
**Fifth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific Region
24 - 26 July 2023
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**

Report of the Fifth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific Region

Summary

This working document contains the Report of the Fifth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific Region

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Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

1. The Hon'ble Regional Vice President and Chair of the ISA Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific Region, the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh opened the Meeting by welcoming the Regional Co-Vice President - Tuvalu, Hon'ble Ministers, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, and heads of delegations of the ISA Member, Signatory, and Prospective Countries of Asia and the Pacific Region, other excellencies and the Director General, ISA.
2. The Chair expressed deep gratitude to Minister Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei and the Government of the United Arab Emirates for their unwavering support in hosting the Regional Committee meeting. The Chair acknowledged that this support was instrumental in enabling the assembly of this crucial gathering and facilitating substantial discussions. Additionally, the Chair extended heartfelt thanks to H.E Ambassador Majid Al Suwaidi, who graced the session, and the Director General of the ISA and Special Deputy of COP 28 for their presence and contributions.
3. The Chair announced the expansion of the ISA Regional Committee, noting a significant growth in membership since the previous year. The Chair welcomed the Republic of Singapore, the Solomon Islands, and New Zealand as the newest additions to the International Solar Alliance, increasing the total count to 29 Member Countries and signatory nations in the region. He highlighted the robust presence of the Asia Pacific region in the global solar arena, citing its consistent leadership in both cumulative and annual solar PV capacity emphasising the remarkable progress made by emerging economies like India and Vietnam, where the rapid deployment of solar PV plants had been witnessed.
4. Reiterating the region's dominance, the Chair shared statistics indicating that, as of 2020, the Asia Pacific region accounted for a substantial 58.9% share of the global solar PV market in terms of cumulative capacity. The Chair projected this percentage to rise to 59.8% by 2030, underlining the region's commitment to renewable energy. He emphasised the Asia Pacific region's strong endorsement of the Paris Agreement and its dedication to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

5. The Hon'ble Regional Vice President and Chair commended the ISA for its relentless efforts in driving the global energy transition. The following notable initiatives launched by the ISA were shared with the committee.
 - Solar Technology Application Resource Centres or STAR-C function as training centres and centres of excellence for testing and development of specifications and standards and serve as information centres to support governments and the private sector on solar energy projects.
 - Solar Finance Facility to support the development of bankable solar projects and stimulate financing through financing vehicles.
 - SolarX Start-up Challenge to incubate solar start-ups by handholding them to give access to manufacturers, suppliers, and investors.
6. The Hon'ble Regional Vice President and Chair acknowledged the immense potential of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to support its Member Countries through its nine programmes encompassing various sectors such as agriculture, health, transport, battery storage, heating and cooling, and green hydrogen while inviting states to actively collaborate and participate towards a Green Economy.
7. The Chair invited the Director General of the ISA, Dr. Ajay Mathur, to deliver his address.
8. The Director General, ISA thanked the Chair of and on behalf of the ISA Secretariat, proceeded to welcome the Hon'ble Ministers, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, and heads of delegations of the ISA Member, Signatory, and Prospective Countries of Asia and the Pacific Region and other esteemed excellencies.
9. The Director General, ISA expressed his sincere appreciation to the Hon'ble Chair and all the esteemed members present for their active participation and invaluable contributions to the progress of the organization. He shared updates on the action items discussed during the committee's recent meeting.
10. He highlighted that the Fifth Session of the ISA Assembly had successfully approved the proposed amendments related to the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly specifically concerning the selection

of the Vice Chair. These amendments were effectively implemented by the ISA secretariat following the Assembly's decision.

11. The Director General, ISA reported that the ISA secretariat had developed a comprehensive country partnership framework, a decision made during the previous meeting. The first country partnership agreement under this framework was successfully signed with Bangladesh, the country presided over by the current Chair, in February of the present year.
12. He additionally provided detailed updates on each of the nine programs outlined in the working documents presented at the meeting. He welcomed comments and suggestions from the members on how to progress with the initiatives, including those related to the Global Solar Facility, the SolarX Start-up challenge, and the STAR-C program, in the upcoming discussions.
13. The Director General expressed his gratitude to all the members, partner organizations, and stakeholders for their unwavering support and commitment to the vision of the International Solar Alliance. He concluded his remarks by reiterating his thanks to the United Arab Emirates for hosting the meeting and facilitating these important discussions.
14. The Hon'ble Regional Vice President and Chair of the ISA Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific Region thanked the Director General, ISA for his remarks. The Chair proceeded to thank the members of Asia and the Pacific Region for their active membership and continued support for the ISA initiatives, also encouraging the ISA Secretariat to further enhance its engagement with the Membership at the regional level.
15. As the Chair of the Fifth Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific Region, the Vice President declared the meeting open, and in session.

Agenda Item 2. Adoption of the Agenda

18. The Vice President invited the Regional Committee to review and provide inputs for the Provisional Agenda for the Fifth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific Region as contained in the working document **ISA/RCAP.05/WD.01**.

19. The Regional Committee adopted the Provisional Agenda for the Fifth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific Region as contained in the working document ISA/RCAP.05/WD.01.

Agenda Item 3. Action Taken Report of the Fourth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee Meeting for Asia and the Pacific Region

20. The Chair introduced the next agenda item the Action Taken Report of the Fourth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific Region, as contained in working document **ISA/RCAP.05/WD.03**. This report outlines the ISA Secretariat's actions in response to the committee's recommendations made during the Fourth Meeting held in 2022. The Chair acknowledged the Secretariat's efforts in implementing these recommendations and invited committee members to review the report and offer their comments and guidance.

