

**REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL STEERING
COMMITTEE (ISC)
HELD ON 1ST DECEMBER, 2015
AT PARIS, FRANCE**

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

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

Agenda Item: Opening of the meeting

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

4. **Adoption of the Agenda**

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

5. Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and the Chair formally opened the meeting, welcomed the country representatives and thanked all for their overwhelming support to the International Solar Alliance, jointly championed by India and France. He stated that launching of ISA on the previous day was an historic event, and thanked more than 70 countries, including 33 Heads of State and Heads of Government, who participated and supported. He expressed deep gratitude to the Government of France for their support and cooperation in launching ISA from Paris. The “Paris Declaration” was very fundamental to the future of spread of solar energy in the globe. He further stated that the Honourable Prime Minister of India would like to see ISA translates its dreams into action at the shortest possible time. Government of India has offered to host the Secretariat, five acres of land, a corpus, and some recurrent expenditure for the first five years, including formation of an initial cell in the Ministry to coordinate ISA activities and programmes prior to holding the Founding Conference in New Delhi during April/May 2016. He opined that the Steering Committee members could be in touch with one another via email before the second ISC meeting is held at Abu Dhabi during the middle of January 2016 and Steering Committee can discuss India’s initiative and related proposals with more depth and focus. He requested members to provide views for devising future activities of ISA by email to the Ministry (secy-mnre@nic.in) with copies to their respective Embassies in Delhi.

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

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

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

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

Views and discussion of the Members Countries of the International Steering Committee (ISC)

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

- i. **Australia:** Australia, congratulated India and France for the ISA initiative and the speed at which the first Steering Committee had been convened. He stated that ISA, as a knowledge platform, could help in learning lessons from other member countries in undertaking ambitious solar energy programs. Solar technologies are of vital importance in meeting energy needs of the remote communities of Australia including the indigenous population. Australia also had rich experience in solar R & D to share with other member countries. However, in solar space, ISA needed: a) find a niche for itself; b) avoid duplication of efforts; c) undertake tangible projects and programs over time; and d) leverage and promote private sector involvement;
- ii. **Bolivia:** Bolivia complemented India and France for undertaking the ISA initiative and stated that Bolivia will benefit from ISA initiative. She welcomed the road map proposed, and suggested for inclusion of the needs of indigenous peoples and local communities, because the project could be critical to improving the lives of people in urban and rural areas, especially in the most remote areas. She further

stated that the Alliance could contribute not only to climate change but also to the sustainable development of the people of our countries.

- iii. **Chile:** Chile complemented India and France for formation of ISA and supported the initiative and desired to be an active member of the Steering Committee. However, Chile suggested that the proposed governance structure of ISA could be re-examined so that ISA is fully action oriented, addresses practical problems in member countries, promotes technology applications and appropriate R & D, and works for eradication of energy poverty. Chile also suggested that the role of the ISC should also be clearly laid out.
- iv. **China:** Complemented India for ISA initiative and suggested that the initiative should move forward quickly in terms of speed and scale. The focus should be towards combining existing interventions and work together with other interventions for doubling investment in renewable energy sector and aim at increasing the total investment by 100 times in next 10 years. China further suggested that there should not be any specific decision in the first Steering Committee meeting as they would require time to study and suggest improvements on the working paper circulated. Further, the ISC would have also to address issues of governance and Finance.
- v. **Dominican Republic:** Congratulated Government of India for ISA initiative. Suggested that focus of ISA should also be on 24x7 information sharing, technology dissemination and creation of skilled manpower. Desired that ISC should address the question of 'membership fees' for becoming ISA member in future and desired more clarity on the issue;
- vi. **Ethiopia:** Ethiopia heartily congratulated India and France on the timely launching of ISA, which the Honourable Prime Minister of India had been advocating for quite some time. Renewable energy is the best answer to address lack of energy access. Ethiopia suggested that ISA should not be over bureaucratic; and procedure oriented, but should emphasize on action and delivery through partnerships with the member countries and other social organizations who could add strength to the solar movement to promote sustainable energy.
- vii. **Grenada:** While congratulating India and France for the ISA initiative, Grenada evinced keen interest in becoming an active member. Grenada suggested that ISA should base its projects and programs on gap analysis, after mapping the existing initiatives and discussions with member countries. Programs should have a geographic focus as problems and solutions may be somewhat common. ISC should also develop clarity on long term and sustainable sources of funding of the intergovernmental organization.

