
**Fourth meeting of the Standing Committee
10th September 2020
New Delhi, Republic of India**

15 September 2020

Report of the fourth Standing Committee meeting of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)

Summary

The document presents the Report of the fourth Standing Committee of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

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Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

1. The Chair of the Standing Committee (the Committee), Hon'ble Mr. R K Singh, Minister of New and Renewable Energy and Power, Government of India, opened the meeting, and welcomed the Members of the Committee to its fourth meeting.
2. The Chair expressed condolences on his and Committee's behalf for the victims of the COVID-19 pandemic. He informed that ISA has been actively supporting its Member countries during these difficult times through initiatives such as ISA CARES for strengthening of the health sector across LDCs and SIDS Member countries. He also informed that on 15 July 2020 the first amendment to the ISA Framework Agreement came into force and now all UN Member states are eligible for membership of the ISA. The Chair also informed the Committee of successful conduct of the First World Solar Technology Summit of the ISA, which has opened new avenues for bringing cutting edge solar technology to the fore and will promote greater dialogues amongst Member countries for promotion of low-cost innovative solar technologies.
3. The Co-Chair echoed the Chair on the role of the ISA in supporting member countries in shaping a new sustainable future and improving human lives around the globe. The Co-Chair invited the Committee to congratulate the ISA for its work and for the successful conduct of the First World Solar Technology Summit, which showed the determination of the scientific community, the corporate sector and other stakeholders to come together and deliberate for a better future.

Agenda Item 2. Adoption of the Agenda

4. The Chair invited the Committee to consider and adopt the Agenda contained in the Working Document (ISA/SC.04/WD.01) of the Fourth meeting of the Standing Committee.
5. The Committee considered and adopted the Agenda contained in the Working Document ISA/SC.04/WD.01.

Agenda Item 3. Selection of Rapporteur

6. The Chair expressed gratitude on his and Committee's behalf to Kingdom of Tonga for offering to be the Rapporteur for the Fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee.

7. The Chair invited the Committee to select Kingdom of Tonga as the Rapporteur for the Fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee.
8. The Committee selected Kingdom of Tonga as the Rapporteur for the Fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee.

Agenda Item 4. Confirmation of the Report of the third Meeting of the Standing Committee

9. The Chair noted that the Report of the third meeting of the Standing Committee, held on May 27th and June 29th 2020, had been circulated to the Members of the Committee and thanked, on his and Committee's behalf, Republic of Peru for finalizing the report, as the Rapporteur for the third meeting of the Standing Committee.
10. The Chair invited the Committee to confirm the report of the third Meeting of the Standing Committee, contained in the Working Document (ISA/SC.03/WD.13).
11. The Committee confirmed the Report of the third Meeting of the Standing Committee, contained in the Working Document (ISA/SC.03/WD.13).

Agenda Item 5. Action Taken Report of the third Meeting of the Standing Committee

12. The Chair invited the Committee to take note the Action Taken Report of the third meeting of the Standing Committee, submitted by the ISA Secretariat in the Working Document (ISA/SC.04/WD.03).
13. The Director General, ISA informed the Committee that a total of eight action points have been identified of which one has been completed and five are in progress. The Director General also noted that two action points are yet to be implemented with regards to the appointment of Permanent Representative of the ISA, which will be brought before the next meeting of the Standing Committee for further guidance.
14. The Standing Committee noted the Action Taken Report of the ISA Secretariat and Director General's explanations thereon.

Agenda Item 6. Arrangements for the Third Assembly of the ISA and Agenda for the Assembly under Rules 2 and 14 of the Annex II of the Rules of Procedure of the ISA Assembly.

15. The Chair briefed the Committee on the program for the Third Assembly, contained in the Working Document (ISA/SC.04/WD.04), to be held on October 14th 2020 in virtual mode on account of the COVID pandemic.

