
Third Regional Committee Meeting for the Asia and the Pacific Region
17 August 2022
International Solar Alliance

28 September 2022

**Report of the
Fourth Meeting of the Regional Committee
for the Asia and the Pacific Region
of the International Solar Alliance**

Summary

The document presents the report of the Third Meeting of the Regional Committee for the Asia and the Pacific region of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

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Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

1. The Chair, H.E. Mr. Jone Usamate, Hon'ble Minister for Infrastructure and Meteorological Services and Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources, Republic of Fiji welcomed all Members of the Regional Committee to its Fourth Meeting. He welcomed the new members of the ISA from the region – the Kingdom of Bahrain and Nepal. He congratulated the ISA Secretariat for its initiative of enhancing regional consultations and for aligning the ISA's strategic objective with its members' regional priorities. He underlined the role of the Regional Committee in meeting the strategic objectives of the ISA.
2. The Chair stated that ISA's strategic plan offers holistic and integrated solutions needed to meet the requirements of its members countries. He emphasized the role of solar energy in the Asia and the Pacific which houses more than 60 percent of the global population and is the region with the fastest growing energy demand. He also conveyed that each country in the region needs a different approach depending on its geography, climate, societal structure, economic development, business environment, and energy use pattern to meet the common goals of security, clean, affordable, and sustainable energy for economic growth and social development. He stated that even with the efforts to boost investments in renewable energy, fossil fuels continue to be an essential fuel in the region.
3. The Chair stated that the Asia and the Pacific region is expected to add more than 500 GW of renewable energy capacity, and that the investment needs to reach all countries in the region along with the frontrunners like Australia, China, and India. He affirmed the role of ISA as the enabling partner of the countries in their energy transition, and appreciated the ISA's initiatives like STAR-C, demonstration projects and capacity building trainings in converting the countries' goals into projects on the ground.
4. The Chair thanked the ISA members from the Asia and the Pacific region for their

support for and engagement with the ISA for, and encouraged the National Focal Points to collaborate with the ISA Secretariat for deployment of ISA's programmes and initiatives in the region, and strengthening the regional grouping which forms the foundation of the governance framework of the ISA. He called for a productive meeting of the Regional Committee to further the energy access and energy transition objectives of the region.

5. The Chair invited the representative of the Republic of Nauru, the other Vice Presidency of the ISA Assembly from the Asia and the Pacific region to address the Regional Committee.
6. The representative of the Republic of Nauru thanked the Chair and conveyed to the Regional Committee that the all aspects of the Pacific Island-countries, including the history, culture, food supply and economy, are all tied to the ocean spanning over 40 million square kilometers, and that the sustainable development efforts of the region brings together resources provided by the sun and the ocean. He appreciated ISA's efforts in advancing the country's sustainable development and remarked that the current progress made by the country in the field of renewable energy is inadequate for achieving its Nationally Determined Contributions given the limited international support and rising global fossil fuel prices.
7. The representative of the Republic of Nauru conveyed the challenges faced by the region over the past year owing to unexpected natural disasters, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, despite the region's carbon footprint being 0.03 percent of global emissions. He recognized the support of the United Arab Emirates, New Zealand, European Union, and the Asian Development Bank to the Republic of Nauru for increasing the share of solar in its energy mix to almost 50 percent by 2023. He informed the Regional Committee about the development of a solar-powered drinking water facility at a hospital in Nauru with the programmatic support of ISA, and the four technicians of the Nauru Utilities Corporation trained on solar rooftops and solar mini grids under the training programmes run by ISA. He stated that the country is looking forward to the upcoming 5-day online training on solar mini grids organized by ISA.
8. The representative of the Republic of Nauru stated that equal efforts need to be put into energy conservation, energy efficiency measures and low-carbon mobility. He

called for ISA's interventions on these fronts in the Pacific Island region along with all other member countries of ISA. He conveyed the commitments of the Pacific Island countries to achieving 100 percent energy from renewable sources by the year 2030, and complete carbon neutrality by the year 2050. He emphasized on the need for a collaborative approach on the challenging path to the ambitious goals of the region. He stated that Nauru looks forward to continued engagement with and support of ISA in implementing solar energy for clean, sustainable, efficient, safe and affordable energy security. He conveyed the country's support and encouragement for the incoming Vice-Presidents of the region.