- viii. **Maldives:** Congratulated India and France for ISA initiative. Maldives felt that ISA could play an important role in Maldives as Maldives spends 30 % of its GDP on oil import. From the wealth of experience in the 121 prospective member countries of the ISA, Maldives will be greatly benefitted through exchange of best practices. Maldives supported that ISA should also be a knowledge centre from where all member countries can benefit in solar policy formulation on a 24x7 basis. Further, Maldives suggested that ISA should also give a role to corporate sector and civil society for promoting market for renewable energy;
- ix. **Mauritius:** Supported ISA initiative as a member of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Mauritius intended to share sustainable development challenges, including issues related to access of energy and energy security. ISA has potential to address many of the energy related issues. ISA should specially focus on addressing the energy needs of SIDS countries. IRENA does have some programs for Island countries, but there is scope for expansion of even similar programs by ISA. SIDS needs more international organizations to focus on universal energy access in island nations and addressing climate change challenges.
- x. **Seychelles:** Seychelles welcomed the formation of ISA and hoped that ISA will focus on the island countries to ensure availability of low cost capital for utility scale deployment of solar energy. ISA should also focus on developing specific solutions for unique problems in these countries;
- xi. **The Netherlands:** The Netherlands complemented Indian Prime Minister for creating history with the formation and launching of ISA and promised full support. The Netherlands suggested that ISA should focus on : a) International architecture of ISA; b) clear and concrete road map, plan and programme of future activities, c) avoidance of duplication of work with other organizations working in renewable energy area; and d) full involvement of private sector with no conflict of interest so that member countries benefit the most.
- xii. **Uganda:** Uganda congratulated India and France on the occasion of the successful launching of the ISA in Paris. Promised to play an active role in the ISA programs and projects as a member country. Supported the ISA as a viable means for accelerating development and deployment of solar energy in the member countries through facilitation and partnerships.
- xiii. **United Arab Emirates:** UAE thanked India and France for the ISA initiative and promised full support. Further UAE had welcomed ISA to have its second ISC meeting in Abu Dhabi in January 2016 on the sidelines of IRENA Assembly. UAE further stated that promotion of solar energy was a clear priority for UAE. However, UAE suggested that ISA should have clear priorities and action plan for next five years. ISA's action plan should, inter alia, be focused on market creation and businesses; ISA should also closely coordinate with IRENA to avoid unnecessary duplication of studies and projects wherever it is not required. This will also benefit ISA as IRENA has rich experience over last five years and can

guide ISA very well. UAE promised full support so that ISA had a good and smooth start.

- xiv. **United Kingdom:** The UK welcomed the Indian initiative in the formation of ISA. The UK viewed ISA is a positive development for accelerated deployment of solar energy, which should lead to enhanced market for solar products and higher investments in the member countries. In UK the Feed-in-tariff policy has created significant market for renewable energy. There is clear evidence that low carbon economy provides employment to people at local level. UK stated that over 450,000 persons were employed in renewable energy sector in UK. UK further stated that Mission Innovation that was launched alongside of ISA was another positive development. ISA should work in tandem with Mission Innovation, IRENA and other Initiatives. ISA should, inter alia, position itself as an application oriented initiative and it should not duplicate efforts in the areas that are already being undertaken by IRENA and other organizations, unless expansions helped to enhance scale and speed of programs and projects.
- xv. **Vietnam:** Vietnam supported ISA initiative, and stated that formation of ISA to promote solar applications, solar technologies, utilities, training, and R & D in member countries was very timely. Government of Vietnam has in fact announced ambitious goal of deploying 10 GW solar by the year 2030 and 100 GW solar by year 2050 and, as such, would play an active role in the running of ISA.

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

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

10. Countries present in the meeting formed the Steering Committee. These countries, along with other ISA country members will provide feedback and suggestions regarding the functioning of the steering committee of the ISA to India, and also their comments on the working paper circulated by India, including suggestions and various options on long term funding and fee structure of ISA.

