
Fourth Regional Committee Meeting for the Latin America and the Caribbean Region
Georgetown, Guyana
4 August 2022

28 September 2022

**Report of the
Fourth Meeting of the Regional Committee
for the Latin America and the Caribbean Region
of the International Solar Alliance**

Summary

The document presents the report of the Fourth Meeting of the Regional Committee for the Latin America and the Caribbean region of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)

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Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

1. Hon'ble Minister within the Ministry of Public Works of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, H.E. Deodat Indar, opened the meeting as the Chair for the Fourth Meeting of the Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean region.
2. The Chair welcomed H.E. Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, and H.E. Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, Prime Minister of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, for their presence at the Fourth Meeting of the Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Chair welcomed all the members to the Fourth Meeting of the Regional Committee for the Latin America and Caribbean region of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). The Chair also welcomed the Director General of ISA, Members of the Cabinet of the Government of Guyana, and Members of the Diplomatic Corps to the meeting.
3. The Chair mentioned several renewable energy initiatives that had been undertaken at the national level by the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and being at the forefront in supporting renewable energy resources for sustainable development given its Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS), which now included a fourth objective addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as has been highlighted by the promotional video played during the opening session of the meeting
4. The Chair welcomed and congratulated the ISA Secretariat for their initiative towards achieving the plans approved at the last General Assembly of the ISA and enhancing the regional consultations and aligning the ISA's strategic objective with its members' regional priorities. The Chair also commended the member states for their continued efforts in fulfilling the mandate of the ISA.
5. The Chair invited the Director General of ISA to deliver his statement to the Regional

Committee.

6. The Director General welcomed everyone to the Meeting and stressed the significance of the Meeting given that the ISA was hosting its first Regional Committee meeting in person after a hiatus on account of the devastating COVID-19 pandemic. He expressed his pleasure to meet everyone face-to-face after having seen them virtually on multiple occasions.
7. The Director General highlighted the importance of the Latin America and Caribbean region and the crucial role it is playing in the fight against climate change with countries like Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and El Salvador that had been identified as Achievers in the ISA's Ease of Doing Solar index, and to countries like Barbados, Cuba, Guyana, Jamaica, Nicaragua, and Peru which had been rising rapidly towards the Achiever status. He articulated that the growth of solar adoption in the region has increased by 44% in 2021, which represented a much sharper growth than in the previous years, i.e., 15% in 2019 and 26% in 2020. He also commended the region's large-scale efforts to produce green hydrogen using solar energy, and its push for distributed solar energy systems for remote and off-grid solutions, which was catalyzed by the enabling regulatory and policy environments in the countries which were positive and progressive.
8. The Director General expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Guyana for being gracious hosts of the Meeting of the ISA Regional Committee and acknowledged, in particular, His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana; Hon. Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, Prime Minister of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana; Hon. Deodat Indar, Minister within the Ministry of Public Works; and Dr. Mahender Sharma, Guyana's National Focal Point to the ISA.
9. The Director General emphasized that ISA also shares the same passion as that of the member countries in the region, to reduce and reverse, where possible and practicable, the adverse effects caused by climate change, while ensuring that development efforts were not stymied. He further stated that for this end, ISA aspired to become the go-to platform that brought together resources from around the world to surgically target the challenges faced by Member Countries in the deployment of solar energy solutions.

10. The Director General further mentioned the ISA's initiatives planned for the member countries within the LAC region and expressed the desire for these initiatives to identify the needs and mobilize the investments required for all the member countries; along with Country Partnership Framework and Private Sector Engagement strategy, these initiatives also included the Solar Technology and Application Resource Centre (STAR-Cs) intending to become a Center of Excellence extending not only technical support but also, support in form of training initiatives, testing and standardization services, enabling research and development to all Member Countries in the region.
11. The Director General also stressed the importance of the participation of all the Member Countries in forums such as the meetings of the Regional Committees, the Standing Committee, and the ISA Assembly and highlighted the importance of their guidance and advice in helping ISA to refine its efforts as it continued to conceptualize and further develop initiatives.
12. The Chair thanked the Director General of ISA for his address to the committee and appreciated the message delivered by him.
13. The Chair invited the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips to deliver his statement to the Regional Committee.
14. The Hon'ble Prime Minister extended a hearty welcome to everyone, including the representatives of member countries as well as the ISA Secretariat. He expressed his desire that the meeting would facilitate dialogue among the Member States and with the ISA Secretariat as it would allow for the review and coordination of strategic priorities and initiatives on solar energy development according to the goals of the ISA. In this regard, he stressed that inputs from the delegates would help to shape the regional agenda for clean energy transitions, particularly for the uptake of solar energy technologies. Conscious that ISA had been and would continue to be impactful in the region because it was action-oriented, member-driven, and collaborative, he expressed gratitude for the Forum where ideas and experiences could be shared.
15. The Hon'ble Prime Minister acknowledged the existence of the ISA and highlighted the importance of vital strategic alliances for the increased deployment of solar energy technologies, as outlined in the ISA's mandate. He noted that such

partnerships had a direct nexus with the implementation of multilateral commitments and agreements that would drive Member Countries toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goal of “access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”.

