

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **GLOBAL SOLAR COUNCIL SAYS MARKET POISED FOR NEW GROWTH PHASE, POWERED BY DECARBONIZATION OF ECONOMY, INNOVATION AND COST REDUCTIONS**

Solar will play an important role in meeting Paris climate goals as installation growth eclipses the industry's historical record

Low-cost distributed energy systems and potential for residential and agricultural sectors will have an impact on poverty reduction and combatting inequality

Global Solar Council elects new board and officers

Salt Lake City, USA, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – The world solar market is poised for a new, dramatic phase of growth in which innovation in efficiency and lower costs will make solar technologies a major contributor to the Paris climate goals and help combat poverty and inequality, according to projections by the Global Solar Council.

The new phase of the solar market will dwarf the scale achieved so far in the industry's 30-year history: compared with the 500 gigawatts of solar photovoltaic installed today, a new market boom will see more than 8,500 gigawatts (8.5 terawatts) installed by 2050, based on International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) forecasts, to meet the climate targets set out in Paris in 2015.

According to the Global Solar Council's outlook – presented during Solar Power International as part of the North America Smart Energy Week – utility-scale projects will continue to dominate the industry but there will be an important role to play in the residential sector and for distributed as well as off-grid energy thanks to new, innovative ways to implement solar solutions. Research is underway to continue improvements in solar module efficiencies and identify new materials that will help extend the dramatic reductions in manufacturing and system costs.

"The way solar will spread, enabled by new technologies and innovation, will be as important as the headline growth numbers," commented **Pranav R Mehta**, Chair of the Global Solar Council and Chairman of the National Solar Energy Federation of India. "Given the widespread recognition of the urgency of the need to decarbonize our economies, the prospect having a solar plant on every farm will be a gamechanger, affordable storage will be a gamechanger and mass deployment of micro and mini grids will transform the energy system."

During the Salt Lake City event, the Global Solar Council held its AGM, which saw the election of new leadership as the body looks to deliver its mission of promoting the rapid and widespread adoption of solar energy through market development, partnerships and education. That follows the greater visibility, impressive partnerships with international organizations and financial consolidation achieved under Chair Mehta.

**Gianni Chianetta** of Italia Solare will be Chair for 2020 while **José Donoso** of Unión Española Fotovoltaica (UNEF) was elected as Chair for 2021. The new board discussed the GSC strategy of

extending its focus beyond the climate crisis to questions of how solar energy will help tackle socio-economic issues like inequality and poverty.

“Representing the solar industry at a worldwide level with members spanning all the major markets and both developed and emerging economies, the Global Solar Council has an important role to play as solar moves from a minor player in the energy system to a mass phenomenon, and to do that we are ready to work with other actors as well,” continued Pranav R Mehta.

### **Notes for editors:**

The Global Solar Council is the voice of the world’s solar energy industry, a non-profit body based in Washington D.C. representing national, regional and international associations as well as leading solar sector corporations. Founded at the 2015 Paris climate conference as a private-sector response to the climate emergency, the Global Solar Council brings together associations from both established and emerging markets that represent companies all along the solar supply chain.

### **Global Solar Council Board Directors 2020**

- Pranav Mehta - National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI)
- Gianni Chianetta - ITALIA SOLARE
- Gongshan Zhu - Asian Photovoltaic Industry Association (APVIA)
- José Donoso - Unión Española Fotovoltaica (UNEF)
- Bruce Douglas - SolarPower Europe
- Jifan Gao - China Photovoltaic Industry Association (CPIA)
- Rodrigo Lopes Sauaia - Associação Brasileira de Energia Solar Fotovoltaica (ABSOLAR)
- Abigail Ross Hopper – Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA)
- Steve Blume – Smart Energy Council
- Marcelo Álvarez - Cámara Argentina de Energia Renovable (CADER)
- Sam Hong - Taiwan Photovoltaic Industry Association (Chinese Taipei)
- Jan Clyncke – PV CYCLE
- Xavier Daval – Syndicat des Énergies Renouvelables (SER)
- Jörg Ebel – Bundesverband Solarwirtschaft (BSW-Solar)
- Niveshen Govender - South African Photovoltaic Industry Association (SAPVIA)
- Yue Mi – New Energy Industry Association for Asia and the Pacific (NEIAPP)
- David Renné – International Solar Energy Society (ISES)
- Eric Luo – GCL System Integration Technology
- Colin Yang – Trina Solar

### **Officers 2020**

Chair: Gianni Chianetta - ITALIA SOLARE

Chair Elect: Jose Donoso - Union Espanola Fotovoltaica (UNEF)

Immediate Past Chair: Pranav Mehta - National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI)

### **Co-Chairs:**

- Gongshan Zhu - Asian Photovoltaic Industry Association (APVIA),
- Rodrigo Sauaia - Associação Brasileira de Energia Solar Fotovoltaica (ABSOLAR)
- Jifan Gao - China Photovoltaic Industry Association (CPIA)
- Bruce Douglas - SolarPower Europe

- Xavier Daval - Syndicat des Energies Renouvelables (SER)

Secretary:

- Marcelo Alvarez - Camara Argentina de Energia Renovable (CADER)

Treasurer:

- Steve Blume - Smart Energy Council

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