
Fourth Meeting of the Regional Committee for Europe and the Others Region
21 - 23 June 2023
Brussels, Belgium

Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Regional Committee for Europe and the Others Region

Summary

The working document contains the report of the Fourth Meeting of the Regional Committee for Europe and the Others Region

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Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

1. The Head of Department of Climate, Energy and utilities of the Kingdom of Denmark opened the Fourth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Europe and the Others Region by welcoming the Vice President, Sweden, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Honorary Consuls, and other esteemed Excellencies.
2. He emphasized that the urgency to limit global warming is clearer than ever. He noted that significant stakes are involved where climate, security, and welfare are concerned. He acknowledged that different actors must come together to mobilize finance at an immense scale. He applauded the goal set by the International Solar Alliance to mobilize 1000 billion U.S. dollars of investments in solar energy solutions by 2030 to provide clean energy access to 1000 million people towards the deployment of 1000 gigawatts of solar energy by 2030. He emphasized that though Africa is home to 60% of the best solar resources globally, only 1% of installed solar power capacity. He highlighted that however this is changing rapidly, driven by global action to improve energy access and mitigate climate change. He complimented the ISA and the Member countries for playing an important role in mitigating climate change. He commended India on being able to achieve a remarkable feat by enabling electricity access to approximately 700 million people of its population within 20 years.
3. The Hon'ble Minister welcomed the Director General for Energy, Mr. Matthew Baldwin, European Union to deliver the keynote address.
4. The representative of the European Union (EU) thanked the ISA, for organizing the Fourth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Europe and the Others Region Meeting in Brussels. He informed the delegates that the Seventeenth edition of the European Union Sustainable Week is taking place simultaneous to the Regional Committee Meeting, which has similar objectives of accelerating clean energy transition. He stressed that to ensure a just energy transition and meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement, a stronger collective objective is needed at the COP meeting in the coming months.
5. The representative of the European Union highlighted that the green transition would work when it's no longer seen as the prerogative of green political forces, but when it becomes part

mainstream economy. He stressed that no dichotomy between the green transition and our robust response to the Russian war on Ukraine, even though they are strongly linked. He added that In May 2022 the very ambitious Repower EU plan was proposed to rapidly reduce dependence on Russian fossil fuels, and speed up the energy transition, which forms the core of the Repower EU.

6. He conveyed that the EU has launched the new EU solar energy strategy and aims to reach a target of 42.5% renewables in EU regions by 2030. The planned targets include 136 GW installed PV in the EU in 2020, 320 GW by 2025, and 600 GW by 2030. He explained their plan to reach this ambitious target in four steps:
 - First, by promoting a massive PV deployment on buildings, through the European Solar Rooftops initiative.
 - Second, by making permitting procedures for solar insulation short and simple.
 - Third, by ensuring the availability of an abundant and skilled workforce for producing and deploying solar energy right across the EU.
 - Fourth, by launching a European solar PV industry alliance to develop a resilient industrial value chain in the PV manufacturing sector.
7. He stressed two important aspects to achieve the ambitious solar targets. The first is job creation in the solar sector to address the lack of skilled workers in related sectors such as heat pumps, grid upgrades, and battery storage. The second is incentivizing the citizens and communities to become prosumers. He added that innovative financing models can enable access to solar energy for the poor and the most vulnerable.
8. Concluding his statement, the representative of the European Union reaffirmed the need for ISA strategy to mobilize 1000 billion U.S. dollars of investments in solar energy solutions by 2030 to provide clean energy access to 1000 million people towards the deployment of 1000 gigawatts of solar energy by 2030.
9. The Chair, Hon'ble Vice President of the ISA Assembly, Kingdom of Denmark, thanked the representative of the European Union for his remarks.
10. The Chair thanked the ISA Secretariat for their initiative in enhancing regional consultations and aligning the strategic objectives of the ISA. He acknowledged that the meeting shall be an excellent opportunity to have greater collaboration, share knowledge, exchange ideas, undertake joint

initiatives, and promote solar energy within Europe and the Others region. He then welcomed the Director General of the ISA to address the meeting.