16. The Hon’ble Prime Minister stressed that such platforms like the Regional Committee were welcomed since they facilitated a convergence of policymakers and big thinkers who, together, would develop innovative solutions through knowledge and creativity, both of which could be considered key drivers of economic growth.
17. The Hon’ble Prime Minister confirmed that Guyana had benefited from the ISA’s cooperation assistance in the areas of technical cooperation and grant assistance and pointed out that the Government of Guyana looked forward to opportunities for greater collaboration as the country embarked on a tremendous transformation of its energy sector. He reminded the Regional Committee that under its Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030, Guyana would undertake an approach of decoupling economic growth from fossil fuel use in power generation by developing renewable and clean energy resources to meet the increasing electricity demand and maintain low greenhouse gas emissions through investments in solar PV systems for off-grid areas, the expansion of the Hinterland Electrification Programme. Cognizant that Guyana was made rich by the sunshine, he assured that with adequate and timely technical and financial support for the development and execution of solar technology projects, Guyana would be able to contribute to universal energy access, address energy security needs, and advance climate change mitigation efforts.
18. The Hon’ble Prime Minister reiterated Guyana’s readiness to engage and work with the fellow ISA Member States as well as the ISA Secretariat to realize the ISA’s goals of increasing the deployment of solar energy technologies while contributing to universal energy access, promoting energy security, and supporting low-carbon energy transitions.
19. The Chair thanked Hon’ble Prime Minister of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana Brigadier (Ret’d) Mark Phillips for his address to the committee and appreciated the important message delivered by him.
20. The Chair invited the His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to deliver his keynote address to the Regional

Committee.

21. The Hon'ble President welcomed everyone to the Fourth Regional Committee Meeting and Guyana. He urged the Member Countries present to advance the holistic discussion during the meeting towards finding sustainable solutions for energy transition, as the world is in transition and there is a gap that needs to be filled.
22. Echoing the sentiments expressed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister regarding the LCDS 2030, the Hon'ble President noted that using the LCDS 2030 Guyana would create a model for avoiding deforestation and maintaining forests, while at the same time growing the economy and keeping energy emissions flat through various interventions as planned.
23. The Hon'ble President confirmed that the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) region was moving in the same direction in responding to the climate crisis in a resilient manner. He indicated that the CARICOM region represented an opportunity for the establishment of a renewable energy hub. He acknowledged and commended the multisectoral approach being utilized and called for a frank and open dialogue that was realistic in outlook.
24. The Hon'ble President highlighted that the sustainable market opportunities / potential within the region stood at USD 16 billion and it would take USD 11 billion over the next decade to unlock the region's potential. Therefore, he stressed the need for investment and finding sustainable financing options for the adoption of renewable energy.
25. The Hon'ble President further mentioned CARICOM region has committed to 47 percent of its power coming from RE sources including solar, wind, biomass, and hydrogen.
26. Recognizing that hydrogen was the future for renewable energy, the Hon'ble President also urged the members of the Committee to consider developing a strategy to include hydrogen. He noted that solar energy was still a viable short-term renewable energy solution.
27. In examining the true renewable energy potential of the region, the Hon'ble President pointed out that natural gas, as a cleaner fossil fuel source, was considered to have a significant role as a transition or bridge fuel. He stated that Guyana and the rest of the

region were pursuing an energy path that sought to balance their newfound natural resource of oil and gas, without harming their credentials on the environment and climate change. Thus, he stressed that consideration must be given to mobilizing resources to support the transition and mechanisms must be developed to access such resources.

