
**Fourth Regional Committee Meeting for the Africa Region
30 August 2022
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

28 September 2022

**Report of the
Fourth Meeting of the Regional Committee
for the Africa Region
of the International Solar Alliance**

Summary

The document presents the report of the Fourth Meeting of the Regional Committee for the Africa region of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

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Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

1. Dr. Frehiwot Woldehana, National Focal Point (NFP) of the ISA for the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia introduced the agenda and invited the Director-General to the podium to make his welcoming remarks.
2. The Director-General thanked the NFP for Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and welcomed all Members of the Regional Committee for the Africa Region to its Fourth Meeting. He added that the meeting will provide the opportunity to get together to discuss issues of common relevance and deliberate on key issues which would be brought out in the Fifth Assembly of ISA to be held in October 2022 in India. He appreciated the Africa Region's engagement with ISA, particularly with regard to the programmatic activities and the demonstration projects being funded by the ISA through its grant of USD 50,000.
3. The Director-General welcoming the participants to Ethiopia. He stated that the country is known as the Land of Origins and known for its 'Thirteen Months of Sunshine' as every single day of all 13 months of the local calendar receive sunshine irrespective of the season. He noted that the Africa Region holds a comparative advantage in terms of solar and that the Region has the wealthiest solar energy resources, providing a tremendous opportunity for creation of green jobs and fueling economic growth with the help of sustainable energy systems. He added that the African region generates only 5 percent of the global electricity generation, which he hopes to see increasing to 15 percent by 2030.
4. The Director-General stated that the ISA wants to take all this literature and analysis and put it into actionable plans and projects on the ground like mini grids for energy access in remote areas and large-scale solar parks in areas connected to the grid for energy security and transitioning away from fossil fuels. He added that if ISA is successful, there would be a deployment of large-scale solar-powered green hydrogen farms in some of the sunniest parts of the region. He apprised that the fundamentals

of solar energy continue to be strong in the region despite the hurdles put up by the global COVID-19 pandemic, and that the cost of solar electricity in the continent fell below USD 4 cents making it the cheapest form of electricity generation and the logical choice for additional capacity across the continent.

5. The Director-General stated that ISA would also like to tap the potential held by innovators and start-ups across the continent, and particularly those initiated by female founders. He added that only 20 percent of private investment in the African region went to startups and companies over the past five years, and that significant new investment is now critically needed to accelerate the growth of renewable energy in the region. He added that ISA's blended finance risk mitigation facility would help enhance confidence of the international investor community in solar projects in the region and expressed his hope that this would build a foundation of a large solar industry.
6. The Director-General expressed his delight that eight countries from the region are on track to joining the Gigawatt Club. He recognized the special efforts put Algeria, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia, Ethiopia, Morocco and Botswana. He stated that ISA will extend its support to Africa's call to the world at COP27 to "Act now", as need for a just energy transition intensifies amidst a worsening climate crisis in the region, which is the most vulnerable with extreme weather like drought and flooding already becoming commonplace on the continent. He noted that climate action and economic development are compatible, and that they are no longer trade-offs, and that access to energy is fundamental to reduce poverty, accelerate socio-economic transformation and promote economic growth. He stated this has to be at the heart of the ISA's strategy, and that ISA would support the member countries towards this objective.
7. The Director-General underlined the importance of scaling up access to renewable energy, from large-scale power plants to mini grids and decentralized solutions in creating millions of new jobs and closing the energy access gap in a sustainable way will help end energy poverty. Concluding his remarks, the Director-General, expressed his thanks to all the members for their presence and attention and invited H.E. Dr. Sultan Wali, Hon'ble State Minister of Energy Development at the Ministry of Water and Energy, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to deliver his opening remarks.

8. H.E Dr. Sultan Wali welcomed the Regional Committee to Addis Ababa on behalf of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Ministry of Water and Energy and appreciated all the members for taking out time to attend the meeting. He informed the Regional Committee about the expression of interest for four pilot solar energy projects jointly developed by Ethiopian experts from the Ministry of Energy and Water, Ethiopian Electric Power, Ethiopian Electric Utility, Minister of Irrigation and Lowland Areas Development, and The Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Institute; and Indian experts from NTPC. He noted that the contributions by both local and foreign experts and institutions are significant in realising the vision and mission of ISA. He thanked NTPC and ISA for their support in the development of solar energy initiatives and for organising the Regional Committee Meeting
9. H.E. Dr. Sultan Wali reaffirmed the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's commitment to working with ISA to improving the living standard of citizens. He expressed his gratitude to the founders of ISA, the Hon'ble Former Prime Minister of the French Republic and the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Republic of India and concluded his remarks by encouraging all to utilize the opportunity to know more about Ethiopia and Africa.
10. The Chair opened the meeting by commending the ISA Secretariat for its initiative of strengthening regional consultations and aligning its strategic focus with the regional priorities of its members. He added that the agenda of the meeting is comprehensive yet focused and would enable ISA to achieve its objectives set in 2015. He stated that the Africa region enjoys more hours of sunshine than any other region on the planet. He expressed his concern that the penetration of solar energy is low on the continent, despite its potential when compared to other renewable energies. He added that solar panels are relatively cheap and can be installed almost anywhere and that the advantages have begun to encourage the private sector to invest in African solar power rather than hydro, geothermal and wind power, which are geographically limited and more expensive.
11. The Chair remarked that capacity building, risk mitigation instruments, policy interventions and simplification of regulatory processes have benefited many African countries in attracting private investments. He further stated that the next challenge will be scaling up these investments, while at the same time promoting the

deployment of small-scale solar energy applications, such as mini-grids, solar pumps, and solar home lighting systems, which would provide access to energy for the millions of people who are deprived of it on the continent. He stated that increasing solar energy penetration in Africa will improve health, bring electricity to rural hospitals and free citizens from the toxic smoke of cooking fires using paraffin, charcoal, wood, or animal dung. He added that solar energy penetration will promote education by electrifying rural schools and increasing internet access. He further added that it will also empower small businesses.

