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**Eighth Meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Solar Alliance**

**06 June 2023**

**New Delhi, Republic of India**

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

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The document presents the Summary Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

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### Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

1. The Hon'ble President of the ISA Assembly opened the Eighth Meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) by welcoming the Co-President, Vice Presidents of the ISA, Honourable Minister, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Honorary Consuls, and other esteemed Excellencies.
2. At the invitation of the President, H.E. Ms Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, Minister of State for Development, Francophonie, and International Partnerships, attached to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Government of the Republic of France and the Co-President of the Assembly, delivered the opening remarks, through a video message.
3. The President invited the Hon'ble Minister of Venezuela to deliver her remarks.
4. **The President thanked the Co-President and the Hon'ble Minister of Venezuela for her remarks.**

### Agenda Item 2. Adoption of the Agenda

5. The President invited the Standing Committee to consider the Provisional Agenda for the Eighth Meeting of the ISA Standing Committee as contained in the working document ISA/SC.08/WD.01.Rev01 and provide their inputs and guidance.
6. ***Decision: The Standing Committee adopted the Provisional Agenda for the Eighth Meeting of the ISA Standing Committee as contained in the working document ISA/SC.08/WD.01.Rev01.***

### Agenda Item 3. Selection of Rapporteurs

7. ***Decision: The Standing Committee appointed the People's Republic of Bangladesh as the Rapporteurs for the Eighth Meeting of the ISA Standing Committee.***

### Agenda Item 4. Report of the Depositary

8. The President invited the Depositary, represented by Mr Prabhat Kumar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, the Government of India, to present its report to the Standing Committee. The representative of the Depositary presented the report.

9. The President invited the Standing Committee to consider the report of the Depositary and put forth comments and guidance on ISA membership.
10. ***Decision: The President and the Standing Committee thanked the Depositary for their continued support of the ISA.***

#### **Agenda Item 5. Action Taken Report of the Fifth Session of the ISA Assembly**

11. The President invited the ISA Secretariat to consider the Action Taken Report in response to the guidance provided by the Fifth Session of the ISA Assembly as contained in the Working Document ISA/SC.08/WD.03.
12. ***Decision: The Standing Committee noted the Action taken report for the Fifth Session of the ISA Assembly as contained in the working document ISA/SC.08/WD.03***

#### **Agenda Item 6. Update on the revised organizational structure and status of regular staff of the ISA Secretariat**

13. The President invited the ISA Secretariat to provide an update to the Standing Committee on the progress made in filling up the approved 50 positions in the ISA Secretariat and the inclusion of project-based secondment positions in the ISA organogram in the form of a note akin to a footnote as contained in working document ISA/SC.08/WD.04A.
14. The Director-General briefed the Standing Committee on the status of recruitments and the revised organogram, including the project-based secondment positions and conveyed the intention of the ISA Secretariat to include secondment positions in the ISA Secretariat organogram.
15. The ISA Secretariat presented the update on the status of regular staff of the ISA Secretariat and demonstrated how the project-based secondment positions would be included in the ISA Secretariat organogram as contained in the working document ISA/SC.08/WD.04A.
16. The ISA Secretariat provided a comprehensive overview of the revised organogram, highlighting the positions successfully filled through recruitment and those that remain vacant.
17. The President underscored the urgency of expediting the recruitment process, highlighting that the ISA Secretariat cannot fulfil its mandate without the necessary expertise in solar energy. Recognizing the current low staff strength, the President strongly recommended that the ISA Secretariat prioritize immediate recruitment in a transparent and fair manner.
18. The representative of the French Republic, H.E. Mr Emmanuel Lenain, Ambassador, Embassy of France, acknowledged that the seconded experts may not be treated as permanent staff of the

organization but commended the inclusion of seconded experts in the ISA organogram on the website, as demonstrated by the ISA Secretariat.