28. As a way ahead, the Hon'ble President encouraged the Members of the Regional Committee to discuss and identify solutions for the affordability and economic models behind the adoption of renewable energy as well as implications of the same.
29. The Hon'ble President appreciated the platform which ISA and its Regional Committee for bringing together all policymakers to discuss and identify solutions to the challenges being faced.
30. The Hon'ble President concluded by urging the Members of the Meeting to consider the environment in which the region operated and encouraged delegates to also consider the realities of the region in which the Meeting was being held. He beseeched the Members of the Meeting to formulate solutions that were practical and implementable and situated within regional frameworks.
31. The Chair thanked H.E. Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, the Hon'ble President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, for his address to the committee and appreciated the important and powerful message delivered as well as the key questions and discussion points raised by him.
32. The Chair commended the Government of Barbados for its Solar House Project which would create greater awareness of renewable energy and the benefits of using various energy conservation technologies for enhanced energy efficiency. He also commended the Government of Guyana and other Member Countries for implementing renewable energy initiatives.
33. The Chair expressed gratitude for the support received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, especially the Protocol department. He also expressed gratitude to the Guyana Energy Agency for the support provided for the meeting.
34. The Chair welcomed once again all the delegates present physically as well as online to Fourth Regional Committee Meeting for ISA.

Agenda Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

35. The Chair invited the Committee to consider and adopt the agenda, contained in the Working Document *ISA/RCLAC.04/WD.01*, for the Fourth Meeting of the Regional Committee for the Latin America and Caribbean Region.
36. ***The Committee adopted the agenda, contained in the Working Document for the Fourth Meeting of the Regional Committee for the Latin America and Caribbean Region.***

Agenda Item 3. Procedure for selection of Vice-Chair

37. The Chair stated that the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committees, contained in Annex III of the Rules of Procedure of the ISA Assembly, mandate the Regional Committee to elect a Member of the Committee, other than the Regional Vice-Presidents, as the Vice-Chair for the Regional Committee for a tenure of One-Year.
38. The Chair noted that the third meeting of the Regional Committee for the Asia and Pacific region mandated ISA Secretariat to develop and implement the Procedure for the election of the vice-chair of the regional committees. He further apprised the committee member that under the mandate, the ISA secretariat has proposed an amendment for the election of the vice-chair.
39. The Chair noted that the ISA Secretariat had circulated the Working Document *ISA/RCLAC.04/WD.03* which explains in detail the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the ISA Assembly on the selection of Vice-Chair.
40. The Chair invited the Committee to consider the proposed amendments and provide their comments as the ISA Secretariat readies the amendments to be presented before the Standing Committee of the ISA for their recommendation and thereafter put it forward to the fifth Assembly of the ISA for approval.
41. ***The Chair suggested ISA Secretariat propose the amendments before the Standing Committee of the ISA for their recommendation and thereafter put it forward to the fifth Assembly of the ISA for approval.***

Agenda Item 4. Action Taken Report of the third Regional Committee Meeting for the Latin America and Caribbean Region of the International Solar Alliance

42. The Chair noted and apprised the committee members that the Action Taken Report of the Third Meeting of the Regional Committee for the Latin America and Caribbean Region, as contained in the Working Document *ISA/RCLAC.04/WD.04*, presents the report of the action taken by the ISA Secretariat in the realization of the recommendations of the Third Meeting of the Regional Committee for the consideration of the Regional Committee for the Latin America and Caribbean Region of the International Solar Alliance. The working document details the four items being considered and are completed with the implementation of recommendations in the process.
43. The Chair commended the work done by the ISA Secretariat in putting into action the recommendation provided during the last meeting of this Regional Committee.
44. The Chair invited the esteemed members of this Committee to consider the Action Taken Report prepared by the ISA Secretariat and urged the members to provide their comments and feedback to the ISA Secretariat by 18 August 2022 to ensure their inputs are considered and incorporated into the report which needs to be submitted one month before the Assembly meeting scheduled in October 2022.
45. ***The Regional Committee of the Latin America and the Caribbean region took note of the action taken report of its last meeting.***

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

46. The Chair apprised the committee member that the five-year Strategic Plan was approved by the Fourth Assembly of the ISA as a comprehensive action plan for working towards the achievement of ISA's mandates laid down under the Framework Agreement.
47. The Chair invited the Director-General to present an overview of the Strategic Plan of the ISA for the next five years.
48. The Director-General thanked the Hon'ble Chair and all the members of the

Committee at the meeting.