12. The Chair remarked that Africa has both the potential to produce, and the demand. He added that Africa region also has the private sector interest, as well as the interest of global investors. He further insisted that Africa has to put these pieces together with policy measures and get the machine running on autopilot. He added that Africa recognizes the International Solar Alliance as its privileged partner in the process. The Chair remarked that the ISA's Strategic Plan for the next five years, approved by the last General Assembly, proposes many holistic and integrated mechanisms tailored to the needs of ISA member countries. He added that the ISA demonstration projects and other initiatives, such as STAR-C, capacity building trainings have been a timely intervention by the ISA Secretariat to translate the objectives of ISA members into real and viable projects on the ground.
13. The Chair thanked the members of the Africa region for their active membership and continued support to the ISA, and for encouraging the Secretariat to further strengthen its engagement with members at the regional level.

Agenda Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

14. The Chair invited the Committee to consider the agenda for the Fourth Meeting of the Regional Committee for the Africa Region contained in the Working Document **ISA/RCA.04/WD.01**. He invited the Members of the Regional Committee to provide comments or guidance on the provisional agenda and adopt it.
15. ***The Committee adopted the agenda contained in the Working Document for the Fourth Meeting of the Regional Committee for the Africa Region.***

Agenda Item 3. Procedure for selection of Vice-Chair

16. The Chair informed the Committee that the Rules of Procedure provide for the election of a member country as Vice-President of the Regional Committee for a term of one year. He further stated that the last meeting of the Regional Committee for the Asia and the Pacific region mandated the Secretariat to develop and implement the procedure for the election/selection of the Vice-President of the Committee.
17. The Chair invited the Regional Committee to consider the working document **ISA/RCA.04/WD.03** circulated by the Secretariat, detailing the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the ISA Assembly regarding the selection of the Vice-President. He further added that in line with the terms of reference, the Secretariat proposed an amendment that would resolve the conflict inherent in the fact that the Chair of the Regional Committee meeting is chosen, while the Vice-President of the Regional Committee is elected. He invited the Regional Committee to consider the proposed amendments and provide comments as the Secretariat prepares the amendment to be presented to the Fifth Assembly of ISA for its approval.
18. The representative of the Republic of Niger observed that the most senior countries become Chair and Co-Chair and the next two become Vice-Chair for one year each which will allow the four countries to succeed from Vice-Chair position to the Chair position as the Vice-President over a period of four years, thus ensuring continuity. He suggested that the Chair of the Regional Committee be held by the Vice-President of the Standing Committee of each region on a yearly alternative basis, and that the two countries that follow them in terms of ratification hold the Vice-Chair positions of the Regional Committee for a period of one year each. He further added that at the end of the term, the two Vice-Presidents who are part of the Standing Committee will give way to the two Vice-Chairs of the Regional Committee to take their places and cover the next term such that each country gets a term of one year as the Chair.
19. The representative of the Republic of Mali seconded the proposal and remarked that the proposal will allow all the countries to take turn depending on the ratifications to be the Chair and the Vice-Chair which prevents a conflict in the organisation.
20. The Chair thanked the members of the Regional Committee for their interventions and requested the ISA Secretariat to take note of the comments.

21. ***The Regional Committee noted the proposed changes to procedure for selection of the Vice-Chair for the Regional Committee Meetings and instructed the ISA Secretariat to present the proposal to the Fifth Assembly of ISA for its consideration and approval.***

Agenda Item 4. Action Taken Report of the Third Regional Committee Meeting for the Africa Region of the International Solar Alliance

22. The Chair invited the Regional Committee to consider the working document ***ISA/RCA.04/WD.04***, which presents the ISA Secretariat's report on actions taken in response to the guidance provided by the Third Meeting of our Regional Committee. He commended the work done by the ISA Secretariat in implementing the guidance from the last Regional Committee Meeting and invited the members to examine the report on the measures taken and to provide their comments.
23. ***The Regional Committee took note of the action taken report of the Third Regional Committee Meeting of the Africa region of ISA.***

Agenda Item 5. DG ISA's remarks on ISA's Five-Year Strategic Plan

24. The Chair stated that the Five-year Strategic Plan was approved by the Fourth Assembly of ISA as a comprehensive action plan for the realisation of its mandates defined in the Framework Agreement. He added that the Strategic Plan sets out a comprehensive and holistic plan that addresses the diverse requirements of the ISA membership, ranging from programmatic support to LDC and SIDS member countries, capacity building initiatives for all developing member countries and analytics and advocacy support for all member countries, preparedness activities, risk mitigation, innovative financing instruments for investment mobilization and promotion of technology. He called upon the Director-General to provide an overview to the Regional Committee of the work done under the Strategic Plan, and an outline of the activities that ISA plans to undertake in the future.
25. The Director-General remarked that the five-year Strategic Plan approved by the fourth Assembly of the ISA has been a monumental guiding framework for the ISA's

