
Fifth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean Region
23 August 2023
Virtual

Report of Fifth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean Region

Summary

The working document contains the report on the Fifth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean 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 Latin America and the Caribbean Region, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela opened the Meeting by welcoming the Regional Co-Vice President - the Commonwealth of Dominica, Hon'ble Ministers, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, and heads of delegations of the ISA Member, Signatory, and Prospective Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean Region, other excellencies and the Director General, ISA.
2. The Chair noted the unique opportunity the LAC Region has with its abundant natural resources and how the region can lead the way in the global shift towards clean and renewable energy resources highlighting the role of solar energy as a beacon of hope in the face of the mounting challenges posed by climate change, environmental degradation, and the need for energy security. The Chair then laid out the current and historical trends of energy generation across the region noting the significant progress achieved by countries of the region in renewable energy deployment. This was further exemplified through the recognition of the efforts by countries partaking in the Renewables in Latin America and the Caribbean (RELAC) initiative.
3. 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 to 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.
4. 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.
5. The Chair invited His Excellency Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, ISA to deliver his address.
6. The Director General, ISA thanked the Chair 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 Latin America and the Caribbean Region and other esteemed excellencies.

7. The Director General, ISA underscored the importance of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and its presence in Latin America and the Caribbean Region, which currently boasts 26 Member and signatory Countries. The remarkable participation highlighted the collective commitment to fostering cooperation, dialogue, and progress in this critical region. He brought to the fore, the transformation of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Region from its historical reliance on fossil fuels to an increasing attraction towards renewable energy sources. Notably with solar, wind, hydroelectric, and geothermal power gaining prominence, signalling a significant shift toward cleaner energy alternatives. The transformation was marked by highlighting key developments across Brazil, Chile and Mexico.
8. The Director General, ISA conveyed that the future of energy transition in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region presented both significant challenges and promising opportunities. He emphasized that this transition was primarily driven by economic, environmental, and social factors and underscored its potential to reshape the energy landscape across the entire region. Regarding the critical challenges faced by the Energy Transition in the LAC region, the Director General, ISA noted the pressing need for substantial investment in infrastructure and technology. Additionally, the importance of energy storage and grid modernization was highlighted as essential components for a successful energy transition, given the intermittent nature of renewable energy sources.
9. The Director General, ISA concluded by urging all delegates to actively participate, share their experiences, and explore collaborative avenues. It was suggested that by leveraging their collective strength and expertise, the full potential of solar energy could be unlocked, making a substantial contribution to the mitigation of climate change. He expressed sincere gratitude to all esteemed delegates present and called for collective efforts to ensure the Committee Meeting's extraordinary success, moving closer to the shared goal of achieving a solar-powered world.
10. Hon'ble Regional Vice President and Chair of the ISA Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean Region thanked the Director General, ISA for his remarks. The Chair proceeded to thank the Latin America and the Caribbean region for their active membership and continued support for the Alliance encouraging the ISA Secretariat to further enhance its engagement with the Membership at the regional level.
11. The Chair once again, welcomed everyone to the Fifth Meeting of the Regional Committee and expressed hope that all attendees would collectively make the meeting productive and a grand success for the energy access and energy transition movement in the region.
12. As Vice President and Chair of the ISA Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean Region, the Chair declared the meeting open, stating that the meeting was now in session.

Agenda Item 2. Adoption of the Agenda

13. The President invited the Regional Committee to consider the Provisional Agenda for the Fifth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean Region as contained in the working document ISA/RCLAC.05/WD.01 and provide their inputs and guidance.
14. **The Regional Committee adopted the Provisional Agenda for the for the Fifth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean Region as contained in the working document ISA/RCLAC.05/WD.01.**

Agenda Item 3. Action Taken Report of the Fourth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean Region

15. The Chair introduced the next agenda item: the Action Taken Report from the Fourth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean Region, found in Working Document ISA/RCLAC.05/WD.03. This report outlines the ISA Secretariat's actions in response to the committee's recommendations made during the fourth meeting 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.
16. The Hon'ble representative from the Co-operative Republic of Guyana requested clarification on whether the Action Taken Report was shared with the members of the committee to which the Director General, ISA replied in affirmative.
17. With no further interventions forthcoming the Chair proceeded to the next agenda.

