



# WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2022

**TOWARDS A RESILIENT PLANET:**  
ENSURING A SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE FUTURE



## Virtual Stakeholder Roundtable on Adaptation and Resilience For COP26 Charter of Actions



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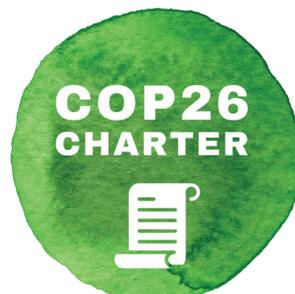


TATA CLEANTECH CAPITAL LIMITED

**Date:** 25 August 2021

**Time:** 15:00–16:30 hrs (IST)

**Duration:** 90 minutes



## **THE ENERGY AND RESOURCES INSTITUTE**

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The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is an independent, non-profit organization, with capabilities in research, implementation and outreach. TERI has multidisciplinary expertise in the areas of climate change, natural resources, environment, energy, and sustainable development goals. TERI's research and research-based solutions have had a transformative impact on industries and communities. It has fostered international collaboration on sustainability action by creating a number of platforms and fora. Research gets translated into technology products, technical services, as well as policy advisory and outreach. Headquartered in New Delhi, TERI has regional centres and campuses in Gurugram, Bengaluru, Guwahati, Mumbai, Panaji, and Nainital.



## WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

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**The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)** is the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Instituted in 2001 as the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS), the Summit series marked 20 years in its journey of making ‘sustainable development’ a globally shared goal. Over the years, the Summit platform has brought together thought leaders, heads of state and government, scholars, corporates, youth groups, and civil society representatives from across the world. The Summit series has established itself as a responsible and an effective platform for mobilizing opinion-makers to identify and advance pioneering actions to address some of the most relevant issues concerning sustainable development. Perhaps the only Summit on global issues, taking place in the developing world, WSDS now strives to provide long-term solutions for the benefit of global communities by assembling the world’s most enlightened leaders and thinkers on a single platform. The 21st edition of WSDS will be held between **16-18 February 2022**, under the theme: **Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future.**

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The team expresses gratitude to Dr Vibha Dhawan (Director General, TERI), Mr Manjeev Singh Puri (Distinguished Fellow, TERI), Mr R R Rashmi (Distinguished Fellow and Programme Director, TERI) and Ms Suruchi Bhadwal (Director, TERI) for their leadership and guidance in conduction the dialogue. We would like to thank Mr Anoop Variyambath, Mr Shyam Sunder Nayar (DGO); Ms Shailly Kedia, Ms Anuradha Mathur, Ms Nivedita Cholayil, Ms Neha Joshi, Mr Kaushik Guha (WSDS); Ms Sonal Bajaj, Ms Sonali Mathur, Ms Ritu Ghai, Mr I I Jose (Events team); Ms Aastha Manocha, Ms Tanuja Mehta, Mr Shreyas Joshi, Mr Sumit Bansal, Mr Neeshu P Srivastava (Communications Team); Ms Dolly Sangle, Ms Aarti Parmar, Mr Varun Prakash Pandey, Mr Rohit Chauhan and Mr. Paras Verma (IT); Mr Santosh Gautam, Mr Raman Kumar Jha, Ms Iphita Mitra (TERI Press) for communication, coordination and technology support during the event.

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## DOCUMENTATION

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The documentation is not an exact transcription and some editing was done to make the messages clearer for the reader.

## CONTACT

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The third Virtual Stakeholder Roundtable on Adaptation and Resilience was organized by TERI under the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) to get inputs and feedback on five themes including Green Finance, Energy, Adaptation and Resilience, Innovative Solutions, and Clean Transport.

Mr R.R. Rashmi, Distinguished Fellow and Programme Director, - TERI delivered the welcome address on 'Adaptation and Resilience' highlighting their relationship with climate change and the overarching issues of climate management. He remarked that this year, the COP Presidency has chosen Adaptation and Resilience, which is in line with the need of the hour. TERI is fortunate to have received support from stakeholders in its efforts towards mobilizing opinions on the issue of environmental protection.