- activities. He added that the ISA has been trying to address three critical issues of Energy Access, Energy Security, and Energy transition through multi-faceted support to ISA member countries by providing programmatic support for LDC and SIDS member countries, Capacity Building support to all developing member countries, and Analytics & Advocacy support to all member countries.
26. The Director-General stated that the analytics and advocacy work of the ISA has been progressing well. He added that along with the Ease of Doing Solar (EoDS) reports, the Secretariat has commenced work on developing 3 flagship reports, each focusing on the technology, market and investments in the global solar energy sector which are expected to become the go-to resource for any information on the global solar energy sector. He further added that the consultation drafts of the reports will be presented to the Fifth Assembly of the ISA to be held in October 2022 and that the Secretariat is also working closely with the World Resources Institute (WRI) to continue to develop its Roadmap for mobilizing USD 1,000 billion in solar energy investments in ISA Member countries by 2030.
 27. On the advocacy front, the Director-General remarked that COP26 event held at Glasgow has been a watershed moment for the ISA with the announcement of several partnerships, initiatives, and the addition of new member countries to further its global effort towards a solar-led energy transition, including the launch of the Green Grids Initiative-One Sun One World One Grid initiative. He added that ISA is leveraging its advocacy efforts under its 'Towards 1000' banner which summarizes the long-term mission of the ISA of mobilising USD 1,000 billion of investments by 2030, while delivering energy access to 1,000 million people using clean energy solutions and resulting in the installation of 1,000 GW of solar energy capacity which would help mitigate global solar emissions to the tune of 1,000 million tons of carbon emissions every year. He further remarked that ISA is currently developing a global advocacy strategy that will anchor its engagement with policymakers, experts, the private sector, and funding institutions from across the globe, and from target nations across the spectrum of economic development.
 28. The Director-General briefed that under the ecosystem readiness and capacity building initiatives, ISA has trained more than 2,100 people till date from developing countries around the world which include specialized training being provided to

bankers, along with thematic training sessions on ISA programmes. He added that to ensure the quality and relevance of trainings, ISA is now collaborating with training and skill development agencies from around the globe that specialize in the field of solar energy which include agencies like the Indian Skill Council for Green Jobs, Global Sustainable Energy Solutions (GSES), RENAC and GIZ. He stated that ISA's Solar Technology Application Resource-Centre (STAR-C) initiative has also gathered steam during the past few months, and ISA is in advanced talks with 4 countries, which includes Ethiopia, for the establishment of the STAR-Cs, which are expected to become the hub for training and research on solar energy solutions with particular regional focus.

29. On programmatic support initiative, the Director-General stated that ISA has been proactively communicating with the member countries, and that a delegation from ISA conducted Mission Visits to multiple countries to map the solar energy needs of the country and identify potential solar energy solutions. He added that the Secretariat has also conducted virtual meetings with member countries for extending programmatic support which had a positive effect on the engagement with member countries. He further stated that the demonstration projects funded by the ISA have also seen significant progress, and that the Projects in many of the countries have advanced to the implementation stage with procurement activities having been initiated by the project management consultants. He further added that the detailed project reports of 25 such projects have been approved till date, and that the ISA expects to inaugurate some of the projects during its Fifth Assembly.
30. The Director-General apprised about the Blended Finance Risk Mitigation Facility being set up by the ISA for the Africa region which would merge various financial instruments with pre-defined terms and conditions to ensure risk balancing in the investment. He added that after getting fully funded, the blended finance mechanism, will be ready to invest its corpus of USD 700 million in qualifying projects from across Africa, helping scale up solar solutions in the continent and mobilize required investment for the said purpose. He further added that the Facility shall provide interventions at two main levels as below:
 - i. Stimulating demand through technical assistance, which is focused on creating a pipeline of bankable projects by supporting project development and building

capacities of enterprises/sponsors as well as local governments

- ii. Attracting commercial capital providers, which aims to bring risk capital on concessional terms to make the risk-return profile of solar investments more favorable
31. The Director-General further stated that ISA has been designing the Facility aimed at stimulating high potential solar technologies by attracting private capital to flow into underserved markets in Africa. He added that the facility is expected to spur follow-on investments to the tune of USD 5-10 billion over the next 10 years, bringing energy access to 35-40 million households and mitigating 0.5-1 million tonnes of carbon emissions.
 32. The Director-General concluded his remarks by stating that with the flurry of activity under the aforesaid different buckets, ISA's Strategic Plan is well under implementation. He remarked that the large contributor to the accelerated work being done under the Strategic Plan could be attributed to the enthusiasm and cooperation that the ISA Secretariat has been receiving from the member countries, particularly from the developing and under-developed countries. He added that the implementation of the strategic plan has built up tremendous momentum during the past few months which would help ISA take the further steps towards registering significant impact across the member countries.
 33. The Chair thanked the Director-General for sharing the updates on the strategic plan and invited the Members of the Regional Committee to provide comments on the strategic plan update.
 34. The representative of the Union of the Comoros expressed his concern that there has been a lot of delay in setting up the demonstration project. He added that there is a need for acceleration in order to advance the master plan of the International Solar Alliance. He added that Africans would trust implementation rather than speeches. He further expressed his concern that strategic implementation is needed to increase the solar generated power in African continent. He remarked that there is a need of well-qualified technicians with hands-on experience more than engineers. He further added that there are no qualified technicians to ensure the follow-up and maintenance of the equipment and hence face-to-face training in the factory along with vocational training aimed directly at employment is required.