11. The Director General of the ISA Secretariat thanked the Vice Presidents of the ISA Assembly along with the representative of the European Union for their insightful remarks.
12. The Director General emphasized the importance of the four-pillar structure mentioned by the representative of the European Union and the ambitious EU targets to reach 45% renewable energy by 2030. He recognized the significant support provided by the European continent to achieve the Paris Agreement objectives.
13. Drawing attention to the ISA objectives, he highlighted that currently, the ISA has 11 Member countries, 4 signatory countries, and 36 prospective member countries from the Europe region, and hopefully more of the prospective member countries will become full members in the future.
14. The Director General added that ISA aims to make solar the most preferred energy choice across the world and plans to achieve this through various solar applications like smaller solar rooftops, solar mini-grids, solar pumps, and solar cold storages. He also underlined the ISA objective for capacity building, focusing on the lack of skilled manpower in solar energy. He thanked the Member countries for focusing on capacity-building initiatives and the French Republic for creating country-led initiatives and supporting the STAR C programs.
15. He pointed out the necessity of energy efficiency and energy storage. He stressed that moving towards energy-efficient products shall reduce the overall price of the renewable energy system. Regarding energy storage, he added that the focus should be on solar energy plus energy efficiency plus batteries for research applications and developing products going ahead.
16. The Director General concluded his opening remarks by thanking all the esteemed guests and wishing the Meeting to be a resounding success.
17. The Chair thanked the Director General for his remarks.

Agenda Item 2. Adoption of the Agenda

18. The President invited the Regional Committee to consider the Provisional Agenda for the Fourth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Europe and the Other Region as contained in the working document ISA/RCEOG.04/WD.01 and provide their inputs and guidance.
19. **The Regional Committee adopted the Provisional Agenda for the Fourth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Europe and the Others Region, as contained in the Working Document ISA/RCEOG.04/WD.01.**

Agenda Item 3. Action Taken Report of the Third Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Europe and the Others Region

28. The Chair invited the ISA Secretariat to consider the Action Taken Report in response to the guidance provided by the Third Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Europe and the Others Region as contained in the Working Document ISA/RCEOG.04/WD.03.
29. **The Regional Committee noted the Action Taken Report for the Third Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Europe and the Others Region as contained in the working document ISA/RCEOG.04/WD.03.**

Agenda Item 4. Report of the Director General on ISA programmes and activities

30. The Chair invited the ISA Secretariat to provide an update on the Report of the Director General on ISA programmes and activities as contained in the working document ISA/RCEOG.04/WD.04.
31. The Director General conveyed that the key strategic priorities can be summarized under four broad areas that is Policy and Capacity Building Assistance to Developing Member Countries, Programmatic Support to LDCs and SIDS Member Countries, Analytics and Advocacy support to all Member Countries, Governance and Operational Management. Thereafter, he briefly addressed each of the four areas.
32. The first area is Policy and Capacity Building Assistance to Developing Member Countries. The Director General informed that the ISA Secretariat has so far trained approximately 3400 people

along with certification. He thanked the Federal Republic of Germany and the agency RENAC for supporting ISA by providing the necessary certifications. He also thanked the Republic of France for helping the ISA in establishing the STAR Centres. He explained that a STAR Centre is established by signing a tripartite agreement between the ISA Secretariat, the Government of the host country, and the university or the research institution. This enables the programs to be managed in a regionally consistent way, but the overall direction is provided by the Government and by ISA. The ISA provides equipment for quality control and training for incubation purposes. He updated that the STAR C is ready in Ethiopia while the process is ongoing for countries like Cuba, Kiribati, Somalia, Cameroon, Sudan, and Cote d'Ivoire of which few are expected to be operational by the end of the year. He added that three-star centres that are supported by the French initiative in Senegal, Bhutan, and PNG are likely to become operational by the end of this year. The ISA along with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) is working on capacity-building activities. He concluded the first area by stating that training and STAR Centres form the center of the ISA capacity-building world.

