
Seventh Meeting of the Standing Committee of International Solar Alliance
13 September 2022
New Delhi, Republic of India

11 October 2022

Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)

Summary

This document presents the Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Standing Committee of International Solar Alliance (ISA)

Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

1. The President of the ISA Assembly opened the Seventh Meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) by welcoming the Co-President and Vice Presidents of the ISA Assembly, Hon'ble Ministers, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Honorary Consuls, and Other Excellencies from member countries of ISA, and the Director-General.
2. The President commended the diligence and efforts of the Members of the Standing Committee for having facilitated the governance mechanism of the ISA over the course of the past 2 years. He remarked that the upcoming Assembly of the ISA shall elect the President and Co-President and select new Vice Presidents from the four regions for the next term of 2 years, and consequently, there may be a different set of countries constituting the Standing Committee during its next meeting, which shall take the work of the incumbent Standing Committee and guide the future growth of ISA.
3. The President, explaining the dominant role played by solar energy in a net zero world, noted that during 2021, annual growth in solar energy installations stood at 24 percent with global solar penetration reaching 5 percent. He also added that the growth of solar PV since 2015 has been unmatched and that new large-scale solar investments added up to USD 66 billion in the first half of 2022 alone - an increase of 27 percent over the previous year. The President conveyed his expectation that the growth is expected to get compounded as solar PV technology finds more applications in the distributed energy space, such as through productive use applications, agroPV, and flexible and surface integrated solar cells. He also noted that wider deployment of solar would improve economies of scale resulting in a further decrease in prices. He reminded that India had witnessed similar phenomenon in the LED lighting space where prices reduced by up to 85 percent within a span of a few years.
4. The President emphasized on ISA's role in helping its member countries and that the governance bodies of the ISA have the responsibility of channelling its limited resources judiciously. He once again welcomed the Members of the Standing

Committee to the Meeting and invited H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Lenain, Ambassador of the French Republic to India, representing the Co-Presidency, to deliver his opening remarks.

5. The representative of the French Republic thanked the President, the Director-General, and the Vice Presidents of the ISA Assembly. He further thanked the ISA Secretariat for organising the Seventh Meeting of the Standing Committee. He asserted the French Republic's commitment to the ISA and particularly to its two main initiatives, including the North-South and South-South cooperation on capacity building under the STAR-C initiative, and to provide access to affordable finance via the Sustainable Renewables Risk Mitigation Initiative (SRMI).
6. On the STAR-C initiative, the representative of the French Republic apprised the Standing Committee about ISA's intentions of creating a strong network of expertise in solar technologies among the developing member countries of ISA. He added that ISA is already in the implementation phase and a contribution of EUR 1 million has been allocated to the programme. He further added that the programme will be initially implemented in Senegal in Africa, Papua New Guinea in the Pacific Islands, and Bhutan in Asia. He expressed his confidence that these will be followed by more such examples in the coming years.
7. On the financing of solar projects, the representative of the Co-Presidency remarked that the French Republic has committed to mobilise EUR 1.5 billion to finance solar projects in the Member Countries of ISA, of which more than EUR 1.4 billion had been committed to concrete projects. He expressed his confidence in ISA's progress and the role of the Standing Committee in reinforcing ISA's position as a global action-oriented organization for solar energy at events such as the Fifth Assembly of ISA and COP27.
8. The Co-Presidency thanked the President and the Members of the Standing Committee for their support and reaffirmed its support and commitment to ISA.
9. The President thanked the Co-President for his address to the Standing Committee and invited H.E. Mr. Liván Arronte Cruz, Minister of Energy and Mining, Republic of Cuba to address the Standing Committee of the ISA.
10. The Vice President from Cuba remarked about the good relations between India and Cuba and expressed his gratitude for India's support to Cuba. He also expressed his gratitude to the ISA for selecting Cuba as the Vice President of Latin America and the Caribbean region during the Third Assembly of the ISA and for the support for Cuba's vision of achieving 100 percent renewable energy. He

remarked that the transformation of Cuba's energy mix with clean energy sources is essential for the country to achieve energy independence, raise the quality of life of the population and combat ill effects of climate change, and that these goals are congruent with the sustainable development goals for the year 2030. He further stated that to reach this goal, Cuba will require 13,000 MW of solar park capacity, installation of solar PV systems in 2 million Cuban homes and rooftop solar on government buildings. He asserted that Cuba's priority is the installation of solar water pumps for irrigation and for consumption by livestock and the population.