35. The representative of the Republic of Senegal seconded the recommendation suggested by the representative of the Union of the Comoros and stated that qualified workforce is required for the installations and maintenance of equipment and upkeep of rural electrification. He added that investments should also be provided for performing feasibility studies. He further stated that there is much more to do especially on the implementation of pilot projects.
36. The representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria suggested that the demand aggregation that the ISA used to conduct through EOIs before the COVID pandemic must be made annually.
37. The representative of the Republic of the Sudan stated that Countries need capacity building. He added that training is required for financial institutions, technicians and Engineers. He further remarked that assistance is required in creating awareness of regulations.
38. The representative of the Federal Republic of Somalia suggested that STAR centres should be established locally in each of the Member countries for ease of training. He added that assistance has to be provided for preparing detailed project reports (DPR) as well as for establishing policy environments. He further stated that the policy environment is important for encouraging private sector participation and removing regulatory barriers.
39. The representative of the Republic of Madagascar remarked that security is a cause of concern in the rural regions of Africa which is due to the lack of street lighting. He added that the development of solar lamp projects would resolve the aforesaid issue. He further suggested implementing the solutions like solar kits, solar home systems, and Nano grid systems.
40. The representative of the Republic of Mali remarked that energy storage using hydrogen is needed to evacuate energy. He added that hydrogen plays an important role in achieving solar electric mobility and the acceleration of the risk mitigation programme is necessary for the success of such projects.
41. The representative of the Republic of Djibouti remarked that the next five years are crucial and there is a need to move fast and be action-oriented. He added that ISA can build strategic partnerships with already established organisations which will

- accelerate the presence of ISA in Member countries.
42. The representative of the Central African Republic suggested inviting bankers and investors to participate in the regional meetings to help them realise the importance of the projects and risk mitigation measures being taken.
 43. The representative of the Union of the Comoros suggested the opening of regional offices to accelerate the pace of works being done by ISA.
 44. The representative of the Republic of the Gambia remarked that face-to-face training is more effective than virtual training. She expressed her concern that people are leaving in between the virtual meetings. She further remarked that it will be more effective to have hands-on training which will engage trainees, such as bankers, better.
 45. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania welcomed the risk mitigation facility programme as most lenders perceive risks and require the government to give a guarantee and it is very difficult for governments handling several projects.
 46. The representative of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau remarked that there is a need for an institutional and regulatory framework in the country.
 47. The representative of the Republic of Guinea remarked that capacity building is needed, especially for the training of technicians which will enable the countries to implement various ambitious projects.
 48. The representative of the Republic of Cameroon stated that the implementation of pilot projects would complement the capacity building. He invited ISA to implement pilot projects in the country.
 49. The representative of the Burkina Faso remarked that the ISA can build strategic partnerships with already established organisations in different countries and mutualise the initiatives based on the actual groundwork that happened in respective countries.
 50. The representative of the Union of the Comoros stated that more help is needed in terms of capacity building as the country lack technicians and requested ISA to train more people in the country.

51. The representative of the Republic of Mali suggested accelerating the implementation of programmes.
52. The Chair thanked the representatives for the interventions and requested ISA Secretariat to take note of the comments and recommendations of the delegations. He further invited the Director-General to address the comments raised by the delegations.
53. Addressing the suggestions by the Members, the Director-General thanked the members for their contributions. He remarked that ISA has noted the need for in-person training of technicians and remarked that ISA will be bringing out a program on providing the training for technicians. He acknowledged that the training programs have to be country-specific and the ISA will tailor them according to the needs of the country.
54. On the delay of projects, the Director-General remarked that ISA remains committed to accelerating and finishing most of the demonstration projects by the end of the calendar year. He requested the countries to approve projects and accelerate the procurement process. He added that the member countries can reach out to the ISA with their project details and the progress of demonstration projects so that ISA can help when the project gets held up.
55. On the Star-C programme, the Director-General remarked that ISA is currently considering developing the Star centres in poor countries in different parts of the globe which would become regional centres. He added that in the next calendar year, the STAR centres will be expanded from four to eight.
56. The Director-General remarked that ISA will ensure that it understands the specific realities of each country before carrying out activities. He added that ISA will ensure complementarity in the programmes being provided and requested the countries to be clear about the kind of complementarity that is being provided.
57. On the risk mitigation facility, the Director-General stated that ISA recognizes the need for risk mitigation facilities at both national and regional levels.
58. The Director-General further stated that ISA's budget was covered by philanthropic organizations and various developed countries. He added that ISA is looking forward to enhancing the funding on a regular basis and will be coming up with a three-tiered

structure for membership financing at the assembly where membership financing will be proportional to the development stages of each member country. He further remarked that the Government of India is considering subsidizing the membership fees paid by developing countries.

59. The Chair thanked the Director-General for the interventions and for addressing the comments.
60. ***The Regional Committee took note of the update on ISA's Five-Year Strategic Plan.***

Agenda Item 6. Overview of Country Partnership Framework

61. The Chair introduced the agenda item and invited the ISA Secretariat to brief the Regional Committee on the key elements of the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) and to give an overview of the activities that the ISA plans to undertake in the future, as foreseen in the working document ***ISA/RCA.04/WD.05***.
62. The ISA Secretariat presented an overview and briefed on key elements of the CPF which include country analysis, dialogue, ISA Secretariat support, development of a CPS, the establishment of a steering committee, rolling-out CPS, and monitoring and evaluation.
63. The Chair thanked the ISA Secretariat for the detailed presentation and invited the Members of the Regional Committee and the NFPs for their remarks & guidance on the agenda item presented by the ISA Secretariat on Overview of Country Partnership Framework.
64. The representative of the Republic of the Niger remarked that there is a need for additional sub-regional meetings as the action plan is for every two years. He added that in-person meetings can be held for the focal points of each region every two years.
65. The representative of Burkina Faso enquired about the format used for consultations.
66. The representative of the Union of Comoros enquired about the presence of any communication strategy for the framework. He remarked that National Focal Points should be encouraged to work solely with ISA for accelerating the implementation of

Programmes. He further suggested that a mechanism has to be built for supporting NFPs in creating awareness of training sessions.

