
Sixth Session of the Assembly of the International Solar Alliance

31 October 2023

New Delhi, Republic of India

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Summary 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 International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly opened the Sixth Session of the Assembly of the ISA, welcoming the Vice Presidents of the ISA, members of International Solar Alliance, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Honorary Consuls, and other distinguished guests to India. He expressed that as they gathered for the Assembly Session, he was reminded of the immense challenges and opportunities ahead in their collective pursuit for a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable planet.
2. The President invited the Co-President of the Assembly and the Co-chair of the meeting, the French Republic, to deliver the opening remarks.
3. The Co-President 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.
4. 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 of these respective countries. He then invited the Director General, ISA to present a brief on the projects.
5. These projects were 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 successfully 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.
6. He informed that, in the esteemed presence of Hon'ble Ministers from Malawi, Fiji, Seychelles, and Kiribati, ISA was set to dedicate demonstration projects in the respective countries. He explained in brief information about each project before proceeding with project videos. Subsequently, inviting the Hon'ble Ministers from each country to speak.
7. The DG ISA then requested the Hon'ble Ministers to present a brief on the projects.
8. Hon'ble Ministers from Malawi, Fiji, Seychelles, and Kiribati presented a brief on the demonstration projects undertaken in their respective countries.
9. The DG ISA thanked the Hon'ble Ministers and requested the President of ISA to dedicate the projects.
10. The President congratulated the four countries and extended gratitude for their commitment to the projects and dedication to advancing the ISA and its initiatives.
11. The President announced that twelve (12) more projects would be completed by December, with the remaining to be finalised by March 2024. He congratulated ISA and all Member Countries, emphasising 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.

12. He expressed dedication to realising this future and concluded by thanking everyone.

Agenda Item 2. Adoption of the Agenda

13. 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.
14. ***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

15. 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.
16. ***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

17. 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.
18. The President then extended an invitation to the chair of the Credentials Committee, the Union of Comoros, to present the Committee's report.
19. ***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

20. 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 registered to attend the Assembly as contained in the information document **ISA/A.06/INF02.Rev01**.

21. ***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

22. 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.
23. He directed the ISA Secretariat to brief the Assembly on the observations.
24. 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 on from the Federative Republic of Brazil had been received by the ISA Secretariat for the same.
25. Pursuant to the request of the Government of Brazil, the report was revised and a corrigendum to that effect was placed before the Assembly for adoption.
26. The DG ISA proposed the adoption of the corrigendum placed before the Assembly.
27. ***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

28. 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.
29. The representative of the French Republic 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 internationalisation of the Solar Alliance Secretariat. Additionally, it was asserted that the modernisation of electricity grids, incorporating a larger share of renewable energy, was deemed essential to ensure the security and reliability of electricity supply.
30. The French 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 the initiative.

31. In response the President responded that a presentation would be scheduled 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 organisation for One Sun, One World, One Grid would be distinct and a new technical organisation.
32. No additional interventions were made by any other Member.
33. ***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

34. The President presented a brief on the agenda item and invited the ISA Secretariat to present the Annual Audited Financial Report of the ISA for the calendar year 2022.
35. 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.
36. ***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

37. 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
38. 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.
39. The President invited the Assembly to take note of these partners and ratify the Partner Organisation Status of these organisations.
40. ***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

41. 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.
42. The Depositary informed that as of September 20, 2023, 116 countries had signed the Framework Agreement of the ISA, and out of these, 94 had deposited their Instruments of Ratification, attaining full membership. The depositary was pleased to announce that the Kingdom of Spain, the Republic

of Congo, and New Zealand had signed the ISA Framework Agreement following the Fifth General Assembly. The Depository also informed that Republic of Chile had submitted its Instrument of Ratification, while the Federative Republic of Brazil, Cyprus, Solomon Islands, and Singapore had completed the formalities and are now full-fledged members. The depository urged the remaining 22 Signatory Countries to ratify the ISA Framework Agreement.

43. The President welcomed the new Member Countries and the new Signatories to ISA Framework Agreement. He further invited the Signatories to ratify the Framework Agreement and join ISA as full members.
44. ***Decision: The Assembly adopted the report of the Depository as presented at the Assembly.***

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

45. 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 the 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.
46. In the absence of any further comments, the Assembly adopted the reports of the Eighth and the Ninth Meeting of the Standing Committee.
47. ***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

48. 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 other three had been conducted in-person. The President expressed gratitude to the host countries – the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Rwanda, and the European Union, for their support in organising these meetings.
49. He 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.
50. The President invited the respective Regional Vice-Presidents for their remarks. The Vice- Presidents of the regions presented their remarks related to the ISA Regional meetings.

