve VGF amount up to USD 500,000 by the Director General, ISA and that any amount exceeding the said amount be put forth to the Standing Committee for approval.***

Agenda Item 17. Update on the STAR-C initiative.

163. The DG ISA invited the representative of Bangladesh, being the Vice-President of the ISA Assembly, to chair the meeting in the absence of the President of ISA.

164. The Chair invited the ISA Secretariat to brief the Assembly on the STAR-C initiative. He further invited the Assembly to consider the progress made under the initiative as contained in the working document ISA/A.06/WD.10.
165. The ISA Secretariat presented an update on the Star-C initiative.
166. The Chair appreciated the program and congratulated the ISA Secretariat and Members on the achievements so far and invited comments, if any.
167. The representative of Peru informed that Peru's involvement in the STAR-C initiative of the ISA and the establishment of a centre of excellence in the country held significant importance. She emphasized that this participation would play a crucial role in advancing the promotion of solar energy as a part of the strategy aimed at diversifying the country's energy matrix. According to the representative, this initiative was expected to not only expedite the progress of solar technology but also facilitate the training of local experts. Furthermore, it would lead to the creation of employment opportunities within the renewable energy sector and streamline the execution of both government and private solar projects.
168. Additionally, she pointed out that international collaboration with other Member Countries of the ISA would contribute to the overarching goals of sustainability and the fight against climate change. The representative highlighted that aligning Peru's efforts with global commitments in these areas would strengthen the collective impact of these initiatives.
169. The representative of the French Republic stated that they were very pleased with the attention received and progress made by the STARC project, along with the support from governments and partners. It was mentioned that they were working closely with the three pilot countries funded by France—Senegal, Papua New Guinea, and Bhutan, with an allocation of up to 1 million euros for the implementation of the project.
170. He informed that three local project managers had been recruited for on-the-ground coordination with all partners. Additionally, the French expert, who joined the Secretariat in October, would focus on enhancing ongoing coordination.
171. Expressing conviction in the STAR-C program, it was conveyed that they anticipated the development of a robust network of STAR-C centres and stakeholders. The representative expressed eagerness to continue cooperation and urged partners to contribute their national training and expertise resources to support collective efforts.
172. The representative of Ethiopia mentioned that they had already commenced the establishment of the STAR centre, referred to as STARC Ethiopia, with four main objectives. Firstly, the focus was on training trainers and researchers to conduct various research activities. Their keen interest stemmed from addressing the adverse effects of widespread industrialization in Ethiopia on health, the environment, and other aspects.
173. Additionally, there was an emphasis on strengthening Entrepreneurship Incubation. The representative noted that the centre was set to be launched at Addis Ababa University, Institute of

Technology. Rooms within the university were identified for the centre, and ongoing interior renovations were expected to be completed in the coming months. Laboratory equipment for the centre had already been provided and will be adjusted in the coming months.

174. Furthermore, a partial budget for the first year of operation had been released, and facilities were being procured locally. The representative mentioned that the first training program, focusing on Soar technology, was scheduled to be conducted for presentation in both regional and federal institutions.
175. The Egyptian representative acknowledged the effectiveness of solar energy and affirmed Egypt's readiness to offer technical support based on its experience in the field. Seeking clarification, they inquired about the nature of support within the second programme, whether it involves technical or financial assistance. Additionally, they sought information on the time frame for this support and the working mechanism post the specified period.
176. The representative of Fiji expressed satisfaction with the STARC initiative, stating that they have been grappling with the challenge of brain drain over the past five years. This phenomenon involves a significant number of technical professionals, including technicians and engineers, choosing to relocate abroad, primarily for economic reasons. The National Human Resource Department is actively engaged in planning measures to address this issue.
177. The representative emphasized that programs like STARC would play a crucial role in mitigating the problem. They highlighted the importance of training technicians in specific solar issues and pledged full support for the initiative. The representative anticipated that the implementation of such programs would contribute to preventing the outflow of technical professionals to lucrative job markets like Australia and New Zealand, benefitting the country.
178. The Nigerian representative mentioned that Nigeria is contemplating inclusion in ISA for a STAR Centre. Referring to the existing National Power Training Institute of Nigeria, they highlighted its infrastructure and expressed eagerness to propose establishing a centre in Nigeria. The aim is to empower the youth in solar and related programs, addressing the significant youth population of over 60% in the country. This initiative was commended as laudable.
179. The representative of Djibouti mentioned projects were part of their energy transformation strategy, supporting the development of solar energy. He emphasized the paramount importance of international cooperation and reiterated their request for the STARC centre, which would contribute to human resource development in Djibouti's energy sector. Mentioning the recently established engineering faculty focused on electricity technology, they expressed the need for training engineers in all renewable energies, especially solar. Their goal was to enhance capacity and skills in solar energy development, seeking to benefit from the transfer of innovative technologies and ISA programs, particularly the STARC centre.
180. The representative of Seychelles stated that the project is highly commendable, emphasizing their presence to advocate for the advancement of renewable energies, specifically solar power. He mentioned projects align with their energy transformation strategy, actively supporting the