67. The representative of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire enquired about the operationalization of the framework and the draft of the organization which would be taking action on the framework.
68. The representative of the Republic of Liberia remarked that ECREEE conducts training related to renewable energy and energy efficiency. He added that ISA's engagement with ECREEE will be beneficial to design optimal training modules.
69. The representative of the Republic of Ghana enquired about the management arrangement for evaluation and reporting. He added that there is a need to keep uniformity and make the evaluations comprehensive. He further enquired about the role of ISA in ensuring resources and the proper implementation of the two-year action plan.
70. The representative of the Republic of South Sudan requested fast-track support in processing the membership.
71. The representative of the Republic of Guinea expressed his concern that as the country is French-speaking, the training should be provided in the French language.
72. The Chair thanked the representatives for the interventions and requested ISA Secretariat to take note of the comments and recommendations of the delegations. He further invited the Director-General to address the comments raised by the delegations.
73. Addressing the suggestions by the Members, the Director-General thanked the members for their interventions. He remarked that as the policy is in the making, the comments from delegations with regard to issues like the shadow, the consultation process, and the basic uniformity would help ISA in a great way. He added that ISA will reach out to member countries with more details on the draft policy. He further remarked that the cornerstone of the CPF is countries' ownership of it.
74. The Director-General, in response to the representative of the Republic of Liberia, informed that ISA will work with ECREEE for the development of the Star centre. He added that the linkage with the existing program will provide complementarity, and

- comprehensiveness in the training data being provided.
75. The Director-General, in response to the representative of the Republic of South Sudan, informed that ISA will approach South Sudan and process its membership.
 76. On the regulatory framework, the Director-General remarked that ISA would work with the members regarding the changes needed in the regulatory framework as part of the CPF.
 77. Thank you very much, Mr. Director General, for these comments after all the delegations in relation to the country partnership framework. Now, before perhaps thinking about the break, I would like to ask for the intelligence of all the delegations so that we can deal with item 7 on the agenda, and then we can take a break.
 78. The Chair thanked the Director-General for the interventions and for addressing the comments in relation to the country partnership framework.
 79. ***The Regional Committee took note of the update on the Overview of Country Partnership Framework.***

Agenda Item 7. Update by the ISA Secretariat on programmatic support to the ISA Member Countries

80. The Chair introduced the agenda item and invited the ISA Secretariat to brief the Regional Committee on the programmatic support provided by ISA to its member countries since the third Regional Committee meeting for the Africa region as contained in the working document ***ISA/RCA.04/WD.06***.
81. The ISA Secretariat presented an overview and progress update on the programmatic support of ISA encompassing the advancement across each of the thematic programmes, along with the status of the demonstration projects, capacity building initiatives, and partnerships of the ISA.
82. The Chair thanked the ISA Secretariat for the detailed presentation and invited the Members of the Regional Committee and the NFPs for their remarks & guidance on the update presented by the ISA Secretariat on ISA's Programmatic Support for its member countries.

83. The representative of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Mr. Julio Antonio Raoul remarked that the country has signed up for solar pumping as a pilot project. He enquired about the reason for showing the country's map marked in red even though the pilot project is not completed and whether it is due to the reason that the Republic of Guinea-Bissau is a non-member of ISA.
84. The representative of the Republic of Madagascar requested recommendations on the projects sent to ISA. He enquired whether the projects can still be submitted. He further enquired if the projects can be submitted directly or had to go through the government or a ministry.
85. The representative of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire enquired about the mode of Expression of Interest (EOI) for both pilot projects and the projects that are part of the capacity development plan.
86. The representative of the Togolese Republic expressed his concern about the financial capacity of rural populations in affording electricity services. In this regard, he requested ISA to identify viable and sustainable mechanisms to support off-grid electrification projects in rural areas.
87. The representative of the Republic of Senegal remarked that if countries have clear legal frameworks, investors will be interested and funding will not be an issue. He requested ISA to assist the countries in establishing a regulatory framework and providing a guarantee for the financing. He added that countries need capacity building and pilot projects on the new technology of green hydrogen.
88. The representative of the Republic of Ghana remarked that ISA has to give importance to storage and transmission which helps in ensuring that the energy is available when it is needed and the grid is in the right capacity to be able to accommodate this amount of energy. He added that ISA must engage with regional power pools. He stated that hybridization and battery storage at the utility level need more focus. He added that the natural resources of the continent such as lithium can be explored to produce the state of the art batteries. He further added that countries must strive to produce the technology on the continent.
89. The representative of the Republic of Benin enquired about the absence of the Republic of Benin in the framework. He expressed his concern about waste

- management and requested ISA to contemplate solar battery waste management.
90. The representative of the Republic of Guinea expressed his concern that the road network in countries like the Republic of Guinea creates a big barrier in transporting equipment to sites. He further enquired whether ISA can help in developing road infrastructure. He acknowledged that ISA is not a bank and it mobilizes funds.
 91. The representative of the Republic of Sudan expressed his concern that there is a delay in programme implementation because of COVID-19. He requested ISA to provide clear timelines for the programme implementation.
 92. The representative of the Republic of the Gambia enquired about the next step after the successful implementation of pilot projects. She further enquired on co-funding and guarantees.
 93. The Chair thanked the representatives for the interventions and requested ISA Secretariat to take note of the comments and recommendations of the delegations. He further invited the Director-General to address the queries raised by the delegations.
 94. Responding to the queries from the representative of the Republic of Madagascar, the Director-General has stated that new Expressions of Interest will not be accepted now. He added that bids for the ongoing programmes will be finalized within ten days. He insisted that countries that are implementing the projects by themselves must start the procurement process as soon as possible.
 95. Responding to the queries from the representative of the Republic of Sudan, the Director-General has stated that ISA has taken due consideration of issue with regard to the timelines and would certainly address the same.
 96. The Director-General remarked that the rules of viability gap funding will be brought up in the next ISA assembly and ISA wants solar projects to be viable by themselves. He added that under this funding, ISA would provide 10% of the project cost or a maximum of \$1.5 million to scale up the demonstration programs that have happened.
 97. Responding to the queries from the representative of the Republic of Benin and the Republic of Senegal, the Director-General has stated that ISA will provide training in

various new areas such as storage, waste management, and green hydrogen.

