

Moving beyond pledges: Effective Implementation of NDCs

As countries move towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement, it is even more essential to effectively implement mitigation and adaptation actions on the one hand, and raise aspirations on the other to meet the ambitious targets.

This was the agenda for the panel, which built extensively on the Inaugural Session where panelists spoke about the scale, intensity and effectiveness of existing climate policies in South Asia, and India specifically. Seamlessly fitting into this discussion, the panel aimed to provide a common narrative for “Effective Implementation” of the NDCs. Introducing the panel, Mr RR Rashmi, the Chair for the session, had emphasized on the role of all stakeholders to achieve this goal, which reflected in the composition of the eminent panelists. Underlining the role of the state, Mr Rashmi remarked, “The business models for climate action will only take us so far without regulation. We need a strategy that takes into account the business models and carbon pricing, supported by harmonized regulation.” Setting the stage on our current position, Dr Ursula introduced the work of Climate Analytics which seeks to establish a broad understanding on where countries stand with respect to their climate action and how compliant they are with the global targets for emission reduction. Dr Ursula highlighted the certain best in class actions by countries towards meeting the 1.5 degree target and the interlinkages between emission reduction and other developmental targets. “The faster we act to reduce emissions the larger benefits we have on interlinked sectors (of air; education; health and so on)”, she said. However, through her intervention, Dr Ursula also highlighted how progress on subnational climate action witnessed in certain countries is partly being inhibited by lack of progress at the federal level, highlighting the scale dependencies that arise when one talks about climate action.

Addressing the audience next, Mr Anirban stressed on the role of corporates in meeting and over achieving nationally determined contributions (NDCs), and thereby enabling a transition into green and sustainable development. While highlighting the various actions the Mahindra Group had undertaken, Mr Anirban emphasized the role of a “desire and discovery” process that enables action, where you desire to act and then discover in the process of acting. “At Mahindra we followed what we call the “Desire and discovery” process to enable climate action; Apart from doing good, this is all good for business. By making these interventions, we can inform our analysts and investors that our costs will be reduced and we will be present in the long-run”, he said.

He further highlighted how corporates can help reduce and create demand for renewable energy by buying generated renewable energy power, and thereby enabling further proliferation. He further highlighted the need for many corporates to “step-up” and make concerted efforts to help raise ambitions (of reducing GHG emissions).

While the perspectives of research institutes and corporates were put forth, the panel also brought in the perspective of subnational governments. Mr S Albert spoke about what the state of Manipur is doing to reduce the impact of climate change on its populace and had also identified a way-forward by stressing on the need for capacity building at the

subnational level for effective implementation of climate policies. This emerging narrative seamlessly built into the global discourse on climate policy, mediated through the UNFCCC processes. Dr Dlamini walked the audience through the UNFCCC process, and had highlighted how the Paris Agreement reinvigorated the spirits to enable a sustainable transition. He further noted the interlinkages between other global policy processes like the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. He had further noted the need for an international mechanism for enabling carbon pricing which could further accelerate climate action. These various perspectives from stakeholders laid the ground for understanding the way forward for effective implementation of NDCs, and had built a narrative for the subsequent session on financing a climate smart future.