21. With no interventions forthcoming the Chair proceeded to the next agenda.

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

22. The Chair announced the next agenda item: the Report of the Director General on the ISA Programmes and activities highlighting that the Fifth Session of the ISA Assembly had approved the ISA Five-Year Strategic Plan for 2021 to 2026. This plan serves as a comprehensive roadmap to fulfil the ISA's mandate outlined in its Framework Agreement.

23. The Strategic Plan encompasses various initiatives, including providing programmatic assistance to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), conducting capacity-building programs for all developing member countries, offering analytics advocacy support, facilitating investment mobilization preparedness, and advancing technological solutions with a goal to secure USD 1 billion over five years to achieve strategic priorities.

24. The Chair invited the ISA Secretariat to present an overview of progress made under the Five-Year Strategic Plan and share insights into upcoming activities.

25. The Director General, ISA expressed gratitude for the Fifth Session of the ISA Assembly's approval of the Five-year Strategic Plan. This plan guides the ISA efforts in addressing Energy Access, Energy Security, and Energy Transition. Notable achievements included:

- **Policy and Capacity Building Assistance:** The ISA trained approximately 3,510 individuals and initiated STAR-C centres in seven countries. Collaboration with UNIDO aims to strengthen PV and solar thermal standards. Research on sustainable mini grids in Africa is ongoing, and private sector engagement is planned for 2023.
- **Programmatic Support:** ISA engaged Member Countries, making progress on 7 out of 27 funded projects.
- **Analytics and Advocacy Support:** ISA published the Ease of Doing Solar (EoDS) Report for 2022, assessing key drivers in each member country. Flagship reports on Solar Investments, Markets, and Technology was released, with second editions scheduled for 2023. The 'Global Supply Chain Resiliency' report was launched at the Clean Energy Ministerial in Goa.
- **Governance and Operational Management:** The ISA will advocate for solar energy at COP28, aiming to name their pavilion "The Solar Hub" for this purpose.

26. The Director General, ISA credited Member Countries' enthusiasm and cooperation as instrumental in the ISA's accelerated work, leading to concrete steps for positive impacts across Member Countries. He then invited the ISA Secretariat to give a detailed presentation on the same.

27. The ISA Secretariat delivered a detailed presentation on the progress made under the Five-Year Strategic Plan and shared insights into the upcoming activities.

28. The Chair thanked the ISA Secretariat for the presentation and noted the transformational impact ISA Programmes have had for the benefit of all Member Countries.

29. The Chair invited comments and interventions from participants on the Agenda Item, with no interventions proposed, the Chair proceeded to address the next item on the Agenda.

Agenda Item 5. The ISA Star-C Initiative

30. The Chair introduced the agenda item concerning the ISA STAR-C Initiative, emphasizing its importance in facilitating technology transfer and capacity-building in solar energy among Member countries. The initiative aims to be a hub for research, development, and dissemination of solar

technologies, fostering collaborations with various stakeholders. Capacity-building and research efforts are central to its mission.

31. The Chair highlighted that details about the STAR-C Initiative were provided in the working document **ISA/RCAP.05/WD.05**.
32. The Chair requested the ISA Secretariat to provide an update on the STAR-C Initiative's progress.
33. The Director General of the International Solar Alliance emphasised the ground-breaking nature of the STAR-C initiative and its immense potential in advancing solar energy development within Member Countries. He pointed out that the initiative was specifically designed to address the unique challenges faced by individual nations. The establishment of STAR Centres, he explained, was deeply aligned with national goals, and he stressed the importance of clearly defining these goals to enable the STAR-C program to effectively contribute to achieving them.
34. Furthermore, he elaborated on the dual objectives of the STAR-C program: fostering collaboration and innovation while simultaneously enhancing capacity building within participating countries. He envisioned a future wherein the establishment of more STAR Centres are established across various countries, there would be opportunities for mutual learning and collaboration among Member Nations. The Director General outlined the organization's vision of creating a hub and spoke model around the Star Centres, indicating a collaborative network where knowledge and expertise could be shared effectively.
35. He also acknowledged the pivotal role played by the French Republic, one of the co-founders, in initiating the Star Centres by providing initial resources. He highlighted the ongoing development efforts with the assistance of UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) and emphasised the collaborative approach taken to establish these centres in various countries. He then invited the ISA Secretariat to give a detailed presentation on the same.
36. The ISA Secretariat delivered a detailed presentation providing an update on the STAR-C Initiative.
37. The Chair acknowledged the popularity of the STAR-C initiative and invited comments and interventions from participants on the Agenda Item.

38. The representative from the Kingdom of Tonga expressed his gratitude to the Hon'ble Chair and greeted all excellencies present. He praised the STAR Centres initiative as an excellent endeavour, emphasizing its focus on guiding each country toward the adoption of solar energy and self-implementation, which he believed was highly beneficial for every nation.
39. The representative highlighted their keen interest in the initiative, indicating full support. He suggested exploring collaboration with existing regional organizations, particularly the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PECREE). He pointed out that PECREE, covering the entire Pacific region, could supplement the solar technology aspects, utilising existing databases and addressing specific solar energy needs. He appreciated the practicality of this initiative, emphasising the importance of tangible actions on the ground, involving collaborative discussions with development partners and the provision of necessary technical support. He stressed that such active engagement could accelerate the implementation process significantly.
40. He concluded by reiterating full support for the initiative and expressed a strong desire to implement it promptly, not only for the benefit of the Kingdom of Tonga but also for the entire Pacific Region.
41. The ISA Secretariat expressed their gratitude for the Kingdom of Tonga's interest in the initiative. They acknowledged the previous discussions initiated and confirmed their intention to commence further talks with the Kingdom of Tonga promptly. The ISA Secretariat expressed eagerness to establish a Centre in the Kingdom of Tonga, highlighting their proactive approach in this regard. Addressing the Kingdom of Tonga's concern about existing Regional Centres, the ISA Secretariat shared that they were already collaborating with the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PECREE), a UNIDO centre operating within the Pacific region. The ISA Secretariat explained that PECREE, being a part of UNIDO, was actively involved in the implementation of projects in the region. The Secretariat highlighted the Solomon Islands, the head of PECREE, as a key collaborator, stating that they would be integral to the project.
42. The representative from the Independent State of Papua New Guinea expressed gratitude towards ISA for their efforts in energy transition. He eagerly anticipated the early commencement of the solar rooftop program, a chosen initiative that aligns with their national policies of solarizing major government institutions. He emphasised their readiness for the program to take off under the ISA Secretariat.