11. The Vice President from Cuba thanked ISA and its support towards development of 1,150 MW of solar parks and 150 MW of battery projects for displacing the large quantities of imported fossil fuels used in electricity generation. He informed the Standing Committee that bids for the solar energy projects have been called for. He added that the tenure of the power purchased agreement for these projects will be 25 years and that the projects will be exempt from customs duty and exempt from taxation for a period of 8 years, along with sovereign guarantees to support investments in the project.
12. The Vice President from Cuba thanked the ISA for the STAR-C initiative and the World Solar Technology Summit held by ISA in Havana that helped Cuba strengthen relations between ISA and the universities of Cuba and the Caribbean. He concluded his remarks by thanking everyone and expressing his anticipation for the Fifth Assembly of ISA which will provide an opportunity to gain new experiences and continue working closely with member countries of the ISA.
13. The President thanked the Co-Presidency and the Vice President from Cuba for their remarks.

Agenda Item 2. Adoption of the Agenda

14. The President invited the Standing Committee to consider the provisional agenda as contained in the Working Document *ISA/SC.07/WD.01* and provide their comments on the same.
15. The representative from the Kingdom of the Netherlands remarked that they have no objections regarding the agenda and raised their concern that the working documents were circulated less than 24 hours in advance of the meeting. She requested more time be provided in future for perusing the document before the

commencement of the meeting. She further requested the ISA Secretariat to improve planning and send the working documents in advance to enable a fruitful discussion at the governance meetings.

16. The President thanked the representative from the Kingdom of the Netherlands for the intervention and concurred that more time is needed for perusing the documents.
17. ***The Standing Committee adopted the Provisional Agenda for the Seventh Assembly of the ISA as contained in the Working Document.***

Agenda Item 3. Selection of Rapporteur

18. The Director-General conveyed to the Standing Committee that Republic of the Niger, the Vice President of the ISA Assembly from the Africa region has agreed to be the Rapporteur for the Seventh Meeting of the Standing Committee of ISA subject to approval of all members of the Standing Committee.
19. The President thanked the Republic of the Niger on behalf of the Standing Committee for the support and invited the Standing Committee to appoint Republic of the Niger as the Rapporteur for the Seventh Meeting of the Standing Committee of ISA and to support the Rapporteur in their functions.
20. ***The Standing Committee appointed Republic of the Niger as the Rapporteur for the Seventh Meeting of the Standing Committee of ISA.***

Agenda Item 4. Confirmation of the Report of the Sixth Standing Committee

21. On the invitation of the President, the Director-General invited the Standing Committee to consider the working document ***ISA/SC.06/WD.14*** containing the report of the Sixth Meeting of the Standing Committee. The Director-General, on behalf of the President, invited the Members of the Standing Committee to provide comments and guidance before confirming the Report of the Sixth Standing Committee.
22. ***The Standing Committee confirmed the report of the Sixth Meeting of the Standing Committee as contained in the Working Document.***

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

23. The President invited the Director-General to brief the Standing Committee on the Action Taken Report of its Sixth Meeting as contained in the working document **ISA/SC.07/WD.03**.
24. The Director-General conveyed to the Standing Committee that based on the guidance provided by the representatives from India and France during the Sixth Meeting of the Standing Committee, changes have been made to the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the ISA assembly, the proposed amendments to the secondment policy, and the proposed policy for the recruitment of consultants. He added that the revised documents will be circulated as part of the working documents of the Fifth Assembly of ISA.
25. The Director-General also stated that as instructed by the President during the Sixth Meeting of the Standing Committee, nominations for the President and Co-President positions of the ISA Assembly have been invited, and that the relevant documents have been sent to all members of the ISA. He further added that 18 September 2022 would be the last date for receiving nominations for the positions.
26. The President invited the Standing Committee to take note of the Action Taken Report submitted by the ISA secretariat.
27. ***The Standing Committee noted the action taken by the ISA Secretariat as contained in the Action Taken Report.***