51. The President thanked the Vice Presidents for their remarks and directed the ISA Secretariat to consider all recommendations made by the Regional Committees during its meetings and extend support and assistance as necessary.
52. **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

53. The President invited the DG, ISA to present to the Assembly with an overview of the work done over the past year.
54. The DG, ISA presented the Annual Report of the International Solar Alliance for 2023. The DG, ISA reported that it was a comprehensive document encapsulating the progress, pivotal initiatives, and focus areas of the ISA. The report highlighted three key aspects. Firstly, it outlined the activities of the ISA. Secondly, as an international multilateral agency, it highlighted ISA's aim to create markets for Solar Energy, expecting support from well-established agencies for large-scale replication. Thirdly, it emphasised regulatory interventions needed to attract private sector support for project implementation.
55. The DG ISA 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 is published in January 2024, as was the case for 2022.
56. 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 outlined the three crucial issues to be addressed simultaneously: Analytics and Advocacy, Capacity Building assistance for Developing Countries, and Programmatic Support, predominantly for Developing States. 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 which provides insights into crucial drivers for solar investment attractiveness in Member Countries.
57. The DG highlighted the importance of the Ease of Doing Solar initiative, including the Global Trends in Solar Power 2023 Report. Regarding Policy and Capacity Building initiatives as of June 2023, the

ISA provided Technical Training Programs to approximately 3,500 individuals in 78 countries. He noted the significant progress made in the STAR-C Initiative, with Memoranda of Understanding established with eight countries.

58. 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 STAR-C 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 organisations were reported. The ISA has formalised 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.
59. 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 with a similar exercise planned, subject to approval for the Asian Pacific Region and, the Latin America and Caribbean region next year.
60. The President thanked the Director General and invited the ISA 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 be make it complete for 2023.
61. The representative of Malawi informed that they had two proposals for the report. Firstly, establishing a legal framework concerning the vandalism aspects of solar equipment. Secondly, a request was made to create a task force within the ISA for the Ministers of Finance and Energy to help address solar-related issues with utmost seriousness within national budgets.
62. In response, the President expressed gratitude to Malawi and acknowledged that they had taken note of their input. It was stated that efforts would be made to carry the suggestions forward.
63. The DG ISA assured the Assembly that the ISA Secretariat shall endeavour to develop a note on suggestions shared by the representative of Malawi.
64. ***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

65. On request of the President ISA, 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 proposals 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 and revised organisational structure.

66. The ISA Secretariat presented the update on the revised organisational structure and status of ISA Secretariat Staff before the Assembly.
67. The President of ISA conveyed that all appointments or secondments would strictly align with the organisation's needs.
68. 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 organisation chart.
69. The representative of Fiji expressed that Fiji would like to convey sincere appreciation to the Director General and ISA Secretariat. He mentioned that they are beginning to collaborate with other countries to realise the benefits of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), particularly concerning the organisational structure.
70. The President thanked the representatives of the French Republic and Fiji for their comments and approved the proposed update.
71. ***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

72. 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.
73. The ISA Secretariat presented the proposal for the establishment of an Administrative Tribunal in accordance with the requirement of the ISA Staff Regulations.
74. The representative of Fiji sought clarification concerning Annexure II of the Working Document, which mentions a retention fee of \$10,000, and the daily sitting rate as \$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.
75. The President explained that the retention fee would be separate and the \$2,000 per day would be for the sitting fees.
76. No additional interventions were made by any other Member on the working document ISA/A.06/WD.08.