43. The Chair thanked the representatives for their comments and proceeded to address the next item on the agenda.

Agenda Item 6. The ISA SolarX Startup Challenge

44. The Chair introduced the agenda item on the ISA SolarX Startup Challenge and mentioned that the Working Document **ISA/RCAP.05/WD.06**, containing an update on the challenge, was distributed to all Committee members by the ISA Secretariat.

45. The Chair explained that the SolarX Startup Challenge is a global initiative designed to promote solar energy deployment through innovation, collaboration, and partnerships. The initiative aims to harness creative solutions to drive the development and implementation of solar technologies for a more sustainable future. Notably, the challenge garnered the participation of more than 100 start-ups operating in the African solar energy sector, resulting in the announcement of twenty winners at the G20 Summit event in Goa, India.

46. The Chair then requested the ISA Secretariat to provide the Regional Committee with a briefing on the SolarX Startup Challenge.

47. The Director General, ISA expressed his gratitude and conveyed that the Solar X Startup Challenge was approved at the previous year's Assembly. He recounted the mandate given to identify 20 startups from Africa in the current year and subsequently expand the program to Asia and the Pacific, followed by inclusion in Latin America. He informed the Regional Committee that the program's initiation in Africa had commenced.

48. He outlined the program's objective, emphasizing its role in infusing vibrancy and dynamism into solar development efforts in various countries. He mentioned that during the recent G20 meeting in Goa, the ISA announced the 20 winning start-ups from this year's Solar Startup Challenge. He then requested the ISA Secretariat to provide an update on the progress of the Startup challenge.

49. The ISA Secretariat delivered a detailed presentation on the ISA SolarX Startup Challenge.

50. The Director General, ISA expressed commitment to expanding the SolarX Startup Challenge, with a particular focus on both the African and Asia Pacific regions.

51. The Director General, ISA elaborated on the partnership with Invest India, an organization currently engaged in the identification of start-ups. He emphasized the need for collaboration with the Assembly members and extended an invitation for cooperation. He requested that each member host a meeting in their respective country or region and assist in outreach efforts to engage start-ups from their respective areas.

52. The Chair thanked the ISA Secretariat and proceeded to address the next item on the agenda.

Agenda Item 7. The ISA Global Solar Facility

53. The Chair introduced the next agenda item, which is an update on the ISA Global Solar Facility. The Chair noted that the working document **ISA/RCAP.05/WD.07**, containing information and updates about the Global Solar Facility, had been distributed to all members of the Regional Committee by the ISA Secretariat.

54. The Chair explained that the ISA Global Solar Facility is an initiative aimed at addressing the financial challenges faced by ISA Member countries when deploying solar energy projects. It seeks to provide affordable and accessible financing options to empower countries to embrace solar energy for sustainable development. Initially focused on the African region, the facility's goal is to attract private capital to underserved markets in Africa by offering risk mitigation support through financing instruments such as payment guarantees and insurance. The facility comprises three funds: the payment guarantee fund, the insurance fund, and the investment fund. Projects in Africa can utilize these funds to purchase payment guarantees or partial insurance premiums.

55. The Chair elucidated that, for the Asia and Pacific region, collaborative efforts between ISA and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) were underway. He outlined a strategic partnership with Intellectap, which was actively involved in designing a financing facility dedicated to scaling up the solar sector in six South Asian countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, and Sri Lanka.

56. The financing facility, as explained by the Chair, was meticulously crafted to incorporate various financial instruments, including equity, venture capital, concessionary financing, and grants. These instruments, carefully chosen, would be deployed to provide essential financial interventions in the targeted countries, fostering the growth of the solar sector.

57. Moreover, the Chair emphasized that both ADB and ISA were deeply committed to providing comprehensive guidelines for the development of the blueprint and funding facility in the specified countries. These guidelines were crucial to creating an enabling ecosystem, ensuring the successful scaling up of the solar sector in the identified nations.
58. The Chair then invited the ISA Secretariat to brief the Regional Committee on the progress made in operationalizing the Global Solar Facility.
59. The ISA Secretariat delivered a detailed presentation on the ISA Global Solar Facility.
60. The Chair invited comments and interventions from participants on the Agenda Item.
61. The representative from the Republic of Kiribati enquired about the operational timeline of the Global Solar Facility, referencing previous statements indicating it would be operational by 2023. He sought specific details regarding the expected timeframe within the year 2023 when the setup of the facility would be targeted.
62. The ISA Secretariat in reply stated that they were aiming to be operational with the first tranche of funds before COP 28. They informed that an agreement had been signed with the MIGA group, the multilateral investment guarantee agency of the World Bank and elaborated that a list of projects earmarked for implementation was already in place. The ISA Secretariat expressed their optimism, indicating that by November or December 2023, the operations of these projects should commence.
63. The Chair proceeded to address the next item on the agenda.

