

OECS signs MoU on solar energy

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THE Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission said yesterday it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to strengthen support for the member countries of the sub-region in advancing their sustainable energy goals.

ISA is an intergovernmental organisation working to accelerate the adoption of solar energy technologies by providing policy support, capacity building, and technical assistance to 124 members across Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) as well as Asia and the Pacific (APAC) regions.

It said that the agreement was signed during the ISA seventh meeting last month in Chile under the theme 'Harnessing solar power for resilience, growth, and unity in the region'.

The OECS was represented by Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

The meeting discussed advances in solar energy and opportunities to best leverage financing and partnerships to increase the uptake of solar energy.

The OECS Commission said the MoU acknowledges the critical role that clean energy plays in building resilience to climate change in the Eastern Caribbean, as well as the pivotal role indigenous energy can play in transforming the economies of small island developing states (SIDS).

It said the partnership framework establishes several areas of cooperation, including supporting the promotion of solar energy, the OECS Sustainable Energy Framework, the OECS Sustainable Energy Greenprint, and the Caribbean NDC Finance Initiative.

It also plans to jointly mobilise public and private finance in OECS member states for solar energy advancement and investments, including through blended finance models and climate finance instruments such as ISA's Global Solar Facility.

The agreement also strengthens institutional capacities through the implementation of regional training programmes, technical assistance, and exchanges anchored in the Solar Technology Application Resource Centres (STAR-C) of ISA in OECS member states, either existing or proposed, subject to mutual agreement.

'We must recognise that the continuing challenges, especially access to financing for the energy transition, remain a major challenge for SIDS,' said Grenada's Minister of Climate Resilience, the Environment, and Renewable Energy Kerryne James, who is also the ISA co-chair for the LAC Regional Committee.