33. The second area is Programmatic Support to LDCs and SIDS Member Countries. The Director General updated that the ISA has so far provided support to 29 Member countries in this area. Most of these are around solar agricultural farms. He asked for support from the Members present to help ISA identify what kinds of crops will grow under Agri PV in various climatic zones. He stressed the importance of mini-grids owing to their cost effectiveness and added that it is necessary to attract private investments along with establishing regulatory frameworks for solar mini-grids. Nineteen ISA Member countries have sought support for establishing solar mini-grids with a capacity of approximately 780 MW.

34. The Director General provided an update on other programs:

- E mobility and storage: Promote charging stations and batteries that meet quality standards as far as different climatic conditions are concerned
- Solar parks: The ISA has received EOIs from 19 countries for a cumulative capacity of 7.65 gigawatts. The ISA is currently evaluating challenges in setting up the planned capacities, evacuation of electricity, project management aspects, and providing need-based PMC services.
- Green hydrogen: The green hydrogen program of the ISA shall be launched at the G20 energy ministers meeting in Goa.

- AI Chatbot: The ISA looking is creating a virtual clearing house, in the form of an AI chatbot that has information on all kinds of experiences. we are putting in an AI-based chatbot.
35. The Director General then provided an update on the third area, Analytics and Advocacy support to all Member Countries. He informed the Regional Committee that so far three ‘Ease of doing solar’ business reports have been released and the fourth one is set to be released at the G20 meeting. The report encompasses the policies, investments, and degree of competition among the countries and identifies policies that would enable them to procure solar financing. He conveyed that like last year global solar reports on progress in technology, progress in markets, and progress on investments shall be released during the Sixth Session of the ISA Assembly. Among these reports, the ones related to solar investments were extremely received well. The ISA will also be releasing a report on globally resilient solar supply chains. He underscored that supply chain bottlenecks become a hindrance in the availability of equipment and rise in their prices. He further emphasized in the context of green hydrogen, the need to diversify manufacturing facilities in countries and provide financial support in the form of subsidies or incentives to new manufacturing facilities to enable them to meet the growing demand.
36. The Director General applauded the Member countries for their unwavering support of the ISA initiatives and thereafter requested the ISA Secretariat to present an update on the Report of the Director General on ISA programmes and activities as contained in the working document ISA/RCEOG.04/WD.04.
37. The ISA Secretariat presented the update on the Report of the Director General on ISA programmes and activities as contained in the working document ISA/RCEOG.04/WD.04.
38. The Director General further updated on some of the recent initiatives undertaken by the ISA which are the solarization of airports in Barcelona and a program in Denmark to produce green hydrogen using hybrid energy from offshore wind and solar.
39. The representative of the European Union recommended the ISA build an alliance with IRENA which also has an idea of building a centre of knowledge particularly for green hydrogen, so that efforts are not duplicated while developing the portal.

40. The Director General agreed to the European Union and assured that the ISA is not seeking to build the port rather it aims for synergies by collaborating not only with IRENA but also with organizations like the European Union, and IEA. He described that the portal shall be connected to the portals of various organizations and countries and shall assist in incubation by providing necessary training in a self-paced manner.
41. The representative of the Kingdom of Netherlands praised ISA for the work done and the concrete results produced so far. She enquired whether the training provided by the ISA also includes training for the regulators, the process of selection of individuals for the training across geographies, the potential role of Member states regarding the regulation resource depository, and the process of exchange lessons related to regulatory frameworks.
42. The Director General thanked the Kingdom of Netherlands for her comments and specific questions. He mentioned that the ISA builds country-focused training schedules. Ethiopia and Bangladesh will be the next countries where regulatory workshops followed by Togo and Uganda. The ISA has partnered with the African School of Regulation which is co-located with the Florence School of Regulation to provide country-specific training. He expressed his view to create a mechanism through which learning can cross-fertilize each other. He assured that the ISA shall always strive to create synergies.
- 47. The Regional Committee noted the update on the Report of the Director General on ISA programmes and activities as contained in the working document ISA/RCEOG.04/WD.04.**

