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Sixth Meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Solar Alliance  
21 July 2022  
New Delhi, India

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18 September 2022

## Summary Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)

### Summary

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## Summary Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Standing Committee of International Solar Alliance (ISA) held on 21 July 2022

### Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

1. The Hon'ble President of the ISA Assembly opened the Sixth Meeting of the Standing Committee by welcoming the Co-President - Republic of France, as well as Hon'ble Ministers, Vice Presidents of the ISA Assembly, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Honorary Consuls & other Excellencies. After delivering his opening remarks, the President invited the Co-President to deliver his opening remarks.
2. H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Lenain, Hon'ble Ambassador of Republic of France to India representing the Co-President delivered his opening address to the Standing Committee.
3. H.E. Mr. Alok Sharma, Hon'ble President of COP26 and the Vice President of ISA Assembly from the Europe and Others region addressed the Standing Committee.
4. H.E. Mr. Deodat Inder, Hon'ble Minister from Guyana and the Vice President of ISA Assembly from the Latin America and Caribbean region delivered his remarks.
5. H.E. Mr. Deodat Inder, Hon'ble Minister from Guyana and the Vice President of ISA Assembly from the Latin America and Caribbean region delivered his remarks.
6. H.E. Mr. Yuri Viamontes, Hon'ble Deputy Minister from Cuba and the Vice President of ISA Assembly from the Latin America and Caribbean region addressed the Standing Committee.
7. **The President thanked the Co-President and the Vice Presidents for their remarks.**

### Agenda Item 2. Adoption of the Agenda

8. ***Decision: The Standing Committee adopted the Provisional Agenda for the Sixth Assembly of the ISA, as contained in the Working Document ISA/SC.06/WD.01.***

### Agenda Item 3. Selection of Rapporteur

9. ***Decision: The Standing Committee appointed the Republic of the Niger as the Rapporteur for the Sixth Meeting of the Standing Committee.***

#### Agenda Item 4. Report of the Depositary

10. The President invited the Depositary to present its report to the Standing Committee of the ISA.
11. Representative of the Depositary, the Ministry of External Affairs, Republic of India presented its report.
12. ***The President and the Standing Committee thanked the Depositary for their continued support to the ISA. The Standing Committee also recognized the efforts of the Depositary and thanked them for their assistance in securing Observer status for the ISA at the UN General Assembly.***

#### Agenda Item 5. Election of President and Co-President of the ISA Assembly

13. The Director-General, on behalf of the President, briefed the Standing Committee on the election of President and Co-President of the ISA Assembly, and invited comments from the members of the Standing Committee on the agenda and the associated Working Document ISA/SC.06/WD.03.
14. The incumbent President, Republic of India, and the incumbent Co-President, Republic of France informed the Standing Committee about their intention to seek re-election to their respective posts.
15. ***The President invited nominations from the other members and directed the ISA Secretariat to circulate all relevant documents related to the nomination for the posts of the President and Co-President of the ISA Assembly.***
16. ***The Director-General informed the Members that the last date for filing of nominations by ISA Member Countries for the positions of the President and Co-President is 18 September 2022, 60 days before the opening of the ISA Assembly.***

#### Agenda Item 6. Selection of the new Vice-Presidents of the Standing Committee of the ISA Assembly

17. The President briefed the Standing Committee on the process for selection of the new Vice Presidents of the ISA Assembly, along with the proposed member countries eligible for the position as contained in the Information Document ISA/SC.06/INF.01.
18. ***The President invited the Standing Committee to take note of the information provided to the document and provide their guidance.***

### Agenda Item 7. Proposed amendment for selection of the Vice-Chair of the Regional Committees

19. The Director-General, on behalf of the President briefed the Standing Committee on the proposed amendments for selection of the Vice-Chair of the Regional Committee as contained in the Working Document ISA/SC.06/WD/04.
20. The Director-General, on behalf of the President, invited the Standing Committee to adopt the proposed amendments and provide comments and guidance on the working document.
21. ***Decision: The Standing Committee adopted the proposed amendments for the selection of the Vice-Chair of the Regional Committees as contained in the working document ISA/SC.06/WD.04 and recommended the proposal to the ISA Assembly for its consideration and approval.***