19. The representatives of the Kingdom of Sweden and Venezuela expressed their agreement with the comments made by the representative of the French Republic, acknowledging that the inclusion of seconded positions in the ISA Secretariat organogram is a positive step.
20. The President emphasized that the ISA is committed to adhering to international norms and assured that the ISA will maintain transparency in all its processes.
21. ***Decision: The Standing Committee noted the updates presented by the ISA Secretariat and the Director-General on the revised organizational structure and status of regular staff of the ISA Secretariat as contained in the working document ISA/SC.08/WD.04A.***

#### **Agenda Item 7. Establishment of the proposed ISA Administrative Tribunal in accordance with the requirement of the ISA Staff Regulations**

22. The President invited the ISA Secretariat to present to the Standing Committee the establishment of the proposed ISA Administrative Tribunal in accordance with the requirement of the ISA Staff Regulations.
23. The President noted that it was important for the ISA to adhere to the practices adopted by international organizations, as this adherence is crucial to uphold the integrity of the organization and ensure its effective functioning.
24. The Director General emphasized that the ISA Framework Agreement and the ISA Regulations required the establishment of an Administrative Tribunal. He added that the ISA Secretariat has decided to adopt the Arbitral mechanism as its preferred approach for establishing the Administrative Tribunal.
25. The ISA Secretariat presented its proposal for establishing the proposed ISA Administrative Tribunal in accordance with the requirement of the ISA Staff Regulations.
26. The President agreed with the proposal, acknowledging its significant potential to strengthen the organization and requested the ISA Secretariat to proceed with the implementation of the proposal.
27. ***Decision: The Standing Committee noted the proposal of the ISA Secretariat on the establishment of the proposed ISA Administrative Tribunal contained in the working document ISA/SC.08/WD.05.***

## Agenda Item 8. Update on the ISA Viability Gap Funding and Demonstration Projects in the ISA Member countries

28. The President invited the ISA Secretariat to provide an update on the ISA Viability Gap Funding and Demonstration Projects in the ISA Member countries as contained in the working document ISA/SC.08/WD.06.
29. The Director General reported that subsequent to the Fourth Session of the ISA Assembly in 2021, the ISA Secretariat explored the possibility of implementing large-scale projects in the areas where demonstration projects were to be implemented. The ISA Secretariat decided to allocate the remaining funds from the demonstration projects towards establishing a VGF mechanism. However, despite consultations with countries and multilateral development organizations, no project proposals were received, leading to the understanding that the amount offered by the ISA for the VGF mechanism was inadequate for developing large-scale projects. In light of these circumstances, the ISA Secretariat proposed restructuring the viability gap funding mechanism by combining it with other donor funding sources for solar projects in its Member Countries.
30. The ISA Secretariat presented the update on the ISA Viability Gap Funding and Demonstration Projects in the ISA Member countries as contained in the working document ISA/SC.08/WD.06.
31. The representative of the French Republic concurred with the concept of the VGF mechanism. However, he emphasized the importance of clarifying that VGF is contingent upon the principle of additionality. The representative stressed the need for a comprehensive understanding of the specific purpose and intention underlying the establishment of this funding instrument.
32. The President emphasized that around 800 million people currently lack access to energy and providing them with clean energy access would significantly enhance their livelihoods and reduce the burden of emissions. The President stressed the need for developed countries to assist developing countries in their efforts. The President proposed that the ISA Secretariat should transparently secure green funds from developed countries to facilitate this assistance.
33. ***Decision: The Standing Committee noted the update on the ISA viability gap funding and demonstration projects in the ISA Member Countries presented in the working document ISA/SC.08/WD.06.***

## Agenda Item 9. Update on the STAR-C initiative

34. The President invited the ISA Secretariat to present the update on the STAR-C initiative to the Standing Committee as contained in the working document ISA/SC.08/WD.07.

35. The Director General thanked the French Republic for initiating the Solar Technology and Application Resource Centre (STAR-C) initiative. He noted that the ISA Secretariat is actively working towards establishing new STAR centres in multiple countries to serve as knowledge hubs. He also mentioned that a portion of the French support was utilized in creating pedagogical materials in collaboration with UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization). Emphasizing the potential of harnessing the strengths of Member Countries, the Director General highlighted that the ISA possesses the ability to accelerate the adoption and utilization of solar energy technologies through such collaborative efforts.
36. The ISA Secretariat presented the update on the STAR-C initiative.
37. The representative of the French Republic thanked the ISA Secretariat for the update on the STAR C initiative and for the efforts to secure more support from Philanthropies for this initiative. He requested other Members of the ISA to contribute to the STAR C initiative to develop local capacities.
38. The President expressed appreciation for the STAR C initiative and suggested that the ISA Secretariat should endeavour to expand funding for this important initiative. Additionally, the President mentioned that India has a training program called IMET, which plays a valuable role in raising awareness and providing knowledge about solar technology to individuals.
39. ***Decision: The Standing Committee noted the update on the STAR C initiative presented in the working document ISA/SC.08/WD.07.***