9. The Chair thanked the Vice Presidency for his address and announced the opening fourth meeting of the Regional Committee for the Asia and the Pacific region of ISA.

Agenda Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

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

Agenda Item 3. Procedure for selection of Vice-Chair

12. The Chair informed the Regional Committee of the agenda item and explained that incumbent Rules of the Procedure provide for the election of a vice chair of the Regional Committee for a term of one year while the Vice Presidents are selected based on their date of joining the ISA. He mentioned that the ISA Secretariat has proposed an amendment that would allow for the selection of the Vice-Chair and invited the Regional Committee to consider the proposal contained in the working document *ISA/RCAP.04/WD.03*. The Chair invited the ISA Secretariat to brief the Regional Committee on the proposed amendments as contained in the working document.

13. The ISA Secretariat conveyed the rationale and the specifics about the amendments to the Rules of Procedure proposed as per the guidance of Regional Committee for the Asia and the Pacific region during its third meeting.
14. The Chair invited comments and guidance from the Members of the Regional Committee on the proposed amendments to be Rules of Procedure.
15. ***The Regional Committee invited the ISA Secretariat to present the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure as contained the working document 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 Asia and the Pacific Region of the International Solar Alliance

16. The Chair introduced the working document ***ISA/RCAP.04/WD.04*** containing the report of the action taken on the recommendations of the Regional Committee during its third meeting, and commended the work done by the ISA Secretariat in putting into action the recommendations of the Regional Committee.
17. The Chair invited the Members of the Regional Committee to consider the action taken report prepared by the ISA Secretariat and provide their comments and guidance.
18. ***The Regional Committee took note of the action taken report presented by the ISA Secretariat in the working document.***

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

19. The Chair introduced the Five-year Strategic Plan of the ISA approved by the Fourth Assembly and its alignment with the strategic goals laid down by the Framework Agreement of ISA of meeting the needs of the member countries, particularly the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through programmatic support initiatives, capacity building activities, analytics and advocacy support, readiness enabling activities, risk mitigation and innovative financing mechanisms and promotion of technologies. He invited the Director-General

to present an update on ISA's Strategic Plan to the Regional Committee.

20. The Director-General thanked the Chair and briefed the Regional Committee on the developments under the Strategic Plan of the ISA. He explained the ISA's plan of addressing the priority areas of energy access, energy security and energy transition through programmatic support, analytics and advocacy initiatives, and capacity building measures. He informed the Regional Committee about reports of ISA under development, including the Ease of Doing Solar report, the flagship reports on the global solar energy sector, and the roadmap for the mobilization of USD 1,000 billion in solar energy investments by 2030. He recalled the achievements of ISA at the COP26 event held in Glasgow and explained the 'Towards 1000' advocacy strategy of ISA targeted at countries, policy makers and the private sector which highlights the targets of energy access to 1,000 million people, 1,000 GW of solar energy capacity, and mitigation of 1,000 million tonnes of carbon emissions annually.
21. Under the capacity building measures, the Director-General conveyed about the specialized training programmes of ISA which have trained more than 2,100 professionals. He informed the Regional Committee of ISA's collaboration with global training and certification agencies specialized in the field of solar energy and the ISA's Solar Technology and Application Resource Centre (STAR-C) initiative under which potential training and research centres are under discussion with 4 countries. He explained that the STAR-Cs being established by the ISA with support from the French Republic and these Centres are expected to become regional hubs for training and research on solar energy solutions.
22. The Director-General also informed the Regional Committee about the activities of ISA under its programmatic support initiatives, including the mission visits and demonstration projects undertaken by the ISA. He thanked the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for their partnership and conveyed his expectation of continued cooperation from the ADB during the implementation phase of the projects through project funding. On the demonstration projects being sponsored by ISA, he conveyed that many projects are in the procurement and implementation stage and that the detailed project reports of 25 projects have been approved and two projects have been operationalised.
23. The Director-General informed the Regional Committee on the progress of setting up