49. The Director-General apprised 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. Acting on the Strategic Plan, 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 - programmatic support for LDC and SIDS member countries, Capacity Building support to all developing member countries, and Analytics & Advocacy support to all member countries.
50. The Director General apprised the Committee of the work carried out to date while executing the Strategic Plan:
 - i. Under analytics and advocacy, along with the Ease of Doing Solar (EoDS) report, the ISA Secretariat is developing 3 flagship reports on solar focusing on technology, markets, and investment as the go-to resource for any information on the global solar energy sector. The Secretariat is also working closely with the World Resource Institute (WRI) to continue to develop its Roadmap for mobilizing USD 1,000 billion in solar investments in ISA Member countries by 2030.
 - ii. On the advocacy front, the event held in Glasgow in the margins of COP26 had 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 toward a solar-led energy transition. While leveraging the advocacy efforts under ISA's "Towards 1000" banner, the Secretariat is also developing a global advocacy strategy that would 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.
 - iii. Under the ecosystem readiness and capacity-building initiatives, the Secretariat trained more than 2,100 people to date from developing countries around the world. To ensure the quality and relevance of its training, ISA Secretariat is working towards collaborating with training and skill development agencies from around the globe that specialize in solar energy. Under ISA's STAR-C initiatives, centers would be developed which would become the hub for training and research on solar energy solutions with a regional focus.

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- iv. Under its programmatic support initiative, the ISA had been proactively communicating with the member countries. Projects under the demonstration projects initiative have advanced to the implementation stage, in many countries, with procurement activities having been initiated by the project management consultants.
 - v. The Blended Finance Risk Mitigation Facility that the ISA had been developing for funding solar energy projects in the ISA member countries is another substantial piece of work carried out under the Strategic Plan. Once fully funded, the blended finance mechanism would be ready to invest its corpus of USD 700 million in qualifying projects from initially Africa and later in Latin America and the Caribbean region to help scale up solar solutions in the regions and mobilize required investment for the said purpose.
51. The Director General mentioned that a large contributor to the accelerated work being done under the Strategic Plan could be attributed to the enthusiasm and cooperation that the ISA Secretariat had been receiving from the member countries, particularly from the developing and under-developed countries.
 52. The Chair thanked the Director-General for presenting the overview of the ISA's 5-year Strategic plan.
 53. The Chair invited the Committee Members and NFPs present to kindly provide their comments on the progress registered by the ISA under the Strategic Plan.
 54. The representative of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, commended ISA for its progress on the five-year strategic plan. He also stressed that financing for Small Island Development States (SIDS) remained a challenge and that many SIDS struggled to secure financing to implement projects as support from the Private Sector was not guaranteed. He urged member countries to share suggestions concerning accessing finance to implement projects. He further stressed the importance of affordability in deploying solar energy technology and the importance of situating recommended models within the local context.
 55. The Chair thanked the representative of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for their comments.
 56. The representative of Barbados informed the Committee that Barbados' solar energy

sector was largely Private Sector driven. He stated that to achieve the total renewable energy potential by 2030, efforts must be made to attract the private sector through the sharing of bankable investment projects by aiming to make and reduce the input needed to bring solar products to the end stage. He seconded the point raised by the representative of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the importance of affordability in deploying solar energy technology and situating recommended models within the local context.

57. The Chair thanked the representative of Barbados for their comments.
58. The representative of Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela shared some experiences from Venezuela and highlighted the challenges faced with the adoption of solar energy deployment in Venezuela, especially in showcasing bankable projects, raising necessary finances or investments for the solar energy adoption in the country, integrating solar which is a variable source of power to the grid.
59. The Chair thanked the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for their comments and responded to the challenges mentioned by highlighting that one can learn from one another, especially within the region, wherein some countries have been able to tackle some challenges. The Chair also requested Director-General for ISA's interventions by undertaking necessary training to help the member countries overcome these challenges.
60. The representative of the Republic of Suriname shared some experiences from Suriname and highlighted the benefits and challenges of solar energy deployment in Suriname, especially in its efforts to supply remote communities with access to power. She underscored the importance of planning and diversifying to respond to the needs, especially given the climate crisis.
61. The representative of Haiti informed the meeting that solar power was relatively new to Haiti and highlighted the need for financing to advance Haiti's sustainable renewable energy thrust. The Haitian Private Sector representatives expressed interest in aiding their clients and inquired about ISA's support to access funds or subsidies. He also expressed interest in receiving technical assistance to build capacity to support solar development in the country.
62. The Chair thanked the representative of Haiti for their comments.

