

Subject: Invitation for an ISA Webinar on Solar for Women: Changing Lives Igniting Infinite Possibilities on 8th March 2021

Excellency,

The Secretariat of International Solar Alliance (ISA) presents its compliments to the National Focal Points and Contact Points of ISA Countries.

As you might be aware, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was launched at 21st Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC CoP21) on 30th November 2015 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, H.E. Narendra Modi and the then French President, H.E. Francois Hollande to support countries in their efforts for the achievement of SDG 7- Affordable and Sustainable Energy for All and SDG 13- Climate Action. The ISA has been conceived as an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform for increased deployment of solar energy technologies to enhance energy security and sustainable development, and to improve access to energy in developing countries.

Since its inception, ISA has made tremendous strides for the achievement of its mission and objectives. The ISA Framework Agreement has already been signed by 90 countries, with 73 having also deposited instruments of ratification. ISA currently boasts of seven programmes viz. Scaling Solar Applications for Agriculture Use (SSAAU), Affordable Finance at Scale, Scaling Solar Mini-Grids, Scaling Solar Rooftop, Scaling E-Mobility and Storage, Solar Parks and Solarising Heating and Cooling. The ISA has aggregated a cumulative demand of 13 GW with a potential project pipeline of USD 5.5 billion across its seven programmes. We are currently working with governments, corporates, donors, development institutions and other stakeholders on the issues of Energy Access, Energy Security and Energy Transition.

As you are aware, women play an important role in the holistic development of societies the world over. While there are many areas critically important for women's development, '**energy access**' remains the most critical lever for their wellbeing and holistic empowerment. In many remote areas across the globe, women have to face unprecedented hardships and are exposed to grave health hazards due to limited or no access to clean energy. Dependence on conventional fuels for cooking and other daily routine work puts them at constant health, security and growth risk. Not only this, but sustained health issues also diminish women's ability to engage in economically productive activities thus impacting the overall socio-economic condition of communities. The lack of clean energy technologies not only has an adverse impact on health and socio-economic scenario, it also contributes significantly to climate change.

In this context, Solar energy comes as a clear champion amongst all renewable energy sources due to its decentralized nature and affordability. It is an established fact that solar energy solutions can bring lasting economic, social and environmental change and can favourably impact communities, especially women. Off-grid Solar solutions can transform a

woman's life and can make a lasting economic, social and environmental impact on communities.

Keeping in view the importance of the matter, ISA is organizing a dedicated webinar themed: '**Solar for Women; changing lives and igniting possibilities**', on **8 March 2021 from 15:00 Hrs to 18:00 Hrs (IST)**. Through this webinar, ISA aims to highlight the role solar energy can play in bringing positive change in the lives of women, inspiring change and encouraging investment in gender-responsive projects across the globe.

This is an advance information to save the date for participation in this webinar. The ISA Secretariat will send the link for joining the webinar subsequently.

The ISA Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to you, the assurances of its highest consideration.