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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council

No. prev. doc.: 14223/18

Subject: Joint declaration between the International Solar Alliance and the European Union on cooperation for the promotion of Solar Energy
- Authorisation to sign on behalf of the European Union

1. On 20 November 2018, the Commission gave a detailed presentation to the Energy Working Party regarding the background of the above-mentioned Joint declaration. At that meeting, delegations examined the draft Joint declaration and expressed no objections to the text and the proposed signing.
2. It is envisaged that the Joint declaration will be signed on 11 December 2018 by the representative of the International Solar Alliance and by the representative of the Commission on behalf of the European Union.
3. Subject to confirmation by the Permanent Representatives Committee, the Council is invited to authorise the signature, on behalf of the European Union, of the Joint declaration as set out in the Annex.

**Joint declaration between
the International Solar Alliance and
the European Union
on cooperation for the promotion of Solar Energy**

On the occasion of the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Katowice, Poland, the European Union (hereafter referred to as "EU") and the International Solar Alliance (hereafter referred to as "ISA"), together referred hereafter as the "Parties":

Noting that the EU is a unique economic and political union between Member States. The EU works with partners across the world to promote sustainable development, eradication of poverty, women empowerment, good governance and the rule of law. Among its key priorities, the EU aims at supporting environmental sustainability, climate change mitigation and energy security globally;

Noting that the ISA is a treaty based international inter-governmental organisation which was launched on 30 November 2015, in Paris, France, with headquarters in India (United Nations Registration No. 54949). The ISA is 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, research and capacity building;

Recognising that sustainable solar energy provides an economically attractive contribution to achieving universal energy access, while addressing climate change and energy security concerns, as enshrined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement;

Recognising that solar energy and its technologies offer immense opportunities for rapid deployment, while contributing to economic prosperity and social inclusion;

Recognising the existing initiatives supported by the EU and its Member States across the world to promote the use and support the development of solar energy technology and infrastructures.

Recognising the substantial need for investments to meet the SDG 7 goal of access to energy for all by 2030, including for deployment of affordable solar energy;

Convinced of the necessity and the significance of strong cooperation to promote broad and efficient action on the ground for mutual benefit and in the interest of all involved;

JOINTLY DECLARE their intention to deepen their cooperation in support of solar energy in the following areas:

- i) Developing synergies between EU and ISA programmes and projects supporting access to electricity, clean energy transition and integration of renewable energy electricity as well as enhancing the regulatory framework for investments;
- ii) Sharing knowledge and lessons learned acquired by the EU programmes and projects in the solar energy sector with ISA member countries;
- iii) Working jointly towards mobilizing financing for the development and deployment of affordable solar energy globally;
- iv) Supporting research and innovation in the area of solar electricity and integration of distributed renewables, in particular frugal innovation in the wider context of Mission Innovation;
- v) Strengthening the development of ISA's institutional capacity through support of the ISA's Secretariat with technical assistance and knowledge transfer;
- vi) Any other areas of collaboration which might be mutually agreed.

The Sides intend to cooperate by elaborating an action-oriented two-year rolling programme and holding annual meetings at senior official level of administration with representatives of the European Commission and ISA Secretariat.

As a Partner Organisation, the EU, represented by the European Commission, will endeavour to be part of the ISA Assembly.

The Sides endeavour to cooperate under this Joint Declaration, each within the limits of their capacities. Any activity undertaken by the Sides shall follow their respective rules, regulations, policies and procedures.

This Joint Declaration does not, nor is it intended to create any binding legal or financial obligations on either side under domestic or international law.

DONE on this 11th day of December in the year of 2018, in two original copies, both in English language:

For and on behalf of the
International Solar Alliance

For and on behalf of the
European Union

Mr Upendra Tripathy
Director General

Mr Miguel Arias Cañete
Member of the European Commission for
Climate Action and Energy

ANNEX TO THE JOINT DECLARATION BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

The ISA Secretariat and the EU endeavour to develop a Work Programme to be agreed during the first senior level administration meeting, planned for spring 2019. The first Work Programme is expected to include actions in the following areas:

i) Synergies with ongoing and future programmes and projects in ISA member countries that support:

- Solar energy policies and development plans;
- Electricity sector reform programme to facilitate integration of renewable energies;
- Access to solar electricity;
- Infrastructure related to solar electricity production and integration;
- Sustainable design and end-of-life management;
- Regulatory framework for private sector investment;
- Skills development in particular related to solar energy;
- Capacity building of professionals in the energy sector;
- Any other relevant activity.

ii) Capitalise on existing resources and share knowledge and lessons learned globally:

- Studies, technical documentations, best practices available on policy, governance, technologies, implementation, financing related to solar energy.
- Coordinate with existing knowledge centres on solar energy available in ISA member countries or elsewhere.

iii) Mobilizing financing for development and deployment of affordable solar energy

- Continued implementation of the 10 initiatives for the EU's New Action Plan for the Planet presented on the occasion of the One Planet Summit on 12 December 2017;
- Continued mobilisation of finances for solar energy related projects, through grants, loans and private sector investments;
- Promote the dissemination of best practices for solar energy financing, including support to adoption of standards and practices among ISA member countries;
- Encourage industry cooperation among ISA member countries and the EU.

iv) Research and Innovation

- Activities related to cooperation between the European Union and ISA Members scientific community, business and innovator actors for research and innovation in the area of solar energy such as joint research, exchanges etc.

v) Development of the ISA

- Continued development of an online information platform and repository on solar energy for the ISA (Infopedia), feeding it with best practices and key learnings from the EU experiences including policy, technologies etc.
- Support expert groups for development of common standards, specifications and verification protocols.
- Communication and public awareness in ISA member countries, using the existing networks established by the EU in these countries, and in other for a, through joint efforts.