11. After discussion the following focal points emerged:-

- i. *ISA, in consultation with IRENA, IEA etc. will carry out an analysis so that there is no duplication in the area of conducting studies etc. or sanctioning similar projects in same places. Further, there should be an institutional mechanism for joint consultation to avoid such duplication in annual work plans;*

- ii. *Make the proposed projects and programs in the road map more focused which can be discussed in the subsequent meetings of ISC;*
- iii. *Plan for private and corporate sector involvement in ISA activities and structure;*
- iv. *ISA member countries will designate a nodal officer for ISA and related activities and inform the same to their resident diplomatic missions located in New Delhi; and to The ISA Cell, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Block 14 First Floor, New Delhi, 110003. (secy-mnre@nic.in) Fax: 00 91 11 2436 7329; Phone 00 91 11 2436 2772. A copy of all correspondence, including feedback on the working paper, should also be marked to the local Embassy/High Commission in Delhi;*
- v. *The next meeting of the steering committee of the ISA would take place in January, 2016 at Abu Dhabi which will be conveyed through diplomatic channels shortly.*

12. Secretary (M&ER), Ministry of External Affairs stated that ISA will position itself as a credible organization with no duplication of work, focusing on creating businesses and sensitive to the island country's needs. ISA will also plan to suitably accommodate corporate sector and non-Member countries. She mentioned that the documents circulated were only initial drafts and need not be construed as binding papers. She stated that India looks forward towards suggestions from the prospective ISA member countries for developing future plans, projects and programs. She requested that the feedback from member countries should be provided within one month's duration, well before second meeting of ISC

Any other Business

13. No other business or agenda point was discussed.

Closing of the Meeting

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

Annexure-I

List of ISC Participant countries

Sl. No	Country	Name and Organization	
1.	Republic of India	Mr Upendra Tripathy, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India	Chair
2.	France	Ms Virginie Schwarz, Director Energy MEDDE/DAEI Government of France	Co-chair
3.	Aruba	Mr. CEDRICLI Tina, Delegation member for COP-21	Member
4.	Commonwealth of Australia	Mr Kelly Pearce, Australian Delegation for COP-21	Member
5.	Pluri-National State of Bolivia	Ms. Pamela Luna, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Member
6.	Republic of Chile	Ms Nicola Barregaard Coordinator Division of Sustainable Development Minister of Energy	Member
7.	People's Republic of China	Mr GAO Feng, Special Representative for climate Change, Foreign Ministry	Member
8.	Dominican Republic	Mr Omar Ramirez National Council for Climate Change	Member
9.	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	Mr Abdirahman M. Ahmed, HOA	Member
10.	Republic of Fiji	Mr Parveen Kumar Bala, Minister for Local Government, Environment and Transport	Member
11.	Republic of Grenada	Mr Spencer Thomas Ambassador	Member
12.	Republic of Maldives	Mr Ali Shareef, Director	Member

		Climatology Ministry of Environment And Energy, Republic of Maldives	
13.	Republic of Mauritius	Mr Joel Rault Ambassador of Mauritius to France	Member
14.	Republic of Seychelles	Mr Ronald Jumean Ambassador for Climate Change and SIDS Issues, New York	Member
15.	Democratic Socialist Republic of Srilanka	Mr TilakRanaviraja, Ambassador and Plenipotentiary of Sri Lanka to France & Permanent Delegate to the UNESCO	Member
16.	The Netherlands	Mr KeesRade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs The Netherlands	Member
17.	United Arab Emirates	Dr.Thani Al Zeyoudi, Permanent Representative of the UAE to (IRENA) and Director of Energy and Climate Change	Member
18.	United Kingdom	Sir David King, Foreign Secretary's Special Representative for Climate Change	Member
19.	Republic of Uganda	MrsFlaviaMunaabaNabugere, Minister of State for Environment	Member
20.	United States of America	Mr. Franz Hochstrasser, Delegation for member for COP-21	Member
21.	Socialist Republic of Vietnam	Mr Tran van LUONG, General Director, Ministry of Industry and Trade	Member

Observers Organizations

International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)	Mr Adnan Amin, Director General
International Energy Agency (IEA)	Mr Cedric Phizibert