of the blended finance risk mitigation facility for the Africa region with a corpus of USD 700 million by merging various financial instruments to ensure balancing the risk on investments. He explained that the blended finance facility will provide technical assistance for creation of a pipeline of bankable projects and provide capacity building and project development support, while also lowering the risk to attract commercial capital to the region. He conveyed his expectation that following the blended finance risk mitigation facility for the Africa region, the ISA would be able to operationalise a similar facility for the Asia and the Pacific region over the next year.

24. The Director-General attributed the accelerated action under ISA's Strategic Plan to the enthusiasm and cooperation received from the member countries. He thanked the Chair and the members of the Regional Committee for the opportunity to present the update on the Strategic Plan of ISA.
25. The Chair thanked the Director-General and invited the Members of the Regional Committee to provide their comments and guidance from the perspective of the Asia and the Pacific region on the update provided by the Director-General.
26. ***The Regional Committee took note of the update on the 5-year Strategic Plan of ISA presented by the ISA Secretariat.***

Agenda Item 6. Overview of Country Partnership Framework

27. The Chair introduced the agenda item on the Country Partnership Framework and underlined the importance of such frameworks for strengthening ISA's partnerships with member countries, private sector, and International Development institutions. He invited the ISA Secretariat to present an update on the key components and activities under the Country Partnership Framework as contained in the working document ***ISA/RCAP.04/WD.05.***
28. The representative of the ISA Secretariat presented an overview of the Country Partnership Framework and its aim of bridging the gaps between ISA's programmes and initiatives, and the strategic objective of the member country. She explained that the framework would be developed through a seven-step engagement process, including country analysis, multi-stakeholder dialogue, mapping of ISA's programmes and support activities for the country and formation of a Steering Committee for the

Country Partnership Framework.

29. The Chair re-emphasized the importance of the Country Partnership Framework and invited the members of the Regional Committee and that National Focal Points (NFPs) to provide inputs and comments on the presentation by the ISA Secretariat.
30. ***The Regional Committee took note of the overview of the Country Partnership Framework presented by the ISA Secretariat.***

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

31. The Chair introduced the agenda item and stated the importance of the programmatic support activities in reduction of energy poverty and enabling just and fair transition to a clean energy future. He invited the ISA Secretariat to brief the Regional Committee on the programmatic support and technical assistance provided by ISA to its member countries with an updated as contained in the working document ***ISA/RCAP.04/WD.06.***
32. The ISA Secretariat presented an overview and progress update on the programmatic support of ISA including the advancement across each of the thematic programmes, the status of training programmes and the demand aggregated for different applications of solar energy, along with the status of the demonstration projects, capacity building initiatives and partnerships of ISA.
33. The Chair invited the Members of the Regional Committee and the NFPs to provide their feedback & inputs on the update presented by the ISA Secretariat on the Programmatic Support for its member countries, particularly from the perspective of the Asia and the Pacific region of ISA.
34. The representative of the United Arab Emirates thanked the Chair for the opportunity and the ISA Secretariat for the update on the programmes and projects of ISA. She recognized the interest expressed by the member countries in the programmes and projects of ISA and the efforts of the ISA Secretariat in its implementation. She suggested the development of a tracker for monitoring the projects with visibility over the demand, the status of projects under feasibility study and implementation stages,