Agenda Item 8. The ISA private sector engagement strategy

64. The Chair introduced the next agenda item, update on the ISA private sector engagement strategy. The Chair informed the Committee that the working document **ISA/RCAP.05/WD.08**, containing details about the strategy's progress, had been distributed to all members of the Regional Committee by the ISA Secretariat.
65. The Chair emphasized the significant role that the private sector plays in promoting the adoption of solar energy solutions. To achieve global energy transition goals and Net Zero targets, it is crucial to encourage increased private sector investments, particularly in developing countries. The Chair

highlighted that the Fifth Session of the ISA Assembly had approved the Private Sector Engagement Strategy, aiming to accelerate the growth of the solar industry across all ISA Member Countries.

66. The Chair then requested the ISA Secretariat to provide the Committee with a briefing on the progress achieved in advancing the private sector engagement strategy.

67. The Director General, ISA expressed gratitude to the Chair and acknowledged the unanimous agreement among the members about the pivotal role of the private sector in solar panel installations. He raised a crucial question: how to engage and sustain the interest of the private sector in member countries, ensuring that policies were conducive to their involvement.

68. Highlighting their recent efforts, he informed the Committee about the launch of a report on building resilient global solar supply chains. This initiative involved deepening partnerships with several solar associations, reflecting their commitment to addressing the challenges related to supply chains. He emphasized the significance of dialogue between government agencies and the private sector. This dialogue, he stressed, was essential for enhancing solar investments, especially concerning the goals outlined for COP 28.

69. The Director General then requested the ISA Secretariat to provide an update on ISA's interactions with the private sector, indicating the importance of this collaboration for achieving their objectives.

70. The ISA Secretariat delivered a detailed presentation on the ISA private sector engagement strategy.

71. The Chair invited comments and interventions from participants on the Agenda Item, with no interventions proposed, the Chair proceeded to address the next item on the agenda.

Agenda Item 9. Preparations for the Sixth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific Region

72. The Chair introduced the next agenda item, which pertains to preparations for the Sixth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific Region. The Chair highlighted the significance of Regional Committee Meetings as a crucial platform for countries to align their sustainable development goals, especially concerning the clean energy transition.

73. The Chair while thanking the Government of the United Arab Emirates for hosting the Fifth Regional Committee Meeting, requested the hon'ble Members of the Regional Committee, seeking their support for the ISA Secretariat in hosting future Regional Committee Meetings. The Chair emphasized that such support would underscore their commitment to combating climate change through the promotion of clean energy.
74. The Chair thanked the members for the constant support and cooperation and invited suggestions for hosting the Sixth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific Region.
75. The representative from the Kingdom of Tonga enquired if any Member Countries have volunteered to host the upcoming Sixth Meeting, seeking information about potential hosts.
76. The Director General, ISA expressed anticipation regarding Member Countries volunteering to host the upcoming meeting. He acknowledged the need for consultations with the respective capitals and assured that the ISA would support host countries by providing necessary arrangements, including Host Country Agreements. He indicated the possibility of moving the meeting to the capitals if countries preferred.
77. Furthermore, he announced the plan to hold the meeting in 2024, specifically in April or May, providing ample time for conducting the Standing Committee Meetings. These meetings would set the agenda for the Assembly. The Director General welcomed suggestions and input from the attendees regarding these arrangements.
78. The representative from the United Arab Emirates expressed the need for time to reflect and consult with their government. She expressed her intention to approach ISA during the upcoming Sixth Session of the ISA Assembly after these consultations with their leadership.
79. With no further interventions proposed, the Chair proceeded to address the next item on the agenda.

Agenda Item 10. Interventions by Member Countries

80. The Chair invited interventions from the Member Countries.

81. The representative from the Commonwealth of Australia expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Chair, members, and guests for the opportunity to speak at the ISA Asia Pacific Regional Committee meeting. He commended the International Solar Alliance for uniting member countries and expressed their commitment to collaborating with partners in the Asia Pacific region to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.
82. The representative emphasized their dedication to enhancing energy access, security, and resilience in the region. He pledged to assist countries in developing and implementing their decarbonization pathways by sharing relevant Australian expertise and experience. Particularly, highlighting their focus on supporting Pacific neighbours, acknowledging their contribution to global emissions. They recognized that mitigation efforts would significantly improve energy access, security, and resilience for Pacific nations. He highlighted their engagement in the Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers meeting in Vanuatu, where they responded to regionally endorsed priorities while showcasing their partnership with the University of New South Wales and the government of Vanuatu to deliver energy transition frameworks, aiming for a 100% renewable energy electricity grid by 2030.
83. Furthermore, the representative underscored their collaboration with New Zealand on energy transition, emphasizing agreements on electric vehicles and financing mechanisms to support businesses in the Energy Transition. He also discussed their efforts in Southeast Asia, joining the Zero Emissions Community and working on innovative ways to facilitate trade and investment in environmental goods and services. He highlighted their green economy agreement with Singapore and their focus on deploying concessional investment for climate projects, including renewable infrastructure investments like solar, wind, and hydro projects.
84. He expressed, yet again his gratitude to ISA for bringing together member countries and expressed eagerness to continue collaborative efforts into the future.
85. The representative from the United Arab Emirates expressed gratitude to the Chair acknowledged the honour of hosting the event and shared her comments on the work of ISA and its programs.
86. She commended the progress made by ISA in recent years, attributing the advancements to the organization's structured approach and strategic planning. She particularly highlighted the significance of the ISA Global Solar Facility, emphasizing its role as a central mechanism to mobilize

one trillion dollars of investment in solar energy solutions by 2030. While appreciating the focus on Africa, she suggested considering the inclusion of the Asia Pacific region in the facility or establishing an additional facility specifically for the region.

