

ISA Statement
UNFCCC high-level segment
12 December 2018

Good evening Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Polish presidency for hosting COP24.

The International Solar Alliance has been envisioned as an action-oriented treaty based inter-governmental body through which its members will collectively address key common challenges towards scaling up of solar energy in line with their needs. It is wonderful to note that ISA will play a major role in achieving Sustainable Development Goals and Objectives of the Paris Agreement.

Since its launch in COP21 in Paris in 2015, the International Solar Alliance has moved forward at a fast speed to promote solar energy. The Framework agreement has been opened to signature in Marrakesh in 2016. Now, the ISA is a full-fledged UN international organization comprising 48 Member States and 71 signatories, with many more to come.

The Founding Summit – co-chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Emmanuel Macron and attended by 48 countries last March – defined a clear roadmap for action with four pillars: i) aggregating demand and projects, ii) harmonizing policy, regulation and contracting, iii) defining common financial tools, iv) building capacity, research and innovation.

Two months ago, the First Assembly of the International Solar Alliance was inaugurated by UN Secretary-General in Delhi. More than 70 countries were represented showing the importance of access to energy for our Member countries.

In fact, our Member countries set up a very ambitious target for the ISA: that is to mobilize more than US \$1000 billion in investment that will be needed by 2030 to meet the goal of massive deployment of affordable solar energy for all. Access to finance is indeed an issue as it is currently not forthcoming for solar projects in many member countries due to high risk profile of projects, as well as high transaction cost.

To reach this goal, we need the mobilization of all the partners. The ISA should be a vibrant source of initiatives and leadership stemming from its members and partners. Countries have joined the ISA to play as a team and pool their efforts and resources to take action to the next level.

We note that there are several international days currently observed by the UN but none are dedicated to universal energy access. Access to energy is a requisite for human survival and well-being and a fundamental right to have access to energy and good quality light. As the ISA Framework Agreement entered into force on 6th December 2017 and there is no international day observed by the UN on December 6th. To benefit the 1.2 billion people who live without access to electricity, it is proposed that the General Assembly of the UN may be requested to earmark 6th December as the UN day dedicated to Universal Energy Access.

Thank you for your kind attention.