77. ***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

78. The President briefed the Assembly on the agenda item.
79. The ISA Secretariat expressed gratitude to key officials and dignitaries present and commenced a briefing on the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) mechanism approved in 2021. The VGF aimed to reduce project costs for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) by providing support amounting to \$150,000 per project or 10% of the project cost for ten involved countries, totalling \$1.5 million USD.
80. Despite the approval, no proposals were received, prompting the 8th Standing Committee to suggest further consultations. The Chair recommended a new proposal during the 9th Committee meeting.
81. Steps taken by the ISA Secretariat included circulating a questionnaire to member countries and consulting multilateral banks. Feedback received by the ISA Secretariat indicated that a VGF of 10% might not be sufficient, recognising variations in funding percentages based on project size and country specificity. Several countries like Rwanda, Nigeria, Mauritius, Bangladesh, and Bhutan expressed interest to avail benefits of the same.
82. A revised proposal was presented to the 9th Standing Committee, suggesting a VGF ranging from 10% to 35% of the project cost, subject to case-by-case evaluation based on the country or project. The endorsement by Regional Committees before approval by the Standing Committee was proposed. It was suggested that the scheme operate for three years starting in 2024 on a first-come, first-serve basis.
83. The ISA Secretariat outlined in detail an implementation timeline for the proposal, including guidelines' approval, proposal invitations, submission to Regional Committees, a 45-day evaluation period, presentation to the Standing Committee, and communication of approved projects to respective countries. The remaining budgetary provisions would be used in subsequent cycles.
84. In conclusion, the ISA Secretariat presented the revised proposal for the Assembly's consideration, expressing gratitude and seeking thoughtful consideration.
85. The representative of Nigeria suggested empowering 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.

86. The President assured that the suggestion shall be considered. He then invited the representative of Germany for his remarks.
87. The representative of Germany 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 projects in the long term. Additionally, he expressed interest in obtaining further information about the minimal criteria for projects eligible for funding and would greatly appreciate receiving such details.
88. The President of ISA requested Germany and other developed countries to contribute to the fund.
89. 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 materialised.
90. 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.
91. The President of ISA responded that he would like to clarify that bilateral assistance is provided to neighbouring countries, was one aspect. However, contributing to the program of the International Solar Alliance is another matter altogether.
92. The representative of Gabon emphasised the significance of seriously considering 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.
93. The President ISA mentioned that they had taken note of Malawi's comments.
94. 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.
95. The representative of Gambia requested the Republic of India to share their experience in the areas of renewable energy. President suggested to share more details through a separate presentation.
96. The President acknowledged all suggestions presented and directed the secretariat to examine and consider for its implementation.
97. ***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

98. The DG ISA invited the representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, being the Vice President of the ISA Assembly, to chair the meeting in the absence of the President of ISA.
99. 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.
100. The ISA Secretariat presented an update on the Star-C initiative.
101. Representatives from various countries put forth their interventions focused on supporting the STAR-C initiative and the establishment of STAR Centres for solar energy development and capacity building. Key aspects included expressions of support, commitments, and plans for involvement in the initiative.
102. Representatives from Bangladesh, Peru, France, Ethiopia, Egypt, Fiji, Nigeria, Djibouti, Seychelles, Morocco, New Zealand, Gambia, Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso, Somalia, Botswana, Cameroon, Republic of Guinea, and Senegal emphasized their roles, intentions, or progress related to the STAR-C initiative, highlighting priorities such as capacity building, regional cooperation, technical support, infrastructure development, and investment in solar energy.
103. **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

104. 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.
105. The ISA Secretariat presented an update on the ISA Global Solar Facility.
106. 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. He also reiterated ADB's continued strong support for these activities and for all ISA activities, both ongoing and in the future.

107. 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.
108. The Malawian representative mentioned three key points in the Global Solar Facility: capacity building, unlocking finances, and replicability. Emphasising 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.
109. 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 mobilised \$5.2 billion in financing, including \$865 million in climate finance, operating in over 65 countries.
110. ***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

111. 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.
112. The ISA Secretariat presented an update on the SolarX Startup Challenge.
113. The Chair invited the ISA Assembly to consider the update provided by the Secretariat and approve the SolarX Grand Challenge in the Africa region.
114. 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 requested the status of the next edition.
115. The representative of Peru emphasised the notable progress achieved through the SolarX Startup Challenge.
116. The representative of Gabon expressed a desire for Gabon's participation in the second edition of the challenge. He emphasised the commendable contributions of Gabonese start-ups and requested youth involvement.
117. The representative of Morocco recommended incorporating themes addressing the constraints faced by the energy transition, such as the development of smart grids and storage for solar energy.

He emphasised that such initiatives would encourage countries to focus on technical solutions and confirmed Morocco's participation in the next edition.

