

**Secretariat
International Solar Alliance**

Frequently Asked Questions about the International Solar Alliance

[The International Solar Alliance](#)

What is the International Solar Alliance?

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is a treaty-based international organization. The Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Establishment of the International Solar Alliance (Framework Agreement) have established the ISA to:

- mobilize more than USD 1,000 billion into solar power by 2030
- accelerate the development and deployment of over 1,000GW of solar generation capacity in member countries

to meet energy demands and to bring prosperity, energy security and sustainable development through solar. Put simply, **our goal is to make the sun shine brighter.**

What is the history of the International Solar Alliance?

The ISA was launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris on 30 November, 2015 by H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and H.E. Mr. Francois Hollande, former Hon'ble President of France, in the presence of Mr. Ban Ki Moon, former Secretary General of the United Nations.

The ISA was officially established on 6 December 2017, on the entry into force of the Framework Agreement. The founding conference was subsequently held on 11 March 2018, co-chaired by His Excellency, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi, and His Excellency, the Hon'ble President of France, Mr. Emmanuel Macron. The First Assembly of the ISA was held on 3 October 2018, inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, H.E Mr. Narendra Modi and the UN Secretary General, H.E. Mr. António Guterres.

Contact details for the International Solar Alliance

The ISA can be contacted by the following means:

Email: info@isolaralliance.org

Website: www.isolaralliance.org

Twitter: @isolaralliance

Facebook: @InternationalSolarAlliance

[The Framework Agreement Establishing the International Solar Alliance](#)

When did the Framework Agreement enter into force?

The Framework Agreement entered into force on 6 December 2017.

How many countries have ratified the Framework Agreement so far?

As at 1 January 2019, 50 countries have ratified the Framework Agreement. A further 23 countries have signed the Framework Agreement.

Who can join the International Solar Alliance?

As per Article VII of the Framework Agreement, membership is open to those solar resource-rich States, which lie fully or partially between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, and are members of the United Nations.

The First Assembly considered and adopted the proposal made by India for an amendment to the Framework Agreement to expand the scope of membership of the ISA to all countries that are members of United Nations. This has not yet entered into force.

Interested member countries should contact [rajiv@isolaralliance.org] at the ISA Secretariat for further information on membership, as well as the Depositary at the Indian Ministry of External Affairs () for further information on signature and ratification of the Framework Agreement.

Is there a membership-fee to join the International Solar Alliance?

There is **no membership fee** to join the ISA, or to participate as an observer or partner country.

Who can be an observer?

Under Article IX of the Framework Agreement, the Assembly may grant observer status to States whose applications for membership or partnership are pending, or organisations which can further the interests and objectives of the ISA.

Who can be a partner country?

At this point in time, under Article VII of the Framework Agreement, the Assembly may grant partner country status to those States falling outside the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, are members of the United Nations, and willing and able to contribute to the objectives and activities of the ISA. The proposed amendment to the Framework Agreement will enable all States which are members of the United Nations to become ISA members, and will remove the status of partner country.

[Secretariat of the International Solar Alliance](#)**Where is the seat of the International Solar Alliance?**

The headquarters of International Solar Alliance is in Haryana, India.

How will the International Solar Alliance be funded?

All costs relating to the running of the ISA will be funded through voluntary contributions of member-countries, partner countries, partner organisations and Strategic Partners. Funds may also be raised through specific activities approved by the Assembly of the ISA. The ISA Secretariat is also working to build a sizeable corpus fund to help sustain the ISA's activities in the long-term.

The Government of India has already contributed US\$16 million to the establishment of the ISA. In addition, Coal India, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Power Grid, Power Finance Corporation (PFC), Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC), Solar Energy Corporation of India(SECI), have made contributions of US \$ 1 million to the ISA corpus fund.

Work of the International Solar Alliance

What important initiatives has the ISA undertaken so far?

To date, the ISA has established five key programmes of action:

- **scaling up solar applications for agricultural use**
- **affordable finance at scale**
- **scaling up solar mini-grids**
- **scaling up solar rooftop**
- **scaling up solar e-mobility and storage.**

These programmes are supported by the ISA Secretariat as well as six Global Task forces / Committees to promote the implementation of the programmes, goals and objectives.

The ISA Secretariat has also launched a **Solar Technology Application and Resource – Centre** (iSTAR-C) to support capacity building efforts in the ISA member countries. In addition, the ISA is developing a digital **INFOPEDIA** platform for communication, education and collaboration, with financial support earmarked by the European Union.

To supplement the ISA is supporting the training of solar technology specialists through:

- the **ITEC training course for Master Trainers** (with the Government of India)
- the **ISA Solar Fellowship for Midcareer Professionals**
- the **ISA Equinox circle**

To foster innovation and research in solar technologies, the **ISA Solar Award** (Kalpana Chawla Solar Award) has been created to recognize solar scientists doing extraordinary work across ISA member countries with a one-time corpus contribution of US\$1.5 million contribution from the Government of Haryana.

How can the International Solar Alliance support member countries in solar deployment?

The ISA will help aggregate and harmonize demand across member countries, thus creating a large ‘buyers’ market’, with the objective of lowering costs for members, and catalyzing innovation and investments. It will enable participating countries to leverage the opportunities of a greater market power and the learnings and network of developers, financiers, innovators and existing institutions in all parts of the globe.

Can the International Solar Alliance help in ensuring access to low cost finance?

The ISA will be a facilitator of technology, knowledge and finance. At this stage, the ISA will not be funding projects directly, but will assist member countries in finding suitable bilateral or multilateral funding, and in developing innovative financial packages to bring down the cost of capital. The World Bank and French Development Agency are developing a Solar Risk Mitigation Facility for this purpose.

In addition, the ISA will work with countries who offer substantial bilateral ODA to earmark at least 15 % for solar projects from ISA member countries, and support the development of bankable projects.

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