progress of solar energy. Emphasizing the significance of international cooperation, they reiterated the request for the STARC centre, underscoring its crucial role in developing human resources in Djibouti's energy sector. Pointing out the existence of an engineering faculty in Djibouti dedicated to electricity technology, established five years ago, he expressed the need to extend training in solar and other renewable energies. The representative highlighted the importance of enhancing the capacity and skills of engineers in solar energy development, seeking to leverage innovative technologies and benefit from ISA programs, particularly the STARC centre.

181. The representative of Morocco mentioned that the Kingdom of Morocco is actively participating in the General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance. He emphasized that, drawing from their two-decade experience in renewable energy, priority lies in capacity building and human resource training for the energy transition. The representative noted the initiation of a specialized group of centres for renewable energy training, complementing the STAR-C initiative. The goal is to offer a range of courses addressing current challenges, especially in the areas of smart grids and storage, to facilitate a smooth energy transition.
182. The representative of New Zealand mentioned that they had signed the Framework Agreement in February of the current year and were presently undergoing domestic processes to ratify the agreement and become an ISA member. They considered the ISA to be an excellent example of international cooperation in addressing climate change, supporting the development, and sharing of solar energy expertise.
183. Referring to the discussions with their colleagues, the representative acknowledged that solar energy is crucial for achieving the Pacific region's renewable energy ambitions. New Zealand expressed pride in its long history of supporting the solar energy transition in the region, including partnerships with the Cook Islands, Tuvalu, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, and Nauru. They welcomed the ISA efforts in deploying solar energy solutions, such as model demonstration projects, capacity-building initiatives, and support for solarization in healthcare centres, schools, and solar water pumping facilities.
184. New Zealand expressed pleasure in joining their Pacific partners who are already collaborating with the ISA and announced their intention to host a Pacific night with colleagues and the ISA at the High Commission. They looked forward to further engagement with the ISA and its members to collectively achieve outcomes that would have a lasting impact for all and future generations.
185. The representative of Gambia mentioned that they wished to reiterate the suggestion made by the Minister from Seychelles. They believed that deploying the centres at the regional level would have a greater impact, especially in regions with language diversity. In the ECOWAS economic zone, which includes Francophonie, Lusophony, and Anglophone regions, establishing the centres regionally would be immensely beneficial for the intended impact.
186. The representative of Zimbabwe mentioned that they welcome the initiative to establish STARC centres. They expressed concerns about the quality of solar projects and desired mandatory standards for solar equipment. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of capacity building for technicians and engineers.