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

18. The Chair announced the next agenda item: the Report of the Director General on the ISA Programmes and activities highlighting that the ISA Assembly's Fifth Session 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.
19. 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.
20. 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.

21. 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's efforts in addressing Energy Access, Energy Security, and Energy Transition. Notable achievements included:
Policy and Capacity Building Assistance: The ISA trained 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: ISA will advocate for solar energy at COP28, aiming to name their pavilion "The Solar Hub" for this purpose.
22. 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.
23. The Director General, ISA then invited the ISA Secretariat to give a detailed presentation on the same.
24. The ISA Secretariat delivered a detailed presentation on the progress made under the Five-Year Strategic Plan and shared insights into the upcoming activities.
25. The Chair thanked the ISA Secretariat for the presentation and noted the transformational impact ISA Programmes have had for the larger region and particularly for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The chair was delighted to share their experience with the Solar Pumping and promised to share their findings through email for the benefit of all Member Countries.
26. 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

27. 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.
28. The Chair highlighted that details about the STAR-C Initiative were provided in the Working Document ISA/RCLAC.05/WD.05.

29. The Chair requested the ISA Secretariat to provide an update on the STAR-C Initiative's progress.
30. The ISA Secretariat delivered a detailed presentation providing an update on the STAR-C Initiative.
31. The Chair acknowledged the popularity of the STAR-C initiative and invited comments and interventions from participants on the Agenda Item.
32. The Republic of Cuba attempted to present their interventions but due to technical issues were unable to convey the same. The ISA Secretariat through the Chair assured the representatives from the Republic of Cuba that their interventions may be taken up once the technical glitch was rectified.
33. Recognising the paucity of time and with no further interventions proposed, the Chair thanked the ISA Secretariat and proceeded to address the next item on the Agenda.

Agenda Item 6. The ISA SolarX Startup Challenge

34. The Chair introduced the agenda item on the ISA SolarX Startup Challenge and mentioned that the Working Document ISA/RCLAC.05/WD.06, containing an update on the challenge, was distributed to all Committee members by the ISA Secretariat.
35. 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.
36. The Chair then requested the ISA Secretariat to provide the Regional Committee with a briefing on the SolarX Startup Challenge.
37. The ISA Secretariat delivered a detailed presentation on the ISA SolarX Startup Challenge.
38. The Chair invited comments and interventions from participants on the Agenda Item to which the National Focal Point from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela urged the ISA Secretariat to host the next edition in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region to help benefit Countries and Entrepreneurs from the Region.
39. With no further interventions proposed, the Chair thanked the ISA Secretariat and proceeded to address the next item on the Agenda.

Agenda Item 7. The ISA Global Solar Facility

40. 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/RCLAC.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.
41. 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.
42. The Chair then invited the ISA Secretariat to brief the Regional Committee on the progress made in operationalizing the Global Solar Facility.
43. The ISA Secretariat delivered a detailed presentation on the ISA Global Solar Facility.
44. 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 8. The ISA private sector engagement strategy

45. 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/RCLAC.05/WD.08, containing details about the strategy's progress, had been distributed to all members of the Regional Committee by the ISA Secretariat.
46. 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.
47. 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
48. The ISA Secretariat delivered a detailed presentation on the ISA private sector engagement strategy.
49. 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 Latin America and the Caribbean Region

50. The Chair introduced the next agenda item, which pertains to preparations for the Sixth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean 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.
51. The Chair made a request to 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.
52. The Chair concluded by inviting Hon'ble Members to share their comments on hosting the Sixth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean Region in 2024.
53. The Director General, ISA thanked the members for the constant support and cooperation and invited suggestions for hosting the Sixth Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean Region. He proposed that the meeting be held during the last week of July 2024 and invited a consensus on the same.
54. The Co-operative Republic of Guyana agreed in principal and expressed support.
55. The Dominican Republic expressed their complete satisfaction and thanked the chair for the day's proceedings they extended their full cooperation and support for all initiatives of the ISA while pledging active participation, they also principally agreed to the prospective date for convening of the next Regional Committee meeting as proposed by the Director General, ISA.
56. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressed desire to learn and replicate the African experience especially in the areas of Solar Pumping. They requested the ISA secretariat for support in helping aggregate demand across not only their country but the region as whole, to accrue benefit through economies of scale. They also committed to internal deliberations within their government for the same. While thanking the Republic of India & the citizens of Venezuela, the Chair graciously agreed to volunteer in hosting the next edition of the Regional Committee Meeting for the Latin America and the Caribbean Region in person.
57. The Plurinational State of Bolivia expressed full support and cooperation to the ISA while thanking the Chair and the Republic of India. They called for joint working on Rural Electrification drawing from shared experiences. They also reiterated their commitment to 25% of their National Energy mix to be drawn from Renewables by 2025.
58. With no further interventions proposed, the Chair proceeded to address the next item on the Agenda.

