5: INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE

5.1 Launched in November 2015 on the side-lines of COP 21, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) has now transformed into a treaty based international intergovernmental organisation headquartered in India. Out of 71 countries that have signed Framework Agreement of the ISA, 48 countries have deposited their instruments of ratification.

5.2 The Union Cabinet, in its meeting held on 11 April 2018, approved the proposal for entering into Headquarters (Host Country) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the ISA. Under the Host Country Agreement, ISA Secretariat’s judicial personality is recognized. Subsequently vide Gazette Notification dated 6 June 2018, the Ministry of External Affairs notified ISA under the United Nations Privileges & Immunities Act, 1947.

5.3 FIRST ASSEMBLY OF ISA

(i) The First Assembly of the ISA was held on 3 October, 2018 in India Expo Mart, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India. 37 ISA member Countries, including India and France, attended the Assembly. In addition, 25 countries that have signed the Framework Agreement of ISA but yet to ratify; 13 Prospective Member countries that are yet sign the Framework Agreement of the ISA; and 3 Partner countries that are beyond inter-tropical zone attended the Assembly as Observers. Shri R.K. Singh, Hon’ble Minister for New and Renewable Energy and Power, Government of India presided over the Assembly and Ms Brune Poisrson, Hon’ble Minister of State for Ecological and Inclusive Transition, Government of France served as Co-President.

(ii) Hon’ble Prime Minister, while inaugurating the First Assembly of ISA, RE-INVEST 2018 and IORA RE Minister’s Meeting on 2nd October 2018, equated solar energy to oil reserves and envisioned ISA to become OPEC of the future. He also gave a clarion call for ‘One World, One Sun, One Grid’ for sharing solar energy across the borders.

(iii) The first Assembly of ISA was unique in many ways. India was appointed the President by acclamation. The Assembly adopted India’s resolution for amending the Framework Agreement of the ISA for opening up the ISA membership to all countries that are members of United Nations. This will help in putting solar energy in the global agenda for ensuring access to sustainable and modern energy for all at affordable rates. Further, the Assembly adopted the Work-programme and Budget for the Calendar Year 2019; and launching of the ISA’s Programme on Scaling Solar E-Mobility and Storage.

(iv) India has offered to meet ISA Secretariat expenses for initial five years. The Government of India has allotted 5 acres of land to the ISA in National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) Campus, Gurugram, and
First Assembly of ISA

released a sum of Rs.145 crore, i.e. US$ 20 Million for creating a corpus fund, building infrastructure and meeting day to day recurring expenditure. The Public Sector Enterprises of Government of India have also contributed US$ 11 million for augmenting ISA corpus fund. Besides, the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India has set aside US$ 2 Billion for solar projects in Africa out of Government of India’s US$10 Billion concessional Line of Credit (LOC) for Africa. The Exim Bank of India is implementing this line of credit in close coordination with ISA countries in Africa.