

ISA: The youngest International Organisation that come into force on 6th December, 2017.

The International Solar Alliance was launched jointly by the Indian Prime Minister and the French President during COP21. It aims to contribute to the **implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement through rapid and massive deployment of solar energy**. ISA also contributes to the 12 commitments of the One Planet Summit.

ISA aims to bring together the **121 sun-rich States located between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn** to provide a collective response to the main common obstacles to the massive deployment of solar energy in terms of technology, finance and capacity. The aim is to raise the **trillion dollars needed to develop 1 terawatt of solar energy capacity by 2030**.

Key figures

The countries located between the two tropics are, for the great majority, developing ones.

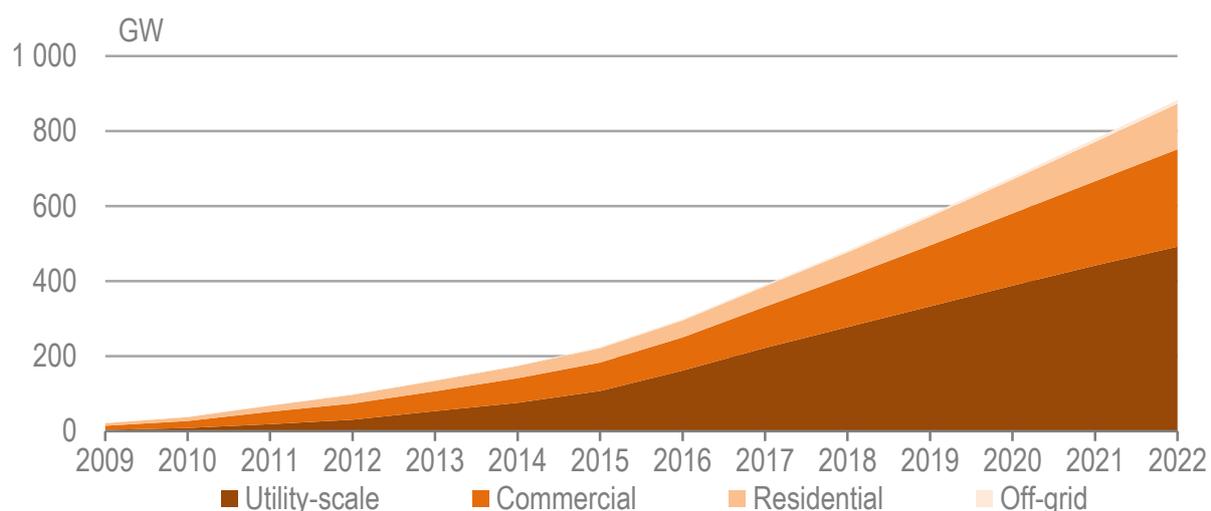
20-50% of their populations do not have access to electricity. They also represent: 73% of the global population; 36% of world GDP; 55% of total energy consumption worldwide; and only 23% of installed solar capacity.

Around 60 countries that have joined the International Solar Alliance represent a combined potential to develop 138 GW of solar capacity in the next five years, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).

Solar energy has an important role to play in ensuring a sustainable energy future and displays an enormous potential: in 90 minutes, the solar energy striking the Earth would be sufficient to provide the entire planet's energy needs for one year.

The costs of Solar photovoltaic modules have fallen by around 80% since the end of 2009, making it one of the cheapest source for electricity generation, especially in countries between the tropics.

Thanks to cost decrease and technology improvement, solar photovoltaic is currently the fastest-growing source of electricity globally. Worldwide solar capacity rose for the first time faster than any other source of electricity in 2016: 74 GW of new capacities were built reaching almost 300 GW in total capacity.



Solar PV net capacity additions 2017 – 2022 under accelerated case (IEA, 2017)

What has happened since COP21?

- **60 Countries** have joined the Alliance, which obtained the status of an international organization on 6 December 2017;
- **5 programmes of action** have been launched on rural and decentralized applications, finance, mini-grids, rooftop installations and solar e-mobility (see box below);
- **6 meetings of the ISA international Steering Committee** have been held, co-chaired by France and India;
- **Forums** to bring together private sector provision, finance and solar energy demand have been organized in Paris and New Delhi;
- **100 first projects** for solar applications have been identified from 34 ISA member countries;
- **A common financial guarantee mechanism** is being established to foster affordable access to finance.
- **Action to Transaction Meets** to bring Stakeholders together.

The Alliance's five programmes of action

Rural and decentralized applications: Most Alliance member countries are agrarian economies. This programme aims to improve yields and economic benefits by providing reliable, affordable solar applications that are suited to needs and accessible to all farmers in various fields.

Access to affordable finance: Financial cost is currently the major obstacle to the deployment of solar technologies, despite rapid technological progress. The countries taking part in the programme work on drawing up common principles for legislative and regulatory frameworks, and on risk-reduction instruments aimed at enhancing their chances of accessing finance.

Island and village solar mini-grids: Islands and non-interconnected communities are among those most interested in renewables, and solar in particular. This

programme aims to develop and replicate commercial models, adopt common standards and launch calls for tender for the installation of mini-grids.

Rooftop installations: Thanks to its ability to generate small quantities of energy at multiple feed-in points, rooftop solar can produce decentralized energy, thus limiting the costs of upgrading grids and pooling electrical production variations across a large number of installations. This programme aims to lift barriers to its development.

Solar e-mobility: Solar e-mobility technologies (including roads, vehicles and scooters) are seeing very rapid development. This programme seeks to develop these applications and promote their deployment, including through energy storage, and to harmonize practices across the countries taking part in the programme.

What will take place at the ISA summit?

More than 20 Heads of State and Government and representatives of international organizations, development banks, the private sector and civil society are meeting in New Delhi on 11 March to speed up the implementation of the Alliance and achieve concrete results in terms of access to energy and combating global warming.

The results expected during the summit include:

General mobilization of government, international and private actors

- ✓ Mobilization of ISA member countries to implement the Alliance
- ✓ Commitments from international organizations
- ✓ Mobilization of the private sector with the creation of a committee of businesses and the private sector

Promotion of solar energy research and innovation

- ✓ Creation of a network of Solar Resource centres in the 121 countries of the ISA region, under Solar Technology Applications & Resource Centre (STAR-C)
- ✓ Establishment of training programmes intended to all actors of this sector, including 10,000 young technicians to be trained in 5 years.
- ✓ Development of partnerships fostering technology transfer and innovation.
- ✓ Launching of Solar Awards & Fellowships.

Implementation of concrete instruments

- ✓ Fostering of the transfer of knowledge and information through the launch of a collaborative “Infopedia” online platform
- ✓ Publication of a practical guide to ensure high-quality standards
- ✓ Publishing online of standard documents to facilitate the purchasing of electricity in public tenders and supply processes
- ✓ Establishment of STAR-C.

Financing of new solar energy projects

- ✓ Financial commitments by public and private stakeholders
- ✓ Support for 121 initial projects
- ✓ Creation of a common guarantee mechanism
- ✓ Development of a “single window” platform to bring together project developers and investors

What's next?

The ISA member countries complete their Solar road maps under Article III.1 of the Framework Agreement and regular milestones to pursue momentum to speed up the development of solar energy. The first ISA Assembly of Ministers will be held in New Delhi. A milestone update on the implementation of projects will be presented at COP24 in Poland and during other outreach events of ISA.