87. Addressing the financial challenges faced by Member Countries in climate change responses, she enquired about how the proposed facility would alleviate the burden of blending for member countries and stressed the importance of affordable finance.
88. She expressed support for the idea of a tracker system for all projects and programs, emphasizing the need for better understanding of project demand, feasibility, stage, and implementation. Emphasizing the importance of partnerships and collaboration, she urged for alignment and streamlining of activities to avoid duplication of work and achieve a just energy transition.
89. In terms of organizational matters, she raised concerns about the high staff turnover in ISA and recommended careful consideration in staff management, emphasizing the value of staff as the organization's greatest asset. She encouraged the development of appropriate hiring and retaining strategies and the cultivation of an internal culture, including training opportunities.
90. Acknowledging the continuous contribution of the Indian government to ISA, she expressed gratitude for India's generous funding. She also welcomed support from external parties and philanthropists. Looking forward, she expressed hope for continued discussions in the next ISA General Assembly in October and anticipated welcoming delegates back at COP 28 in the UAE. She emphasized the challenges and opportunities related to climate change, underlining the potential of solar and other renewable energy solutions to contribute to mitigating the impacts.
91. The representative from the Kingdom of Bhutan began by expressing gratitude to ISA for accepting Bhutan formally as a member in October 2022. He mentioned that Bhutan had been a part of ISA for almost a year. He also thanked ISA for considering Bhutan as one of the Star-C locations, stating that their internal processes were nearly complete.
92. He explained the significance of solar energy for Bhutan due to its reliance on hydroelectric power, which experiences fluctuations during winter due to the run-of-the-river (ROR) scheme. He highlighted Bhutan's plans to add 500 megawatts of solar power within 2 to 3 years and 1,000 megawatts within the next decade. Despite Bhutan's vast solar potential of around 12 gigawatts, the

challenging mountainous terrain limited their solar development. However, he emphasized the crucial need for solar energy, especially during quick shutdowns and in winter when solar could serve as backup and enhance energy security. He mentioned the recent initiation of a 17.35-megawatt solar farm, the first utility-scale solar farm in Bhutan. He highlighted their efforts to tie rooftops to the grid and stressed the importance of solar energy for energy security, especially during winter. Bhutan, he stated, was 99.97% electrified, and they were working on electrifying remote areas through mini-grid initiatives. He expressed the significance of ISA's Solar Farm projects for Bhutan and concluded his statement with gratitude.

93. The representative from Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal expressed his pleasure in informing the attendees that Nepal had submitted a framework agreement to the parliament for ratification. He highlighted the progress made in expanding electricity access to 96% of the total population and stated their commitment to achieving 100% electricity access within the next two years, utilizing all available resources. He mentioned the implementation of small-scale solar mini-grids and solar-wind hybrid systems to enhance access, leading to a significant increase in solar installations nationwide. He emphasized their progressive policies, incentives, and regulations to promote solar energy, continually updating their policy framework to create a conducive environment for solar energy growth. He urged collaboration to share best practices, engage in joint research, overcome challenges, and address gaps in building infrastructure. He encouraged exploring joint projects, data sharing, and harmonized policies to foster an environment conducive to solar growth.
94. The representative stressed the importance of ensuring affordable and accessible financing mechanisms for solar projects. He emphasized the need for a skilled workforce in the solar energy sector to meet the growing demand for solar installations. He highlighted the significance of regional and international cooperation in renewable energy initiatives, essential for combating climate change. By focusing on these aspects, he believed that the adoption of solar energy could be accelerated, paving the way for a greener and cleaner world.
95. He concluded by reaffirming Nepal's full commitment to ISA's vision and objectives, recognizing its pivotal role in combating climate change. He expressed eagerness to collaborate with other ISA member countries, believing that together they could shape a sustainable future.

96. The representative from the Republic of Vanuatu expressed gratitude to ISA and the Government of UAE for their support. He highlighted Republic of Vanuatu's belief in the potential of solar energy and his sense of responsibility to contribute to ISA's calls for a sustainable future. He acknowledged the challenges faced by his country, including increasing carbon emissions and the devastating impacts of climate change emphasising the urgent need to transition to renewable energy sources, with solar energy being a forefront initiative.
97. He stressed the importance of deploying solar energy, particularly in solar rich regions, to foster economic growth and improve development status. He mentioned the alignment of ISA's objectives with Vanuatu's national goals and emphasized the need for collective action and cooperation among countries to achieve sustainability and prosperity for future generations.
98. The representative called on the ISA Secretariat to engage more with Member Countries, specifically with Vanuatu. He mentioned the significant efforts taken within Vanuatu to promote solar energy as a major component of their energy portfolio. He cited studies conducted to advance solar technology and integrate it into their power grid. He mentioned the implementation of policies to encourage investment in solar projects and financial incentives for solar energy adoption.
99. He highlighted the positive impact of initiatives in reducing carbon emissions, creating jobs, boosting local economies, and empowering communities. He expressed Vanuatu's full support for the ISA STAR-C and Solar Facility initiatives and called on ISA to fully engage and implement these initiatives, especially focusing on their country's specific needs. He urged the ISA Secretariat to collaborate on tangible solar electrification programs for last-mile communities and promote solar energy in agriculture, fisheries, and trade.
100. In conclusion, he commended ISA for its efforts and called for united action toward a sustainable world powered by solar energy. He envisioned a brighter future for humanity illuminated by the boundless power of the sun. He thanked the assembly for their attention.
101. The representative from Kingdom of Cambodia expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the Regional Committee Meeting of ISA. He appreciated the strategic priorities discussed among Member Countries, especially for those in the Pacific region. He conveyed his

sincere thanks to the government of the United Arab Emirates for hosting the event and commended the excellent administrative arrangements.