Agenda Item 6. Summary of Annual Report for CY 2022

28. The President invited the Director-General to brief the Standing Committee on the agenda item.
29. The Director-General informed the Standing Committee that the Annual Report of ISA for 2022 is complete, and that the full report will be circulated among all member countries along with the working documents of the Fifth Assembly of ISA.
30. The Director-General, providing an overview of the Annual Report as contained in the working document **ISA/SC.07/WD.04**, stated that the Annual Report presents the updates on key priority areas of the ISA along with its achievements over the past year. He stated that this report has summarized the ISA's activities in analytics & advocacy, capacity building and programmes & projects

implementation. He also stated that the report has summarized the current strategic approach followed by ISA and the future initiatives proposed to be taken up.

31. The President provided further explanation to the Standing Committee on the activities under implementation at ISA, such as the solar energy projects being developed in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) member countries, He also briefed the Standing Committee on the progress made under the OSOWOG initiative where the feasibility study and discussions with India's neighbouring regions are under progress. Underlining the progress made in terms of financing of ISA, he informed about the commitment of funds by India, and he conveyed his expectation that other member countries too would contribute financial resources to ISA.
32. The President invited the Standing Committee to provide comments on the summary of the Annual Report and remarked that the members of the Standing Committee can provide their comments even after receiving the completed draft of the Annual Report.
33. ***The Standing Committee noted the proposed circulation of the Annual Report of ISA for 2022 to the Fifth Assembly of ISA for its consideration and approval.***

Agenda Item 7. Revised Organisational Structure and Proposal for New Positions at the ISA Secretariat

34. The President stated that the ISA needs strengthening given the increase in work, and that he is committed to ensuring that the recruitment process is open to all member countries and is being done purely on a merit-basis. The President invited the Director-General to brief the Standing Committee on the revised organisational structure of the ISA Secretariat.
35. The Director-General presented the proposed organisational structure and provided an overview as contained in the working document ***ISA/SC.07/WD.05***. He informed that the revised organisational structure has been prepared after multiple rounds of deliberations and with the objective of fulfilling the strategic priorities of ISA. He explained that recruitment for various positions shall be carried out after receiving the approval of the Standing Committee and the ISA Assembly.

36. The Director-General thanked the President for agreeing to oversee recruitment process to ensure its fairness and expressed his confidence that the revised organizational structure would expand the capabilities available of the ISA Secretariat in carrying out its day-to-day activities while also working towards achieving its goals and objectives laid down in its 5-year Strategic Plan.
37. The President invited the Standing Committee to provide their guidance and comments on the revised organisational structure and instructed the ISA Secretariat to accept comments from the Members of the Standing Committee over the following 7 days owing to the delay in circulation of the working documents.
38. The representative of the Co-Presidency welcomed the President's suggestion for granting more time to review the working documents and submission of comments. He suggested that the organisational structure should be sustainable with sufficient resources to match the ambitions of ISA. He enquired about the two full-time staff positions proposed to be dedicated to the STAR-C programme as agreed to under the trust fund agreement signed by ISA for securing EUR 1 million in funding for the initiative and suggested that at least two full-time staff be dedicated under the Knowledge Management and Capacity Building unit for the initiative. He also enquired about the absence of the official on secondment from the country as Assistant Director-General in the organisational structure as presented to the Standing Committee.
39. The representative of the French Republic suggested that during the recruitment process, priority should be given to specialists in the field of solar energy which would make it easier for them to manage the day-to-day work at the ISA. He also suggested that the IT infrastructure be reinforced and that necessary changes be made to the organisational structure to enable this.
40. The President thanked the representative of the Co-Presidency for his comments. He explained that the proposed organisational structure is limited by the financial resources available at ISA's disposal, and that contributions from member countries would allow it to expand it further. He once again invited comments from the Members of the Standing Committee within the following seven days.
41. ***The Standing Committee recommended the Revised Organisational Structure and Proposal for New Positions at the ISA Secretariat subject to changes on the basis of the feedback received from the Members of the Standing Committee to the Fifth Assembly of ISA for its consideration and approval.***

