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## Modi predicts new solar alliance will outshine Opec

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AN INDIA-LED coalition to harness solar energy will eventually replace the Opec (Oil and Petroleum Exporting Countries) oil cartel, India's premier predicted on Tuesday, as he opened the International Solar Alliance's first assembly with UN chief Antonio Guterres.

"The role of the oil wells today will be that of the Sun's rays tomorrow," Narendra Modi said at the meeting in New Delhi.

"In the coming years, when the world discusses initiatives for the welfare of humanity in the 21st century, ISA's name will be at the top. We have prepared everyone to ensure climate justice through this ISA forum," he said.

Opec pumps around a third of the world's oil and over decades has been able to influence the global energy market by controlling the price of crude.

The ISA, launched by Modi and then French president Francois Hollande in 2015 and based in India, is an alliance of countries mostly between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn that receive plentiful sunshine. It aims to reduce the costs of financing solar power and the required technology, and to mobilise more than a trillion dollars to build solar facilities and infrastructure by 2030.

"The International Solar Alliance represents exactly what needs to be done and represents the future," Guterres said at the event.

"We know what we need to do, and by and large, we have the tools to do it. What we still lack, fortunately not here in this room ... is the political commitment to make the transformative decisions that will lead us onto a safer path," he said. With only a single degree Celsius of warming so far, the world has seen a climate-enhanced crescendo of deadly heat-waves, wild fires and floods.