Adaptation constitutes one of the primary responses of any regulatory and implementation system, both at the government and community levels. It is imperative to provide the extremely vulnerable communities with the necessary tools and instruments to respond to climate change risks. The Roundtable addressed some of these issues via extensive discourse and dialogue.

The main aspects of the discussion on adaptation revolved around the importance of protecting the communities by mainstreaming adaptation and resilience policies alongside the developmental schemes. Just transition has emerged as one of the ways through which climate

change risks can be addressed. Capacity building among the states to mitigate climate change was highlighted as a major concern during the discussion.

The welcome address was followed by a comprehensive presentation on 'Adaptation and Resilience Chapter of the COP26 Charter of Actions' by TERI. The presentation focused on the multiple facets of climate change within the purview of adaptation and resilience.

Today, the world has taken cognizance of enhanced adaptation action as a social, political, and economic necessity; which was also recognized by the Global Commission on Adaptation in its 2019 report. The effects of climate change have exacerbated the income and gender inequalities across the world, severely endangering the vulnerable communities. The countries of the Global South, including India, are heavily dependent on climate-sensitive sectors, especially agriculture and forestry. This has heightened the pre-existing problems of poverty and malnutrition, which in turn, have widened the rich-poor divide in these countries. Climate change has led to extreme events and disasters, thereby affecting the developmental processes of these countries due to huge infrastructural losses and damages. This calls for an urgent need to implement radical and transformative adaptation pathways that will critically examine such vulnerabilities and are all-encompassing as well.

The Indian Policy Framework to deal with climate change has typically been both adaptive and responsive. Policy formulation and changes under the umbrella of climate change have historically been driven by the occurrence of major disasters and extreme events. The PM's Council on Climate Change (2008) and the drafting of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) can be regarded as the initial steps towards climate action in India. The panellists acknowledged the diversities that a country such as India offers, and discussed the need for

giving power to the states to draft their own State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCC).

In the Indian context, agriculture, water, health, natural environment, and cities/urban areas were recognized as the key systems that are most vulnerable to the implications of climate change.

Essentially, adaptation goes beyond the requirement of critical inputs limited to financial and technical capital. It is a resource-intensive exercise owing to inherent uncertainties. The challenges faced by adaptation include development of human resources and natural resource management, existing in silos, which render them ineffective. This brings forth the need to integrate the developments made in the different sectors through constant interaction and exchange of ideas. Adaptation action should be more comprehensive instead of focusing on singular projects so as to integrate the continuous feedback loops that exist between different sectors. At large, though the funding to fight climate change is being utilized for developmental projects, it fails to target adaptation as the primary goal. Adaptation planning must be cognizant of cross-cutting concerns and include gender and equality across climate-sensitive sectors.

After discussing the existing frameworks and the various challenges that the country faces while dealing with climate change, the presentation steered to highlight the long-term strategies in the field of adaptation in India which include mainstreaming adaptation action in development plans and policies, addressing

regional risks and vulnerabilities and building capacities through the State Action Plans, ensuring feedback and integration of actions of different departments and agencies, and so on. The presentation concluded with some key questions addressed by the panellists to help TERI enhance and refine its charter on adaptation. These questions ranged from the identification of the challenges being addressed in India's mid-term and long-term adaptation planning to the implementation of just transitions.

The panellists shared their thoughts on the presentation given by TERI and provided useful insights. The distinguished panellists included Ms Anu Jogesh, and Dr A. Nambi Appadurai, among others, who appreciated the intensive research carried out by TERI and pointed out some areas that could be revisited to improve the scope of the charter.

