

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
AND
THE INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE

Article I

INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "ESCAP") and the International Solar Alliance (hereinafter referred to as "ISA") reaffirm their desire to work together in areas of mutual interest through this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

2. **WHEREAS** the primary objective of the ESCAP is to promote regional cooperation for inclusive, equitable, and sustainable economic and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, so that (a) member States have more effective, inclusive equitable and sustainable development policies for addressing development from a multi-disciplinary perspective, to narrow development gaps and build resiliency; (b) global processes are shaped by a stronger coordinated regional voice and countries are supported in implementing international commitments; and (c) regional cooperation mechanisms and institutional frameworks are in place to promote regional integration and inclusive and equitable development;

3. **WHEREAS** ISA is a treaty-based international inter-governmental organization which was launched on 30 November 2015, in Paris, France, with Headquarters in India (UN Registration No. 54949) and was established to collectively address key common challenges to the scaling up of solar energy and to take coordinated action to aggregate demand for finance, technologies, innovation, R&D and capacity building;

4. **WHEREAS** ESCAP and ISA reaffirm their desire to work together to assist their member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 7 on affordable and clean energy.

5. NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

Article II

AREAS OF COOPERATION

The Parties recognize that affordable, reliable and sustainable solar energy is crucial to achieving universal energy access and increased utilization of renewable energy, as enshrined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, to contribute to sustainable economic development of rural and urban communities and combat climate change. The Parties plan to work together on the following:

- a) Exchange of information and work programmes, assistance in aggregation of demand for solar applications and where appropriate mutual attendance upon invitation in decision-making meetings;
- b) Mutually assist each other in promoting their work and activities through their respective forums and networks;
- c) Maintain regular contacts in order to monitor and strengthen the cooperation, and make recommendations for further progress;
- d) Jointly collate and provide evidence-based advice to member States on policies scoping, planning, feasibility and practices to create a favourable environment for solar energy;
- e) Build human, institutional and corporate capacities at regional, national and local levels to foster the development and implementation of solar energy projects;
- f) Develop close and coordinated associations and partnership with the potential agencies working for the success of the ISA including the national and international developmental banks;
- g) Any other areas of collaboration which might be mutually agreed.

Article III

FOCUS OF JOINT ACTIVITIES

6. The priority areas for joint activities will be focused on regional cooperation activities in Asia-Pacific countries that promote the wider application of solar energy in support of achieving Goal 7. These activities include those listed below, which may be amended from time to time with the mutual written consent of the Parties.

- a) Develop a biennial action programme to promote the objectives of both organizations in the areas of mutual interest *inter alia*, solar energy finance, technologies, innovation, research and development, and capacity building;
- b) Develop knowledge networks which will raise awareness and information on the benefits of solar energy in member countries;
- c) Develop research and communication products / fact sheets on solar sector for policy and decision makers;
- d) Organize capacity building activities including seminars, training programmes, exchange visits etc. to promote solar applications, through South-South and Triangular cooperation whenever applicable, at the regional and national levels;
- e) Organize technical workshops and conferences on solar energy development and awareness campaigns in cooperation with national, regional and international partners to facilitate the wide dissemination of knowledge in the field of solar energy and related technologies;
- f) Promote the use of solar energy to provide cost-effective and reliable access to electricity in off-grid locations;
- g) Support the development of evidence-based policies for solar energy with a focus on developing countries of the region.

Article IV

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

7. The Parties recognize that effective cooperation depends on open, comprehensive and regular exchange of information at the institutional level. The Parties agree to make appropriate arrangements to:

- a) provide copies of every relevant publication and all public documents of each organization to the main library of the other organization to be maintained as reference documents as appropriate; and
- b) give notice, through information posted on the websites of each organization, of:
 - conferences, seminars and workshops being organized or sponsored;
 - regional, country, sector and thematic policy/strategy documents;
 - programme and project approval documents; and
 - regional programme, country programme, sectoral, project and other evaluations.