187. He further mentioned that they anticipate signing the Memorandum of Understanding soon, having already identified a university to host the centre. The focus is on signing MoUs with various stakeholders to ensure the realization of the centre. The representative expressed gratitude to ISA for spearheading this crucial initiative.
188. The representative of Burkina Faso expressed appreciation for the STARC initiative. Following the regional meetings, he reiterated support for the project, aiming to establish a training centre for renewable energy, research, and innovation. The project also seeks to contribute to the awareness and adoption of sustainable practices within the local community and industry. Burkina Faso plans to submit the project in the coming months, emphasizing its potential to develop comprehensive training programs and research in renewable energy. The representative highlighted the project's significance in establishing partnerships with companies and organizations for joint research projects and international training recognition. Burkina Faso expressed a strong desire to join the countries hosting STAR C centres.
189. The representative of Somalia shared their experience in setting up of the STAR Centre. He mentioned that soon, they would establish and start installing the equipment at the Somali National University. The representative explained that the centre would enable Somalia to build technical skills, promote market development, conduct testing and inspection of solar products, and serve as a hub for knowledge management and innovation. He extended gratitude to ISA and the entire team for allowing Somalia to establish this centre.
190. The representative of Botswana mentioned that their country had approved a national energy policy in 2021, emphasizing accessibility for all. He expressed the intention to achieve 100% electricity access by 2030, with a focus on solar energy. The representative expressed interest in the STAR Centre initiative, highlighting the benefits and opportunities it presents. He also appreciated capacity building by ISA, noting that Botswana currently has students undergoing training in that field.
191. The representative of Cameroon expressed gratitude to ISA for the organized training courses on solar technologies. He mentioned that young Cameroonians have benefited greatly, expressing satisfaction. Additionally, he reported signing a MoU with the DG of the ISA, congratulating them, and discussing the establishment of a research centre for Solar Application technologies in Cameroon. The representative conveyed eagerness to witness the ISA actions for the successful implementation of the STAR C project in Cameroon in 2024.
192. The representative of the Republic of Guinea stated that they are diversifying their energy sources, aiming to establish solar energy as its second production source. He reiterated their interest in developing STAR Centres within Guinea to support the solar sector's growth and build the necessary capacity to achieve their objectives, as previously requested at the regional conference in Kigali.
193. The representative of Bangladesh reported that on behalf of the International Solar Alliance, Renewable Academy RENAC Germany is currently assessing the Bangladesh gap analysis and evaluating its position. They are in the process of evaluating, having already conducted two

workshops involving relevant stakeholders. Following the evaluation, they will provide full support to establish the STARC Centre in Bangladesh.

194. The representative of Senegal expressed gratitude to the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and its Director General for the collaborative efforts in supporting various initiatives in Senegal. Special mention was made of the fruitful collaboration in projects such as the STAR-C project, Solar Cold Storage, and the Solar Academy. Senegal affirmed its full availability and enthusiasm to welcome these initiatives.
195. Senegal highlighted its proactive policy on renewable energy development, aiming to increase the current 32% share of electricity from renewable sources. The representative thanked the ISA and expressed reliance on the alliance's support in advancing Senegal's renewable energy goals.
196. Regarding public lighting, Senegal mentioned significant investments in solar streetlights, with plans to increase the number from 100,000 to 300-350 thousand over the next two years. Senegal raised a concern about recycling and sought collaboration with the Director General, ISA to address potential challenges with end-of-life components. The representative emphasized the importance of working together with ISA Member Countries through benchmarking.
197. ***Decision: The Assembly noted the update on the STAR-C initiative as contained in the working document ISA/A.06/WD.10.***

Agenda Item 18. Update on the ISA Global Solar Facility

198. The Chair invited the ISA Secretariat to update the Assembly on the progress made by the ISA in developing the Solar Finance Facility, as contained in the working document ISA/A.06/WD.11.
199. The ISA Secretariat presented an update on the ISA Global Solar Facility.
200. The representative of ADB mentioned that ADB and ISA have been closely collaborating on the Asia Pacific region since the early days of ISA establishment. There is an ongoing technical assistance program of approximately three and a half million dollars with ISA to enhance capacity development and provide catalytic support for the rapid deployment of solar power in Asia and the Pacific. ADB and ISA are partnering on a solar financing facility for the Asia Pacific region, working on interventions to scale up the solar sector in the six South Asian Member Countries. The Asian Solar Facility aims to make solar a preferred energy source in the Asia Pacific region for ISA Member Countries.
201. Plans include the piloting of the Asia Pacific Global Solar Financing Facility in 2025. Additionally, under the technical assistance program, ADB supported ISA in creating a virtual Green Hydrogen Innovation Centre during the G20 India Presidency. The centre's objective is to support the production, utilization, and trade of green hydrogen, along with providing a platform for knowledge sharing and building competency across the green hydrogen value chain for Member Countries. This centre platform was launched at the G20 Energy Transition Ministerial Meeting in July 2023 and was subsequently included in the G20 Leaders' Summit declaration in September 2023. He also

reiterated ADB's continued strong support for these activities and for all ISA activities, both ongoing and in the future.