63. The Chair stressed that Latin America and Caribbean members relied heavily on fossils to generate power, thus the region was not competitive while aiming to export products and ensure economic growth. He further stressed that access to renewable energy options and the opportunity to supply power to the grid would reduce costs and benefit citizens and the overall economy.
64. The Chair called on ISA to support the access to global funds by its member countries to advance solar energy initiatives & urged a coalition to formulate a strategy or develop an initiative to advance bankable projects to address the identified gaps.
65. ***The Regional Committee of the Latin America and the Caribbean region took note of the update presented by the Director-General on the five-year Strategic Plan of ISA.***

Agenda Item 6. Overview of Country Partnership Framework

66. The Chair noted that Country Partnership Framework was approved by the Fourth Assembly of the ISA as a comprehensive action plan for working towards the achievement of ISA's mandates laid down under the Framework Agreement.
67. The Chair invited the ISA Secretariat to present an overview of the Country Partnership Framework.
68. In appraising the Regional Committee on the key components of the Country Partnership Frameworks (CPF), the ISA Secretariat outlined the objectives of the strategy which were to guide the country-level engagement of ISA and serve as a planning and programming document for the deployment of solar and its upscaling within a country. The Secretariat explained the approach used under the Framework included moving away from present individual programme-based engagement to a more holistic engagement, by aligning with country requirements and plans and the initiatives being country-driven and owned, thus allowing multi-stakeholder engagement. The Secretariat outlined the seven phases for the implementation of the Framework including preparation of a solar roadmap, undertaking dialogue, mapping with ISA Secretariat Programmes, developing a country partnership strategy, establishing a steering committee, the roll-out of the country partnership strategy developed and lastly ensuring monitoring and evaluation.

69. Recognizing the framework was still a work in progress, the Secretariat mentioned that it is receiving support from UNDP to finalize the framework. The Secretariat further outlined the next steps would include consultations of the ISA Secretariat with National Focal Points and other stakeholders and finally putting it forward to the ISA Assembly for their approval.
70. The Chair noted the informative presentation put forward by the ISA Secretariat and recommended that the presentation be shared with all delegates.
71. The Chair reiterated that access to low-cost financing and its flow into member countries remained high on the Committee's agenda.
72. Recognizing the need for tangible/demonstratable projects, the Director General informed the Committee that ISA Secretariat was in contact with philanthropic organizations which would make funds available to design projects for funding. The Director General reaffirmed the ISA Secretariat's commitment to working with member countries to find an investment with reasonable rates.
73. The Director-General confirmed that while the Framework might change depending upon operational experiences, the Monitoring and Evaluation Policy would be submitted to the Fifth Assembly meeting for approval.
74. ***The Regional Committee of the Latin America and the Caribbean region took note of the update on the country partnership framework.***

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

75. The Chair noted that the ISA Secretariat has been providing programmatic support to member countries for reducing energy poverty through the promotion of various solar energy solutions.
76. The Chair invited the ISA Secretariat to provide an update on programmatic support to the ISA Member Countries.
77. The ISA Secretariat presented the overview and progress on the programmatic support encompassing the advancement across each of the thematic programmes,

along with the status of the demonstration projects, on solar technology adoption under the support of the member countries.

78. The Chair thanked the ISA Secretariat for the detailed presentation and invited the Hon'ble Members and NFPs for their remarks & guidance on the ISA Secretariat's Programmatic Support for the member countries.
79. The representative of the Republic of Chile expressed gratitude for the ISA Secretariat's efforts in providing programmatic support to member countries. He shared Chile's experience with renewables and indicated that solar initiatives were largely public-private partnerships with private capital funding most investments. He further mentioned that it is expected that by the end of 2022, solar power would surpass and become the number one energy source in the country. He confirmed that Chile was using solar to power its public transit system, and it was a model that other countries could explore.
80. The Chair thanked the representative of the Republic of Chile for their comments.
81. The representative of Grenada, informed the Regional Committee that Grenada, a tropical island with 90 percent of sunshine, is ideal for solar energy projects. She further mentioned that Grenada would like to engage ISA to develop Grenada's capacity in solar since the government had committed and placed high strategic importance on renewable energy. She emphasized that transitioning to renewable energy would be held to several sectors in Grenada, including health and education, and it would significantly reduce the cost of energy, and at the same time, reduce emissions.
82. The Chair thanked the representative of Grenada for their comments.
83. The representative of Barbados encouraged the Committee to consider thermal solar options in their energy mix. He urged the Committee to consider the use of solar and other renewable energy options to power transportation like Chile and not restrict its use to industry and residents.
84. The Chair thanked the representative of Barbados for their comments.
85. ***The Regional Committee took note of the update presented by the ISA Secretariat and directed it to take note of the comments and suggestions by the Committee***

Members requesting programmatic support.