Agenda Item 8. Audited Financial Statement of the ISA

42. The President invited the ISA Secretariat to brief the Standing Committee on the audited financial statements of the ISA.
43. On behalf of the ISA Secretariat, Mr. Rajesh Bhardwaj presented an update on the agenda item, and stated that Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP had been selected through a competitive process as the independent auditor of the ISA. Mr. Bhardwaj informed the Standing Committee that the firm has completed the audit of accounts of the year 2021 by examining the financial records, interacting with stakeholders, including bankers and vendors, followed by discussions on the audit report with the senior management. He also added that the auditors have provided a clean audit report as shared with the Members of the Standing Committee in the working document *ISA/SC.07/WD.06*.
44. The President invited comments and suggestions from the members of the Standing Committee on the agenda item and the details presented by the ISA Secretariat.
45. ***The Standing committee recommended the Audited Financial Statement of ISA to be placed before the Fifth Assembly of ISA for its consideration.***

Agenda Item 9. Status of Corpus Fund and Proposal for Annual Contributions

46. The President invited the Director-General to brief the Standing Committee on the status of the corpus fund and the proposal for annual contributions.
47. Recalling the fund flow status of the ISA and the update on resource mobilisation efforts presented by the ISA Secretariat during the Sixth Meeting of the Standing Committee, the Director-General informed the Standing Committee that the ISA has raised resources from global philanthropic organizations. He remarked that despite the rise in funding from external organisations, contributions from the member countries of the ISA have remained relatively low, with the Republic of India being the exception.
48. The President supported the Director-General's comment about the low share of contributions from the member countries of ISA. He informed the Standing Committee that ISA had avoided an imposition of a membership fee, and if continued, corrective measures might be required as the organisation cannot function without monetary resources. He added that the current proposal for an

annual contribution from ISA member countries would be purely voluntary, and not a mandatory fee.

49. The President stated there are continued talks about the need for energy transition and elimination of carbon emissions, commitments to shift to cleaner sources of energy and to assist developing countries in their energy transition with annual financial support of billions of dollars. Conveying the measures taken by the Republic of India, he stated that India has progressed well in its energy transition, and has achieved its 2030 target of 40 percent energy generation capacity from non-fossil fuel sources, committed in its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), nine years in advance. He also conveyed that India has already reduced the emissions intensity of its economy by 30 percent against the committed target of 33-35 percent by 2030.
50. The President emphasized that unlike India, that has progressed well with energy transition and has the financial means to support it, many other developing member countries of the ISA do not have the financial means to achieve this. He stated that clean energy sources are key to providing energy access to 800 million people that lack access to electricity in these developing countries, and that shall be the objective of the ISA. He stressed that the lack of energy access would contribute to deforestation for meeting their energy needs. He stressed that that the annual contribution towards ISA is a contribution towards making energy transition in the developing countries possible.
51. The Director-General briefed the Standing Committee about the three-tiered structure of the proposed annual contribution as contained in the working document *ISA/SC.07/WD.07*, with the LDC and SIDS member countries contributing USD 10,000, the other developing member countries contributing USD 25,000, and the developed member countries contributing USD 50,000 per year to the ISA.
52. The President stated that the proposed contributions are relatively small amounts and urged the member countries to contribute as per the proposed mechanism. He proposed to write to all members of the ISA regarding the importance of this annual contribution, along with a similar letter from the Prime Minister of India to heads of other member countries. He invited the Members of the Standing Committee to provide guidance on the agenda item and recommend the matter to the Assembly for its approval.

53. ***The Standing Committee recommended the status of corpus fund and the proposal for annual contribution as contained in the working document to be placed before the Fifth Assembly of ISA for its consideration and approval.***

Agenda Item 10. Update on Work Program and Budget of the ISA for CY 2023 and CY 2024