- and the completed projects.
35. The Chair supported the suggestion from the representative of the United Arab Emirates for monitoring of the projects under implementation and invited the ISA Secretariat to respond to the suggestion.
 36. The Director-General thanked the representative of the United Arab Emirates for the suggestion and informed the Regional Committee that the ISA Secretariat has trackers for internal monitoring of the projects and that these will be made available to the member countries through the ISA website.
 37. The representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain reiterated the statement from the representative of the Republic of Nauru regarding the lack of land resources in many countries within the Asia and the Pacific region and presented the need for a floating solar PV system that could be deployed in marine ecosystems with high salinity. He informed the Regional Committee about Bahrain's plans for developing a 10 MW solar PV system for water bodies with Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) level up to 50,000 ppm. He invited the ISA Secretariat to consider a programme or an initiative under Programme 6 for projects of this nature. He also suggested the development of a cost index for such floating solar projects depending on the cost of solar PV panels and the structural steel used, and the scale of the project.
 38. On the invitation of the Chair, the Director-General thanked the representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain for the suggestion and informed the regional committee that the ISA Secretariat shall collate information on the possibility of setting up floating solar PV plants in the ocean. He stated that such plants may face two major issues, one being the issue of stability, and the other being the issue of corrosion. He proposed a joint initiative by the ISA and the Kingdom of Bahrain to explore the possibilities of the proposed project.
 39. The representative of the Republic of Kiribati suggested ISA to consider application of the solar PV technology to end uses like desalination, along with activities like capacity building on design, operation and maintenance of such systems. He informed that Regional Committee that the country is facing drought-like situations and similar applications of solar energy could help overcome such situations in the future.
 40. On the invitation of the Chair, the Director-General informed that the ISA Secretariat

will discuss the application of solar PV for desalination with the representative of the Republic of Kiribati along with the possibility to deploying such projects in ISA member countries.

41. The representative of Nepal informed the Regional Committee about the energy access and energy security challenges faced by the population residing in the remote high-altitude areas in the Himalayan mountains. He invited ISA to support the country in development of solar energy-based solutions, either in the form of solar home lighting systems or solar mini grids using optimal battery technologies for cold and snowy regions.
42. The representative of the Kingdom of Tonga appreciated the programme and project activities of the ISA and suggested that under its STAR-C initiative, the ISA may consider setting up its STAR Centre in the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) testing centre set up by UNIDO in the Kingdom of Tonga. He added that the PCREEE centre was set up in the year 2014 and locating the STAR-C in the same centre could be cost effective.
43. The representative of Tuvalu appreciated the efforts being put in by the ISA into its programmes and project activities. He informed the Regional Committee that the country has been facing problems with the solar panels being supplied to the country. He suggested that IAS may consider taking up initiatives on testing and certification of PV panel specifications.
44. The Chair invited the ISA Secretariat to address the comments and interventions from the representatives of Nepal, Tonga, and Tuvalu.
45. Addressing the comment from the representative of Nepal, the Director-General informed the Regional Committee that the ISA is looking forward to the Fifth Assembly where the report on battery energy storage and its linkages would be launched. He invited the Government of Nepal to collaborate with ISA on development of specifications for such off-grid systems which has the potential to benefit multiple member countries of ISA.
46. The Director-General welcomed the comment of the Republic of Tonga and informed the Regional Committee that ISA will consider working with UNIDO to upgrade the PCREEE to a STAR Centre depending on the resources available to the ISA.

47. Addressing the comment of the Kingdom of Tuvalu, the Director-General expressed the ISA's willingness to work with the country to develop solar PV specifications particular to the country. He also remarked that the specifications of solar PV panels used in the demonstration projects of ISA could be evaluated and shared with member countries where they may be suitably used.
48. The Chair thanked the ISA Secretariat for the responses and directed the Secretariat to take note of the same for further action on the same. He asked the ISA Secretariat to keep up its momentum of programmatic activities in its member countries to amplify its impact on climate change.
49. ***The Regional Committee took note of the updated provided by the ISA Secretariat on the programmatic support provide by the ISA, including the queries and comments from the Members of the Regional Committee and the responses provide by the ISA Secretariat to the same.***