102. He highlighted the challenges faced by growing economies, particularly in addressing energy demand while ensuring accessibility, reliability, and affordability of energy supply. He emphasized the importance of renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency in achieving a sustainable energy transition. He mentioned Cambodia's focus on energy efficiency as a central pillar of its energy policy, emphasizing energy security and sustainability.

103. The representative expressed Cambodia's commitment to working with ISA member countries and stakeholders to address issues related to energy access, security, and transition. He appreciated the support provided by ISA, including the development of country partnership frameworks, private sector engagement strategies, and financial risk mitigation facilities. He acknowledged the initiatives and efforts of ISA, including the One World One Grid initiative and the deployment of Country Partnership and other programs. Referring to ISA's programs and initiatives, he expressed his gratitude for the policy capacity building assistance, development support to member countries, and advocacy efforts by ISA. He congratulated ISA on its ongoing achievements, particularly regarding the ISA Star Centers, the global solar facility, and private sector engagements.

104. He stated Cambodia's readiness to collaborate with other countries and ISA's core team to discuss and explore potential collaborations, specifically focusing on solar mini-grids and STAR-C initiatives. In conclusion, he thanked the organizers for the opportunity and expressed his wishes for a fruitful and successful meeting.

105. The representative from Myanmar expressed gratitude while emphasising the importance of energy security and the need to use limited energy sources responsibly, considering the climate impact. He appreciated the efforts of the Director General of ISA and the ISA Secretariat in promoting solar energy. Currently, Myanmar's power system consists mainly of hydropower, with solar power accounting for around 3% and a small percentage from coal.

106. He highlighted Myanmar's commitment to achieving national electrification efficiently and environmentally friendly. The country aims to gradually increase the share of solar power and other renewable energy sources in the power system. Presently, Myanmar has 180 megawatts of solar

power plants operating, and additional projects are in the implementation stage. Within two years, the solar power capacity is expected to exceed 1000 MW, contributing to about 20% of the country's power system.

107. To align with UNFCCC positions, Myanmar has laid down policies and regulations for the renewable sector, including solar energy consumption and power export to the grid. The representative acknowledged the challenges faced in achieving the nationally determined contributions and emphasized the need for international support to upgrade systems.

108. He expressed confidence that the meeting would enhance cooperation among countries, addressing challenges in renewable energy. He thanked the chair and attendees for their participation.

109. The representative from Singapore expressed his gratitude to the chair and commended India's leadership in establishing the International Solar Alliance (ISA). He also thanked the UAE government for hosting the in-person meeting of the regional committee.

110. He congratulated the Director-General of the ISA Secretariat and the Vice President for efficiently chairing the meeting. He mentioned that Singapore had recently signed the ISA Framework Agreement and ratified it, officially becoming a new member of the ISA. He expressed Singapore's enthusiasm for renewable energy, particularly solar energy, and acknowledged its significance in helping developing countries transition to low-emission energy sources.

111. The representative noted the ISA Secretariat's deliberations regarding the possibility of siting the global solar facility in Singapore. He offered to facilitate communication with relevant agencies in Singapore to support these deliberations.

112. In conclusion, he expressed eagerness to collaborate with all ISA members to enhance cooperation on climate change, with a specific focus on renewable energy.

113. The representative from the Marshall Islands expressed gratitude to the Chair, on behalf of his government, he thanked the ISA and the government of the United Arab Emirates for the invitation to participate in the Regional Committee meeting.

114. He emphasised the urgency of fast-tracking the energy transition, highlighting that the effects of climate change were visible every day in their region. He stressed the commitment of the Marshall Islands to finding global solutions to combat climate change. The representative mentioned that the Marshall Islands was among the first countries to prepare and submit a long-term decarbonization pathway to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in accordance with the Paris Agreement.
115. He expressed the government's strong support for the International Solar Alliance and their willingness to collaborate in achieving the common goal of building a better, cleaner, and sustainable future. The representative also congratulated the UAE and the International Solar Alliance for their global leadership in finding and sharing solutions for the global problem of climate change.
116. The representative from the Independent State of Samoa expressed his gratitude and extended warm greetings to the Director General, ISA, and excellencies. He shared their journey and engagement with the ISA while highlighting the challenges faced by small island states like the Independent State of Samoa due to climate change and expressed pleasure in bringing the country's concerns to the attention of the larger countries.
117. He mentioned that the Independent State of Samoa had signed the ISA ratification instrument in December 2019. Despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Independent State of Samoa continued its efforts to capitalize on renewable energy opportunities provided by ISA. Initially, the focus was on solarizing national facilities like hospitals, but due to the pandemic, the emphasis shifted to procuring solar streetlights, which were in high demand in the Independent State of Samoa. In March 2022, the Independent State of Samoa successfully submitted its first ISA proposal for Phase one funding, amounting to 50,000 USD. This proposal aimed at supplying 274 solar streetlights directly to schools and church communities, showcasing the country's commitment to sustainable development.
118. The representative emphasized the Independent State of Samoa's significant progress in promoting and implementing solar energy activities, showcasing its dedication to sustainable development and environmental conservation. He reiterated the country's belief in ISA initiatives contributing to its efforts in reaching its national determined contribution target. The Independent State of Samoa aimed to have 70% of its electricity powered by renewable energy sources by 2031. He expressed

the country's willingness to actively participate in all ISA initiatives and agenda items, emphasizing their commitment to the cause.