Agenda Item 10. Interventions by Member Countries

59. The Co-operative Republic of Guyana seeking permission from the Chair and Director General, ISA intervened, delivering a comprehensive outlay of the initiatives currently being undertaken by the Government in Guyana addressing local and global concerns. They reiterated their commitment to the Clean Energy Transition through their Low Carbon Development Strategy aimed at delivering affordable, reliable and clean energy to both households and businesses while phasing out the reliance on fossil fuels. Through ambitious initiatives Guyana is powering its far-flung communities by enabling Solar-PV based systems facilitated through IDB funding. Guyana expressed its commitment to maintain its rich forests as a Global Asset and maintained that the country is a Net Carbon Sink. They thanked the ISA and its members for the support and requested the ISA secretariat for facilitating entrepreneurship and capacity building through its Programmes.
60. The Federative Republic of Brazil tabled a detailed presentation outlining the context of current and future initiatives to bolster Renewable Energy uptake. The presentation highlighted floating photovoltaic initiative demonstrations currently underway. The representatives from the Federative Republic of Brazil reported that the Brazilian government established the “More Power for the Amazon” program. This program is designed to provide electricity to the Brazilian population living in remote regions of the Amazon. The representatives further explained that the program’s goal is to supply electricity generated by clean and renewable sources aimed at universal access to electricity in the remote regions of the Amazon. The representatives acknowledged this initiative as a significant step towards improving the living conditions of families in these remote areas. They thanked and congratulated the Government of India and the ISA for the exchange and sought technical assistance through cooperation for the same.
61. Jamaica on invitation of the Director General, ISA explicated the ambition and progress of various initiatives underway to ensure energy access, security and sustainability. They acknowledged the continued support received from ISA while categorically thanking ISA for the fifty-thousand-dollar grant received for installation of Solar Pumps for irrigation. The representative further highlighted measures currently being undertaken in line with their ‘National Energy Policy 2040’ and reiterated their commitment to Climate Action and the Paris Agreement with an aim to deliver fifty percent of their National Energy Demand through Renewable Energy Sources in addition to multiple mandates underway.
62. The Director General, ISA thanked Jamaica for their support & commitment and expressed the desire to continue working even more closely in the coming future. He went on to invite representatives from the Republic of Panama followed by the Republic of El Salvador to present their interventions.
63. Her Excellency, the Ambassador of the Republic of Panama to India, speaking on behalf of the Deputy Director of National Energy, Panama, expressed sincere gratitude for the opportunity while presenting their comprehensive 'National Energy Agenda.' Her Excellency emphasized her government's unwavering dedication to revamping the domestic power sector and proudly noted that renewable energy had already contributed to eighty-one percent of the electricity matrix in 2022. She went on to highlight the ongoing endeavours aimed at bolstering Electric Vehicle adoption in both the private

and public sectors, underlining Panama's commitment to sustainable transportation. Furthermore, she outlined an ambitious multisectoral agenda focused on the development and utilization of Green Hydrogen, illustrating Panama's forward-looking approach to clean energy solutions. In her address, Her Excellency reiterated Panama's steadfast commitment to multilateralism and took a moment to express heartfelt appreciation to the Government of India and the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for their unwavering support and fruitful cooperation.

64. The Republic of El Salvador conveyed that they shall submit their interventions over E-mail.

65. 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

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

67. With no interventions forthcoming the Chair proceeded to address the next item on the Agenda.

Agenda Item 12. Closing of the Meeting

68. On behalf of the Members of the Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean Region, The Chair extended her 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. The Chair expressed her gratitude to the National Focal Points from Latin America and the Caribbean 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 Latin America and the Caribbean 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.