202. The representative of Peru stated that Peru views the approval of the Global Solar Facility as significantly important. The facility is expected to play a crucial role in attracting investment for expanding solar energy in Africa. The establishment of payment and insurance mechanisms for risk mitigation in solar projects positions the Global Solar Facility as a key tool for drawing private capital into underserved markets.
203. Furthermore, the inclusion of government, philanthropic contributions, and investor funding in the financing mix supports the ISA dedication to promoting high-potential solar technologies. This aligns with sustainability goals and the fight against climate change, which Peru fully endorses for the development of solar energy in the region and beyond. However, it was noted that contributions from Member Countries should remain voluntary.
204. The Malawian representative mentioned three key points in the Global Solar Facility: capacity building, unlocking finances, and replicability. Emphasizing the lessons from COVID-19, they stressed the importance of regional hubs for assembling or manufacturing equipment to overcome restrictions on the movement of goods and services, ensuring project progress even in challenging times.
205. The representative of the French Republic mentioned that access to finance for solar energy development is a top priority for the ISA. A risk mitigation instrument called the Sustainable Renewable Risk Mitigation Initiative (SRMI), supported by the World Bank and launched by the ISA, IRENA, the French Development Agency, and Sustainable Energy for All, has mobilized \$5.2 billion in financing, including \$865 million in climate finance, operating in over 65 countries.
206. They highlighted that the current challenge lies not in the lack of funds but in the difficulty of accessing available funding. It is believed that the Solar Alliance has a crucial role in assisting countries to identify their priority needs, enhance capacity, and develop a project pipeline. The ISA is seen as a potential platform for Member Countries and institutions to facilitate access to financing for solar energy.
207. ***Decision: The Assembly noted the update on the ISA Global Solar Finance Facility and approved the working document ISA/A.06/WD.11.***

Agenda Item 19. Update on the ISA SolarX Startup Challenge

208. The Chair briefed the Assembly on the agenda item and invited the ISA Secretariat to provide an update on the ISA SolarX Startup Challenge initiative as contained in the working document ISA/A.06/WD.12.
209. The ISA Secretariat presented an update on the SolarX Startup Challenge.
210. The Chair invited the ISA Assembly to consider the update provided by the Secretariat and approve the SolarX Grand Challenge in the Africa region.

211. The Egyptian representative mentioned a rising interest in the competition, noting that 180 start-ups participated in the first edition, with only 20 being selected. He questioned the status of the next edition.
212. The representative of Peru emphasized the notable progress achieved through the SolarX Startup Challenge. The initiative, aimed at addressing persistent challenges in the solar sector among Alliance Member Countries, garnered global attention, with over 180 start-ups participating. This reflects the increasing significance of solar energy on a global scale. Peru acknowledged the initiative's importance and anticipated its expansion into the Asia-Pacific region, aligning with ISA mission to advocate for solar energy as a sustainable and affordable source in Member Countries.
213. The Gabon representative expressed a desire for Gabon's participation at COP 28. He emphasized the commendable contributions of Gabonese start-ups and requested youth involvement. Additionally, he mentioned a lack of understanding regarding Egypt's statement due to a lack of interpretation or translation. He urged the Chair to provide the translated statement in English or French, expressing gratitude for the anticipated valuable insights from Egypt.
214. The representative of Morocco mentioned that the Kingdom of Morocco expresses hope for a significant impact on social and educational levels through the initiative. He noted that in Morocco, a substantial number of young people and emerging companies are actively engaging in and supporting the energy transition. The representative recommended incorporating placements addressing the constraints faced by the energy transition, such as the development of smart grids and storage for solar energy. He emphasized that such initiatives would encourage countries to focus on technical solutions and confirmed Morocco's participation in the next edition.
215. The DG ISA replied that they have recently completed the program focused on all of Africa, with 182 start-ups participating. The ISA has now planned to carry out the challenge to Asia and the Pacific Region, then to the Latin America and the Caribbean Region, and then again return to the Africa Region. The concern was whether many of the initial participants would have the opportunity to join again, limiting the benefits discussed by their colleagues from Morocco. The challenge was the lack of time for new technologies to be introduced. The hope was to secure sufficient funding to continue the program annually, with changing regional goals. This would enable the program to become global while maintaining a specific regional focus each year.
216. ***Decision: The Assembly noted the update on the SolarX Startup Challenge as contained in the working document ISA/A.06/WD.12.***

Agenda Item 20. Proposed work programme and budget of the ISA for CY 2024

217. The President highlighted the importance of this agenda item and requested all members to look at the agenda item and provide suggestions after the presentation by the ISA Secretariat. He invited the ISA Secretariat to brief the Assembly on the proposed work programme and budget of the ISA as contained in the working document ISA/A.06/WD.13.
218. The ISA Secretariat presented the proposed work programme and budget of the ISA for CY 2024.