Agenda Item 8. Private Sector Engagement Strategy

50. Introducing the agenda, the Chair stated that the private sector has been a driving force for the solar energy technology globally, and that in order to meet the ambitious climate targets of net-zero emissions, the private sector must be encouraged to boost investment activity, particularly in the developing countries. He invited the ISA Secretariat to brief the Regional Committee on the updates on the Private Sector Engagement Strategy approved by the Fourth Assembly of the ISA.
51. The ISA Secretariat presented the overview and the progress made under the Private Sector Engagement of the ISA as contained in the working document ***ISA/RCAP.04/WD.07*** and invited nominations from the members of the Regional Committee for private sector firms to be included the ISA's Corporate Advisory Group. He invited the member countries of ISA to the Clean Energy Ministerial for the launch of the Corporate Advisory Group and to participate in the Policy Working Groups.
52. The Chair thanked the ISA Secretariat and recognized the importance of private sector engagement to spur investments and invited the Members of the Regional Committee and the NFPs for their remarks & guidance on the update provided by the ISA Secretariat on the Private Sector Engagement Strategy. He informed the Regional

Committee about the challenges faced by the SIDS in attracting private sector to island countries and expressed his expectation that the challenge would be addressed by the private sector engagement strategy of ISA.

- 53. *The Regional Committee of the Asia and the Pacific Region noted the update on the Private Sector Engagement Strategy of ISA.***

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

54. The Chair briefed the Regional Committee on the agenda item, including the launch of the GGI-OSOWOG initiative at COP26 and its importance in geographies where opportunities for solar energy deployment is limited, yet demand for clean energy is high, and vice versa. He invited the ISA Secretariat to provide an update on the initiative for the consideration of the Regional Committee of the Asia and the Pacific Region as contained in the working document *ISA/RCAP.04/WD.08*.
55. The ISA Secretariat presented an overview of GGI-OSOWOG, and the progress registered under the initiative, including update on the technical study, consultations with stakeholders from around the world, and the next steps under the initiative. The Regional Committee was informed that the report of the First Phase of the technical study has been submitted to the Steering Committee for its approval.
56. The Chair thanked the ISA Secretariat for the update and invited comments from the Members of the Regional Committee.
57. The representative of Nepal thanked the ISA Secretariat for the update on the agenda item and stated that Nepal already has cross-border power trade arrangements with India where the country supplies its surplus generation from hydropower resources. He informed the Regional Committee that as new hydropower generation capacity gets established in Nepal with private sector investments, the need for transmission infrastructure might increase and the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) regional network would play a key role in renewable power evacuation.
58. The Chair thanked the representative of Nepal for his comments and inputs.

- 59. *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

60. The Chair emphasized on the need for a skilled workforce for large-scale development of solar energy and just transition, along with research and development, innovation, standardization, and testing activities for bringing down the costs. He invited the ISA Secretariat to brief the Regional Committee about the update on the STAR-C initiative as contained in the working document *ISA/RCAP.04/WD.09*.
61. 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 training; testing, certification, and standardization; development of knowledge centres; and innovation and incubation of enterprises. He informed the Regional Committee about the ongoing discussions with the Republic of Kiribati for setting up of a STAR-C at the Kiribati Institute of Technology along with its objectives for short, medium, and long-term future. He also informed that the ISA has received expression of interest from five other countries, of which memoranda of understanding have been signed with the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Republic of Cuba. The Regional Committee was also informed about the targets of setting up 3 STAR-Cs by early 2023 and leading up to 50 STAR-Cs by the year 2030, and the ongoing project of ISA in collaboration with the Government of France and UNIDO.
62. The Chair underlined the importance of STAR-Cs for providing training and capacity building to ISA's member countries and invited inputs and comments from the members of the Regional Committee.
- 63. *The Regional Committee took note of the updated on the Solar Technology and Application Research Centre (STAR-C) initiative presented by the ISA Secretariat.***