Article V

RECIPROCAL INVITATIONS

8. The Parties recognize that appropriate representation is important for the purpose of joint positioning and advocacy. The Parties agree that reciprocal invitations will be extended to the other organization to attend meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops relevant to cooperation in the priority areas set out in this MoU, where appropriate.

Article VI**PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS**

9. The Parties recognize that it is important to convene periodic consultations to review what is being planned, what is being implemented, and what is being achieved in terms of results as well as to discuss new challenges, opportunities and problems. The Parties also agree to discuss at the working level how to prioritize joint activities and coordinate the preparation and implementation thereof. The Parties agree to hold such consultations periodically as required and not less than once every two years.

Article VII**FOCAL POINTS FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE MOU**

10. The Parties agree to designate as focal points for the activities under this MoU:

- (a) for ESCAP:
 1. Director, Energy Division;
 2. Director, Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, New Delhi.

- (b) for ISA:
 1. Senior Consultant (Partnerships & Programme Support)

Article VIII**MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE MOU AND JOINT ACTIVITIES**

11. The Parties will prepare annually:

- (a) a list of all current operational cooperation activities and status of implementation;

- (b) a list with a brief description of all planned cooperation activities for the next year.

12. The Parties agree that:

- (a) the respective focal points will prepare a joint report annually on the status of implementation of the cooperation activities, including an assessment of results achieved;
- (b) the Parties will conduct a joint review or evaluation of the ESCAP- ISA cooperation 2 years after signature of this MoU, in consultation with the evaluation offices of the respective organizations; and
- (c) these assessments will be reviewed by ESCAP and ISA in considering further cooperation activities, including any necessary amendments to this MoU.

Article IX

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND USE OF INSTITUTIONAL EMBLEMS

13. The Parties recognize that the involvement of both organizations in joint cooperation activities needs to be publicized. The Parties agree that:

- (a) there will be public acknowledgment of the role and contribution of each organization to cooperation projects in all public information documentation related to such cooperation; and
- (b) the use of emblems of each organization in documentation related to cooperation will be in accord with the current policies of each organization concerning such usage.

Article X

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

14. The Parties shall use their best efforts to promptly settle through direct negotiations any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or in connection with this MoU or any agreement concluded in the future. Any such dispute, controversy or claim shall be resolved through consultation between the Executive Heads of each of the organizations.

Article XI

ENTER INTO FORCE

15. This MoU shall come into effect on the date of signature by the Parties and shall continue until 31 May 2023.

Article XII

MISCELLANEOUS

16. Any specific activities under this MoU shall be covered by a project document or written agreement.

17. The Parties' respective activities hereunder shall be in accordance with and without derogation from their respective regulations, rules, policies and procedures.

18. This MoU does not represent any commitment with regard to funding or any form of preferential treatment on the part of either Party.

19. This MoU may be amended by mutual written consent of the Parties.

20. This MoU may be terminated by either Party on six months' prior notice in writing. Termination of this MoU shall not affect any programmes or activities undertaken prior to the termination of this MoU, unless otherwise agreed upon by the Parties.

Signed on 27 May 2019 at UN ESCAP Headquarter, Bangkok, Thailand.

For the United Nations Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and the Pacific

For the International Solar Alliance



Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana
Under-Secretary-General of the United
Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP



Mr. Upendra Tripathy
Director General
International Solar Alliance



EXTENSION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

between

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND
THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)**

and

INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE (ISA)

To continue collaborations between ESCAP and the ISA, the two partners desire hereby to record their consent to the extension of the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 27 May 2019.

The extended effective term of the Memorandum of Understanding shall be for a period of five (5) years, up to 31 May 2028 effective as of the date at execution by the authorized representatives of both partners. All other clauses of the Memorandum of Understanding shall remain unchanged.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representatives of both partners have affixed their signatures below:

Signed in two originals in English.

**For and on behalf of the United Nations
Economic and Social Commission for
Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP):**

**For and on behalf of the International
Solar Alliance (ISA):**

Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana
ESCAP Executive Secretary

Dr. Ajay Mathur
Director General, ISA

Bangkok, Thailand
Date: 02.05.2023

Gurugram, Haryana
Date: 13.04.2023