219. The ISA Secretariat expressed gratitude to the President, Co-president, Director General, and distinguished Excellencies for their presence.
220. During the fifth session of the ISA Assembly, both a work plan and a budget for the year 2023 had been approved. Updates on these were presented in the 8th and 9th Standing Committee meetings held, respectively, in June 2023 and September 2023.
221. The Secretariat provided an update covering the period from January 2023 up to the end of September. It emphasized that the reports would spotlight the proposed activities and budget until December 2023, along with a forward-looking focus on the proposed activities and budget allocations for 2024.
222. In the work plan update, three columns were highlighted: the planned projects initially intended for completion by the current date and those scheduled for completion by the end of 2023, specifically for demonstration purposes.
223. Out of the 27 countries involved, progress on eight had been completed, resulting in a cumulative figure of 11. The completed projects took place in Guyana, Togo, Jamaica, Uganda, Kiribati, Mali, Niger, Comoros, Fiji, Malawi, and Seychelles.
224. Furthermore, work in 12 countries had reached various stages, with most of them nearing completion. These included Cuba, Ethiopia, Tonga, Samoa, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Djibouti, Burundi, Suriname, Mozambique, Gambia, and Mauritius.
225. Specifically addressing ground-mounted projects, the Secretariat reported that in Cuba, work had progressed, reaching 1250 MW. The bidding process for the selection of solar developers had been completed, and negotiations were ongoing for a power purchase agreement (PPA) amounting to 380 MW.
226. In Ethiopia, the Government approved 400 MW, and the bidding process was set to begin. Bangladesh had a 50 MW allocation for floating solar. Associated studies and a Request for Proposal (RFP) were completed and finalized, with feasibility studies concluded for an additional six countries.
227. Regarding solar rooftops, progress was detailed, including completed site assessments in Comoros and Bangladesh. Feasibility studies were finished for various solar rooftop projects such as railway stations in Chittagong, the solarization of floodgate control, healthcare facilities, and solar mini grids in Ethiopia. Additionally, 29 mini-grid projects were undergoing site assessments.
228. The ISA Secretariat explained the progress, stating that the preparatory work for implementing solar water pumping in ten member countries under the IBSA Fund facility, in collaboration with UNDP, had commenced.
229. Looking forward to the rest of the year, various projects were at different stages of completion or planning. Seven countries were in the finalization stage for site selections, while the hiring of consultants was in progress for four additional countries, specifically for assessing floating solar and ground-mounted solar projects.

230. For Comoros, the ISA Secretariat reported that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) was in the finalization stage. Simultaneously, consultants were being recruited for an additional four countries to assess solar rooftop projects. Moreover, the ISA Secretariat highlighted support for mini-grid projects in Rwanda scheduled to commence between the current period and December. Simultaneously, efforts were underway to recruit consultants to assess scaling solar water pumping systems in five other countries.
231. Detailing the work plan update and equities plan until December 2023, ISA Secretariat mentioned several significant reports and initiatives. These included The Green Hydrogen Innovation Centre, the Fourth Ease of Doing Solar Business Report, Global Trends in Solar Power Report on Building Resilient Solar Supply Chains, The ISA G20 Report, Roadmap of Solar Energy for Universal Energy Access, ISA-World Bank Report on the Lighthouse Initiative sharing Indian Solar Experience with Africa, ISA-NEDO report on State of Universal Energy Access and the Way Forward, ISA-UNEP Report on Solar Recycling, ISA Three Flagship Report Second Edition, Solar Market Solar Investments and Solar Technology, ISA-NEDO Report on Roadmap for Developing and Scaling Green Hydrogen Ecosystem, and The Corporate Advisory Group. Additionally, the ISA Secretariat mentioned hosting two consultation meetings on solar PV recycling and one on solar manufacturing.
232. Regarding the budget, the initially approved amount stood at USD 21,184,873 but was later revised to USD 16 million. Out of this, USD 3 million had already been committed for payment and were in the process, and close to USD 6.5 million, were designated for planned project completions.
233. Elaborating on the proposed work plan for the 2024 budget, the ISA Secretariat mentioned preparations for solar maps for eight countries and regulatory support for five countries, with initial groundwork started for at least two of them. Plans also included implementing projects across ten countries involving various aspects such as solarizing health centres, government buildings, solar pumping systems, mini-grids, ground-mounted and floating solar projects, battery storage, solar charging, among others.
234. The future plans also encompassed creating project pipelines, focusing on 15 countries in the upcoming year, prioritizing the redeployment of solar technologies, and conducting rigorous feasibility studies across ISA programs to assess viability.
235. Moreover, ISA Secretariat highlighted plans for GHIC portals, dialogues with industry stakeholders, and global regional GH alliances to facilitate knowledge exchange, drive advancements in green hydrogen technologies, and foster innovative solar solutions. For outreach efforts, ISA Secretariat aimed to undertake 25 country missions expected to enhance capacity building across programs targeting approximately 1000 people.
236. Further, looking ahead to 2024, ISA Secretariat identified five countries, namely Uganda, Cameroon, Bangladesh, Benin, and Venezuela, for setting up STAR centres as part of the STAR-C initiatives.
237. ISA Secretariat further detailed their upcoming initiatives, including the identification of solar entrepreneurs through the Solar X Challenge slated for the Asia-Pacific region in the upcoming year.

