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| <b>OMB APPROVAL</b>                          |           |
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*<br><u>Garabedian Raffi</u><br><br>(Last) (First) (Middle)<br>C/O FIRST SOLAR, INC.<br>350 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 600<br><br>(Street)<br>TEMPE AZ 85281-1244<br><br>(City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br><u>FIRST SOLAR, INC. [ FSLR ]</u> | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer<br>(Check all applicable)<br><br>Director 10% Owner<br><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)<br><u>Chief Technology Officer</u> |
|   | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)<br><u>03/07/2018</u>            |   |
| 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)  |  |   |

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) |   | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) |            |         | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|------------|---------|---|--|---|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V | Amount  | (A) or (D) | Price   |   |  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 03/07/2018                           |  | M                              |   | 7,662 <sup>(1)</sup>  | A          | \$0     | 10,666  | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 03/07/2018                           |  | F                              |   | 3,799 <sup>(2)</sup>  | D          | \$67.95 | 6,867   | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 03/08/2018                           |  | M                              |   | 3,601 <sup>(3)</sup>  | A          | \$0     | 10,468  | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 03/08/2018                           |  | F                              |   | 1,786 <sup>(2)</sup>  | D          | \$67.69 | 8,682   | D  |   |

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) |   | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) |                 | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |       |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|--|-----------------|---|--|--|---|--|-------|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V |  | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date |   |  |  |   |  | Title |
| Restricted Stock Units                     | (4)  | 03/07/2018                           |  | M                              |   | 7,662  | (5)  | (5)             | Common Stock  | 7,662                                      | \$0  | 22,985  | D  |       |
| Restricted Stock Units                     | (4)  | 03/08/2018                           |  | M                              |   | 3,601  | (6)  | (6)             | Common Stock  | 3,601                                      | \$0  | 7,200   | D  |       |

**Explanation of Responses:**

- Represents shares of common stock issued upon vesting of 25% of the restricted stock units granted on March 7, 2017.
- Represents shares of common stock withheld by the Issuer to satisfy certain tax withholding obligations with the vesting of the restricted stock units.
- Represents shares of common stock issued upon vesting of 25% of the restricted stock units granted on March 8, 2016.
- Each restricted stock unit represents the right to receive, upon vesting, one share of the Issuer's common stock in accordance with the Issuer's 2015 Omnibus Incentive Compensation Plan.
- The restricted stock units were granted on March 7, 2017 as part of the Issuer's annual equity grant to executive officers. These units are scheduled to vest annually at a rate of 25% on each anniversary of the grant date, commencing on the first anniversary of the grant date.
- The restricted stock units were granted on March 8, 2016 as part of the Issuer's annual equity grant to executive officers. These units are scheduled to vest annually at a rate of 25% on each anniversary of the grant date, commencing on the first anniversary of the grant date.

/s/ Jason E. Dymbort, attorney-in-fact 03/09/2018

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.**