Agenda Item 5. Update on the STAR-C initiative

48. The Chair invited the ISA Secretariat to present the update on the ISA STAR-C initiative as contained in the working document ISA/RCEOG.04/WD.05.
49. The ISA Secretariat presented the update on the ISA STAR-C initiative as contained in the working document ISA/RCEOG.04/WD.05.
50. The representative of the United States of America acknowledged the necessity for training standardization and the promotion of entrepreneurship among ISA Member countries. He raised two specific questions. The first question pertained to the source of trainers, inquiring whether

they would originate from the ISA Member countries, NGOs, or organizations possessing technical expertise. The second question focused on the anticipated approach for implementing cooperation to stimulate enterprise development and facilitate private sector involvement in the solar market within the countries where these Star Centres were being established.

51. The ISA Secretariat responded by explaining the approach to selecting trainers. He mentioned that as the organization is currently expanding, they are employing various trainers, including RENAC from Germany. The ISA was actively seeking additional trainers to join their efforts. To facilitate this process, an empanelment of trainers was initiated, which included RENAC and McDonald's, among others. The ISA had also enlisted a couple of Indian organizations to provide training to countries involved in the program initially.

52. He added that the ISA was in the process of developing training modules and creating a training library accessible to all participating countries. The aim was to provide standardized training materials for all countries using these resources. Initially, they planned to establish master trainers within each participating country through these partner organizations. Subsequently, the expectation was that these countries would independently conduct training sessions using their local master trainers. The ISA initial investment would focus on securing international trainers to train the master trainers. However, after two years, they aimed for these training initiatives to be managed locally through the designated master trainers. This constituted the response to the first question.

53. The ISA Secretariat explained that the second question concerned the implementation of incubation to develop enterprises. He mentioned that their current focus was on understanding the diversity of enterprises in different countries and their unique operating environments. He emphasized the importance of comprehending the various types of enterprises operating within the solar value chain and other sectors with potential for solar energy integration.

54. He informed that following the completion of the study, they would propose a framework for how the incubation process would take place. Additionally, they planned to pilot incubation programs in two countries, specifically Ethiopia. He acknowledged that in the future, they would require significant international cooperation. The ISA aimed to engage individuals who could assist these enterprises in creating compelling business strategies and pitches that aligned with the

expectations of international investors. He concluded by expressing their willingness to welcome international cooperation at a later stage when they were actively working on incubating these enterprises.

55. The representative of the French Republic reaffirmed their support for the ISA initiatives, especially the STAR C initiative. She mentioned that one of the key issues in solar development was financing and qualifications. In many countries, qualifications were often missing, along with financial engineering capacities to develop a bankable pipeline of standardized projects and technologies which led them to support the program. France was financing three pilot countries in West Africa: Senegal, in South Asia: Bhutan, and in the Indo-Pacific: Papua New Guinea.

56. She acknowledged that many countries were already leading programs on qualifications and technology standards, and the French Republic would like to join them and avoid any possible duplication of efforts.

57. The representative of the European Union appreciated the presentation and expressed their agreement with the importance of prioritizing skills for the green transition for both the EU and all countries interested in harnessing renewable energy potential. She found it particularly welcoming that the initiative targeted not only technicians but also the public sector, financiers, and the entire value chain, considering it a significant strength. She expressed her belief that having a host institution was crucial for sustainability.

58. She enquired whether EU companies could be encouraged to become partners in these centres, as it would ultimately help train the workforce required for businesses. She mentioned companies like EDF, NLI, and Total Energy having similar capacity-building projects in some countries and suggested exploring such partnerships for the solar Star Centres.

59. Additionally, she praised the idea of establishing partnerships with European universities and suggested exploring avenues like Erasmus Plus to facilitate collaboration between European companies and universities from abroad. She encouraged looking into the feasibility of creating a coalition of universities to develop a common curriculum for solar energy.