### Agenda Item 8. Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the ISA Assembly

22. The Director-General, on behalf of the President, explained the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the ISA Assembly. The Director-General briefly explained the process-based changes being proposed through the amendment as contained in the Working Document ISA/SC.06/WD.05, including:
  - i. Partner organisations remain invitees to the Assembly as long as their partner status is valid and not revoked by the Assembly, instead of a two-year term currently specified by the Rules of Procedure;
  - ii. Simplification of the appointment of member countries contributing USD 5 million to the ISA as additional members of the Standing Committee for one term as well as implementing a draw of lots instead of first-come-first-served basis in case the number of potential additional members exceeds nine;
  - iii. Move from election to selection for the appointment of Vice Chair for the Meetings of the Regional Committees as discussed by the Standing Committee under agenda item 7; and
  - iv. Revision of the time period for acceptance of supplementary items for the ISA Assembly from 30 days to 22 days before the opening of the ISA Assembly.
23. The representative of Republic of France supported the proposed amendment Article IV, Rule 17 of the Framework Agreement pertaining to the revised timelines for submission of supplementary items, and sought:

- v. Clarification on the objective for amendment of Article IX, Rule 31, pertaining to the grant of observer status at the Assembly, and whether it is to limit the participation of partner organisations
  - vi. Removal of Article VIII, Rule 33, pertaining to participation of partner organisations and revocation of partner status as it might be restrictive; and
  - vii. Clarification on Article IV, Rule 79 pertaining to financial contribution and membership of the Standing Committee, whether ISA has received such contributions in the past, and the rule acting as a deterrent for developing or least developed countries from actively participating in ISA governance
24. The representative of Republic of India brought to the attention of the Standing Committee that the “prior” qualification within point (f) under the proposed rule column for Article IV, Rule 2, Annex II is unnecessary and could be removed.
25. The Director-General addressed the remarks presented by the Republic of France. The Standing Committee concurred with the Republic of India’s comment on removal of the “prior” qualifier.
26. **Decision: The Standing Committee adopted the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the ISA Assembly as contained in the working document ISA/SC.06/WD.05 with the following changes:**
- i. **removal of the word ‘prior’ from the proposed amendment as mentioned in paragraph 24 above**
  - ii. **implementing a draw of lots instead of first-come-first-served basis in case the number of potential additional members, contributing USD 5 million or more, exceeds nine**
27. **The Standing committee recommended the proposal contained in the working document ISA/SC.06/WD.05, with these changes, to the ISA Assembly for its consideration and approval.**

#### **Agenda Item 9. Proposal for Policy for Procurement of Consultants at ISA Secretariat**

28. The President invited the Director-General to brief the Standing Committee on the agenda item. The Director-General, on behalf of the President, invited the Standing Committee to consider the Working Document ISA/SC.06/WD.06 and provide their comments.
29. The representative from the Republic of France supported the policy and remarked that

excessive reliance on consultancy can be counterproductive, given that the organization needs to have its expertise.

30. The representative from India remarked that given the low strength of regular staff at present, it would be more appropriate to increase the limit on the number of consultants and staff on secondment to 40 percent of the total sanctioned strength for regular staff instead of 25 percent.
31. **Decision:** The Standing Committee adopted the proposal for Policy for Procurement of Consultants at ISA Secretariat as contained in the working document ISA/SC.06/WD.06 with the change that the share of consultants and officers on secondment is increased to 40 percent instead of proposed 25 percent. The Standing committee recommended the proposal contained in the working document ISA/SC.06/WD.06, with this change, to the ISA Assembly for its consideration and approval.

#### Agenda Item 10. Proposed amendments to the Secondment Policy

32. The President invited the Director-General to brief the Standing Committee on the agenda item. The Director-General, on behalf of the President, invited the Standing Committee to consider the Working Document ISA/SC.06/WD.07 and provide their comments.
33. The representative from the Republic of India remarked that the Standing Committee had already endorsed the proposal to the increase in the share of consultants and officers on secondment from 25 percent to 40 percent of the total sanctioned strength for regular staff. He also suggested that the Secondment Policy should limit the list of lending entities to member countries, the United Nations and its organs, Multilateral Agencies, and Universities and academic institutes, and must not include partner organizations and intergovernmental economic integration organizations. He also suggested that the policy should explicitly state that an officer on secondment would not serve more than 2 tenures, with each tenure extending up to a maximum duration of three years, and that the lending organization shall pay the salary of the officer on secondment. He also suggested that a formal agreement or a Memorandum of Understanding between the ISA and the lending organization should be made compulsory.
34. The representative from the Republic of France supported the redrafting of the Secondment Policy with the suggestions put forth by the representative from India and suggested that the Secondment Policy should not impose any ceiling on the secondment tenure.
35. The President clarified stating that the idea is to reduce the number of nominated

appointments and to take a merit-based approach to induct professionals from all member countries.