98. Responding to the queries from the representative of the Republic of Ghana, the Director-General has stated that ISA would put up the issue at the fifth assembly, regarding the requirement of a transmission specialist who can assist countries with planning and building the transmission network needed to meet the demands of the new solar installations.
99. The Chair thanked the Director-General for the responses to the comments from the Members of the Regional Committee. He added that the committee will continue its efforts to implement the suggestions received.
- 100. *The Regional Committee took note of the updated provided by the ISA Secretariat on the programmatic support provide by the ISA, including the information provided by the Secretariat in response to queries and comments from the Members of the Regional Committee.***

Agenda Item 8. Private Sector Engagement Strategy

101. The Chair briefed the Regional Committee on the agenda item and invited the ISA Secretariat to provide an update on the Private Sector Engagement Strategy for the consideration of the Regional Committee of the Africa Region as contained in the working document **ISA/RCA.04/WD.07**.
102. On behalf of the ISA secretariat, H.E Alexander Hogeveen Rutter presented an overview of the private sector engagement strategy, including updates on consultations with stakeholders and categories of stakeholders. The Regional Committee was informed that the ISA is best positioned to support policymakers with their capacity-building needs.
103. The Chair thanked the ISA Secretariat for the update and invited comments from the Members of the Regional Committee.
104. The representative of the Republic of Senegal remarked that countries need legal frameworks and guarantees to engage with the private sector. He added that countries need clear objectives and national solar master plans and they must also conduct feasibility studies.

105. The representative of the Democratic Republic of Congo seconded the queries raised by the representative of the Republic of Senegal on guarantees. He enquired about how ISA can help countries in terms of guarantees.
106. The Chair thanked the representatives for the interventions and requested ISA Secretariat to take note of the suggestions and comments of the delegations. He further invited the Director-General to address the queries raised by the delegations.
107. Responding to the queries from the representative of the Republic of Senegal, the Director-General has stated that ISA can help member countries in developing legal frameworks and solar master plans upon their request. He added that ISA will also support Feasibility studies.
108. Responding to the queries from the representative of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Director-General has stated that the blended finance scheme is intended for guarantees for which ISA is creating a pool of capital to fulfill this purpose.
109. The Chair thanked the Director-General for the responses to the comments.
- 110. *The Regional Committee took note of the updated provided on Private Sector Engagement Strategy.***

Agenda Item 9. 'Green Grids Initiative – One Sun, One World, One Grid' (GGI-OSOWOG) Initiative

111. The Chair briefed the Regional Committee on the agenda item, including the launch of the GGI-OSOWOG initiative at COP26, and invited the ISA Secretariat to provide an update on the initiative for the consideration of the Regional Committee of the Africa Region as contained in the working document ***ISA/RCA.04/WD.08***.
112. The ISA Secretariat presented an overview of GGI-OSOWOG, and the progress registered under the initiative, including an update on the technical study, consultations with stakeholders from around the world, and the next steps under the initiative.
113. The Chair thanked the ISA Secretariat for the update and invited comments from the Members of the Regional Committee.

114. The representative of the Republic of the Niger enquired whether this initiative is applicable only to solar or is applicable to other renewable energy sources also.
115. The representative of Burkina Faso enquired about the capacities of projects in terms of power that will be implemented under the initiative.
116. The representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia remarked that the implementation will not be easy as the political will to interconnect is scarce.
117. The representative of the Union of Comoros enquired on whether a separate network is needed for island countries and the timelines for completion of such integration.
118. Responding to the queries from the representative of the Republic of the Niger, the ISA Secretariat has stated that the initiative encompasses all renewables.
119. Responding to the queries from the representatives of Burkina Faso, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Union of Comoros, the ISA Secretariat has stated that the initiative will be completed in phases and currently studies and data collections are being undertaken. The ISA Secretariat further added that ISA will look into political engagements and other feasibilities once the the technical data is processed.
120. The Chair thanked the ISA Secretariat for the update on the agenda item.
- 121. *The Regional Committee took note of the presentation and the updated provided by the ISA Secretariat on the GGI-OSOWOG initiative.***

Agenda Item 10. Update on the ISA's Solar Technology and Application Resource Centre (STAR-C) Initiative

122. The Chair invited the ISA Secretariat to brief the Regional Committee about the update on the STAR-C initiative as contained in the working document **ISA/RCA.04/WD.09**.
123. The ISA Secretariat presented an update on the STAR-C initiative which aims to assist developing ISA member countries build national and local capacity to undertake testing, have standardised products, and incubate enterprises. The Regional Committee was informed about the targets of the ISA Secretariat of setting up 4

STAR-Cs by early 2023, 10 by 2024, and 50 STAR-Cs by the year 2030, with specialisations being developed over the years for providing consultancy, leveraging resources from multilateral banks, bilateral institutions, and enabling market transformation in collaboration with the private sector by having more favourable policies.

