

Fourth Assembly of the International Solar Alliance
20th October 2021
New Delhi, Republic of India

21 March 2022

Summary Report of the Fourth Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)

Summary

The document presents the Summary Report of the Fourth Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).



Summary Report of the Fourth Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) held on 20th October 2021

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

1. The President of the ISA Assembly opened the Fourth Session of the Assembly by welcoming the Hon'ble Ministers, H.E. Mr. John Kerry, H.E. Mr. Frans Timmermans, and delegates from the ISA Member countries, Signatory Countries, the Prospective Member Countries, Partner Organizations, and the Special Invitee organizations to the Fourth Assembly of the ISA. The President invited the Co-President for her opening remarks to the Assembly.
2. The President invited H.E. Mr. John Kerry, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate Change, USA to deliver a special address to the Assembly.
3. The President invited H.E. Mr. Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President, European Union to deliver a special address to the Fourth Assembly of the ISA.

Agenda Item 2. Organization of the Work and Procedural matters

a. Adoption of the Agenda

4. ***Decision: The Assembly adopted the Provisional Agenda for the Fourth Assembly of the ISA, as contained in the Working Document ISA/A.04/WD.01.***

b. Organization of Work

i) Selection of Rapporteurs

5. ***Decision: The Assembly appointed the Union of Comoros and the Kingdom of Tonga as the Rapporteurs for the fourth session of the ISA Assembly.***

ii) Appointment and Report of the Credentials Committee

6. The President invited the Assembly to appoint the Credentials Committee for the fourth session of the ISA Assembly with following members:
 - i. Kingdom of Denmark
 - ii. Republic of El Salvador
 - iii. Republic of Guinea
 - iv. Japan
 - v. Republic of Kiribati
 - vi. Independent State of Papua New Guinea

- vii. Republic of Seychelles
 - viii. Kingdom of Sweden
7. The President invited the Committee to present its report to the Assembly. The Chair of the Committee, Independent State of Papua New Guinea, requested the Member countries which had not submitted their credentials for the Fourth Assembly or had not submitted their credentials in the prescribed form to be allowed to participate provisionally, with the understanding that the credentials shall be submitted to the ISA Secretariat as soon as possible.
8. ***Decision: The Assembly appointed the Credentials Committee for the fourth session of the ISA Assembly as per the proposal of the President. The President mandated the ISA Secretariat and the members of the ISA to take note of the recommendations of the Committee and implement them.***

iii) Granting of Observer status

9. ***Decision: The Assembly granted observer status to the Signatory Countries that had signed the Framework Agreement of the ISA after the Third Assembly of the ISA, and to the Prospective Member countries of the ISA, as per the list contained in the Information Document ISA/A.04/INF.02.***

iv) 'Special Invitees/Presidential Guests' to the Assembly

- a. Special Invitee (Other Organizations)

10. ***Decision: The President invited the 'Special Invitee' organizations, as listed in the Information Document ISA/A.04/INF.03, to the Fourth Assembly on behalf of the ISA Assembly.***

v) Confirmation of the Report of the Third Assembly of the International Solar Alliance

11. ***Decision: The Assembly adopted the report of the Third Assembly of the International Solar Alliance, contained in the Working Document ISA/A.03/WD.19.Rev01.***

vi) Granting of Partner Organization Status

12. The President invited the Assembly to grant Partner Organization Status to the following organizations, in accordance with Rule 33 of the Rules of Procedure of the ISA Assembly:
- i. Shakti Foundation, India
 - ii. India Energy Forum (IEF), India
 - iii. International Crops Research Institute For The Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
 - iv. Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet

- v. Kukuza Project Development Company (KPDC)
- vi. Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE)

13. **Decision: The Assembly granted the Partner Organization Status to these Organizations.**

Agenda Item 3. Report of the Director General on ISA programmes, activities, and initiatives

14. The President invited the Assembly to consider, provide guidance on, and approve the substantial agenda items separately under Agenda item 3, followed by a Report of the Director General on the progress of the ISA in CY 2021. The Director General provided the Assembly, after deliberations on substantive sub-agenda items *i) to x)* below, with an oral progress report for CY 2021 encompassing, *inter alia*, key activities of the ISA under its programmes, capacity building initiatives, update on key activities of the ISA with its partner organizations, and resource mobilization efforts.