60. The Director General in response to the queries, emphasized that companies desired opportunities, that would arise only with the presence of a regulatory framework. He mentioned that the ISA aims

to progress towards this goal and expand into various countries. He acknowledged the relevance of encouraging private investments potentially through a private sector advisory group. Addressing another raised concern, he assured that they would establish contact regarding Erasmus Plus and explore opportunities for collaboration with ISA. He candidly shared that many countries and universities that the ISA collaborated with lacked the capacity for such partnerships, but he saw the potential for growth in this aspect. He concluded by expressing enthusiasm for further discussions on these matters and extended his gratitude.

61. The Regional Committee noted the update on the ISA STAR C initiative as contained in the working document ISA/RCEOG.04/WD.05.

Agenda Item 6. Update on the SolarX Startup Challenge

62. The Chair stated that the first edition of the ISA SolarX Startup Challenge initiative had successfully attracted the participation of over 100 startups from the Africa region. He invited the ISA Secretariat to provide an update on the ISA SolarX Startup Challenge as contained in the working document ISA/RCEOG.04/WD.06.

63. The ISA Secretariat presented the update on the SolarX Startup Challenge as contained in the working document ISA/RCEOG.04/WD.06

64. The Director General mentioned that the ISA was considering the establishment of private enterprises across Africa, and the organization would explore various avenues such as finance, technology, and market creation. He expressed the need for collaboration to determine how to make this initiative beneficial.

65. The Regional Committee noted the update on the SolarX Startup Challenge as contained in the working document ISA/RCEOG.04/WD.06.

Agenda Item 7. Update on the ISA Solar Finance Facility

66. The Chair stated that the ISA Solar Finance Facility aims to attract private capital for investment in solar projects in Africa by offering risk mitigation support. He added that the Solar Facility would

comprise three funds; the Payment Guarantee Fund, the Insurance Fund, and the Investment Fund. The solar projects proposed in Africa would have the opportunity to purchase payment guarantees or partial insurance premiums from these funds.

67. The Chair then invited the ISA Secretariat to provide an update on the progress made by the ISA Secretariat in operationalizing the Solar Finance Facility.

68. The ISA Secretariat presented the update on the ISA Solar Finance Facility as contained in the working document ISA/RCEOG.04/WD.07.

69. The representative of the United States of America, enquired regarding differentiating the solar facility from other international organizations that provide finance. He highlighted that the solar facility's exclusive focus is on solar energy. However, he also inquired about any distinctive features and potential contributions that this solar facility might offer towards the global advancement of solar energy, with a particular emphasis on its impact in Africa.

70. The representative of the European Union acknowledged that in many countries, the best cost analysis needed to be conducted during the planning phase. She emphasized that it would be efficient if countries remained technology-neutral and evaluated all available options. She was keen to understand how this approach related to the SRMI, which was described as a World Bank program resembling the discussed concept. She explained that the SRMI acted as a technical assistant, laying the groundwork for projects in collaboration with various financiers.

71. Responding to the intervention of the representatives of the United States of America and the European Union, the Director General responded that, regarding differentiation, solar energy was certainly a factor, but he pointed out that a more important issue was to focus on two other primary aspects. Firstly, he emphasized the importance of de-risking investments, which the ISA considered the primary objective. He noted that several facilities on blended finance help reduce the cost of capital which aligns with the purpose of a seed fund. However, it is evident to focus on the payment side, rather than solely focusing on the investment side.

72. Additionally, he pointed out another key distinguishing factor, which was the scale of their projects, and the ISA is actively pursuing smaller projects, developing programs, and regulatory frameworks within the country to facilitate increased investor participation in smaller segments. He highlighted that this structural approach was different from the conventional model, as it revolved around a

program of investments rather than a few standalone solar farms. Concluding his remarks, the Director General highlighted that, unlike other facilities, all small-scale solar initiatives in Africa had been made possible solely due to grant support.

73. The representative of Monaco enquired if there was a special focus made while selecting the projects, considering the carbon impact.