In conclusion, there are multiple inclusive approaches to adaptation, in terms of addressing the difficulties faced by marginalized groups apart from the integration of risks in policy and planning. Empowering the local communities and governments to enhance their capacities to deal with climate change is a must. Keeping a tab on budgetary allocations and bridging the gaps in technology are other goals that institutions should not neglect. The role of private institutions is also crucial in the implementation of developmental policies, which must be viewed as a continuum. The goals should not be divided into the brackets of mid-term and long-term to ensure efficiency.

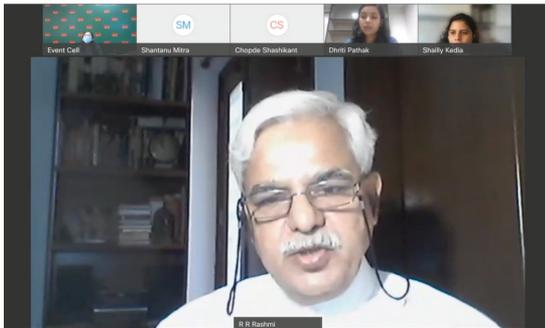


## PROCEEDINGS

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### Welcome Address and Setting the Stage

**Mr R. R. Rashmi, Distinguished Fellow and Programme Director, TERI**



In his welcome note, Mr Rashmi emphasized that adaptation and resilience are crucial not only because of their relationship with climate change but also because of their role in the global issues of environmental management and protection of our ecosystems. The recent WG1 Report of the IPCC has underscored the fundamental importance of adaptation and resilience to climate change as well as various forms of environmental degradation. He pointed out that adaptation and resilience have been chosen among the key goals to be achieved at the COP26.

Reiterating the importance of adaptation, Mr Rashmi focused on how it constitutes one of the primary responses at regulatory and implementation system at both the government and community levels. He established three important points in this regard, which are as follows:

1. Mainstreaming adaptation and resilience policies in developmental policy and strategy: Climate-resilient strategies of growth are vital including mitigation policies to protect our environment. Sustainability in production,

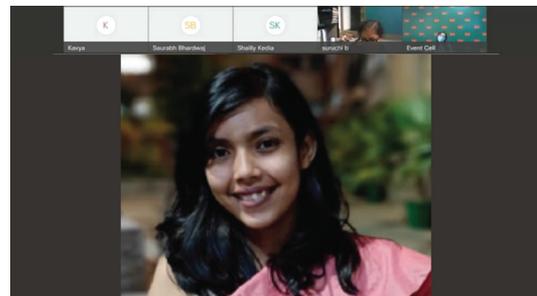
consumption systems, and policy frameworks must be ensured.

2. Just transition: This gives a direction to adapt to the changing climate by recognizing the necessity to bring all stakeholders and equip them to enhance their respective capacities to meet the challenges posed by climate change.
3. Far-reaching actions: These must reach the grassroots and address the issue of climate change at the national, state, and community levels.

With this introduction, Mr Rashmi invited all the panellists and stakeholders to contribute in the building of the Charter of Actions and highlight the issues for India to move towards climate-resilient growth.

### Presentation by TERI on 'Adaptation and Resilience Chapter of the COP26 Charter of Actions'

**Ms Dhriti Pathak, Research Associate, TERI**



Ms Pathak made a presentation on the 'Adaptation and Resilience Chapter of the COP26 Charter of Actions'. She began by citing the flagship report (2019) of the Global Commission on Adaptation, titled 'Adapt Now' which has termed 'adaptation' as a human, environmental, and economic imperative.

Ms Pathak elaborated on India's historical trajectory and its current policy framework on climate change. She emphasized the evolving global discourse on climate change necessitating monitoring and evaluation activities in the light of new findings, which are consequently reflected in the initiative to revise the action plans at both the national and state levels. This was followed by a short discussion on the key systems (agriculture, water, health, natural environment, and cities/urban areas) that are vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Attention was especially drawn to the impact of climate change on the built environment predominantly through increased instances of extreme events which severely hamper the development process of the country due to infrastructural damage and loss. Therefore, development processes must be integrated with climate action. Further, a shift is required from incremental to radical transformative adaptation pathways that will allow structural changes in society. It is crucial to recognize that those who are the most vulnerable are not left behind.