119. In conclusion, he thanked the ISA and its members for the support and opportunities provided, expressing the Independent State of Samoa's eagerness to continue collaborating with the International Solar Alliance.

120. The representative from Fiji expressed his gratitude to the Chair, the Director General of the International Solar Alliance, esteemed Excellencies, fellow Member States, He greeted everyone and acknowledged the opportunity provided to Asia and Pacific Members for updating and sharing joint expectations regarding the ISA program, particularly leading up to COP 28, which would be hosted by the UAE later in the year. He congratulated the UAE for hosting the fifth meeting of the regional committee for the Asia and Pacific region. Fiji's National Development Plan aimed to provide 100% electricity to all Fijians by 2026, aligning with their commitment to increase renewable targets to 200% in the overall electricity supply mix by 2030. Fiji was confident in its ability to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 10% through energy efficiency improvements, contributing to a significant reduction of around 30% in the Fijian energy sector's total carbon dioxide emissions by 2030.

121. Regarding the ISA programs in Fiji, the representative commended the Director General for the training programs provided to their offices over the past few years. Fiji also acknowledged the ongoing ISA program in the country and anticipated finalizing the project implementation framework with the ISA team. They hoped for the projects to commence in September of the current year and requested an early implementation. Additionally, Fiji awaited the ISA team's mission to visit Fiji for the second phase of the other projects.

122. The representative emphasized the need for follow-up and reiterated an earlier request regarding the appointment of regional focal points in the respective regions due to the increasing number of projects within the regions.

123. In conclusion, he thanked the Chair for his outstanding leadership, expressed appreciation to the ISA for their smooth facilitation, and extended gratitude to all members for contributing to the success of the meeting.

124. The representative from New Zealand expressed gratitude to the Chair, the Director General of ISA, and the UAE as the host, along with esteemed Excellencies. He conveyed New Zealand's delight in attending the ISA Asia Pacific regional meeting as an observer, expressing thanks for the invitation.
125. He mentioned that New Zealand signed the framework agreement on the establishment of ISA in February of that year. Currently, they were undergoing domestic processes to ratify the framework agreement and become an official ISA member. The representative praised ISA as an excellent example of international cooperation in the face of climate change, supporting the development and sharing of climate energy expertise. New Zealand saw ISA as a potential partner to augment their own efforts in meeting international commitments on carbon neutrality by 2050.
126. He acknowledged the crucial role of solar energy in achieving the region's renewable energy ambitions. New Zealand, as a Pacific country, took pride in its long history of supporting solar energy transition, including collaborations with nations such as the Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, and Nauru. He welcomed ISA's initiatives in deploying solar energy solutions, including capacity building, solarization of healthcare centres, schools, and solar water pumping facilities.
127. The representative expressed New Zealand's eagerness to work closely with ISA and its members, particularly in collaboration with their Pacific partners, to collectively deliver impactful outcomes for present and future generations. He concluded by thanking the chair for the opportunity.
128. The representative from the Republic of Nauru expressed gratitude to the chair, excellencies, ministers, distinguished delegates, and colleagues, thanking them for the warm welcome. He acknowledged the ISA and the United Arab Emirates for hosting the event and considered it an honour to represent the Republic of Nauru in the regional committee for the Asia Pacific region.
129. He highlighted Nauru's geographical advantage, being 40 kilometers south of the equator and blessed with abundant sunlight throughout the year. This natural condition allowed them to effectively utilize solar energy as a sustainable and viable energy source. He emphasized the importance of combining the resources of the sun and ocean for the region's sustainable development and appreciated ISA's engagement in advancing work in these areas.

130. The representative commended ISA support to Nauru, particularly through initiatives like the solar training program and ongoing preparations for the solar-powered drinking water project. These solutions were vital for regions facing water security challenges. He mentioned Nauru's progress in reaching a target of 50% of grid electricity supply from renewable energy resources and their ambition to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2050, as per their updated indices.
131. However, he pointed out the ongoing challenge of project financing, especially for countries like Nauru. He urged ISA to play a crucial role in mobilizing climate finance for tangible projects. He suggested that ISA should explore different funding modalities, including loans, lines of credit, and grants. He emphasized the need for immediate coordinated action to leverage renewable energy technologies and meet the SDGs' transformative promise of leaving no one behind.
132. The representative from the Republic of Kiribati expressed his gratitude to the honourable chair, Director General of ISA, Hon'ble Ministers and other excellencies. He highlighted the critical situation of Kiribati, deeply affected by climate change, making their struggle for survival challenging. He acknowledged the timely help from ISA and anticipated a strong and fruitful association with the organization.
133. On behalf of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy of the government of Kiribati, he thanked ISA for its invaluable support in their solar commitments. He shared the progress of the STAR-C project, which was in its final stages, with plans to establish it by the end of the year. He mentioned the successful completion of a demonstration project solarizing a remote island's junior secondary school, fully funded by ISA. Additionally, he mentioned their preparations to propose solarization projects for schools and hospitals in the remote islands.
134. Recognising the importance of transportation between the islands, he sought ISA's assistance in solarizing the ferries. He also expressed the need for specially designed capacity building programs. He reiterated Kiribati's commitment to achieving its solar goals with ISA's support.
135. In conclusion, he expressed his gratitude to ISA once again and extended his thanks to the government of the United Arab Emirates for their wonderful hospitality during the event.
136. The representative from Tuvalu expressed gratitude to the chair for the opportunity to speak. On behalf of the Minister of Transport, Energy, and Tourism and the Government of Tuvalu, he thanked

the International Solar Alliance for their support and hard work in organising the 5th regional meeting. He also conveyed sincere thanks and appreciation to the UAE government for hosting the important event, congratulating them for a job well done.