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

64. Introducing the agenda, the Chair mentioned that affordable finance is a prime enabler 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 from the World Resources Institute (WRI) to brief the Regional Committee on the preparation of the roadmap.
65. The representative from 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/RCAP.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 with private sector investors and project developers.
66. 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.
67. The representative of the United Arab Emirates thanked WRI for the presentation and informed the Regional Committee that the latest progress report of the G7 mentioned that more than 730 million people lack access to electricity, and more than 2.4 billion people are without access to clean cooking facilities. She also stated that only USD 10.9 billion is flowing to developing countries in the form of international finance to support access to energy. She supported the ISA's efforts on mobilization of funds as climate finance is one of the biggest challenges faced by the world.
68. The Chair thanked the World Resource Institute for the presentation on the agenda item, and the representative of the United Arab Emirates for her comments.
69. ***The Regional Committee took note of the update on the Roadmap for mobilization of USD 1 trillion in solar investments by 2030.***

Agenda Item 12. Update on ADB Technical Assistance to Six South Asian Countries

70. The Chair informed the Regional Committee that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been a trusted partner of ISA providing knowledge sharing and technical assistance to six Asian countries. He invited the representative of the ADB to brief the Regional Committee with update on the engagement with ISA and the proof-of-concept studies being undertaken for production, distribution, and utilization of green hydrogen in the region.
71. The representative of ADB informed the Regional Committee that the ADB is support ISA in six member countries for identification and development of project pipelines, including roadmaps and scoping studies; identification of innovative financing instruments like blended finance facilities involving private sector, in particular; and knowledge management and capacity building activities. He explained that despite the delay caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, activities under the ADB support are continuing, including a 100 MW solar park in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, development of solar energy roadmap in the Republic of Maldives, and scoping studies on solarization of health centres. He also mentioned the support provided by ADB to ISA in its programmes on solar e-mobility and storage, and green hydrogen.
72. The representative of ADB stated that the member countries of ISA have requested additional human resource support for the National Focal Points to coordinate with the ISA in development of the project pipeline and extending policy and regulatory support to the country. He also informed the Regional Committee about the development of country diagnostics to aid stakeholder consultations and identification of structures for financing the needs of the country. He also added that various knowledge products are under development as part of the ADB support for launch at COP27, including a blueprint on green hydrogen, and that techno-commercial studies are underway under the GGI-OSOWOG initiative where transmission masterplans for interlinkages between South Asia and Southeast Asia are being developed with the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) platform.
73. The Chair thanked the representative of ADB and invited members of the Regional Committee and the NFPs to provide their comments and feedbacks on the update presented by the ADB on the Technical Assistance to ISA member countries.

74. The representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh informed the Regional Committee about the technical mission of ISA visiting the country to discuss activities that are part of the ADB Technical Assistance programme. He stated that the technical mission will focus on the solar energy project pipeline in the country, including floating solar power plants, rooftop solar and solar energy for irrigation, along with identification of innovative financial instruments and capacity building support for the country. He also added that the members of the technical mission from ISA have met with various ministries and government agencies in Bangladesh, including the private sector organisations and the solar energy associations with whom a workshop would be organized. He thanked the ISA for the technical mission and expressed his optimism that the visit would help the country move forward on solar energy.
75. The Chair thanked the representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for his intervention and update on the ISA mission visit to the country.
76. ***The Regional Committee noted the update provided by the ADB on the technical assistance provided to the ISA member countries and the roadmap for the development of green hydrogen in the region.***

Agenda Item 13. Interventions by Member Countries

77. The Chair invited the Members of the Regional Committee of the Asia and the Pacific Region to deliver their country statements specific to the solar sector and the activities of the International Solar Alliance.
78. The representative of the United Arab Emirates thanked the Director-General and the ISA Secretariat for the update on the activities of ISA and appreciated the progress made by ISA over the past year in programmatic implementation, capacity building, and in country outreach and engagement activities. She highlighted the challenges faced by the countries due to dependence on fossil fuels and also the potential presented by renewable energy sources to stabilize energy dependencies and ensure energy security. She quoted the International Energy Agency stating that the price of solar electricity has fallen by 89 percent, and the global weighted average levelized cost of electricity from new utility-scale solar PV projects is down USD 0.48 per kWh making it the cheapest source of renewable energy. She underlined the role of large