i) Action Taken Report of the Third Assembly of the International Solar Alliance

15. **Decision: The Assembly adopted the Action Taken Report by the ISA Secretariat for the Third Assembly of the ISA, as contained in the Working Document ISA/A.04/WD.03.**

ii) Corpus Fund of the ISA

16. The ISA Secretariat provided a brief update on the Corpus Fund of the ISA to the ISA Assembly.

17. **Decision: The Assembly approved the report on the Corpus Fund of the ISA, as contained in the Working Document ISA/A.04/WD.04.**

iii) Selection of External Auditor for CY 2021 – 2023

18. The President invited the Assembly to authorize the ISA secretariat to procure services of an audit firm to carry out an audit of the accounts of the ISA for CY 2021-2023, through a transparent and competitive procurement process as per ISA's procurement process and procedures.

19. **Decision: The Assembly authorized the ISA secretariat to procure services of an audit firm to carry out an audit of the accounts of the ISA for CY 2021-23.**

iv) Audited Financial Statement of the ISA

20. **Decision: The Assembly approved the Audited Financial Statement of the ISA contained in the Working Document ISA/A.04/WD.05.**

v) ISA's Strategic Plan for the next Five years

21. The President apprised the Assembly that the ISA Secretariat presented the ISA's Strategic Plan for the next Five years to the Standing Committee at its Fifth meeting and invited the ISA Secretariat to present the Strategic Plan of the ISA for the next five years to the ISA. The ISA Secretariat presented a brief overview of the Strategic Plan of the ISA for the next five years.
22. The President, highlighting the need for enabling de-risking instruments and strengthening of the ISA Secretariat for effective implementation of the Strategic Plan, invited the Assembly to provide comments on the Strategic Plan of the ISA for the next five years. The ISA Assembly endorsed the Strategic Plan of the ISA for the next five years and called for greater synergies with other international organizations, gender balance & inclusiveness in the Strategic Plan, and resource mobilization through voluntary contributions. The President invited the Assembly to approve the Strategic Plan of the ISA with the comments from the Assembly to be noted and to be incorporated in the plan.
- 23. Decision: The Assembly approved the Strategic Plan of the ISA, contained in the Working Document ISA/SC.05/WD.04, with the comments from the ISA Assembly at its Fourth Session noted and to be incorporated in the plan.**

vi) Country Partnership Framework of the ISA

24. The Director General apprised the Assembly that the Country Partnership Framework provides a blueprint for the ISA Secretariat to develop working relations with ISA's membership so that ISA's programmes are relevant to them and that the Framework aims to support the NFPs, as key interlocutors, and other ministries to enable the ISA Secretariat to understand key issues as well as provide resources & support in line with the needs of the countries.
- 25. Decision: The ISA Assembly approved the Country Partnership Framework of the ISA, as contained in the Working Document ISA/A.04/WD.06.**

vii) Private Sector Engagement Strategy

26. The ISA Secretariat presented the rationale for and key elements of the Private Sector Engagement Strategy to the Assembly, as contained in the Working Document ISA/A.04/WD.07.
27. The President, reiterating the need for enabling de-risking instruments for private sector participation in the solar energy sector, invited comments from the Assembly on the Private Sector Engagement Strategy. The Assembly endorsed the Private Sector Engagement Strategy contained in the Working Document ISA/A.04/WD.07, and recommended constitution of a

consultative council with representation from private sector & regulators to deliberate upon ISA's Programmes to align them with the needs of member countries as well as identify opportunities for productive engagement with the private sector. The Assembly called for a technologically neutral private sector engagement strategy.

28. Decision: The Assembly approved the Private Sector Engagement Strategy, contained in the Working Document ISA/A.04/WD.07.

viii) Advocacy plan for the International Solar Alliance at COP 26

29. The ISA Secretariat presented key elements of the Advocacy plan of the ISA for CY 2021-22, including engagement at COP 26, encompassing, *inter alia*, stakeholder engagement to leverage complementarities & develop synergies as well as capacity building at the ISA Secretariat for robust communication & advocacy initiatives. The President invited the Assembly to take note of ISA's advocacy plan.