54. The President invited the Director-General to present the work program and budget of ISA for the years 2023 and 2024.
55. Briefing the Standing Committee, the Director-General stated that the work plan and budget of the ISA is under preparation and that the same will be presented to the Fifth Assembly of ISA for its approval. He proposed to present the Standing Committee with an update on the activities accomplished by the ISA and the activities proposed to be taken up in the following years. He invited the ISA Secretariat to present an update on the work plan and budget under preparation.
56. On behalf of the ISA Secretariat, Mr. Joshua Wycliffe presented the achievements of ISA during the year 2022 and proposed the key activities to be taken up under the work plan for the year 2023.
57. The President stated that of the overall global carbon emissions, 85 percent of the emissions are contributed by the developed countries, and the remaining 15 percent originating from the developing countries in the Asia and the Africa region. He added that India accounts for only 3.4 percent of the global emissions while housing about 17.7 percent of the global population.
58. The President also communicated his vision of strengthening the ISA and building up a body of experts through for interacting with the member countries. He shared the experience from India of adding 168,000 MW of non-fossil fuel-based energy generation capacity and building expertise within the country which can be shared with the member countries of ISA to help build their capacity and institutional structures. He explained that if the institutional structures are designed properly, investments will flow into the country and the need for government investments will be reduced. He suggested two measures for ensuring this:
- a. Structuring the projects in such a way as to attract investments
 - b. Providing security to the investors in the form of insurance and payment guarantees

59. The President emphasized that in a well-structured project, electricity is generated and distributed to the consumers, who in turn can pay for it. Providing an example of India, he mentioned that a portion of the consumers consume electricity at a lower price as compared to middle-class or upper-middle-class individuals, commercial and industrial consumers due to a cross-subsidy mechanism. He explained that with this arrangement, India has been able to provide universal affordable energy access to the poor while ensuring financial sustainability of the sector. He also warned against supply of electricity for free to consumers which could result in wastage of energy.
60. The President further explained that the funds and corpus being built at the ISA shall provide both the benefits of insurance and of payment security, with support from private sector on a competitive basis. He added that with the payment security mechanism in place, investors can set up the project and provide electricity with the confidence that they will get paid by the consumers on time through the distribution company, which in turn will help the developers to service their debt from the banks. Adding to this, he mentioned that insurance will help protect the generator against all types of risk, including the risk of expropriation.
61. The President informed that Standing Committee that as the corpuses for these purposes gets set up, the ISA will require the help of its member countries in raising funds and contributions from entities such as the Green Climate Fund. He reaffirmed that the purpose of the ISA is to ensure universal energy access and that too from a clean source.
62. ***In view of the limited time available to the Members of the Standing Committee for consideration and perusal of the presentation, the President directed the ISA Secretariat to circulate the presentation on the salient features of the work plan for CY 2023 and CY 2024 among the Members of the Standing Committee and seek feedback within a period of one week. The Standing Committee recommended that the Work Plan and Budget of ISA for CY 2023 and CY 2024 along with projected expenditure for CY 2022 be prepared and placed before the Fifth Assembly of ISA for its consideration and approval.***

Agenda Item 11. Granting of Partner Organisation Status

63. The President invited the Director-General to brief the Standing Committee on the newly established partnerships entered into by the ISA as presented in the working document *ISA/SC.07/INF.01*.
64. The Director-General submitted to the Standing Committee that the ISA has signed 4 partnership agreements with international organisations, which includes partnerships with:
 - a. the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC) for common action to mitigate climate change,
 - b. the Health and Innovation Exchange (HIEx) for implementation of projects involving solarisation and electrification of healthcare centres which would boost quality of care at the establishment
 - c. the Government of Japan, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) to facilitate policy dialogue, exchange of knowledge, and joint initiatives in the solar energy space
 - d. the West African Power Pool (WAPP) for supporting the scaling up of utility scale solar projects in the West Africa region, along with training of a team from West Africa in India
65. The President invited the Standing Committee to provide their comments and guidance on the partnerships and memoranda of understandings signed by ISA and recommend it to the Fifth Assembly of ISA for its ratification.
66. The representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands appreciated the expansion of ISA's network with partners of strategic importance and stated that such partnerships will help implement ISA's ambitions.
67. The representative of the Co-Presidency congratulated the ISA for establishment of partnerships that will support the sharing of knowledge and experiences with West Africa, mobilizing the Japanese expertise for meeting ISA's objectives and building links with the UNFCCC.
68. The President thanked the members of the Standing Committee for their appreciation and comments.
69. ***The Standing Committee recommended the ratification of the Partner Organisation status accorded to these organisations to the Fifth Assembly of ISA.***