#### **Agenda Item 10. Update on the SolarX Startup Challenge**

40. The President invited the ISA Secretariat to provide an update on the SolarX Startup Challenge initiative, as contained in the working document ISA/SC.08/WD.08.
41. The Director General affirmed the significance of the ISA SolarX Startup Challenge, noting its dual role in advancing solar energy and fostering innovation, incubation, and startup development within the ISA Member Countries. He highlighted that the ISA is actively driving this initiative forward in collaboration with Invest India. The Director General further mentioned that while the SolarX Startup Challenge was initially launched in the Africa region, it will progressively expand to other regions such as Asia and the Pacific Region and Latin America and the Caribbean region, ensuring a wider reach and impact.
42. The ISA Secretariat presented the update on SolarX Startup Challenge as contained in the working document ISA/SC.08/WD.08.
43. ***Decision: The Standing Committee noted the update on the SolarX Startup Challenge presented in the working document ISA/SC.08/WD.08.***

**Agenda Item 11. Update on the ISA Solar Finance Facility**

44. The President invited the ISA Secretariat to update the Standing Committee on the progress made by the ISA in operationalising the Solar Finance Facility, as contained in the working document ISA/A.05/WD.09.
45. The Director General informed the Standing Committee about the ISA Secretariat's efforts to establish the Solar Finance Facility, mentioning that a consultant has been appointed to assist in structuring the facility. He expressed immense gratitude to the Government of India for considering the request of the ISA for initial funding to initiate the process. The Director General further outlined plans of the ISA, which included mobilizing resources from other Member Countries, developing regulatory mechanisms to attract investments, and securing essential private sector investments for solar projects.
46. The ISA Secretariat presented the update on the ISA Solar Finance Facility as contained in the working document ISA/SC.08/WD.09.
47. The President emphasized the importance of having payment security and insurance mechanisms to assure the private sector that their investments will be protected, and that the energy generated will be effectively utilized. He noted that this de-risking process needs to be completed before actual investments occur in Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Additionally, the President highlighted that once the facility is established in any country, the funds will be available for refinancing and emphasized the need for funds to be routed through a well-defined system or mechanism to set up capacities in various countries.
48. The representative from Edhina Capital further explained the structure in detail.
49. The President invited all developed countries to contribute to the fund.
50. The representative of the French Republic affirmed the support of the French Republic for the proposed Facility, emphasizing the Facility's potential to kickstart investments. He further highlighted the importance of focusing on upstream funding, particularly regarding project preparation, and stressed the need to strengthen public operators in this context. However, he expressed concern about avoiding duplication and ensuring alignment with the existing instruments developed by the World Bank to ensure efficient and coordinated efforts.
51. Responding to the intervention of the French Republic, the President acknowledged the importance of having effective instruments in place to channel funds. The President emphasized that this facility would play a vital role in ensuring access to electricity for these underserved populations.

52. The representative of Mali congratulated the Governments of the Republic of India and the French Republic for their invaluable contributions to the developing countries. He informed the Standing Committee that the Republic of Mali has just obtained the electrification of three health centres and is waiting for the financing of the irrigation projects and recommended the acceleration of the implementation of pilot projects.
- 53. Decision: The Standing Committee noted the update on the ISA's Solar Finance Facility presented in the working document ISA/SC.08/WD.09.**

#### **Agenda Item 12. Update on the ISA work plan and budget for CY 2022 and CY 2023**

54. The President invited the ISA Secretariat to present the proposed work Plan and budget for the year CY 2022 and CY 2023 as contained in the working document ISA/SC.08/WD.10 to the Standing Committee for consideration.
55. The ISA Secretariat presented the key highlights of the proposed work plan and budget for CY 2022 and CY 2023 pursuant to the approval of the Fifth Session of the ISA Assembly in October 2022.
- 56. Decision: The Standing Committee noted the update on the ISA work plan and budget for CY 2022 and CY 2023 as contained in the working document ISA/SC.08/WD.10.**