On the need for 'resourcing' adaptation, Ms Pathak commented that adaptation requires critical inputs that go beyond but are not unresponsive to financial and technical capital. It is a resource-intensive exercise owing to inherent uncertainties and this is exacerbated by lack of technical and financial capacity, especially at the local and regional levels. The following challenges were identified with respect to resourcing adaptation: a) development of human resources and natural resource management existing in silos which render them ineffective; b) adaptation action is often operationalized in 'project' mode focusing on specific sectors – such an approach fails to capture the integrated nature of the socio-economic interactions and continuous feedback loops that exist between different sectors; c) with regard to funding, the National Adaptation Fund (administered by NABARD) was launched in 2015; however, a major chunk of the fund is being used for developmental projects and interventions with adaptation being seen only as a co-benefit.

In response to these challenges and to further strengthen the agenda at hand, adaptation planning needs to be cognizant of cross-cutting concerns and include gender and equality across climate-sensitive sectors. Additionally, there should be a push for enhanced support for the countries of the Global South to address vulnerability to climate change through exchange of information and knowledge by extending financial and technological support.

On just transition, Ms Pathak noted that the need for the same arises from the realization that climate change impacts and adaptation actions can reinforce existing socio-economic inequalities and exacerbate vulnerabilities. Unjust adaptation can occur mainly due to two reasons – one, transferring of risk and vulnerabilities from powerful actors to powerless actors and two, maladaptive practices, which are sustainable only in the short run and can potentially lead to adverse implications in the long run.

For India, it is important that adaptation is reflective of the challenges being faced by both urban and rural regions with due consideration to the issues emanating from rural-urban migration.

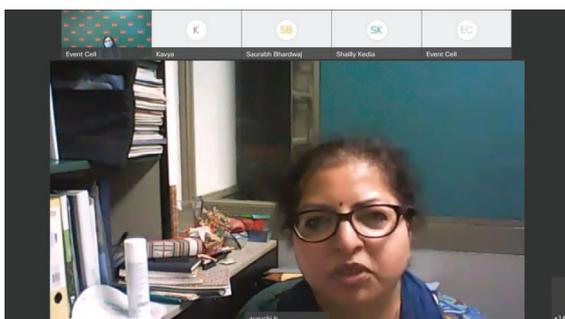
Five major points were discussed with respect to the long-term strategy for adaptation in India which include – mainstreaming adaptation in developmental plans, policies, projects to enhance resilience to climate risks and impacts; formulating the National Adaptation Plan that is reflective of the regional diversity in terms of risks and opportunities, resource availability, and socio-economic inequalities; building institutional memory and ensuring continuity of actions by departments, agencies, and stakeholders; addressing regional risks and vulnerabilities through building capacities of states and local bodies in the SAPCCs; and meeting the challenges of cross-border adaptation, such as climate-induced migration.

The presentation concluded with the following three questions for further deliberation:

1. What are the key challenges to be addressed in India's mid-term (2030) and long-term (2050) adaptation planning?
2. How to envision a long-term adaptation strategy for India that supports resilient, inclusive, and sustainable development?
3. What does just transition for adaptation in India entail?

### **Moderated Roundtable Discussion (12–15 Stakeholders Identified)**

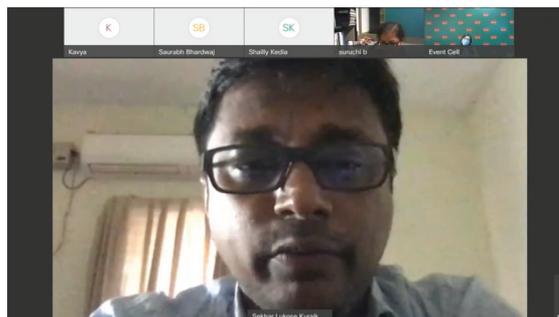
**Moderator: Ms Suruchi Bhadwal, Senior Fellow, TERI**



Ms Bhadwal introduced the key aspects that were to guide the discussion – a) strategies at the domestic and international levels which are needed from a ‘transitions and transformations’ point of view to build adaptation and resilience in the mid-term (2030) and the long-term (2050); b) issues related to equity and climate justice; c) and the nature of support we seek from different entities at the domestic and international levels to build adaptation and resilience.

