

MESSAGE BY MR. JAMES ALIX MICHEL,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES

Seychelles is pleased to be a founding member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), created at the initiative of India and jointly launched by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France on 30 November in Paris in the margins of the COP 21 Summit.

On the occasion of the inauguration of the interim ISA Secretariat at the Indian National Institute of Solar Energy and the laying of the foundation Stone of the new ISA building, Seychelles wishes to express its deep gratitude to the government of India for hosting such an important venture, in the spirit of international cooperation and global partnership. In this regard, we commend and congratulate India for its leadership and far-sighted vision. India has laid out a vision for the world to accompany it into a solar future. This scheme also fits into Seychelles' new drive into solar energy.

There is no doubt that such a venture will go a long way in galvanising collective action and attention for cooperation in the field of solar energy. It constitutes a major step in advancing economic cooperation amongst developing and developed countries alike. It is also symbolic of the way countries should work together and develop synergies to complement each other's development.

This is an essential framework providing space to the international community for more collaboration in the field of renewable energy. With India's help and that of other partners we can make the transition a realistic and achievable goal, thereby helping the planet towards sustainability and as an integral part of a climate-resilient world.

Seychelles, as an island nation, endowed with abundant sunshine, welcomes the focus placed on renewable energy, in particular on solar energy. To island countries, the practical impact of making optimum use of solar energy would be simply transformational for their prosperity and security. This can help them to achieve significant progress in reducing further their carbon footprints by lessening their dependency on hydrocarbons and their derivatives.

Seychelles looks forward to working closely with the ISA secretariat and all partners concerned on the actions that together we need to take and the opportunities we need to embrace.

Together we can offer the world a positive example of partnership for sustainable development, thereby building a future of promise, improving and democratising access to sustainable and renewable energy for all.