government investments and conducive energy policies in this cost reduction, and invited public and private financing to renewable energy, clean fuels like hydrogen, and carbon capture storage and utilization solutions. She affirmed UAE's commitment as a regional champion of global energy transition, to diversifying their energy mix while also being a responsible energy provider. She conveyed the UAE's plans to invest USD 160 billion under its net zero strategy into renewable energy solutions, and that USD 40 billion has already been invested in domestic clean energy projects including solar parks with installed capacity of 2,400 MW with a targeted installed capacity of 8,500 MW by 2030. She emphasized on the role of ISA and its importance in global energy transition and attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7).

79. The representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh congratulated the Director-General and the ISA Secretariat for efforts in organizing the Regional Committee Meeting and emphasized the ISA's role during the ongoing energy crisis and other economic problems around the world. He remarked about the close relations of ISA and Bangladesh, which has been an early member, and about the ongoing mission visit of ISA for identification of potential solar interventions in Bangladesh. He conveyed his appreciation for the programmatic approach of ISA and the training sessions under various programmes. He informed the Regional Committee about the success observed by Bangladesh under the leadership of H.E. Ms. Sheikh Hasina as the country graduates from a least development country to a developing country, with aspirations of becoming a developed country by 2041. He added that Bangladesh has achieved universal electricity access through innovative solutions including 6 million solar home lighting systems and 27 solar mini grids program with a cumulative capacity of 5.6 MW. He also added that 8 utility-scale solar power plants with a cumulative capacity of 231 MW have been operationalized, 27 solar energy projects with a cumulative capacity of 1.25 GW are under construction, and 31 additional projects with a total capacity of 2.7 GW are being planned in the country. He stated that Bangladesh is prioritizing floating solar and rooftop solar installations due to shortage of land resources, and that net metering guidelines are being implemented to support these projects. He invited collaborations in research and development activities to overcome the challenge of high upfront cost which could benefit various member countries of ISA and invited the ISA to facilitate cooperation and transfer of knowledge on the same.

80. The representative of the Commonwealth of Australia acknowledged the traditional owners of the land and conveyed her honor for their elders, past, present, and emerging. She informed the Regional Committee about the change in government in Australia, with H.E. Mr. Anthony Albanese as the Prime Minister and H.E. Mr. Chris Bowen as the Minister for Climate Change and Energy. She added that the Australian Government has increased their nationally determined contribution to 45 percent below 2005 levels by 2030, and attainment of net zero emissions by 2050. She added that the country's policies target procurement of 82 percent of electricity from renewable energy sources, which will mobilise AUD 67 billion in investments and create 604,000 jobs. She mentioned that the plan also includes AUD 20 billion investment in renewable energy, upgrading electricity grid and investment of AUD 100 million in community solar and battery banks. She informed the Regional Committee about the plans of the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) to transform and modernize the electricity grid between 2022 and 2050 to facilitate the doubling of energy consumption to 330 TWh with demand from transportation, heating, cooking, and industrial process which get electrified. She added that Australia will increase grid-scale wind and solar energy installations from 16 GW to 141 GW, with solar PV increasing from 15 GW to 69 GW. She reaffirmed Australia's commitment of sharing solar energy expertise and lessons learned with ISA member countries. She conveyed Australia's pleasure in having welcomed ISA's delegation at the Sydney Energy Forum, and the meeting of the Director-General with Ms. Jo Evans, Deputy Secretary, Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water. She welcomed the joint workplan signed by ISA with International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and congratulated the ISA on the progress under its five-year strategic plan. She conveyed Australia's contributions to the ISA, including AUD 1 million contribution to the ISA's corpus fund, AUD 92,000 contribution under the ISA CARES programme for solarization of a health centre in Tonga, and an officer on secondment to the ISA Secretariat. She conveyed the expectation of Australia of working together with ISA using the country's experience in installation of mini grids in the Pacific Island countries and its university programmes for addressing energy needs with solar solutions.
81. The representative of the Kingdom of Tonga conveyed his pleasure in having noted the updates on the activities of ISA and thanked the ISA Secretariat for organizing the