30. Decision: The Assembly took note of ISA's Advocacy plan.

ix) Recruitment at the ISA Secretariat and ISA's Organizational Structure

31. The ISA Secretariat presented a brief update on the ongoing recruitment at the ISA, transitional structure of the ISA, and rationale as well as an overview of the revised organizational structure to bring them in sync with the UN norms. The ISA Secretariat also briefed the Assembly on the timeline for recruitments to be undertaken in a staggered manner. The ISA Secretariat apprised the Assembly of the recommendation of the Committee against regularization of existing consultants, with more than four years of engagement with the ISA Secretariat, and need for competitive & merit-based recruitment.

32. The President, clarifying that all the positions are open to all the member countries and that any recruitment process must be open, transparent, and merit-based only, invited comments from the ISA Assembly on ISA Secretariat's presentation. The Assembly called for gender balance as well as sufficient financial & human resources at the level of Assistant Director General.

33. Decision: The Assembly approved the following:

- a. Updated Organizational Structure of the ISA Secretariat;**
- b. Transitional structure of the ISA secretariat; and**
- c. Amendments to the ISA HR Regulations, Rules and Procedures to bring these in conformity with the UN norms.**

as contained in the Working Document ISA/SC.05/WD.03 and mandated the ISA Secretariat to publish the updated organogram of the ISA to the ISA website for greater transparency.

x) Work Programme and Budget for the Calendar Years 2022 and 2023

34. The ISA Secretariat presented an overview of the Work Programme and Budget for the Calendar Years 2022 and 2023 and budget utilization to the Assembly. The ISA Secretariat apprised the Assembly that it is proposing an increased outlay for programmatic support and capacity building activities, with the management support cost being neutral compared to the budget for CY 2021. The Assembly was further informed that the budget proposal has been bifurcated into 'Core' activities and the 'non-Core' activities, with earmarked support from philanthropies, member states, and public & private actors. The ISA Secretariat did not project either cash surplus or an investment income from the Corpus Fund commensurate to the requirements of the proposed budget for CY 2023 and called upon the member countries of the ISA for generous & voluntary contributions to the ISA's Corpus & general funds.
35. The President remarked that the ISA risks not having sufficient resources to implement its programmes and invited the Assembly to provide comments on & approval of the Workplan & Budget for CY 2022 & CY 2023. He added that the Multi-Donor Trust Fund & the Blended Finance Risk Mitigation Facility have been proposed, in part, to address the need for programmatic finance for supporting solar energy development across ISA membership as well as to bring solar energy investment to member countries.
36. ***Decision: The Assembly approved the Work plan and Budget for CY 2022 and CY 2023, as contained in the Working Document ISA/A.04/WD.08.***

Agenda Item 4. Adoption of Committee reports and address by Regional Committee Chairs

37. The President apprised the Assembly that the ISA Secretariat had held a series of regional interactions through regional committee meetings as part of its integrated approach to governance body meetings and invited the Chairs of the Regional Committees, the Regional Vice-Presidents of the ISA - Republic of Mauritius, Republic of Fiji, Cooperative Republic of Guyana, and the United Kingdom - to provide a brief overview of the recommendations of the Regional Committees and address the Assembly. Following the remarks of the Regional Vice-Presidents, the President invited the representative of OLADE to address the Assembly.

38. **Decision: The Assembly adopted the reports of and approved the recommendations of the Standing Committee and the Regional Committee meetings of the four regions of the ISA, as contained in the Working Documents:**

- a. Fifth Meeting of the Standing Committee (ISA/SC.05/WD.20)**
- b. Third Meeting of the Regional Committee for the Asia-Pacific (ISA/RCAP.03/WD.12)**
- c. Third Meeting of the Regional Committee for Africa (ISA/RCA.03/WD.11)**
- d. Third Meeting of the Regional Committee for the Latin America and the Caribbean (ISA/RCLAC.03/WD.11)**
- e. Second Meeting of the Regional Committee for Europe and Others (ISA/RCEOG.02/WD.02)**

Agenda Item 5. Report of the Depositary

39. The President invited the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the Depositary of the ISA, to present its report to the ISA Assembly. The representative of the Depositary presented an update on the status of the ISA Membership, status of the First Amendment to the Framework Agreement, and the support of the Depositary to the ISA in regard to ‘Observer’ status for the ISA at the UN General Assembly. The President welcomed the new Signatory countries as well as new Members that had submitted instruments of ratification to the depositary.

