**Lessons Learnt on the PV Project:**

The first phase of the project ie 2011 to 2014 was very slow owing to the lack of capacity at the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities to implement the project. Consequently moving the project to the Central Electricity Board was a positive decision. The achievements of the project up to the time of MTR are largely attributable to the proactive actions by CEB to engage with the private sector towards the creation of grid-connected solar PV facilities and the consulting assignment to Mercados for MSDG.

The project has implemented significant strategic work whose importance cannot be understated. The project has been instrumental in the establishment of grid-connected solar PV power generation facilities in Mauritius. The project has been able to create capacity of about 10 MW, which is the target capacity by 2025 for solar PV as per the strategy of the Government. This became possible as the project supported the difference in tariff between the fossil fuel power plants and the cost of procurement of power from solar PV plants.

There is a need to continually monitor prices of PV as they keep falling. Thus the viability of the project depends on external circumstances. Although the cost of power generation using solar PV technology has come down (due to a general trend of reduction in the capital cost of solar PV and fiscal measures by the Government, including a reduction in VAT, no land-use conversion charges etc.), there is still a difference in the cost of generation using solar PV technology and other fossil fuel-based technologies., In view of this gap, any further capacity addition will still require the feed-in tariff support or other matching fiscal incentives.

Delays in project implementation mean that the legal context in which project execution happens may change over time and adaptive management is needed. The project was intended to remove a number of legal, regulatory and market barriers which hamper realisation of the potential of solar PV energy for on-grid electricity generation. The project has partially succeeded in doing so. Some technology (availability of solar resource data), financial (need for support by fiscal incentives due to viability gap) and regulatory barriers (long time required to receive clearances) still remain. Some of the remaining barriers will be addressed during the remaining implementation period. However, in order to achieve the planned objectives, outputs and outcomes of the project, an extension of time will be required. We conclude that the project has been instrumental in lowering many of the barriers towards grid-connected solar PV in Mauritius; however, the barriers have not been wholly removed.