



International Solar Alliance Announces Global SIDS Procurement Plan for Centralised Utility-Scale Solar and Storage at COP30

24 November 2025 | Belém, Brazil: In a compelling demonstration of collective resolve, ministers, global leaders, and development partners gathered under the aegis of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) at COP30 for the high-level session “Uniting Islands, Inspiring Action – Leadership for Energy Security.” Co-organised by ISA and the World Bank Group, the session marked a pivotal step in advancing the operationalisation of the SIDS Platform.

The SIDS Platform is a transformative digital and financial ecosystem anchored by the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and The World Bank Group, designed to accelerate large-scale solar deployment across Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Over the past months, ISA and the World Bank have initiated structured engagements across regions and discussed guiding frameworks that will guide governance, procurement, and readiness assessments. The Platform has rapidly advanced from concept to collective action, with **eighteen SIDS** across the Asia-Pacific, Africa, and the Latin America & Caribbean region **and Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)** formally signalling their commitment to the Platform.

The COP30 session was anchored in the vision of enabling energy security, affordability, and resilience for island nations with the deliberations culminating in the announcement of the **Global SIDS Procurement Plan**, establishing for the first time a coordinated framework for centralised procurement of utility-scale solar and storage projects. This milestone signals a significant shift from aspiration to execution, reinforcing political alignment, strengthening investor confidence, and setting the stage for a transparent, harmonised, and investable pathway to scale renewable energy across SIDS.

The session brought together an eminent gathering of leaders including **H.E. Bhupender Yadav**, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Republic of India; **Mr Ashish Khanna**, Director General, International Solar Alliance; and **Dr Valerie Hickey**, Global Director for Climate Change, The World Bank, alongside ministers and senior representatives from Marshall Islands, Saint Lucia, Belize, Seychelles, Maldives, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.

Delivering the keynote address, **H.E. Bhupender Yadav**, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Republic of India, reaffirmed India's steadfast support for global solar cooperation and the ISA mission. “Solar power is not merely a renewable energy; it is a tool of transformation and a social revolution. India is building some of the world's largest solar and battery projects, ensuring that solar power becomes 24x7 green electricity, and this experience is now being shared with small island developing states so they too can reduce diesel imports, lower electricity costs, and protect their oceans. ISA has emerged as a global solar family, with more than 124 countries working together to accelerate solar projects, bring immediate finance, generate local jobs, and make solar the first choice for clean, reliable energy - in the spirit of COP30's focus on implementation”, he said.

Opening the session, **Mr Ashish Khanna**, Director General, International Solar Alliance, underscored the evolution of the initiative from vision to execution: “The SIDS Platform is building a new architecture for how small island nations can access clean, reliable energy. By shifting from isolated procurements to a collective model, we are creating the conditions for

true market confidence—where islands can aggregate demand, attract serious bidders, and secure advanced solar and storage solutions at far lower costs. Islands nations that once faced some of the world's highest energy prices are now positioning themselves to benefit from transparent processes, competitive tariffs, and long-term resilience. This is the promise of the International Solar Alliance—to ensure that even the most remote and climate-vulnerable nations can harness the power of the sun through cooperation, innovation, and shared strength."

In her special address, **Dr Valerie Hickey**, Global Director for Climate Change, The World Bank, highlighted the measurable progress already emerging from the SIDS Platform, *"We are already seeing tangible results — solar tariffs in the Maldives have fallen significantly, and the pool of qualified bidders has expanded dramatically. These measurable outcomes mean lower bills for households, more reliable power for hospitals and schools, and cleaner air for communities. This is about market confidence and real competition working for citizens, a blueprint now being scaled across small islands with the leadership of their communities and the partnership of the alliance. We stand with the alliance, as a coalition of innovators and investors, to deliver real results for island peoples, their prosperity, and the planet."*

With COP30 heralded as the "COP of Implementation", this political buy-in and alignment has now redirected the focus onto a structured implementation plan to move the SIDS Platform from commitment to co-ordinated action, with clear milestones defined and a pathway charted for the next 3 years to ensure harmonised procurement processes. Leaders underscored the need for robust policy frameworks and de-risking instruments to unlock large-scale private capital flows into SIDS energy markets. The consensus highlighted that aggregating demand through the SIDS Platform is not only pivotal for affordability but essential for building long-term resilience and energy security across island economies.

As ISA moves from ambition to action, the SIDS Platform captures the essence of this renewed purpose, turning shared vision into concrete progress where it is needed most. It aligns with ISA's new vision and provides the structure, scale, and collective strength required to deliver real-world outcomes for SIDS communities with unity of purpose and a clear path ahead.

About the SIDS Platform

The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Platform, co-anchored by the International Solar Alliance and the World Bank Group, is a dedicated mechanism to accelerate solar deployment across island economies through aggregated procurement, innovative financing, and technical cooperation. By enabling access to cost-competitive, scalable, and resilient solar solutions, the Platform aims to advance energy independence and climate resilience across SIDS. Its evolution has been shaped by a growing wave of political commitment, with eighteen SIDS nations and Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) signing onto the SIDS Platform during the ISA Regional Committee Meetings at Colombo, Sri Lanka; Santiago, Chile and the Eighth ISA Assembly in New Delhi.

About the International Solar Alliance

The International Solar Alliance is a global initiative launched in 2015 by India and France at COP21 in Paris. It has 125 Member and Signatory Countries. The Alliance works with governments to improve energy access and security worldwide and promotes solar power as a sustainable transition to a clean energy future. It encourages the use of solar energy in agriculture, health, transport, and power generation sectors.

ISA's evolving vision is anchored on four strategic pillars: (1) Catalytic Finance Hub to unlock and mobilise investments at scale; (2) Global Capability Centre and Digitisation to foster innovation, digital platforms, and capacity building across Member Countries; (3) Regional

and Country-level Engagement to drive tailored interventions through strategic partnerships and (4) Technology Roadmaps and Policy Advisory to accelerate the deployment of emerging solar technologies through actionable policy frameworks and knowledge resources.

With its advocacy for solar-powered solutions, ISA aims to transform lives, bring clean, reliable, and affordable energy to communities worldwide, fuel sustainable growth, and improve quality of life. On 6 December 2017, 15 countries signed and ratified the ISA Framework Agreement, making ISA the first international intergovernmental organisation to be headquartered in India.

For more information, visit the ISA website: www.isa.int

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