74. The Director General replied that this has not been considered yet. He informed that the World Bank was in the process of creating a facility to address foreign currency hedging risk, with a specific focus on carbon credits. According to him, when selling carbon credits, projects could generate revenue in hard currency, which could then be used to mitigate currency risk. He noted that while some countries might not face foreign currency risk in their projects, most would, and therefore, they would utilize carbon credits and carbon offset benefits to mitigate these risks. He emphasized that this approach might not directly answer the question but represented the ISA current perspective.

75. Going back to the query of the representative of the European Union on how the approach is related to the SRMI, he responded that, the ISA had played a significant role in the development of SRMI. SRMI had been established to facilitate renewable energy development, particularly in the context of increasing climate-related risks, with a specific example being the Maldives. He explained that SRMI primarily focused on providing capacity-building support, along with other forms of assistance, initially funded by the Green Climate Fund.

76. The Director General pointed out that to expand SRMI, securing additional support from the Green Climate Fund had proven challenging, though not impossible. He noted that there was an upcoming meeting in Paris to discuss the way forward for SRMI. In conclusion, he emphasized that SRMI's structure would be crucial, particularly in areas where climate impacts necessitated the structuring of mitigation projects to make them resilient. This limitation, he explained, would affect the application of SRMI in specific cases.

76. The Regional Committee noted the update on the ISA Solar Finance Facility as contained in the working document ISA/RCEOG.04/WD.07.

Agenda Item 8. The ISA private sector engagement strategies and solar manufacturing

77. The Chair invited the ISA Secretariat to present the ISA private sector engagement strategies and solar manufacturing as contained in the working document ISA/RCEOG.04/WD.08 for the consideration of the Regional Committee.
78. The ISA Secretariat presented the key highlights of the ISA private sector engagement strategies and solar manufacturing.
79. The Director General requested support in building up relationships and emphasized that programs could only be effective if private sector companies implemented them. He strongly urged the audience to help ISA take countries across the globe.
80. The ISA Secretariat added that certain Member countries had introduced them to various solar associations or companies within their regions and ISA had assisted in introducing them at various events. He expressed the ISA's willingness to continue doing so in the future.
81. The representative of the United States of America (USA) expressed gratitude to the ISA Secretariat and commended their work in partnering with the United States, not only on solar supply work streams they were currently collaborating on but also in sponsoring workshops. He emphasized the significance of diversifying solar supply chains for both the United States and the rest of the world. He highlighted the joint efforts of the USA, the ISA, Germany, and Australia in this area, aiming to advance global goals for a resilient and diversified solar supply chain.
82. The ISA Secretariat responded by mentioning an example of an event where the United States sponsored work in India related to rooftop solar. They subsequently hosted an event for their NFPs across Africa and Latin America to share the lessons learned in India and explore their application in other emerging markets. He cited this as an excellent illustration of how Member countries, like the USA, leverage the ISA platform to disseminate knowledge to a broader audience.
83. The representative of Solar Power Europe conveyed their gratitude for the excellent collaboration with the ISA, particularly in the context of private-sector cooperation. He expressed their anticipation for the side events scheduled for that afternoon and the following day. Additionally, he stated their willingness to mobilize their members, encompassing both European and international members, to assist in global solar supply chain diversification and other related

initiatives. He expressed their enthusiasm for maintaining this productive cooperation, with a specific emphasis on the upcoming events in Goa in July in India and COP 28.

84. The representative of the European Union stated that they believed the work stream was very important for the EU. She mentioned their desire to highlight the partnership and dialogue they had with the US concerning the development of alternative value chains for solar energy. She also emphasized the significance of the green transition value chain, noting that as an EU member, it was a top priority to diversify options and collaborate extensively with the private sector in this regard.

85. The Regional Committee noted the update on the ISA private sector engagement strategies and solar manufacturing as contained in the working document ISA/RCEOG.04/WD.08.