Agenda Item 8. Private Sector Engagement Strategy

86. The Chair noted that most of the solar investments in ISA member nations have come from the private sector, which has been a significant driving force for the technology globally. He further added that to meet the ambitious climate targets of Net Zero emissions, the private sector must be encouraged to boost investment activity, particularly in developing countries around the world.
87. The Chair noted and apprised the committee members that the Private Sector Engagement Strategy, as contained in the Working Document ***ISA/RCLAC.04/WD.07***, presents the strategy being devised by the ISA aimed at the mobilization of USD 1 trillion for solar energy by 2030.
88. The Chair invited the ISA Secretariat to kindly brief the Committee on ISA's Private Sector Engagement (PSE) strategy for the ISA Member Countries.
89. The ISA Secretariat presented the overview of the progress made under the Private Sector Engagement by the ISA for delivering on the global agenda to resist climate change and its goal of mobilizing USD 1 trillion for solar by 2030. The ISA Secretariat also mentioned that the PSE Strategy is based on private sector needs, whitespaces in development efforts, and ISA core competencies and would engage with private stakeholders in three main areas, i.e., developers, financial institutions, and manufacturers. Given that the private sector players cited the unclear, uncertain, and non-standardized policy as the biggest bottleneck, the ISA Secretariat indicated that ISA was best positioned to support policymakers with their capacity-building needs.
90. The ISA Secretariat further mentioned that a Corporate Advisory Group is being formed and will be launched in September 2022. For the same, the ISA Secretariat invited nominations, if any, from the Member Countries.
91. The Chair recognized the importance of the Private sector engagement to spur investments and scale up solar technologies and thanked the ISA Secretariat for the initiatives undertaken concerning engagement with the private sector.
92. The Chair mentioned that Dr. Ashni Singh, Senior Minister in the Office of the

President of Guyana with responsibility for Finance, would participate in an investment forum to examine opportunities for solar and other renewable energy options.

93. The Chair invited the Hon'ble Members and NFPs for their remarks & guidance on the ISA Secretariat's Private Sector Engagement Strategy.
94. The representative of Barbados requested more information and a framework on leveraging carbon credits for accessing finances. He highlighted that they faced challenges in adopting a pathway for leveraging carbon credits to access financing.
95. The ISA Secretariat mentioned that they are in the process of identifying pathways for leveraging carbon credits. It was further mentioned that ISA Secretariat is engaging with some firms that would bare upfront costs associated with the logistics of buying carbon credits. The ISA Secretariat stated that it will share any successful experience identified through discussions with its member countries.
96. The Chair indicated that the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, like Barbados, also intends to harness its carbon credit potential to access finance.
97. Given the depth of the ISA presentation, the Chair suggested that delegates be given additional time to reflect on the contents of the presentation and the PSE Strategy presented.

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

98. The Chair conveyed that at COP26, the Green Grids Initiative - One Sun, One World, One Grid Initiative (GGI-OSOWOG Initiative) was launched by Hon. Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, and the, then, Hon'ble Prime Minister of United Kingdom, the Rt Hon Boris Johnson, during the 'Accelerating Innovation and Clean Technology Deployment' event at the World Leaders Summit held on 2 November 2021.
99. The Chair invited the ISA Secretariat to provide the committee members and NFPs with a brief overview of the progress under the GGI-OSOWOG initiative.
100. The ISA Secretariat presented the overview and progress on the OSOWOG

encompassing the conceptual background, phase-wise implementation roadmap, and status as well as future deliverables under the initiative.

101. The Chair thanked the ISA Secretariat for the update and invited comments from the Members of the Committee.
102. The Chair thanked the ISA Secretariat and looked forward to the advanced efforts for the operationalization of the GGI-OSOWOG initiative.
103. ***The Regional Committee took note of the update on the Green Grids Initiative – One Sun One World One Grid initiative.***

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

104. The Chair emphasized the importance of ISA's efforts in developing a competent workforce for large-scale deployment of solar energy applications for a just and green energy transition as research, development, innovation, standardization, and testing in solar energy are imperative for the sector to grow and drive costs down.
105. The Chair invited the ISA Secretariat to provide the committee members and NFPs with a brief overview of the progress under the STAR-C initiative.
106. The ISA Secretariat updated committee members on the ISA's Solar Technology and Application Resource Centre (STAR-C) Initiative, which aims to assist developing nation ISA members with high potential for solar technology implementation by focusing on three primary areas:
 - i. Creating and reinforcing ecosystems for solar energy deployment at a national and regional level:
 - ii. Training and skills development:
 - iii. Implementing a global network of knowledge and expertise being utilized for solar energy deployment in ISA Members.
107. The Chair thanked the ISA Secretariat and request the Hon'ble Members and NFPs for their remarks & guidance on the ISA's STAR-C initiative and the activities being