16. The Chair invited the Committee to deliberate on the program of the Third Assembly and the Provisional Agenda for the Third Assembly contained in the Working Document (ISA/A.03/WD.01).
17. The Chair invited Director General, ISA to brief the Committee on the program and the Provisional Agenda for the Third Assembly.
18. The Director General briefed the Committee on all the agenda items included in the provisional agenda for the third Assembly, including the following clarifications:
 - a. The Assembly will be held in virtual mode, with the support of the Host Country of ISA.
 - b. Need for identifying eight ISA Member countries for the Credentials Committee
 - c. Two nominations have been received for the position of President of the Assembly, which includes Republic of India and Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia..
 - d. Republic of Uganda and Republic of Haiti have agreed to be Rapporteurs.
 - e. Proposal for removal of USD 10,000 mandatory fee for granting observer status to non-partner organisations,
 - f. Proposal to include organisations signing partnership agreement under Article VIII(2) of the ISA Framework Agreement and exempt them from mandatory contribution to the ISA Corpus Fund for receiving Programme Partner Organisation status.
 - g. Plan to host the First World Solar Investment Summit in January 2021
 - h. Action Agenda for the Third Assembly, including mobilization of upto USD 12 Million from Corporate Partners
 - i. A proposal to launch Seventh Programme on Solar Cooling and Heating
 - j. Proposal for establishing a World Solar Bank.
 - k. Updates on the Resource mobilization strategy, including greater emphasis on facilitative role of the ISA in supporting projects in member countries; and removal of country-based indicative assessments for voluntary contributions.
19. The Chair, noting the briefing by the Director General, opined that the proposed World Solar Bank should have special dispensation for those ISA Member countries with inadequate credit ratings. In addition, the proposed Bank would have an arm for investment insurance to attract low-cost investment capital.

20. The Chair, noting the requirement for adequate financial resources and the voluntary nature of contributions from the Member countries in lieu of mandatory Membership fees, encouraged the Committee members to make voluntary contributions to the ISA Corpus Fund. The Chair apprised the Committee that the ISA has requested the Host Country to continue its support for the recurring expenditure of the ISA and support the ISA in construction of the Headquarters.
21. The Chair invited comments and suggestions on the Provisional Agenda from Members of the Committee.
22. Republic of France expressed its support for the candidacy of Republic of India for the position of President for the Fourth and Fifth Assembly of the ISA. France also expressed their intent for continuing in the position of Co-President during the same period. France, further, assured that it is engaged with the Resource Mobilisation efforts of the ISA, while suggesting that the activities of the ISA should be stepped up in a gradual manner and facilitate deployment of solar applications and implementation of the projects on the ground.
23. The United Kingdom, while congratulating the ISA and its Secretariat on the progress made thus far, holding of the WSTS and briefing meetings held prior to 4th SC meeting, expressed support for the Provisional Agenda of the ISA and appreciated as well the plan to hold the briefing meetings with the Regional Committees in advance of the Third Assembly.
24. The United Kingdom, while expressing support for the 'One Sun One World One Grid' initiative requested that additional time be dedicated to it under the Action Agenda for the Third Assembly or this item to be considered as a separate agenda item for the Assembly. Further, the UK noting synergy between objectives COP 26 and ISA suggested that the President for COP 26 be invited as a special guest at the Third Assembly of the ISA and further develop collaboration for ISA activities at COP 26 in 2021 at Glasgow, UK. The DG, while welcoming the suggestion, informed the SC about the action planned on OSOWOG with the help of Climate Parliament (CP) and the Green Grid Alliance during COP 26.
25. The Chair, while thanking the representative of the UK, echoed his support for developing synergy between ISA and COP 26 and affirmed that ISA has a major role in promoting decarbonization.
26. The Kingdom of Netherlands echoed France and UK in supporting and appreciating ISA's Work. Netherlands, noting the importance of Resource Mobilisation, informed the Committee of its support of USD 0.5 Million through

ESMAP, a trust fund at the World Bank, for developing the Roadmap for mobilization of USD 1 Trillion by 2030 in solar energy sector. Further, Netherlands echoed its support for the UK suggestion of developing synergy between ISA and COP 26.

27. The Director General expressed gratitude on behalf of the ISA Secretariat for the support from the Kingdom of Netherlands through ESMAP, a trust fund at the World Bank.
28. The Chair, noting the suggestions, thanked the Kingdom of Netherlands for its support to the ISA.

Agenda Item 7. Annual Report of the ISA

29. The Chair, noting that the Annual Report of the ISA has been circulated, invited comments from the Committee members on the report.
30. The Director General informed the Committee that the ISA Secretariat will be seeking suggestions from the National Focal Points on the Annual Report, which will be incorporated into the final Report to be presented to the Assembly for adoption.
31. The Committee considered the Annual Report 2020 of the ISA.

Agenda Item 8. Accountability System of the ISA

32. The Chair invited the ISA Secretariat to present the proposed Accountability System of the ISA to the Standing Committee, contained in the Working Document (ISA/SC.04/WD.06).
33. The Chair, after the presentation by the ISA Secretariat, invited comments from the Members of the Committee.
34. Republic of France expressed support for the principles laid down in the Accountability System of the ISA and suggested inclusion of a transparent standards for identification of Corporate Partners under the ISA's Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action.
35. The Chair noted the suggestion of Republic of France, and invited the Committee to recommend the proposed Accountability System of the ISA for the consideration of the Third Assembly of the ISA.