Agenda Item 9. Preparations for the Fifth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Europe and the Others Region

84. The Chair briefed the Regional Committee on the proposal of the ISA Secretariat to convene the Fifth Meeting of the Regional Committee in conjunction with the European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW). The venue suggested was the Conference Centre Albert Borschette of the European Union (EU) located at Rue Froissart 36 in Brussels. The Chair then invited the Hon'ble Members to share their comments and input on the proposal for the Fifth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Europe and the Others Region.

85. The Director General added that in case there was a broad agreement that any burning issue should not be addressed separately from the Energy Week, the ISA would proceed with it during the Energy Week. He emphasized that it was advantageous to collaborate with Energy Week due to the significant synergy involved.

86. The Regional Committee considered the proposal of the ISA Secretariat for convening the Fifth Meeting of the Regional Committee in conjunction with the European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW).

Agenda Item 10. Interventions by the Members

87. The Chair invited interventions from the Members of the Regional Committee.
88. The representative from the USA, on behalf of the Government of the USA expressed gratitude to the ISA for organizing the Fourth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Europe and Others Region. He mentioned that they were honoured to be part of the first in-person meeting of the Committee. He also thanked the Chair for his leadership in conducting the meeting. The USA took the opportunity to commend the ISA for its initiatives aimed at expanding access to solar energy worldwide. He mentioned that through its ISA membership, the USA advanced its interests in decarbonization, energy security, and developmental foreign policy, particularly in finding solutions to address challenges in solar energy adoption by African countries. They referred to an event on June 13, where the US Department of State, in collaboration with ISA and the Delhi-based Council on Energy, Environment, and Water, hosted a capacity-building workshop on demand aggregation models.
89. He noted that the workshop, based on lessons learned from pilots carried out in New Delhi and the Indian states of Bihar and Meghalaya, saw strong participation from African Member countries as well as from the Caribbean and Latin America. He emphasized that their joint work on these demand aggregation pilots underscored the strong partnership between India and the United States in addressing shared global challenges that guided their bilateral energy relationship. He concluded by expressing their appreciation once again and mentioned that the USA looked forward to participating in next year's regional meeting and this year's General Assembly.
90. The representative of the Netherlands commended ISA on the important work done and for organizing the first in-person meeting for Europe and the Others Region. She emphasised that indeed solar energy played a crucial role in the global energy transition. She mentioned that the Netherlands was a front runner within the EU, having the highest number of solar panels per capita in the EU, and highlighted that solar energy had been making up an increasing part of their electricity production recently. She also mentioned the existence of a local production facility and its international activities. She conveyed the ambitious goal set by the Netherlands for SDG7, aiming to facilitate access to renewable energy for 100 million people in developing economies by 2030. She underlined the importance of rapidly scaling up solar electrification to close the energy access gap. She acknowledged that ISA was already working on these issues and expressed interest in the

ISA focus on clean cooking, mentioning that at the current rate of progress, 2.1 billion people, a quarter of the world's population, would still lack access to clean cooking by 2030.

91. Additionally, she stressed the importance of considering the specific needs of women and involving and empowering them in driving transformational change to achieve net zero. The representative stated that the Netherlands closely followed the activities of ISA with interest and expressed their intention to continue mobilizing partner organizations they were funding, such as the World Bank and the World Resources Institute, to collaborate effectively with ISA. They looked forward to cooperation with ISA in the coming years and concluded by expressing their gratitude.
92. The representative of Germany commended the ISA for the excellent work done so far on behalf of the German Government. She mentioned that ISA was one of the premier institutions working to advance the global agenda for the rapid deployment of solar energy. The representative noted that they had learned a lot during the meeting and were looking forward to accompanying ISA in its institutional and strategic development. She emphasized that recent developments, such as the dramatic findings of the latest IPCC report and increasing climate impacts, as well as the climate crisis caused by the Russian war in Ukraine, highlighted the urgent need to reduce dependencies on fossil fuels and diversify the energy system.
93. She highlighted the necessity of significantly increasing the share of renewables in energy systems to achieve climate goals and enhance energy security for all. She stressed that a global massive rollout of solar energy was crucial and mentioned Germany's plans to increase photovoltaic (PV) capacities. She also noted that according to the International Energy Agency (IEA), solar PV was becoming the most economical option for electricity generation in most parts of the world, but greater efforts were required from both public and private stakeholders to increase its share in the energy mix.
94. Regarding private investments, she mentioned the importance of diversifying manufacturing and raw material supplies to pre-empt possible disruptions in the rollout of solar energy and strengthen supply chain resilience. She welcomed the collaboration between CEM, ISA, and IRENA on this critical issue. She extended special thanks to India for its generous support of the ISA work and stated that Germany was ready to collaborate with the ISA and fellow Member countries to enable disruptive changes in the deployment of solar power and raise ambitions in the fight against climate change, aiming to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