238. ISA Secretariat outlined plans for the Global Solar facility, expressing their intent to raise 100 million USD in 2024 for its implementation. Additionally, the ISA Secretariat emphasized the significance of a global report on energy transition, including yearly reports on technology, investment, market analysis, and an evaluation of energy transition globally. ISA Secretariat stressed the pivotal role of solar energy transition in enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to achieve the goals set in the Paris Agreement.
239. ISA Secretariat also highlighted plans for launching a Solar data portal, a comprehensive knowledge management platform that incorporates a regulatory database. ISA Secretariat mentioned hosting a unique Solar Festival, aimed at celebrating achievements within the solar sector while addressing the sector's challenges. Moreover, the ISA Secretariat emphasized strengthening engagement with the private sector through the Corporate Advisory Group, involving various activities like events, workshops, familiarization visits, roundtable discussions, and establishing partnerships and financial engagements with institutions.
240. Additionally, ISA Secretariat unveiled an initiative called 'Solar for She,' focusing on gender equity and social inclusion as part of their programmatic support.
241. Regarding the proposed budget 2024, the ISA Secretariat proposed a total budget of USD 27,383,000. Out of this, USD 12.5 million would be sourced from Member Countries, philanthropic contributions. Furthermore, the ISA Secretariat proposed an additional USD 5 million each coming from savings from the current year and the interest earned from the Corpus.
242. The representative of the French Republic expressed delight in the incorporation of the French expert into the Secretariat. They welcomed the initiative Solar for She and expressed interest in learning more to explore avenues for support. Regarding Program 9 on solar energy for green hydrogen, they recommended focusing on challenging-to-decarbonize sectors like transport and industry. France expressed readiness to share expertise and support in various programs. They also helped engage French companies with the ISA Corporate Advisory Group for active participation in ISA activities.
243. In response, the DG ISA mentioned that they anticipate welcoming the French secondee to the ISA Secretariat and exploring possibilities for expanding the program. Regarding green hydrogen, he fully supported its applications, particularly in crucial sectors like transport, emphasizing the importance of addressing difficult-to-decarbonize sectors in their focus on green hydrogen innovation.
244. The President informed that in terms of decarbonization of transport, several pilots are already underway, including those on shipping, and heavy-duty mobility such as trucks. These pilots are being implemented by India and other countries. The International Solar Alliance lacks the resources and laboratories for tests and research, so individual countries are taking the lead in these efforts. There are separate pilots on heavy mobility like shipping being conducted by various countries, including India. The President also informed that a Corporate Advisory Group has been constituted, and the Secretariat reports their significant contributions to all deliberations.