- undertaken as part of this initiative.
108. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressed gratitude to ISA for having conceptualized the STAR-C initiative and raised the query on the nature of training programmes conducted by the STAR-C centers, i.e., whether they undertake university-level programmes.
 109. The Chair invited the ISA Secretariat to address the queries raised.
 110. Addressing the query raised by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Director General apprised the committee members that the STAR-C initiative is aimed at three goals, i.e., help identify and provide short-term training programmes on key issues hindering the development of solar energy projects, working with country and region in identify knowledge gaps, provide facility for testing and certification of solar project equipment, especially modules and panels. The Director General expressed that ISA Secretariat would be happy to explore Venezuela its university's needs and to determine whether it would be a place where a STAR Center could be located.
 111. The Chair thanked the ISA Secretariat for the update provided on the STAR-C initiative.
 112. ***The Regional Committee of the Latin America and the Caribbean region took note of the update on the STAR-C initiative of the ISA.***

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

113. The Chair indicated that affordable finance is a prime enabler of low-cost solar energy across ISA Member Countries. He further noted that the Framework Agreement of the ISA and the Paris Declaration, establishing the ISA, mandate the ISA to facilitate mobilization of more than USD 1 Trillion by 2030. He further apprised the committee that ISA Secretariat, in partnership with World Resources Institute (WRI), is developing a roadmap for mobilization of USD 1 Trillion in solar investments by 2030 that is expected to be launched at COP 27 to be held at Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in November 2022.
114. The Chair requested the World Resource Institute (WRI) to kindly brief the Committee

- on Roadmap for mobilization of USD 1 trillion in solar investments by 2030.
115. WRI presented a brief update on the Solar Investment Action Agenda comprising high-impact investment pathways to guide decision-makers and the Solar Investment Roadmap for mobilization of USD 1 Trillion by 2030. WRI presented the phase-wise implementation plan and expected deliverables along with timelines.
 116. The Chair invited the Hon'ble Members for their comments on the Roadmap for mobilization of USD 1 Trillion in solar investments by 2030.
 117. The Chair thanked the World Resource Institute for their support.
 118. ***The members of the Regional Committee took note of the update on the Roadmap for mobilization of USD 1 trillion in solar investments by 2030 as presented by WRI.***

Agenda Item 12. Interventions by Member Countries

119. The Chair invited the Hon'ble Members of the Regional Committee for the Latin America and Caribbean Region to deliver their country statements specific to the solar sector and the activities of the International Solar Alliance.
120. The representative of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Guyana for the excellent arrangements that were put in place for the Meeting. He urged that the momentum established at the Meeting be sustained. He urged the ISA to remember the LAC region and pointed out that the presence of member countries from the LAC region signaled the importance they placed on the meeting and the operations of the ISA. Cognizant that renewables were the future, he underscored the importance of financing, acknowledged the challenges of mobilizing same, and urged that models be considered with a view to finding an appropriate model for the LAC region. He pointed out the need for a strong voice to access finance and suggested that the CARICOM, Latin America, and African regions combined their voices, which would cause the developed world to take the LAC region more seriously which would increase its chances of accessing needed finance with real projects. He indicated that Guyana was playing a leadership role in the process and reaffirmed Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to playing its part in the process.
121. The representative of Barbados urged member countries to consider and use different

types of energy as energy was always in transition. He acknowledged the challenges associated with finding the right energy mix, as well as the difficulties associated with accessing the needed resources. He stressed that no government could facilitate the use of renewable energy on its own and, thus, there is a need to ignite the imagination of the private sector. The private sector would have to lead the innovation. He explained that while governments experience implementation deficits, the situation was different for the private sector. There was also a need for support from the average person. He noted that while the ISA and the region are moving in the right direction, there was more work to be done.

122. The representative of the Argentine Republic mentioned that there were some recent changes in the governance structure, and she could not say much at this time. Nevertheless, the delegation took note of the discussions and outcomes of the meeting and would provide feedback later.
123. The representative of Haiti expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Guyana for the excellent arrangements that were put in place for the Meeting. He pointed out that the Meeting provided opportunities to learn and to seek out areas of collaboration to support the future development of Haiti. He reiterated Haiti's commitment to the process, as well as the Private Sector's involvement and role in unlocking the necessary capital to make greater solar use a reality.
124. The representative of the United Mexican States expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Guyana and ISA for the excellent arrangements that were put in place for the Meeting. He expressed gratitude for the invitation to the meeting. He requested that the meeting documents and presentations be shared with the delegates and committed to sharing the information received with the relevant stakeholders in Mexico.
125. The representative of the Republic of Suriname expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Guyana and ISA for the excellent arrangements that were put in place for the Meeting. She explained that Suriname was currently involved in several Renewable Energy Projects, particularly for electrification of the hinterland communities of the country. She recognized the role of countries like Guyana in sharing its experience in similar ventures and noted that Suriname would rely on countries like Guyana to share such experiences. She stressed that cooperation leads

to greater accomplishments.

126. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela underscored the importance of the ISA and highlighted that its programme was what the world needed today. She encouraged other countries to join the ISA and noted that the ISA could help all members advance and have access to Renewable Energy technologies. She emphasized the importance of financing for the development, implementation, and sustainability of Renewable Energy projects. She expressed gratitude for the scholarship granted to the Venezuelan engineer to pursue her master's studies. Completing the master's studies would help to build and sustain capacity. She highlighted the importance of catering to maintenance costs in the drive to advance solar energy. She pointed out that it was also important to use solar for agriculture and agriculture food systems. She informed the Meeting that Venezuela planned to implement the use of 20,000 solar pumping systems by 2025 and indicated that the government of Venezuela tried to support these initiatives. She acknowledged the challenges of providing access to remote communities. Recognizing the value of ISA, she urged everyone to support it.
127. Dr. Mahender Sharma, the representative of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, expressed gratitude to the Director General of ISA and his team for making the event possible. He expressed gratitude to everyone for attending and participating in the meeting. He noted that the ISA was an action-oriented agency and urged ISA to exemplify this characteristic. He called for urgent access to affordable financing and urged ISA to ensure that financing remained a high priority for the agency since it was crucial to its efforts. He called for scalable solutions with access to low-cost financing. Conscious of the importance of battery technology, he called for greater awareness and education on its implications for solar photovoltaic systems. Mindful of the importance of hydrogen to the future, he urged ISA to consider the opportunities resident not only in solar PV but also in solar thermal and other Renewable Energy technologies. He noted that Guyana would continue to embrace solar in keeping with the LCDS and reaffirmed Guyana's commitment to the process. He highlighted the importance of the circular economy to ISA and ISA member countries and said that he looked forward to continued dialogue and urged that the meeting translate outcomes into actionable items.

128. The Chair thanked all the Hon'ble Members for their kind interventions and requested the ISA Secretariat to take note of all the inputs, comments, and guidance provided at this forum. The Chair also encouraged the Hon'ble Members to work closely with the ISA Secretariat to develop these inputs into actionable guidance for the ISA.

Agenda Item 13. Preparations for the Fifth Regional Committee Meeting for Latin America and Caribbean Region

129. The Chair invited the Hon'ble Members of the Regional Committee members, NFPs, and the ISA Secretariat to deliberate on the date and location for the Fifth Meeting of the Regional Committee for the Latin America and Caribbean Region.

Agenda Item 14. Any other business

130. The Chair invited the Hon'ble Members and NFPs to raise any other matter of urgent importance for consideration of the Committee or the General Assembly of the ISA.
131. ***The members of the Regional Committee from the Latin America and the Caribbean region did not raise any other matters of urgent importance.***

Agenda Item 15. Closing of the meeting

132. The Chair congratulated the ISA Secretariat for facilitating an effective regional engagement under the governance mechanisms provided for by the ISA through its Framework Agreement and the Rules of Procedure of the ISA Assembly and looked forward to further enhancing these forms of regional engagement in the future.
133. The Chair thanked the NFPs from the Latin America and Caribbean Region for their in-depth deliberations on substantive agenda items which enabled the Committee to deliberate on the issues.
134. The Chair expressed gratitude to everyone for their presence and participation. He also expressed support to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the support received. He expressed delight at being able to hear about solutions to address some of the

challenges identified, especially those immediate concerns. He stressed the importance of financing, as well as its flow to member countries. He pointed out that Guyana, through ISA, would host a meeting before the General Assembly to address modalities associated with support for accessing finance. He indicated that member countries had existing Renewable Energy projects and desired to scale up.

135. The Chair reminded the Committee about the meeting of the investment forum on Friday, 5th August 2022 at the same venue, wherein Hon. Dr. Ashni Singh, M.P., Senior Minister in the Office of the President of Guyana with responsibility for Finance, would participate in the event.
136. The Chair expressed that the Fourth Meeting of the Regional Committee has been productive having deliberated upon various initiatives of the ISA that are expected to shape the future of the solar energy sector in most parts of the world and looking forward to the fifth Assembly of the ISA.