**36. *Decision:* The Standing Committee adopted the proposed amendments to the Secondment Policy as contained in the working document ISA/SC.06/WD.07 with the following changes:**

- iii. increase the share of consultants and officers on secondment to 40 percent of the total sanctioned strength for regular staff instead of proposed 25 percent**
- iv. limit the lending entities to member countries, the United Nations and its organs, multilateral agencies, and universities and academic institutes**
- v. an officer on secondment would not serve more than 2 tenures, with each tenure extending up to a maximum duration of three years, and that the lending organization shall pay the salary of the officer on secondment**
- vi. Formal agreement and Memorandum of Understanding between the ISA and the sponsoring organization should be made compulsory**

**37. The Standing committee recommended the proposal contained in the working document ISA/SC.06/WD.07, with these changes, to the ISA Assembly for its consideration and approval.**

#### **Agenda Item 11. Update on status of Regular Staff of the ISA Secretariat**

- 38. The President invited the ISA Secretariat to present a status update on the regular staff of the ISA Secretariat as contained in the Working Document ISA/SC.06/WD.08.
- 39. The ISA Secretariat presented an update on the status of the regular staff of the ISA Secretariat vis-à-vis the organizational roadmap approved by the second, third, and fourth assembly of ISA. The ISA Secretariat also presented certain deviations, made by Director General, ISA in anticipation of the General Assembly, and the justifications for the same.
- 40. The President invited the Members of the Standing Committee to provide their comments and remarks on the agenda item.
- 41. The representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands enquired about the gender diversity within the ISA Secretariat, and the diversity of the professional background of the ISA Staff. The Republic of France too enquired about the gender balance within the ISA Secretariat.
- 42. The representative of the Republic of India suggested that the ISA Secretariat seek prior approval from the Standing Committee before deviating from the plan approved by the

Assembly.

43. Addressing the queries, the Director-General and the ISA Secretariat conveyed that the gender, professional and geographic diversity of the ISA Staff have improved
- 44. *Decision: The Standing Committee noted the updates presented by the ISA Secretariat and the Director-General on the status of regular staff of the ISA Secretariat presented in the working document ISA/SC.06/WD.08 and endorsed ex-post facto the deviations for further consideration and approval of General Assembly. It also authorized the President of the ISA Assembly to carry out the recruitment audit as proposed.***

#### **Agenda Item 12. Update on the ISA's Viability Gap Funding**

45. The President invited the ISA Secretariat to present a status update on the ISA's Viability Gap Funding as contained in the working document ISA/SE.06/WD.09.
46. The Director-General briefed the Standing Committee on the progress of setting up of the Viability Gap Fund, and on behalf of the President, invited the Members to provide their comments and guidance on the update.
47. The representative of United Kingdom enquired about the ISA's plans and strategy for evaluating the progress on the initiative, and its plans on sharing and dissemination of information from the projects. Kingdom of the Netherlands seconded the query about knowledge management and its dissemination, and ISA's plans on providing insurance support to the projects.
48. The representative from Republic of the Niger enquired about the milestone at which the viability gap funding can be availed, and the process involved.
49. The representative of the Republic of France enquired about the difference between the viability gap funding and the blended finance risk mitigation facility, and about the potential source of capital for the projects.
50. Answering the queries from the Members of the Standing Committee, the Director-General explained the role of the project management consultants for monitoring and carrying out evaluations of the project, knowledge management efforts planned by the ISA Secretariat and the process of availing viability gap funding along with capital finance from other financial institutions, and its distinction from the blended finance risk mitigation facility.
- 51. The Standing Committee noted the updates presented by the ISA Secretariat and the Director-General on the ISA's viability gap funding presented in the working document ISA/SC.06/WD.09.**