245. ***Decision: The Assembly noted and adopted the ISA proposed work programme and budget for CY 2024 as contained in document ISA/A.06/WD.13.***

Agenda Item 21. Update on the status of the ISA Corpus Fund, Voluntary Contributions by the ISA Member Countries, and Resource Mobilisation

246. The ISA Secretariat briefed the Assembly on the update on the status of the ISA Corpus Fund, Voluntary Contributions by the ISA Member Countries, and Resource Mobilisation as detailed in the working document ISA/A.06/WD.14.
247. The President emphasized that he looks forward to receiving contributions, both regular and voluntary, from all members. He added that these contributions are crucial for the organization's functioning, particularly highlighting the importance of developed and richer countries increasing their support.
248. The representative of Bangladesh appreciated the ISA initiative in the fight against climate change and its contribution to global greening. He expressed gratitude for the development of a Corpus fund to support ISA contributions to Member Countries in promoting solar technologies. Bangladesh is pleased to learn about the expanding scope and magnitude of ISA support activities aligned with the needs and priorities of Member Countries. The representative affirmed Bangladesh's strong support for ISA initiatives and mentioned their agreement to contribute to the voluntary fund pending government final approval. He is hoped that other Member Countries will also step forward to support and generate a substantial fund for the greater good of all Member Countries.
249. The representative of Fiji stated that Fiji fully supports the activities of the ISA. They expressed support for all the programs discussed and emphasized their commitment to voluntary contributions. The minister mentioned pushing for this in their cabinet, with a goal to finalize it by the end of the year as they move forward.
250. The representative of Guinea conveyed that Guinea was providing a voluntary contribution, which would soon arrive. Furthermore, they mentioned ongoing efforts to establish an automatic annual payment system, eliminating the need for reminders.
251. The representative of Nigeria assured that they will contribute annually towards the voluntary contributions.
252. The Gabon representative suggested setting a lump sum, emphasizing the importance of obliging states to incorporate this amount into their national budgets and annually remitting it to the ISA.
253. The representative of Burkina Faso conveyed that the country strongly supports ISA programs. They informed that Burkina Faso is committed to contributing at least the minimum required share annually as a Member Country.
254. The representative of Denmark stated that it was impressive to see ISA accomplishments in a short span. The organization had become a global leader and a crucial voice against climate change. Earlier in the year, Denmark signed an MoU with ISA, pledging strategic cooperation in developing solar, wind, and green hydrogen in developing countries, particularly in Africa. At that time, Denmark committed 500,000 kroner for feasibility studies and a national expert for ISA goals.

Denmark also announced a donation of 9.4 million Danish kroner to ISA, which was pending approval, including parliamentary consent, which are expected by the year-end. The donation is earmarked for ISA developmental efforts. Denmark expressed gratitude for the ISA collaboration and looked forward to the donation's completion and the subsequent steps in the coming weeks.

255. The President thanked and applauded the Kingdom of Denmark for the announcement made.
256. The representative of the United States of America announced that the United States is collaborating with approximately \$1 million for a project aimed at expanding solar initiatives in Cambodia, Paraguay, and Nigeria. Additionally, it was mentioned that another million dollars will be allocated for a similar project in the Pacific Island Nations next year.
257. The President thanked the United States of America.
258. The Botswana representative stated that their country respects international financial obligations. They assured the President that Botswana would fulfil its obligations.
259. The German representative reiterated that, due to the departure of their State Secretary, Germany is pleased to announce an increased commitment to ISA. This includes providing dedicated funding for expert secondments to the organization, aiming to enhance ISA international presence. They expressed anticipation for supporting ISA in the future.
260. The President mentioned that support is flowing in for the positive efforts of the International Solar Alliance. The work being carried out will benefit countries with 733 million people lacking access to electricity—a crucial and noble initiative in the fight against climate change.
261. The representative of Australia stated that Australia exceeded its anticipated annual contribution by providing one million dollars in 2021. Additionally, until earlier this year, Australia had seconded a professional to the ISA, concluding their work in early 2023.
262. The President acknowledged the information provided by Australia, and thanked Australia for its contribution to ISA objectives.
263. ***Decision: The Assembly noted the update on the status of the ISA Corpus Fund, Voluntary Contributions by the ISA Member Countries, and Resource Mobilisation and requested the ISA Member Countries to provide voluntary contributions in line with the decision of the Fifth Session of the ISA Assembly on voluntary contributions.***

Agenda Item 22. Preparations for the Seventh Session of the ISA Assembly

264. The Chair (representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh) briefed the Assembly that the next agenda was the preparation of the Seventh Session of the ISA Assembly. It was emphasized that the ISA Assembly played a pivotal role as a vital platform for Member Countries to converse and synchronize their national, regional, and global aspirations in pursuit of sustainable development.

