

SHERATON HOTEL, KAMPALA

4TH MAY 2026

HON. OKAASAI SIDRONIUS OPOLOT, MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY; OPENS THE INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE (ISA) MISSION IN UGANDA

The High-Level Mission of the International Solar Alliance in Uganda brings together governments, development partners, private sector actors, and technical experts from across Africa and beyond under a shared commitment, to accelerate the deployment of solar energy as a driver of sustainable development.

In attendance were delegations from Ethiopia, Senegal, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, and The Gambia. This is an important platform for peer learning, partnership, and practical action for solar energy. Uganda is implementing an ambitious national transformation agenda anchored in Vision 2040 and the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV).

At the core of this agenda is the Tenfold Growth Strategy, through which Government aims to grow the economy tenfold, from approximately USD 50 billion to USD 500 billion by 2040.

This transformation is being driven through the ATMS framework which includes; Agro-industrialisation, Tourism development, Mineral-based industrialisation, and Science, Technology and Innovation.

Energy, reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy, is the backbone that enables all these sectors to grow. This is why the Sustainable Energy Development Programme under NDP IV prioritises diversification of the energy mix, including scaling up renewable energy solutions such as solar.

Solar energy is not just an environmental solution, it is an economic enabler. Through solar technologies, we are: powering irrigation systems to boost agricultural productivity, supporting agro-processing and cold storage, expanding electricity access in off-grid and underserved communities, enabling clean mobility and reducing urban emissions, and driving innovation, enterprise development, and job creation.

Solar energy directly supports productive use of energy, which is central to Uganda's industrialisation and rural transformation agenda.

Uganda's partnership with the International Solar Alliance has been deliberate and forward-looking. Our cooperation has focused on key priority areas, including:

capacity building for national institutions, development of frameworks for mini-grid power purchase agreements, solar resource mapping for investment planning, advancement of e-mobility programmes, establishment of a Solar National Support Unit, and sustainable solar waste management systems.

The engagement will be formalised through the **signing of the Country Partnership Framework (CPF)**. The CPF represents a critical shift: From policy to implementation, from commitments to bankable projects, and from isolated initiatives to coordinated national programmes.

It provides a structured and results-oriented framework that aligns international support with Uganda's national priorities. Through this framework, Uganda will:

- Unlock access to global solar financing and blended finance instruments,
- De-risk investments and attract private sector participation,
- Strengthen institutional and technical capacity,
- Accelerate deployment of scalable solar solutions.

During this mission, Uganda will also launch the Solar Technology Application Resource Centre (STAR-C) at Busitema University. This is a strategic milestone.

The Centre will enable us achieve the following:

- Build a pipeline of skilled technicians and engineers,
- Support applied research and innovation in solar technologies,

- Serve as a regional hub for clean energy solutions.

This aligns directly with our national focus on Science, Technology and Innovation as a key driver of economic growth.

Our commitment to renewable energy, including solar, is therefore both strategic and deliberate. The mission will focus on: developing an investable pipeline of solar projects, addressing financing opportunities and constraints, particularly in solarising agriculture value chains, engaging stakeholders on continental initiatives such as “Solarising Africa”, and conducting field visits to solar water pumping systems in Luweero, Nakasongola, and Kiryandongo.

The mission is expected to deliver: a clearly defined implementation roadmap, identification of priority investment-ready projects, strengthened partnerships with development partners and investors, and concrete commitments on capacity building and technology transfer.