Regional Committee Meeting. He informed the Regional Committee about the close relations of the Kingdom of Tonga with ISA and that the country has nominated candidates for all ISA training programmes. He conveyed the Kingdom of Tonga's plans of achieving 50 percent of its energy requirements through renewable energy solutions by 2025. He congratulated the Director-General for the progress on the ISA's five-year strategic plan and appreciated the detailed update provided by the ISA Secretariat on its programmatic support activities. He thanked the ISA for funding the demonstration project in the country and all other LDCs and SIDS and appreciated the receptiveness and helpfulness of the ISA Secretariat. He suggested that ISA extend a grant for floating solar power projects in a similar fashion as the demonstration projects which could help in areas where land resources are limited. He conveyed his appreciation for the ISA for being a platform for exchange of knowledge on solarizing small island countries.

82. 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. He encouraged all member countries to work closely with the ISA Secretariat to develop the suggestions into actionable guidance for ISA.

Agenda Item 14. Preparations for the Fifth Regional Committee Meeting for the Asia and Pacific Region

83. 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 Asia and the Pacific Region.
84. The Director-General, on behalf of the ISA Secretariat, proposed holding the Fifth Regional Committee Meeting for Asia and the Pacific Region during the week starting on 17 July 2023. He added that with the proposed date, the ISA Secretariat will be able to conveniently schedule other governance meetings, such as the other Regional Committee Meetings and the Meetings of the Standing Committee of ISA. He invited the members of the Regional Committee to provide guidance on whether the Meeting could be held in-person and the location for the meeting.
85. The representative of the United Arab Emirates appreciated the fixing of dates for the

next Regional Committee Meeting in advance and welcomed the opportunity to host the meeting in Abu Dhabi. She proposed further meetings be held during the Fifth Assembly of ISA to discuss the logistics and an event for announcing the Fifth Regional Committee Meeting for the Asia and the Pacific region of ISA.

86. The Director-General welcomed the proposition of hosting the Fifth Regional Committee Meeting in Abu Dhabi, and of the bilateral meeting during the Fifth Assembly of ISA for finalizing the details and establishing a schedule.
87. ***The Regional Committee endorsed the tentative dates proposed by the ISA Secretariat i.e., the week starting 17 July 2023, and Abu Dhabi as the tentative venue as suggested by the representative of the United Arab Emirates.***

Agenda Item 15. Any other business

88. The Chair invited the Members of the Regional Committee to raise any other matter of importance for the consideration of the Regional Committee or the General Assembly of the ISA.
89. The representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia congratulated the ISA Secretariat on the work being done at the ISA, and extended the country's cooperation for strengthening of engagement with the ISA. He conveyed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's expectation of engaging further with the ISA at COP27 and sought ways in which this could be achieved.
90. The Director-General conveyed that the ISA Secretariat looked forward to engaging with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at COP27.

Agenda Item 16. Closing of the meeting

91. The Chair congratulated the ISA Secretariat for facilitating an effective regional engagement under the governance mechanisms provided for by the Framework Agreement of the ISA and the Rules of Procedure of the ISA Assembly. He stated that he looked forward to enhancing regional engagements in the future for discussions on the substantive agenda items. The Chair thanked the NFPs from the Asia and the

Pacific region of the ISA for their cooperation with the Secretariat on its initiatives.

92. The Chair stated that the Fourth Regional Committee Meeting of the Asia and the Pacific region has been productive, and that the matters discussed are expected to shape the future of solar energy section in most parts of the world. He conveyed that the members look forward to the Fifth Assembly of ISA where they could empower the ISA with the tools and mechanisms required for developing vibrant solar energy ecosystems for a sustainable world of the future.
93. The Chair closed the meeting by expressing his pleasure in having chaired the Regional Committee Meeting, and by thanking the members and the ISA Secretariat.