#### **Dr Sekhar L. Kuriakose, Head, Kerala State Emergency Operations Centre**

Dr Kuriakose talked about the importance of linking climate change extremes with disaster risk reduction, and noted that both have to be seen together in order to achieve the Sendai Framework targets. Building inclusive disaster risk reduction and resilience practices in addition to ensuring the inclusion of people with disabilities in planning and

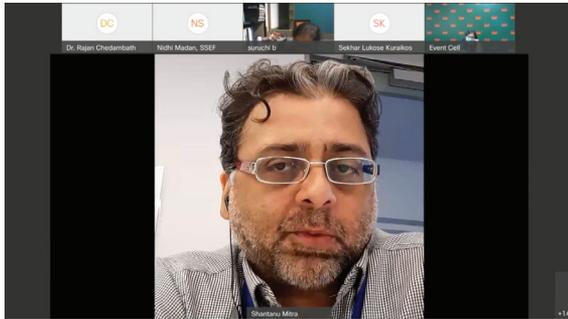


strategies are important areas of intervention, he said. Citing the efforts of Kerala, he elaborated on local self-governance and PRI as the action points for adaptation and resilience. There has been a Disaster Management Plan in Kerala since 2019 and the state also plans to bring climate change and disaster resilience tracking tools to gauge the performance of different institutions. In his concluding remarks, Dr Kuriakose offered to contribute to the chapter on disaster resilience and local self-governance.

#### **Dr Rajan Chedambathu, Secretary C-HED, Cochin**

Dr Chedambathu talked about the ongoing work in Kochi on climate change adaptation and various projects that are underway on renewable energy such as, Solar City Programme, Nurturing Neighbourhood Programme, and Climate Smart Cities. He pointed out that the state is preparing climate resilience and adaptation strategies with the support of International Council for Local Environment Initiative and also preparing rental housing to address climate-induced migration. Dr Chedambathu reiterated the fact that cities alone cannot fight climate change and they need national and international handholding for sharing technological know-how and financial support. He emphasized the need for – a) an integrated plan for climate change adaptation; b) programmes and policies which are binding (How do cities intend to spend budgetary allocation?); c) expertise and support; and d) an annual budget reflecting ‘Localizing SDGs’. A change is warranted in the development paradigm and focus should be shifted back to ‘water, air, food, soil,’ he signed off.

**Mr Shantanu Mitra, Department for International Development (DFID)**



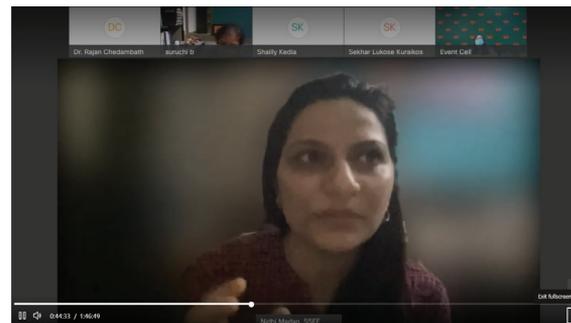
Mr Mitra discussed the steps taken by the UK towards bringing transformation in their adaptation and resilience agenda and shared the experience of the country for India to make informed decisions and actions. For the UK, climate resilience is a core objective. This involves encouraging both greater political ambition and translating that into practical action. The key areas of the climate resilience campaign of the UK to help think about transformations include a) a push for increasing international public funding for adaptation by ensuring that the developed countries live up to the target of US\$100 billion towards climate finance; b) shifting public finance towards climate resilience and participation in the establishment of the Coalition for Climate Resilient Investment aimed at systematically integrating physical climate risks into all investment decisions; c) encouraging and supporting countries to develop a clear plan of adaptation and resilience; d) supporting protection against climate-linked disasters, for example, improved risk information, early warning systems, insurance, and social action.