95. The representative of Sweden thanked the ISA Secretariat for the excellent organization of the meeting, which she found to be very informative and productive. He noted that the meeting had clearly illustrated the breadth and importance of these activities. He concurred with colleagues who had emphasized the importance of speeding up the green transition to ensure the security of supply and resilience against global energy price shocks, as well as in the fight against climate change. He also emphasized the crucial role of electrifying transport and industry in reaching climate targets and the need for new fossil-free electricity production.
96. The representative of Sweden acknowledged that while Sweden had a large share of hydropower, solar power was not central to their energy system, they had however seen an increasing number of solar cells being installed in Sweden. Between 2020 and 2021, the number of grid-connected PV systems increased by 4 to 6%, and their forecasts indicated that solar power would exceed 10 terabytes before 2030, indicating a steep growth curve ahead. He noted that even in northern countries where solar power might not be the most competitive energy system now, there was progress in this regard. The representative also expressed gratitude to Denmark for chairing the meeting and mentioned that Sweden was eagerly looking forward to chairing the Fifth meeting of the Regional Committee for Europe and other regions.
97. The Chair invited the Director General to address the interventions by the Member Countries.
98. The Director General thanked all the Member countries not only for their presence but also for their active participation. He emphasized the importance of their input, explaining that the organization learns and grows based on the contributions provided by its members. He mentioned that the programs had been shared with them and expressed the desire for ongoing support and considered thoughts on how to progress. He reported that the national focal points in each country were in contact with Mr. P.C Sharma, the NFP coordinator, and he expressed interest in enhancing this interaction.
99. He expressed delight that all seven prospective countries, including Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Monaco, Slovenia, the Swiss Federation, and Lithuania, were present. He hoped that they would become full members at the fifth meeting, acknowledging that the ratification process takes time but expressing the desire to have them as signatories at the very least.

100. He went on to address the issue of clean cooking, explaining that the main challenge was the reliance on electric induction cookers as the only zero-carbon option. He noted that this required a reliable electricity supply, which was not currently available everywhere, and mentioned that many people in the developing world lacked the economic means to pay for energy services. He proposed providing stoves as subsidies but emphasized that they would need to incorporate PV panels for electricity and batteries to run induction stoves efficiently. He expressed a desire to focus on developing efficient induction stoves with renewable energy panels for global use, stressing the importance of addressing clean cooking to combat global climate change.

101. The Director General also reminded the meeting that at the Fifth Session of the ISA Assembly held the previous October, it was agreed that there would be voluntary contributions from various countries. He specified that LDC and SIDS countries were expected to contribute \$10,000 a year, while developing countries were asked for \$25,000, and OECD-developed countries were requested to provide \$50,000. He looked forward to receiving these contributions, acknowledging that they would depend on each country's budgetary processes but expressed hope for progress in this regard.

102. The Chair thanked all the esteemed delegates for their interventions and the Director General for his comments.

Agenda Item 11. Any Other Business

103. The Chair invited the Members of the Regional Committee to propose any other business that needs to be addressed.

104. No other business was proposed for the consideration of the Regional Committee.

Agenda Item 12. Closing of Meeting

105. The Chair concluded the Meeting by thanking all Members of the Regional Committee for their contribution. He encouraged all the Members to extend their continued cooperation to the ISA Secretariat to carry out its activities for a positive outcome.