Agenda Item 6. Update on Resource Mobilization and Voluntary Contributions to the ISA Corpus Fund

40. The ISA Secretariat presented a brief update on the efforts being undertaken by the ISA Secretariat for resource mobilization. The ISA Secretariat briefed the Assembly on the plan, and progress made, for mobilization of USD 1 Billion over the next five years, comprising:

- i. USD 700 Million for the Blended Finance Risk Mitigation Facility with mixed funder sources from the public, private and philanthropic sectors with different return expectations. The funds, thus, received are proposed to be blended to mitigate risks at the project level.
- ii. Core Funding of USD 30 Million for the ISA Secretariat
- iii. USD 270 Million through Multi-Donor Trust Fund and earmarked funding with target funders being philanthropic sector and sovereign states.

41. The representative from the World Resources Institute updated the Assembly on the roadmap for mobilization of trillion dollars in solar investments by 2030, the solar investment action agenda, and expected outcomes thereof.
42. The President invited the Assembly to provide comments on and approve the proposal for the establishment of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund. The President encouraged voluntary contributions to the Multi-Donor Trust Fund.
43. **Decision: The Assembly approved the proposal for the establishment of a Multi-Donor Trust Fund, contained in the Working Document ISA/SC.05/WD.07.Rev01.** The Assembly called upon the ISA Secretariat to clearly identify added value and a detailed work programme for the proposed fund. The Assembly further called for identification of modalities for synergizing activities with other similar funding structure.

Agenda Item 7. Blended Finance Risk Mitigation Facility

44. The ISA Secretariat presented the proposal for the establishment of the Blended Finance Risk Mitigation Facility to the ISA Assembly encompassing the rationale, objectives, key elements, expected impact, and value addition & complementarity of the proposed Blended Finance Risk Mitigation Facility with existing risk mitigation structures.
45. The President invited comments/suggestions of the Assembly, including written comments after the Assembly session, on the proposal from the ISA Assembly and invited the Assembly to give in-principle approval to the proposed Blended Finance Risk Mitigation Facility and mandate the ISA Secretariat to engage further with global experts to develop the proposed facility.
46. **Decision: The Assembly gave in-principle approval to the proposed Blended Finance Risk Mitigation Facility contained in the Working Document ISA/A.04/WD.10.Rev01, and mandated the ISA Secretariat to engage further with global experts to develop the proposed facility.**

Agenda Item 8. Viability Gap Financing for Solar Energy Projects in ISA Member countries

47. The ISA Secretariat provided a brief overview on the scheme for Viability Gap Financing for Solar Energy projects in ISA member countries to the Assembly. The ISA Secretariat presented an overview and a status update on the initiative, approved by the Third Assembly, for grant support of USD 50,000 to each of the 47 LDC/SIDS Member countries of the ISA for solar energy demonstration projects. The ISA Secretariat further briefed the Assembly on the key elements

of the proposal for Viability Gap Financing for Solar Energy projects in LDC/SIDS member countries, as contained in the Working Document ISA/SC.05/WD.10.Rev01, clarifying that the scheme was open for all financing agencies from ISA member countries.

48. The President clarified that only the projects selected and taken up by the ISA may be eligible for availing viability gap financing. The President invited the Assembly to provide comments/suggestions on the proposed Viability Gap Financing Scheme.
49. ***Decision: The Assembly approved the proposed Viability Gap Financing Scheme, contained in the Working Document ISA/SC.05/WD.10.Rev01, and re-allocation of the budget surplus for CY 2021 to the scheme. The President mandated the ISA Secretariat to develop a transparent methodology for prioritization of the funding to submitted project proposal, potentially based on the financial resource potential & access of the applicant countries.***

Agenda Item 9. Launch of ISA Programmes

50. The ISA Secretariat presented the rationale, key objectives & elements of the proposed two new programmes of the ISA, namely -
- i. Eighth Programme on Solar and Battery waste management and Circular economy
 - ii. Ninth Programme on Solar for Green Hydrogen
51. The President declared both the programmes as futuristic and invited comments/suggestions on the two programmes.
52. ***Decision: The Assembly approved the Eighth Programme of the ISA on Solar and Battery waste management, the concept note on which is contained in the Working Document ISA/SC.05/WD.18, and the Ninth programme of the ISA on Solar for Green Hydrogen, the concept note for which is contained in the Working Document ISA/SC.05/WD.19.***