Agenda Item 9. Results-Based Framework of the ISA

36. The Chair invited the ISA Secretariat to present the Results-based Framework of the ISA to the Standing Committee, contained in the Working Document (ISA/SC.04/WD.07).
37. The Chair, after the presentation by the ISA Secretariat, invited comments from the Members of the Committee.
38. The United Kingdom, expressing its support for the proposal, suggested greater recognition for gender issues particularly through gender disaggregated Key Performance Indices (KPIs) and Impact analysis. UK, further, suggested linkage between the Results-Based Management Framework and Performance Management of the ISA Staff.
39. The Chair, noting UK's suggestion, requested that the suggestions be incorporated into the Framework and invited the Committee to recommend the same to the Third Assembly for its consideration and approval.

Agenda Item 10. Audited Account Statement of the ISA

40. The Chair invited the External Auditor to present the Audited Account Statement of the ISA for the CY 2019.
41. The Chair, after the presentation from the External Auditor, invited the Standing Committee to take note of the Audited Account Statement of the ISA for CY 2019.
42. The Standing Committee took note of the Audited Account Statement of the ISA for CY 2019 and thanked the Audit firm for having completed its task on time even during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Agenda Item 11. Other Business

43. The Chair invited the Standing Committee members to deliver their concluding remarks.
44. Republic of France expressed support for the proposition of UK for developing synergy between ISA and COP 26. Further, France suggested that a separate Agenda item on the status of recruitment of global professionals be added to the Provisional Agenda for the Third Assembly.
45. Representative from Republic of Togo, thanking the President of the ISA Assembly, presented the greetings from the Hon'ble Minister of Mines and Energy of Republic of Togo to the Chair and other Members of the Standing

Committee. Togo expressed support for the Agenda for the Third Assembly and expressed hope that the new initiatives will help in attracting low-cost investment in the solar energy sector. Togo informed the Members of the Standing Committee of the progress made by the Togolese Republic in the solar energy sector including 280 MW of Solar Park in Togo being planned with the help of ISA and NTPC and expressed hope for resultant sustainable human & economic development from energy sector transformation. Togo appreciated the global success of the World Solar Technology Summit. Togo also appreciated the leadership of the Republic of India and Republic of France in promoting low-cost solar energy and expressed optimism for success of the Third Assembly of the ISA.

46. Hon'ble Minister of Energy, Republic of Niger expressed gratitude to the Government of India, the Host Country of the ISA for the support to Republic of Niger and assured greater cooperation on behalf Hon'ble President of the Republic of Niger. The Hon'ble Minister expressed her appreciation for the International Solar Alliance, an initiative by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, which brings together countries and develop framework for collaborations for deployment of solar energy, as per specific needs of the Member countries. Hon'ble Minister expressed her appreciation for the work being carried out by the ISA and the professionalism of the ISA Secretariat. She noted that the institution of ISA presents an opportunity to sensitise the global community to the policy of use of new clean energy sources.
47. The Hon'ble Minister from Niger, in addition, expressed support for the candidature of India and France for the position of President and Co-President along with support for the reappointment of the incumbent Director General for a second term.
48. The Hon'ble Minister appreciated the efforts of the Government of India in rural electrification to facilitate access to clean and sustainable renewable energy, which is essential for economic growth. She, further, expressed gratitude to the Republic of India for assurance of financing for solar rooftop projects at ten national hospitals in the Republic of Niger and Republic of Niger is eagerly awaiting realization of these projects.
49. The Hon'ble Minister thanked the Director General, ISA for the initiative of solarizing district hospital through ISA's funding of USD 50,000 and assured that the arrangements to initiate the projects have been made. The Hon'ble Minister concluded by reminding the Committee of the exigency created by the COVID pandemic and appreciated the efforts being made to overcome this crises, while expressing optimism for early global recovery.

50. Representative from Kingdom of Tonga conveyed greetings from behalf of the Hon'ble Minister of Energy and the Hon'ble Vice-President of the Regional Committee for Asia-Pacific of the ISA. Kingdom of Tonga congratulated ISA and its staff for the support provided to Tonga and for success of the World Solar Technology Summit.
51. Kingdom of Tonga reminded the Committee that Small Island Countries in the Asia-Pacific are most vulnerable to natural disasters resulting from adverse effects of Climate Change. Tonga noted that ISA's policy and approach to the needs of the small island countries and other vulnerable Member countries of Asia and expressed need for special assistance for capacity building & project funding, to designed as per the needs of the Small Island countries. Kingdom of Tonga requested special solar awards for LDC/SIDS countries taking into account limited demand on account of smaller population of these countries.
52. Tonga concluded by expressing support for the renewal of term of the incumbent Director General.
53. The Chair thanked Kingdom of Tonga for their closing remarks.