### Agenda Item 13. Update on Resource Mobilization for the ISA

52. The President invited the ISA Secretariat to present an update on the Resource Mobilization for the ISA as contained in the working document ISA/SE.06/WD.10.
53. The Director-General presented brief remarks on the agenda item and provided an overview of the resource mobilization in the ISA. The ISA Secretariat presented the details on its resource mobilization efforts, along with the monies secured from various sources, including member countries and philanthropic organizations.
54. **The Standing Committee noted the updates presented by the ISA Secretariat and the Director-General on the resource mobilization of ISA presented in the working document ISA/SC.06/WD.10.**

### Agenda Item 14. Update on Work Plan and Budget of the ISA for CY 2022 and CY 2023

55. The President invited the ISA Secretariat to present an update on the work plan and budget of ISA for CY 2022 and CY 2023 as contained in the working document ISA/SE.06/WD.11.
56. The Director-General briefed the Standing Committee about the context for the work plan and budget of the ISA. The ISA Secretariat then gave a brief presentation on updates on Work Plan and Budget of the ISA for CY 2022 and CY 2023 to the Standing Committee. The Director General, on behalf of the President invited the Members of the Standing Committee to provide their comments and guidance.
57. The Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Republic of France appreciated the initiatives taken by the ISA Secretariat under the work plan. Kingdom of the Netherlands also complimented the leadership provided to the ISA by the Republic of India and the Republic of France.
58. **The Standing Committee noted the updates presented by the ISA Secretariat and the Director-General on the work plan and budget of ISA for CY 2022 and CY 2023 presented in the working document ISA/SC.06/WD.11.**

### Agenda Item 15. Update on the Action Taken Report of the Fourth Assembly

59. The President invited the ISA Secretariat to present an update on the action taken report of the fourth Assembly.
60. The Director-General briefed the Standing Committee on the Action Taken Report of the Fourth Assembly, and on behalf of the President invited comments and guidance from the Members.

61. The Standing Committee noted the action taken report for the fourth Assembly as prepared by the ISA Secretariat and presented in the working document ISA/SE.06/WD.12.

#### Agenda Item 16. Preparations for the Seventh Standing Committee of the ISA

62. The ISA Secretariat invited the Standing Committee to consider convening the Seventh Meeting of the Standing Committee between 8 and 10 September 2022.
63. ***Decision: The President asked ISA Secretariat to consult with Standing Committee members and finalize a date between 7 and 10 September 2022.***

#### Agenda Item 17. Preparations for the Fifth Assembly of the ISA

64. The President of the ISA Assembly invited the Standing Committee for Preparations for the Fifth Assembly of the ISA as contained in the Working Document ISA/SC.06/WD.13.
65. The Director-General informed the Standing Committee regarding the proposed schedule of events planned to be organized along with the ISA Assembly, and the proposed venue at the Pullman Hotel, Aerocity, New Delhi.
66. The Director-General also informed the Standing Committee that the Secretariat is planning the following events relating to the Fifth Assembly:
- i. Pre-scheduled meetings on 17 October 2022 of the President of ISA Assembly with various ministers who shall be coming to Delhi to attend the Assembly
  - ii. Fifth Assembly of the ISA on 18 October 2022 followed by Ministerial Dinner
  - iii. Release of reports, namely Ease of Doing Solar (EoDS) and ISA Annual Solar Reports on Technology, Investments and Markets (consultation draft) on 19 October 2022
  - iv. Thematic side events on 20 October 2022
67. The President suggested that field visits could be included in the programme of participants in the Fifth Assembly.
68. **The Standing Committee of ISA took note of the preparations for the Fifth Assembly.**

#### Agenda Item 18. Interventions by Member Countries

69. **High-level interventions were made by the representatives of the Republic of Mauritius and the representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in addition to other country interventions.**

**Agenda Item 19. Any Other Business**

- 70. The President invited the members to raise any other urgent business. No urgent business was raised by the members.**

**Agenda Item 20. Closing of the Meeting**

71. The President invited the Co-President to deliver their closing remarks. The Co-President thanked the gathering.
- 72. The President concluded the meeting by delivering his closing remarks and thanking all attendees.**

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