Agenda Item 10. Release of ISA Publications

53. The Annual Report of the ISA for CY 2021 and the Consultation Draft for Ease of Doing Solar Report, 2021 was tabled before the Assembly for its consideration. The Assembly was apprised that the ISA Secretariat has partnered with the Children's Investment Fund Foundation to commission three Annual Flagship Reports of the ISA:
- i. Global Solar Investment Report,

- ii. Global Solar Market Trends Report,
- iii. Global Solar Technology Report,

and that the three proposed flagship reports along with the familiar flagship knowledge product of the ISA – the Ease of Doing Solar Framework – are envisaged as ISA’s flagship knowledge products. The President invited the Assembly to provide feedback on the consultation draft of the Ease of Doing Solar Report 2021.

54. ***Decision: The Assembly adopted the Annual Report of the ISA for CY 2021, contained in the Working Document ISA/A.04/WD.11. The Assembly approved the consultation draft of the Ease of Doing Solar Report 2021, contained in the Working Document ISA/A.04/WD.12.***

Agenda Item 11. Update on ‘One Sun One World One Grid’ Initiative

55. The President apprised the Assembly on the background, scope, and impact of the ‘One Sun One World One Grid’ (OSOWOG) initiative and invited the ISA Secretariat to present a brief overview and status update on the initiative, as contained in the Working Document ISA/A.04/WD.13. The ISA Secretariat presented an update on the roadmap to institutionalize & implement the OSOWOG initiative encompassing, *inter alia*, a three-phase technical study being undertaken by a consortium of experts, partnership with the Green Grids Initiative of the UK government and establishment of a joint GGI-OSOWOG Secretariat.
56. The ISA Secretariat requested the Assembly’s endorsement and approval of the joint initiative GGI-OSOWOG along with a ‘One Sun’ declaration at COP 26 as well as approval to the ISA Secretariat to offer Secretariat services to the joint initiative along with the UK government. The President, noting the need to connect regional grids to a global green grid, called for a competitive bidding process as a viable option for financing the interconnections and an overarching enabling regulatory framework. The President expressed the need to root the GGI-OSOWOG initiative in the ISA and assured the Assembly of a consultative process for development of the Framework Agreement for GGI-OSOWOG. The President invited the Assembly to provide its suggestions/feedback. The Assembly endorsed the GGI-OSOWOG initiative and called for greater collaboration on knowledge sharing under the initiative.
57. ***Decision: The Assembly unanimously endorsed the joint GGI-OSOWOG Initiative and the ‘One Sun’ declaration at COP 26 as well as mandated the ISA Secretariat to offer Secretariat services to the joint GGI-OSOWOG initiative.***

Agenda Item 12. Update on Solar Technology Applications and Resource Centres (STARC) Project

58. The Assembly was presented with an update on the STARC project by the ISA Secretariat and was apprised of the earmarked contribution of EUR 1 Million by the European Union for sharing of European best practices, case studies, and training programmes responsive to the needs of the ISA Member countries as well as the commitment to contribute EUR 1 Million by the Government of France. The President thanked the European Union and the Government of France for contributions to the STARC project.

Agenda Item 13. High-Level Segment – Address by the Members of the ISA, Signatory & Prospective Countries, and ISA Partner Organizations

59. High-level interventions were made by the Hon'ble Ministers and other delegates from ISA Member countries, Signatory Countries, and Prospective Member countries. The President thanked the Hon'ble Ministers and other delegates for their interventions.

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

60. ***Decision: The Assembly decided the tentative dates for the Fifth Assembly of the ISA from October 18th to 20th 2022. The President mandated the ISA Secretariat to take the suggestions of the Republic of France into consideration before finalization of the date for the Fifth Assembly.***

Agenda Item 15. Any other Business

61. The President invited the members to raise any other urgent business. No urgent business was raised by the members.

Agenda Item 16. Closing

62. The President noted that the Fourth Session of the ISA Assembly has been productive and mandated the ISA Secretariat to follow-up on all the suggestions made at the session to take the agenda items forward. The President closed the Fourth Session of the ISA Assembly.