118. The DG ISA replied that they have recently completed the program focused on all of Africa, with 182 start-ups participating. He explained that ISA is planning to carry out the challenge to Asia and the Pacific Region, then to Latin America and the Caribbean Region, and then again in Africa.
119. **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

120. 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.
121. The ISA Secretariat presented the proposed work programme and budget for CY 2024. Updates were provided on the previously approved work plan and budget for 2023, discussed in the 8th and 9th Standing Committee meetings in June and September 2023. A detailed update covered activities from January to September 2023, emphasising progress and budget projections until December 2023, along with proposed activities and budget allocations for 2024.
122. Progress on projects involved 27 countries, with eight completed and 12 nearing completions in various areas like ground-mounted projects, solar rooftops, and solar water pumping. Preparatory work for solar water pumping in ten member countries under the IBSA Fund with UNDP collaboration was initiated.
123. Future plans included site finalisation, consultant hiring, and project finalisation in various countries. Several reports and initiatives were scheduled until December 2023, such as The Green Hydrogen Innovation Centre and solar-related reports.
124. The budget initially approved was USD 21,184,873 but was revised to USD 16 million. Out of this, USD 3 million was committed, and close to USD 6.5 million was designated for planned project completions by the end of 2023.
125. Plans for the 2024 budget encompassed solar maps, regulatory support, and initiating projects in ten countries, focusing on health centres, government buildings, and solar pumping systems.
126. Future initiatives aimed at creating project pipelines, feasibility studies, stakeholder dialogues, and country missions for capacity building.
127. Various future initiatives included the Solar X Challenge, Global Solar Facility, Global Report on Energy Transition, Solar Data Portal, Solar Festival, and 'Solar for She' initiative for gender equity and social inclusion.

128. The proposed budget for 2024 totalled USD 27,383,000 with funding from Member Countries philanthropic contributions, savings, and interest earned.
129. The representative of the French Republic expressed delight at 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-decarbonise sectors like transport and industry.
130. 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 expressed his full support in its applications, particularly in crucial sectors like transport, emphasising the importance of addressing difficult-to-decarbonise sectors in their focus on green hydrogen innovation.
131. The President informed that several pilots are already underway in terms of decarbonisation of transport, including those on shipping and heavy-duty mobility such as trucks. The President also informed that the Corporate Advisory Group has been constituted, and the Secretariat reports their significant contributions to all deliberations.
132. ***Decision: The Assembly noted and approved 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

133. 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.
134. The representative of Bangladesh affirmed Bangladesh's strong support for ISA initiatives and mentioned their Agreement to contribute to the voluntary fund pending government final approval. He hoped that other Member Countries will also step forward to support and generate a substantial fund for the greater good of all Member Countries.
135. The representative of Fiji expressed support for all the programs discussed and emphasised their commitment to voluntary contributions. The Minister mentioned pushing for this in their cabinet, with a goal to finalise it by the end of the year as they move forward.
136. 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.
137. The representative of Nigeria assured that they will contribute annually towards the voluntary contributions.

138. The representative from Gabon suggested setting a specific amount, emphasising the importance of obliging states to incorporate this amount into their national budgets and annually remitting it to the ISA.
139. The representative of Burkina Faso conveyed that they are committed to contributing at least the minimum required share annually as a Member Country.
140. The representative of Denmark stated that 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 offering is earmarked for ISA developmental efforts. Denmark expressed gratitude for the ISA collaboration.
141. The President thanked and applauded the Kingdom of Denmark for the announcement.
142. The representative of the United States of America announced that the United States is contributing with approximately \$1 million for projects to expand 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.
143. The President thanked the United States of America.
144. The Botswana representative stated that their country respects international financial obligations. They assured the President that Botswana would fulfil its obligations.
145. 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 sent a professional to the ISA, on secondment, who has successfully served a tenure that concluded in early 2023.
146. The President acknowledged the information provided by Australia and thanked Australia for its contribution to ISA objectives.
147. ***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

148. The Chair briefed the Assembly that the next agenda was the preparation of the Seventh Session of the ISA Assembly.
149. 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 7th Session of the ISA Assembly.

150. In the absence of any further comments, the Assembly approved the proposed date of the Seventh Session of the ISA Assembly.

151. **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

152. High-level interventions were made by the Hon'ble Ministers and other delegates from the ISA Member Countries, Signatory Countries, and Prospective Member Countries. The President thanked the Hon'ble Ministers and other delegates for their country statements and interventions.

Agenda Item 24. Any Other Business

153. The President invited the members to raise any other urgent business for the consideration of the ISA Assembly.

154. The President of ISA announced Bangladesh, Bhutan, Uganda, Ethiopia, Denmark, El Salvador, and Panama as the members of the Credentials Committee for the Seventh Assembly of the ISA in 2024. The Assembly expressed gratitude to the 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.

155. **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

156. 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.

157. 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.

158. 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.

159. 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.