Mr Mitra also talked about UK's work in collaboration with India which involves a) cooperation in mainstreaming adaptation into government planning and budgeting at the state, city, and the local levels (using platforms like NREGS); b) introduction of climate/green budgeting at the state level (bringing climate into budget preparation, budget

implementation, reporting); c) working with private investors and financial institutions; d) integrating climate risk into financial and regulation (alignment with the task force on climate-related financial disclosure) systems.

He shared some of the key lessons learnt from UK's experience which include importance of political leadership, need for investment in good quality risk information, capacity of policymakers, planners, and communities to interpret and use that information in addition to the need for more efforts towards measuring the success of adaptation. About the time frame of strategies and actions, Mr Mitra pointed out that it is important to start working on all the mentioned issues simultaneously. Globally, there are fine examples on integrating climate with private investment which can potentially guide further action. He concluded by calling urgent attention to building capacities and investing on information.

**Ms Nidhi Madan, Senior Manager, Climate Policy, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation**



Ms Madan focused on three areas which need more attention and work. First, she talked about addressing technological gaps and pointed out that the Indian industry is already working on various proactive measures in the mitigation sector, and that it is essential to come up with technology needs assessment for adaptation and resilience. Second, to aggregate the impact of local initiatives and take those to the national level, monitoring and evaluation are imperative. And for this purpose,

designing appropriate indicators is crucial. Third, investing more on climate science research and identifying the pathways to India's net zero are more relevant than before. In the long term, energy models and climate science models should work in tandem towards realizing these objectives.

**Ms Anu Jogesh, Associate Director, Climate and Resilience Hub, Willis Towers Watson**

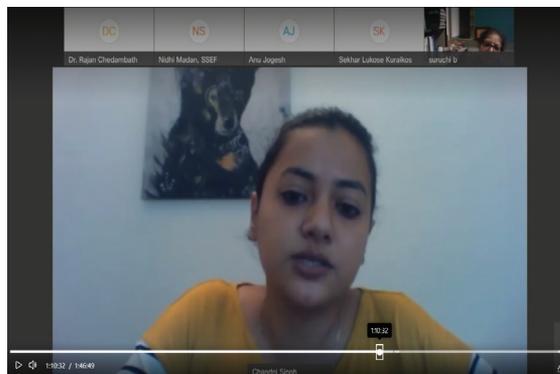


Ms Jogesh began by stating that climate policies and strategies in India have been largely anodyne. They are at the margins of political mandate and economic decision-making both at the national and sub-national level. She reiterated that adaptation is a deep systemic risk. There are crucial development imperatives associated with adaptation and yet these receive less focus than sectors like renewable energy. She insisted that transformative actions cannot be executed on the margins of the political and economic discourse.

While talking about finance gap and diversifying the sources of finance, she pointed out that the private sector has been largely missing from the landscape of adaptation and resilience policy engagement and coordination. The private sectors must tap into the opportunities associated with climate change. Further, there is a need for appropriate regulatory and market conditions for the businesses to be seriously engaged, which could include better defined guidelines, taxonomies, credit enhancement, and so on. All of this must be linked back to our domestic policies and mandates on climate change.

A consistent way to define and track adaptation action outcomes must be emphasized, she added. Further, effective coordination mechanisms between and among state and central agencies through the right institutional structure, capacity building, flow of knowledge, data sharing, financial flows, and incentives are crucial.