Agenda Item 12. Update on STAR-C Initiative

70. The President invited the ISA Secretariat to present the update on the STAR-C initiative as contained in the working document *ISA/SC.07/WD.08*.
71. Assistant Director General of the ISA, Dr. Philippe Malbranche, on behalf of the ISA Secretariat briefed the Standing Committee on the developments under the STAR-C initiative of ISA. He conveyed that the objective of the Solar Technology Application Resource Center (STAR-C) is building capacity through 4 key activities:
 - a. To get people the required skilling and training, as lack of trained people is a bottleneck in both developed and developing countries
 - b. To ensure availability of reliable components, systems and services through testing facilities and quality assurance schemes for the increased volumes of solar PV equipment resulting from ISA's interventions
 - c. To set up or strengthen existing expertise center to help with technology, migration, economics, business model, etc.
 - d. To establish customization or innovation or incubation centres, to develop and scale local innovation and services in the solar energy space.
72. Dr. Malbranche conveyed to the Standing Committee that the design for the first STAR-C project has been developed with the help of a EUR 1 million grant provided by France, for which the work program was signed in June 2021 for joint implementation with UNIDO with focus on quality assurance and development of training certification schemes. He stated that under the project, three countries would be selected, and that ISA is in advanced discussions with Cuba, Ethiopia, Papua New Guinea, Bhutan, Senegal, and initial discussions with about 12 additional countries are underway.
73. On behalf of the ISA Secretariat, Dr. Malbranche informed that ISA is trying to secure contributions from international foundations, member countries and European Union for setting up more STAR-Cs. He added that during the last Regional Committee Meeting of Africa region, ISA received interests from multiple countries from the region for setting up of STAR-Cs. He informed the Standing Committee that even though no STAR-Cs have been implemented to date, the work on evaluating these countries is underway with the objective of making it sustainable so that the work on the STAR-C doesn't start from scratch. He added that this is a continuous improvement process, and that the ISA intends to increase the momentum of the STAR-C project and of setting up STAR-Cs.

74. The President invited the Members of the Standing Committee to provide guidance and comments on the update presented by the ISA Secretariat.
75. ***The Standing Committee recommended that the Update on ISA's STAR-C initiative as contained in the working document ISA/SC.07/WD.08 be placed before the Fifth Assembly of ISA for its consideration.***

Agenda Item 13. Update on the Solar Grand Challenge

76. The President invited the Director-General to brief the Standing Committee on the agenda item on the Solar Grand Challenge.
77. The Director-General stated that the Second Assembly of ISA had approved the proposal for a Solar Grand Challenge to help discover innovative solutions with the application of solar energy to solve the pressing issues faced by people. Adding to this, he proposed the launch of a SolarX Grand Challenge as proposed in the working document *ISA/SC.07/WD.09*, which involves identification of 10 problem statements by the ISA, against which the start-ups would be invited to develop proposals for solutions. He informed that two selected proposals in response to each of the 10 problem statements would be awarded a prize of USD 15,000 that would enable them to travel, research and prepare a detailed proposal that will help them secure angel capital investments. He mentioned that their association with the ISA would help in attracting the required capital, and the technical support from the ISA would help in preparation of their prototypes.
78. The Director-General informed the Standing Committee that ISA proposes to carry out the entire process in partnership with Invest India, the investment promotion agency of the Government of India which has experience of carrying out similar programs for different organizations, ministries, and governments in India. He added that Invest India would collaborate with the African Infrastructure Development Association (AfIDA), the Global Off-Grid Lighting Association (GOGLA), the African Mini grids Developers Association (AMDA) and the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), which would allow them to fast-track investments and related support for their activities.
79. Briefing the Standing Committee, the Director-General conveyed that the total budget for the proposed SolarX Grand Challenge, including the prize money and the fees to be paid to Invest India and its partner organisations adds up to USD 600,000. He added that the funds for this have already been secured from

international philanthropic donors. He informed that the SolarX Grand Challenge would initially be focused on Africa for the first year and will be subsequently expanded to other geographies based on the learnings from the initial round.