137. He highlighted that Tuvalu, being one of the smallest countries in the world both geographically and demographically, was at the forefront of climate change. The nation was diligently working towards phasing out reliance on diesel-generated power and increasing investments in solar and other renewable resources. He emphasised the need for more assistance from ISA to implement the initiatives discussed in the representations.

138. Currently, Tuvalu had achieved a solar energy contribution of 19% into the main grid. He mentioned ongoing solar projects funded by the World Bank and ADB, particularly the Increasing Renewable Energy Project and Energy Sustainable Development Projects. With continued support from ISA, Tuvalu aimed to meet its ambitious target by 2030. The representative expressed Tuvalu's eagerness to work closely with ISA, leveraging assistance and learning from other countries in the region, including the UAE, a leading nation in renewable energy solutions.

139. In conclusion, he expressed confidence that, together, they could achieve clean energy goals and extended his gratitude.

140. The representative from the Independent State of Papua New Guinea expressed gratitude to the chair, the Government of the UAE for hosting the significant meeting of the International Solar Alliance, and the Director General of the ISA. He thanked the Government of India and the Government of France for facilitating the STAR C program in Papua New Guinea.

141. He highlighted Papua New Guinea's appreciation for being selected for the Start C program and the assessment of solar rooftop installations on government buildings. He expressed eagerness to see progress in these projects, emphasising the importance of these initiatives for Papua New Guinea's energy landscape, especially for the 85% of the population living in rural areas.

142. As Papua New Guinea aligns its policies with the solar transition, he emphasised their commitment to providing energy for the country and looked forward to the continuation of their partnership with ISA. He thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting and expressed anticipation for the upcoming Sixth Session of the Regional Committee meeting.

143. In conclusion, he expressed his gratitude once again and thanked the committee for their attention.

144. The Chair speaking on behalf of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh shared initiatives taken by Bangladesh to transition into a middle-income nation. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shaikh Hasina, Bangladesh focused on diversifying clean energy and mitigating climate change.

145. He highlighted Bangladesh's commitment to renewable energy, aiming for 40% of its energy from clean sources by 2041. Despite challenges, including unique electricity usage patterns and landscape issues hindering solar projects, Bangladesh had made significant progress. They had implemented policies and initiatives to promote clean energy, including a massive solar power dissemination program benefiting millions.

146. The Chair proudly stated Bangladesh's decision to move away from coal-based power plants, demonstrating their dedication to combating climate change. He requested support from the committee to attract investments for the power sector to offset financial challenges. Bangladesh aimed to install 24,000 MW of renewable energy capacities by 2041 and welcomed technology transfer and research initiatives to overcome obstacles.

147. In conclusion, the Chair expressed confidence in the collective efforts of the International Solar Alliance and its member countries to promote clean energy. He encouraged collaboration, knowledge sharing, and transitioning away from fossil fuels for a prosperous, equitable, and clean energy future. The Chair thanked all Hon'ble members for their interventions, urging them to work closely with the ISA Secretariat to develop these inputs into tangible actions.

148. With no further interventions forthcoming the Chair thanked all countries for their valuable inputs and proceeded to address the next item on the Agenda.

Agenda Item 11. Any other business

149. The Chair invited the Hon'ble Members to raise any other matter of urgent importance for the consideration of the Committee for the General Assembly of the ISA.

150. The Director-General, ISA expressed gratitude to the Chair and took the opportunity to inform everyone about the reports mentioned during the meeting. These reports, covering topics such as geographical diversification of manufacturing, solar mini grids for rural energy access, hydrogen hub,

solar facility, and the winners of the SolarX Startup Challenge, were all provided in the pen drives distributed to the attendees.

151. He further highlighted a crucial matter discussed during the Assembly last year. A voluntary contribution that was approved by participating Members, urging small island states and least developed countries to provide support of \$10,000 a year, developing countries to contribute approximately \$25,000 a year, and developed countries to extend their support with \$50,000 a year. He emphasised the importance of these funds and requested the timely availability or commitments to these financial contributions.

152. Lastly, he informed the attendees about the upcoming ISA Assembly, scheduled for 31 October 2023 in New Delhi. He urged everyone to mark their calendars for this event. Additionally, he mentioned an exciting day of technological advancements planned for the following day, in collaboration with the International Solar Energy Society. He expressed his thanks to the participants for their attention.

153. The Chair thanked the DG, ISA and proceeded to address the next item on the agenda.

Agenda Item 12. Closing of the Meeting

154. On behalf of the Members of the Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific Region, the Chair extended his congratulations to the ISA Secretariat for their commendable efforts in facilitating effective regional engagement. The Chair stated that they eagerly anticipated continued advancement of these regional engagement mechanisms in the future. He expressed his gratitude to the National Focal Points from for Asia and the Pacific Region for their valuable collaboration with the ISA Secretariat on significant initiatives and milestones and for facilitating that Meeting. The Chair mentioned that the Fifth Meeting of the Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific Region had proven highly productive, with comprehensive discussions on various ISA initiatives that hold immense potential in shaping the future of the global solar energy sector. Once again, The Chair sincerely thanked all the Hon'ble Members of that Regional Committee, representatives of the ISA Partner Organisations, and all special invitees for their participation and contributions and thus concluded the meeting.