124. The Chair thanked the ISA Secretariat for the update and invited guidance and comments from the members of the Regional Committee.
125. The representative of the Republic of Sudan expressed his support for the initiative and enquired about the basis on which the locations for the Star centres are selected.
126. The representative of the Republic of Senegal remarked that the country already has an equipment testing centre. He enquired whether such centres be transformed into STAR centres.
127. The representative of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire remarked that the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire is waiting for the draft protocol to be signed to materialise the Country's adhesion towards the initiative.
128. The representative of the Republic of Benin has stated that the country is building a national documentation centre and enquired on the support ISA can provide.
129. The representative of the Republic of Guinea enquired about how ISA can help the country in obtaining funding when the country has projects.
130. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania has remarked that there are overlapping mandates with existing organizations. He suggested that ISA can collaborate with existing centres instead of creating new centres.
131. The Chair invited the ISA Secretariat to address the queries raised by the delegations.
132. Responding to the queries from the representative of the Republic of Sudan, the ISA Secretariat has stated that there is no strict criteria for the selection of locations and the countries have been selected based on the interest they have shown earlier.
133. Responding to the queries from the representative of the Republic of Senegal, the ISA Secretariat has stated that ISA would leave those functions which the existing institution is already playing and support with the functions which are not present in

the existing institution.

134. Addressing the remaining queries, the ISA Secretariat apprised the Members of the Regional Committee that ISA intends to receive more EOIs from member countries. It was also informed that ISA does not intend to duplicate mandates and STAR-C objectives are much larger than that of ECREEE and EACREEE.
135. The Chair thanked the ISA Secretariat for the responses and requested it to take note of the inputs and suggestions provided by the Members.

Agenda Item 11. Roadmap for mobilization of USD 1 trillion in solar investments by 2030

136. Introducing the agenda, the Chair mentioned that affordable finance is a key driver of low-cost solar energy across ISA Member countries, and that the ISA is partnering with the World Resources Institute (WRI) for development of the Roadmap for mobilization of USD 1 trillion in solar energy investments by 2030 that is expected to be launched at COP27 at Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. The Chair invited the representative of the World Resources Institute (WRI) to brief the Regional Committee on the preparation of the roadmap.
137. The representative of the WRI presented to the Regional Committee an update on the Roadmap for mobilization of USD 1 trillion in solar energy investments by 2030 as contained in the working document *ISA/RCA.04/WD.10*. The Regional Committee was informed that the Roadmap is being developed in collaboration with Bloomberg Philanthropies, and that the Phase 1 report and the Solar Investment Action Agenda have been developed on the subject over the past years. WRI also informed the Regional Committee about the consultations conducted and the advocacy initiatives conducted to publicise the key messages among global political and financial leaders.
138. The Chair invited the Members of the Regional Committee for their comments and guidance on the presentation by WRI on the Roadmap for mobilization of USD 1 trillion in solar investments by 2030.
139. The representative of the Republic of Ghana has enquired about the risks, the current geo-political changes pose to the USD 1 trillion target.
140. The representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia expressed his

- uncertainty on mobilization of USD 1 trillion of solar investments by 2030 as only 7 years were left. He enquired about whether ISA has any data to ensure the feasibility of the target.
141. The representative of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau expressed his support for the initiative and suggested that the ISA member must stay upbeat about the prospect.
142. The representative of the Republic of Guinea remarked that projects will also be ready if ISA can mobilize USD 1 trillion of solar investments.
143. The Chair invited WRI to respond to the query.
144. Addressing the query, the representative of WRI remarked that, even though the target of mobilizing USD 1 trillion by 2030 is highly ambitious, the urgency of climate change will give additional impetus to the cause. The Regional Committee was informed that there are various mechanisms to achieve the objective and barriers to the target are being addressed. The Regional Committee was further informed that the strong relations with member countries will help ISA to ensure equity and address the barriers and ISA is hopeful to meet the target.
145. The Chair thanked the World Resource Institute for their response.
146. ***The Regional Committee took note of the update presented by WRI on the Roadmap for mobilization of USD 1 trillion in solar investments by 2030 in the working document and the additional information provided in response to the queries and comments from the Members.***

Agenda Item 12. Interventions by Member Countries

147. The Chair invited the Members of the Regional Committee of the Africa Region to deliver their country statements specific to the solar sector and the activities of the International Solar Alliance.
148. The representative of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea informed the Regional Committee that Focal points must be ambassadors of ISA to their countries and all the programmes that ISA wants to implement must be internalized for all the focal points. He added that ISA has to help in drafting national policies which will help countries to

engage with the private sector.

149. The representative of Burkina Faso informed the Regional Committee that the country has several internally displaced people. She added that Solar stoves for cleaner and easier cooking should be provided which would help the women in a great way. She further suggested contemplating on transforming the huge quantity of waste being generated into energy.
150. The representative of the Republic of Senegal informed the Regional Committee that the country's energy mix has 30% renewable energy. He added that the Republic of Senegal has electrified more than a thousand villages through solar. He further stated that the country has installed 50,000 solar panels across the country for public lighting and the country is aiming to enhance it to 100,000 by September 2022. He further expressed his concern that testing of equipment is very essential as sub-standard equipment enters the African market.
151. The representative of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire has remarked that the country has committed to increasing the share of renewables in its energy mix from 30% to 45% by 2035. He requested ISA's support in achieving the country's commitments. He expressed his concern about the high cost of mini-grids and remarked that the country can work with ISA on mechanisms that can reduce the costs and help in the scaling of mini-grids.
152. The representative of the Central African Republic remarked that a \$17 billion project supported by the government of China has been completed and other large projects supported by the World Bank and Saudi Arabia are ongoing.
153. The representative of the Republic of the Niger has remarked that the country has developed a national electricity policy that emphasizes solar energy. He added that It has provided solar kits and power stations to four of its regions with a loan from the Exim Bank. He further requested support from ISA in realizing its aim of increasing the share of renewables in its energy mix to 30% by 2035.
154. The representative of the Republic of Botswana expressed his concern that in spite of having high irradiation levels, the country has faced challenges regarding the capacity factor of Solar. He added that a lot of progress can be achieved by complementing solar with emerging technologies like green hydrogen. He remarked that the country