80. The President invited the Standing Committee to provide their comments and feedback on the update on the Solar Grand Challenge presented by the Director-General.
81. ***The Standing Committee recommended that the details of the Solar Grand Challenge as contained in the working document ISA/SC.07/WD.09 be placed before the Fifth Assembly of ISA for its consideration and approval.***

Agenda Item 14. Provisional Agenda for the Fifth Assembly of ISA

82. The President introduced the agenda item as contained in the working document ***ISA/A.05/WD.01*** and invited the Director-General to brief the Standing Committee on the matter.
83. The Director-General informed the Standing Committee that the provisional agenda contained procedural items, including the election of the President and the Co-president, selection of the new Vice Presidents of the ISA Assembly, the appointment and report of the Credentials Committee, the audited financial statements of ISA, granting of partner organization status, report of the depository and the annual report of the Director-General.
84. Introducing the substantive items on the provisional agenda, the Director-General mentioned the matters to be taken up for consideration by the Fifth Assembly of ISA including the amendments for selection of the Vice-Chairs of the Regional Committees, the proposed policies for recruitment of Consultants, the proposed Secondment Policy of ISA and the update on resource mobilisation and regular staff at ISA as recommended by Standing Committee during its Sixth Meeting. He mentioned other substantive matters recommended by the Standing Committee during its Seventh Meeting including, update on the STAR-C initiative, proposal for annual contributions, the proposed work programme and budget of ISA.
85. The President invited comments and guidance from the Standing Committee on the agenda item presented by the Director-General.

86. The representative of the French Republic commented that the provisional agenda for the Fifth Assembly has been comprehensive and proposed the addition of an agenda item on the Sustainable Renewables Risk Mitigation Initiative (SRMI).
87. The President concurred with the representative from France on the breadth of the agenda and the importance of the agenda items being tabled. He commented that the ISA already has an approved mechanism for risk mitigation and insurance and an update on the same may be tabled at the Fifth Assembly of ISA.
88. The Director-General informed the Standing Committee that the ISA had not been able to raise resources and that no funds have been raised under the SRMI. He suggested that the agenda item on risk mitigation at the Fifth Assembly include ISA's experience with the SRMI.
89. ***The Standing Committee recommended the provisional agenda for the fifth Assembly of ISA, as contained in the working document ISA/A.05/WD.01, to be placed before the Fifth Assembly of ISA for its adoption.***

Agenda Item 15. Interventions by Member Countries

90. The President invited the Members of the Standing Committee to deliver their interventions to the Standing Committee.
91. ***No interventions were made by the Members of the Standing Committee of ISA.***

Agenda Item 16. Any Other Business

92. The President invited the Members to propose any other business to be taken up for consideration by the Standing Committee.
93. The Director-General proposed to present an update on the Blended Finance Risk Mitigation Facility through a presentation.
94. The President remarked that risk mitigation mechanisms are key to ensuring the security of the investments from private sector, especially in countries where ISA wants the inflow of investments. He reiterated the importance of the payment security mechanism that is needed in case of default by the off-takers or the distribution companies, and the importance of insurance for renewable energy projects. He emphasized that the ISA does not intend to replace the conventional and commercial insurance companies that require high premiums in countries

with high-risk perception. He stated that these high premiums cause the project costs and the cost of power from the renewable energy projects to go up. He clarified that the insurance fund of the ISA will provide a subvention of the high premiums which will allow the country to unlock a larger amount and a higher quality of investment.

95. The President suggested that the proposal for the Blended Finance Risk Mitigation Facility be evaluated and approved by financial experts before being presented to the Assembly.
96. The Director-General proposed to present a proposal for amendments to the Manual of Regulations of ISA that the ISA Secretariat intends to table at the Fifth Assembly of ISA.
97. The President provided the context for the proposed amendments stating that the objective of the amendments is to bring transparency in ISA's functions, such as recruitment and financial matters through appointment of people to provide oversight as an in-house ombudsman. He reaffirmed that all recruitments will be open to all ISA member countries, and no positions shall be reserved for any member country, including India, except for officers on secondment to ISA who shall continue to serve the ISA till the end of their respective terms.
98. The Director General briefed the Standing Committee on the proposed amendments to the financial regulations and human resource regulations. He mentioned that the amendments would reflect the creation of the Standing Committee to replace the erstwhile Finance Committee, the General and Legal Committee and the Programme Committee, thus removing any references to these Committees. He also mentioned that the amendments would remove inconsistency arising out of the various changes in rules and regulations, and recast the delegation of powers as per the UN Common System.
99. Briefing on the proposed amendments to the Staff Regulations, the Director-General mentioned that the issue to be addressed is that of definition of Staff, Other Staff, Secondees and Project-based Secondees with respect to the ISA Secretariat. He also mentioned that the amendment addresses the applicability of regulations across the various types of professionals at the ISA Secretariat, the inconsistencies while referring to certain rules and regulations, and extension of benefits to provide options for matters such as pension schemes and provident funds.