Agenda Item 12. Closing

54. The Chair thanked the Committee members for a productive meeting and expressed hope for successful Third Assembly of the ISA, while requesting participation from the Hon'ble Ministers of the ISA Member countries.
55. The Chair close the fourth meeting of the Standing Committee.

LIST OF ATTENDEES***• India – Chair**

1. H.E. Shri Raj Kumar Singh - Chair
2. H.E. Mr. Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi, Secretary, MNRE
3. Dr. P C Maithani – NFP, India

• France – Co-Chair

4. Mrs Dana Purcarescu, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of France in New Delhi
5. Mr. Simon Horrenberger, Counsellor (Political Section)

• Peru

6. H.E. Mr. Carlos Castaneda – Ambassador of Peru in New Delhi
7. Mr. Fabio SUBIA – Second Secretary, Embassy of Peru in New Delhi

• Venezuela

8. H.E. Tania Masea – Vice Minister for New Electric Energy Sources and Rational Energy Consumption;
9. H.E. Ambassador Coromoto Godoy, Embassy of Venezuela in New Delhi
10. Eliana Galindo – Director General for International Relations and Integration in the Ministry of Electric Energy
11. Mr. Daniel Rodolfo Alvarez Hidalgo (NFP)

• Togo

12. H.E. Mr. Kondi MANI – Charge d’Affairs, Head of Mission
13. Mr Yawo AKPEMADO – Second Counsellor
14. Mr Messanavi KPODAR, Financial Attache

• Niger

15. H.E. Mrs. Amadou Aissata, Minister of Energy, Republic of Niger
16. H.E. Mr. Ado Leko, Ambassador of NIGER in New Delhi
17. Mr. Souleymane Boureima – Counsellor, Embassy of NIGER in New Delhi
18. Mr. Balla Mahaman Rabiou, Secretary General of the Ministry of Energy, Republic of Niger

• Tonga

19. H.E. Mr. Desh B Sahae – Hony. Consul of the Kingdom of Tonga in New Delhi

- **United Kingdom**

20. Mr. Gavin McGillivray, Minister Counsellor – Development, British High Commission
21. Mr. Udit Mathur, Energy Advisor, British High Commission

- **The Netherlands**

22. Ms. Carmen Hageaars, Deputy Director, Inclusive Green Growth Department Netherlands
23. Ms. Djuke Stammeshaus, Embassy of Netherlands in New Delhi
24. Mrs Ravleen Pal – Deputy Head of Economic Section, Embassy of Netherlands in New Delhi

- **MEA, Government of India (Depository of the ISA Framework Agreement)**

25. H.E. Mr Rahul Chhabra, Secretary (ER), MEA
26. Ms. Priya Nair, Director, MEA

- **ISA Secretariat officials**

27. H.E. Mr. Upendra Tripathy, Director General
28. Mr. A K Mishra, Senior Advisor
29. Mr. Anand Rao, Director (HR and Coordination)
30. Mr. Jagjeet Sareen, Director (Finance)
31. Ms. Esther Kar, Advisor (Communication)
32. Ms. Fiona Bourne, Director (Governance and Innovation)
33. Mr. Philippe Malbranche, Director (Programme)
34. Mr. Shishir Seth, Host Country Coordinator
35. Mr. Rajeev Gyani, Additional Director (RE)
36. Ms Archana Bhardwaj, PO (HR)
37. Mr Rajesh Bhardwaj, PO (Finance)
38. Dr. Megha Pushpendra, Lead- Strategic Communication
39. Mr. Amar Jit Soran, Consultant
40. Mr. Bimal Dash, Sr. Consultant (IT)
41. Mr. Rajender Kumar, Consultant (IT)
42. Mr. Rajiv Kumar, Legal Officer
43. Mr. Naresh Mehta, Chief of Protocol
44. Mr. Kushagr Nagaich, Consultant
45. Mr. Sudhakar Upadhyay, Administrative Officer

- **HR Consultant**

46. Mr. Kevin Louis

- **KPMG**

- 47. Mr. Abhishek Shah, Director
- 48. Ms. Jasleen Kaur, Consultant

- **Deloitte**

- 49. Mr. Pramod Shukla, Partner
- 50. Mr. Vinit Rustagi, Director

**Not strictly as per Seniority*