- has successfully implemented a biogas energy program for its rural communities which helps them to meet the energy requirements at night. He further added that the country will share the biogas project details with member countries.
155. The representative of the Federal Republic of Somalia remarked that the country is working to alleviate the energy poverty in its rural areas and requested ISA support in having more capacity-building opportunities in the future.
156. The representative of the Republic of Cameroon remarked that the country has set a target of generating 25% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2035. He added that the northern part of the country is suitable for renewable energy projects. He expressed his concern that climate change has impacted the country and affected its water resources by drying its basins. He also expressed his desire to align the nation's electrical potential with its solar potential with the help of ISA. He further requested the ISA to conduct research on both solar and pumped storage systems which will help the nation to maintain a steady supply of electricity.
157. The representative of the Republic of Mali remarked that the region relies heavily on the International Solar Alliance's (ISA) support to achieve its objectives. In this post-Covid period, it will be necessary to accelerate the realisation of the different projects in the current programme. The region remains committed to all ISA activities and has the ambition to make the population benefit from its great solar potential.
158. The representative of the Republic of Sudan stated that only 45% of Country's population has access to electricity. He added that the country has identified on-grid and off-grid solar solutions to alleviate this problem and is undertaking projects. He requested ISA to facilitate the mobilization of funds for setting up of 50,000 solar water pumping projects. He also highlighted his concern about the technical and financial challenges the nation is now facing, particularly in terms of capacity building to implement solar projects. He further requested ISA to create a programme on utilising solar energy for mining as the mining industry is now experiencing a number of issues, including high diesel prices as a result of the elimination of the diesel subsidy.
159. The representative of the Republic of the Gambia remarked about the various solar projects that are being carried out in the country with assistance from the World Bank and UNDP.

160. The representative of the Republic of Guinea remarked that the country has formed a rural electrification agency that is identifying potential locations for solar project development. He added that the country is looking toward complementing hydroelectric power with a solar energy system. He further added that at least 1500 health centres in the country need to be equipped with a solar energy system.
161. The representative of the Republic of Uganda has remarked that the country has concluded a grant for implementing 30,000 solar pumps and has also set an ambitious target of universal access by 2030. He further expressed his intention to continue working with ISA on capacity building and find a means to accomplish the nation's lofty goals.
162. The representative of the Republic of Rwanda stated that more emphasis has to be given to storage technologies as solar energy is only available during the day. She requested additional help from ISA in terms of capacity-building for solar focusing on E-Mobility. She further requested ISA to consider solar clean cooking technologies into consideration in light of the 2030 goal of mobilising USD 1 trillion in investments in solar energy.
163. The representative of the Democratic Republic of Congo stated that the electricity sector was liberalized in 2014 but became operational in 2020. He added that the country has established two entities- a regulatory body and a national electrification agency for rural and semi-urban areas and the nation aims to reach Africa's energy access average of 54%. He requested ISA to facilitate the financing of solar projects being planned in the country which would accelerate the country's agenda in the face of rural electrification.
164. The representative of the Togolese Republic Togo remarked that the country is undertaking a project to give energy access to several towns via solar technology. He added that the country has faced challenges in mobilizing finances and recycling batteries. He further remarked that the country is trying its best to address the challenges and requested ISA's support.
165. The Chair thanked all the Members of the Regional Committee for their interventions and requested the ISA Secretariat to take note of all inputs, comments, and guidance provided by the Members.

Agenda Item 13. Preparations for the Fifth Regional Committee Meeting for Africa Region

166. The Chair invited the Members of the Regional Committee to deliberate on the date and location for the Fifth Meeting of the Regional Committee for the Africa Region which is proposed to be held during the second week of August 2023 at a place to be determined as contained in the Working Document.
167. The representative of the Republic of Niger suggested for asking the countries that are interested in hosting the Fifth Meeting of the Regional Committee.
168. The representative of the Union of the Comoros recommended the cities of Kigali, Abidjan, and Dakar in that order for hosting the Fifth Meeting of the Regional Committee.
169. The representative of the Republic of Senegal stated that the country is interested in hosting the Fifth Meeting of the Regional Committee in the city of Dakar.
170. The representative of the Republic of the Gambia proposed Senegal and Ghana for hosting the Fifth Meeting of the Regional Committee for the Africa Region.
171. The representative of the Republic of Rwanda stated that the country is interested in hosting the Fifth Meeting of the Regional Committee.
172. The representative of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire stated that the country is interested in hosting the Fifth Meeting of the Regional Committee.
173. The representative of the Republic of Guinea stated that the country is interested in hosting the Fifth Meeting of the Regional Committee.
174. The representative of the Republic of Ghana stated that the country is interested in hosting the Fifth Meeting of the Regional Committee.
175. The representative of the Republic of Mali expressed the country's interest to act as a volunteer for the Fifth Meeting of the Regional Committee.
176. The Director-General requested the countries to make their proposals in writing and send to the ISA. He added that the ISA will coordinate with the countries to decide the

meeting's location and precise date.

177. *The Regional Committee decided that the finalization of the date and location for its Fifth Meeting may be done in the following few months.*

Agenda Item 14. Any other business

178. The Chair invited the Members of the Regional Committee to raise any other matter of importance for the consideration of the Committee.

179. *No Member of the Regional Committee proposed discussion on any other business of significance.*

Agenda Item 15. Closing of the meeting

180. The Chair closed the meeting by thanking the participants of the Regional Committee Meeting and the ISA Secretariat for their contributions to the Meeting.