265. With a special focus on advancing the transition to clean energy, it was highlighted that the gathering served as a nexus where countries could collectively strategize and synergize their efforts. The aim was to foster collaboration to address the challenges associated with sustainable development and the imperative shift towards clean and renewable energy sources.
266. The ISA Secretariat proposed that the Seventh Session of the ISA Assembly be conducted from 9:30 hours IST, starting on Monday, 21 October, and concluding on 23 October 2024 in New Delhi, India. The Assembly was requested to extend its support to the ISA Secretariat in hosting the Seventh Session of the ISA Assembly.
267. In the absence of any further comments, the Assembly approved the proposed date of the Seventh Session of the ISA Assembly.
268. **Decision: The Assembly approved the proposed date of the Seventh Session of the ISA Assembly**

Agenda Item 23. High-level Segment - Interventions by the Hon'ble Ministers of the ISA Member and Signatory Countries

269. The President and The Chair invited the Members and Signatories to the Framework Agreement of ISA to deliver their country statements.
270. At the invitation of the President and The Chair, the following countries addressed the ISA Assembly:
- i. Solomon Islands
 - ii. Federal Republic of Brazil
 - iii. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
 - iv. Republic of Chile
 - v. Republic of Ghana
 - vi. Republic of Cuba
 - vii. Republic of Guyana
 - viii. Kingdom of Tonga
 - ix. Republic of Kiribati
 - x. Republic of India
 - xi. Republic of Rwanda
 - xii. Commonwealth of Australia
 - xiii. United Arab Emirates
 - xiv. Jamaica
 - xv. United Kingdom
 - xvi. Republic of Italy
 - xvii. Arab Republic of Egypt
 - xviii. Burkina Faso
 - xix. Kingdom of Norway
 - xx. Kingdom of Morocco
 - xxi. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

- xxii. Japan
- xxiii. Republic of The Gambia
- xxiv. Union of the Comoros
- xxv. People's Republic of Bangladesh
- xxvi. Republic of the Union of Myanmar
- xxvii. Republic of Guinea
- xxviii. Federal Republic of Nigeria
- xxix. Kingdom of Sweden
- xxx. Republic of Seychelles
- xxxi. Tuvalu
- xxxii. The United States of America

271. The President and The Chair thanked the Hon'ble Members and Signatories for their country statements and kind interventions.

Agenda Item 24. Any Other Business

272. The President invited the members to raise any other urgent business for the consideration of the ISA Assembly.
273. The President of ISA announced Bangladesh, Bhutan, Uganda, Ethiopia, Denmark, El Salvador, and Panama as members of the Credentials Committee for the Seventh Assembly of the ISA in 2024. The house expressed gratitude to these countries for agreeing to be part of the Credentials Committee for 2024. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure (RoP) of the ISA Assembly, the Eighth Member will be announced in consultation with the ISA member countries.
274. ***Decision: The Assembly approved following countries for the Credentials Committee for the Seventh Assembly of the ISA:***
- i. ***Bangladesh,***
 - ii. ***Bhutan,***
 - iii. ***Uganda,***
 - iv. ***Ethiopia,***
 - v. ***Denmark,***
 - vi. ***El Salvador, and***
 - vii. ***Panama***

Agenda Item 25. Closing of Meeting

275. The President concluded the Meeting by thanking all members and signatories for their contribution and encouraging them to support the Secretariat to allow ISA to carry out its activities and implement its initiatives for a better outcome.
276. Acknowledgements were extended to all countries, along with thanks to Hon'ble Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Ambassadors, Consuls, and Officers who attended the Assembly. It was emphasized that the conference had been highly successful, noting the remarkable progress of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). The President highlighted the rarity of an organization achieving 120 members in its fifth year and commended the ISA for not only initiating but also completing and delivering projects.
277. The ISA was recognized as a significant force in facilitating collaboration among countries to bring electricity to areas in need, ensuring access to clean and sustainable energy. The expansion of the ISA scope, the introduction of a new fund, increased viability gap funding (VGF), and a diverse range of projects were discussed, including solar irrigation, solarization of health centres, solar cold storage, and grid-scale solar projects. The overarching goal remained to provide electricity and access to clean energy for everyone.
278. The President emphasized the importance of achieving the goals of energy transition, energy access, and energy security simultaneously was stressed. The president expressed the collective commitment to supporting each other in attaining these objectives. The meeting was deemed successful, with notable strides made. The growing support for the ISA and the organization's expansion were highlighted, including the need for additional officers as its activities expanded. The President concluded by expressing gratitude to all participants.