100. The Director-General invited the Standing Committee to recommend the proposed amendments to the Fifth Assembly of ISA.
101. ***The President instructed the Director-General to circulate the presentation on the proposed amendments to Members of Standing Committee and seek comments and inputs in writing. The Standing Committee recommended that the amendments to the Manual of Regulations of ISA be worked out in detail and placed before the Fifth Assembly of ISA for its consideration and approval.***

Agenda Item 17. Closing of the Meeting

102. The President emphasised the importance of the Meeting of the Standing Committee in view of the approaching Fifth Assembly of the ISA. The President invited the Co-President, the French Republic to deliver the closing remarks.
103. The representative of the French Republic thanked the Standing Committee.
104. ***The President declared the Seventh Meeting of the Standing Committee of the ISA closed.***

List of Participants of the Seventh Meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)¹

S.No.	Country	Role	Representatives
1.	Republic of India	Chair, President of the ISA Assembly	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H.E. Shri R K Singh, Minister of Power, and New and Renewable Energy 2. Shri Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy 3. Shri Dinesh Dayanand Jagdale, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy 4. Shri Aseem Kumar, Director, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy 5. Shri Divyanshu Jha, Under Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
2.	Republic of France	Co-Chair and Co-President of the ISA Assembly	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H.E. Emmanuel Lenain, Ambassador of France to India 2. Ms. Luisa Terranova, Counsellor Political Section
3.	Republic of Mauritius	Vice President of the Africa Region	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mrs. Reema B. Robee, Second Secretary at the High Commission.
4.	Republic of the Niger	Vice President of the Africa Region	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Ado Leko, Ambassador of Niger to India 2. Mr. Souleymane Boureima, Counsellor
5.	Republic of Fiji	Vice President of the Asia and the Pacific Region	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H.E. Mr. Nilesh Roneel Kumar, Chargé d Affaires a.i.
6.	Kingdom of the Netherlands	Vice President of the Europe and Others Region	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Paulina Chromik, Second Secretary for Economic & Commercial Affairs
7.	United Kingdom of Great Britain	Vice President of the Europe and	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Libby Green, Head of Climate and Energy team

¹ Not strictly as per seniority. Tentative list as per online registration (may be updated)

	and Northern Ireland	Others Region	2. Ms. Adritha Subbiah, Senior Energy Manager
8.	Republic of Cuba	Vice President of the Latin America and the Caribbean Region	1. H.E. Mr. Alejandro Simancas Marin, Ambassador of Cuba to India 2. Mr. Abel Aballe Despaigne
9.	Co-operative Republic of Guyana	Vice President of the Latin America and the Caribbean Region	1. H.E. Mr. Charrandass Persaud, High Commissioner of Guyana to India. 2. Mrs. RONALDA EDWARDS HORATIO, First Secretary, Guyana High Commission, India
10.	Ministry of External Affairs, Government of Republic of India	Depository of the ISA Framework Agreement	1. George Pothan, Legal Consultant (ED)
11.	ISA Secretariat		1. Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General 2. Mr. Arun Misra, Senior Advisor 3. Mr. Joshua Wycliffe, Chief of Operations 4. Dr. Phillippe Malbranche, Assistant Director-General 5. Mr. Remesh Kumar, Chief of Unit, Programmes and Project Implementation 6. Mr. Shishir Seth, Chief of Unit, Governance and Partnerships 7. Dr. Ugochukwu Ugbor, Chief of Unit, Knowledge Management 8. Ms. Onyi Iyizoba, Legal Specialist 9. Mr. Naresh Mehta, Chief of Protocol 10. Mr. Saba Kalam, Programme Specialist, STAR-C 11. Ms. Jyotsna Gola, Senior Consultant, Corporate Planning and Strategy 12. Mr. Sudhakar Upadhyay, Admin Assistant 13. Ms. Vandana, IT Specialist 14. Mr. Rajender Kumar, IT Assistant 15. Mr. Nikhil Kumar, Advocacy Specialist