#### **Agenda Item 13. Update on the status of the ISA Corpus Fund, voluntary contributions by the ISA Member Countries, and resource mobilization**

57. The President invited the ISA Secretariat to present the status of the ISA Corpus Fund, voluntary contributions by the ISA Member Countries, and resource mobilization.
58. The ISA Secretariat briefed the Standing Committee on the update on the status of the ISA Corpus Fund, voluntary contributions by the ISA Member Countries, and resource mobilization as detailed in the working document ISA/SC.08/WD.11.
59. The President further noted that a Voluntary Contribution Mechanism was approved during the Fifth Session of the ISA Assembly. He added that all the ISA funds go to helping countries that need assistance in expanding access to clean energy and urged the ISA Member Countries to make voluntary contributions, thereby supporting the ISA programmes, initiatives, and activities.
- 60. Decision: The Standing Committee noted the update on the status of the ISA Corpus Fund, voluntary contributions by the ISA Member Countries, and resource mobilization as contained in the working document ISA/SC.08/WD.11.**



**Agenda Item 14. Preparations for the Ninth Meeting of the ISA Standing Committee**

61. The President briefed the Standing Committee on the preparations for the Ninth Meeting of the ISA Standing Committee and stated that the ISA Secretariat is proposing to convene the Ninth Meeting of the Standing Committee on 15 September 2023 at 16:00 hours in New Delhi.
62. The President invited interventions from the Hon'ble Members of the Standing Committee on the proposal of the ISA Secretariat.
63. The Director General added that all ISA Regional Committee Meetings would be concluded by 15 September 2023. He emphasized that the agenda for the upcoming Standing Committee Meeting would incorporate the valuable insights and feedback gathered from the Regional Committee Meetings. With the Sixth Session of the ISA Assembly scheduled for 31 October 2023, holding the Standing Committee Meeting on 15 September would allow the ISA Secretariat ample time to adequately prepare for the Assembly Session
64. ***Decision: The Standing Committee took note of the Preparations for the Ninth Meeting of the ISA Standing Committee.***

**Agenda Item 15. Preparations for the Sixth Session of the ISA Assembly**

65. The President invited the Standing Committee to consider the preparations for the Sixth Session of the ISA Assembly as contained in the Working Document ISA/SC.08/WD.12.
66. The Director-General provided an update on the preparations for the upcoming Sixth Session of the ISA Assembly, scheduled from 30 October to 1 November 2023 in New Delhi. He informed the Standing Committee about the High-Level Conference on New Technologies for Clean Energy Transition, scheduled for 1 November 2023 in collaboration with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the Government of India, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the International Solar Energy Society (ISES). Additionally, the Director-General mentioned the planned India Energy Transition dialogue, organized by the Observer Research Foundation and the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAAP), expected to take place on the sidelines of the ISA Assembly and hoped that the visiting Ministers and dignitaries would actively participate in these important events as well.
67. ***Decision: The Standing Committee took note of the Preparations for the Sixth Session of the ISA Assembly.***

**Agenda Item 16. Interventions by the Members**

68. The President invited interventions from the Members of the Standing Committee. The representative from the Kingdom of Denmark expressed his willingness to present their statements.
69. The representative from the Kingdom of Denmark greeted the Members of the Standing Committee and congratulated the ISA on the progress made since the last Assembly Session. He further thanked the ISA for giving the Kingdom of Denmark an opportunity to chair the upcoming Fourth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee on 22 June 2023 in Brussels, Sweden.
- 70. *Decision: The President thanked the representative from the Kingdom of Denmark for the intervention.***

#### **Agenda Item 17. Any Other Business**

71. The President invited the Members of the Standing Committee to propose any other business that needs to be addressed.
72. No Members of the Standing Committee proposed any other business for the consideration of the Standing Committee.

#### **Agenda Item 18. Closing of Meeting**

73. The President concluded the Meeting by thanking all Members of the Standing Committee for their contribution and encouraging them to support the Secretariat in carrying out its activities and implementing its initiatives for a better outcome.

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