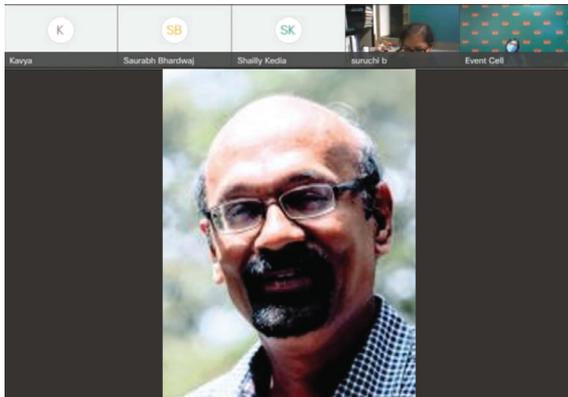
**Dr Chandni Singh, Senior Research Consultant – Practice, Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bengaluru**



Dr Singh called attention to learning and tapping into the potential of activities and initiatives that we know have worked well. She cited the example of the feasibility assessment of adaptation and mitigation actions from the latest IPCC report, such as those on nature-based solutions in cities, climate-resilient agriculture, etc., which could be adopted to strengthen adaptation and resilience. She also pointed out that it is important to look at maladaptation and potential negative consequences of current adaptation and development strategies. There is low empirical evidence on what maladaptation looks like, and therefore, more work is required in this area. There should also be more focus on participatory and inclusive decision-making processes and platforms for participatory risk management must be explored. Finally, she put emphasis on preparing for and building institutional capacities to deal with the cascading and compounding risks in the short term, and added that dealing with uncertainties

and making informed decisions are equally serious considerations.

**Dr A. Nambi Appadurai, Director (Climate Resilience Practice), World Resources Institute (WRI, India)**



While talking about mainstreaming of adaptation in development policies and practices, Dr Appadurai emphasized local adaptation where local leadership, local repository of knowledge, and ownership play a critical role in the effective implementation of adaptation strategies and building resilience. Further, understanding risks and benefits in government policies and plans, assessing their costs and benefits are important considerations. With regard to transformative adaptation, Dr Appadurai called for caution. Speed and intensity are critical components of transformative action, which must be undertaken after recognizing and understanding newly emerging realities, trade-offs between long-term and short-term activities.

**Dr Shiraz Wajih, Director, Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group**

Dr Wajih spoke from the perspective of grassroots development. While discussing the bottom-up approach, he stated that the 2018 guidelines of the Gram Panchayat Development Programme present ample opportunities to integrate disaster and climate change with development at the village, block, and



district levels. With regard to ‘resourcing adaptation’, he noted the importance of efficient resource use by checking and minimizing losses in the available stocks. The capacity building of community first responders (CFRs) and orientation of sectoral departments to execute the plans and schemes could help optimize resources, he concluded.

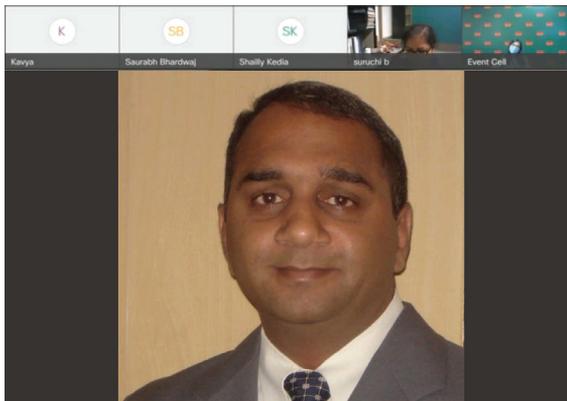
**Mr Saurabh Bhardwaj, Fellow and Area Convener, Centre for Climate Modelling, TERI**



Mr Bhardwaj emphasized that creating a climate-resilient development pathway must be an iterative and dynamic process for managing climate and development-related challenges within a complex system. This is why, there is a need for a systems approach at all scales, he added. The frameworks that we adopt have to be analytical and should highlight the need for conducting a range of studies across different scales, he asserted. Science-based tools at high-resolution levels are required to bridge the research gaps and build rich data sets, which further help in shaping the risk perception of stakeholders, thereby infusing their knowledge into

these data sets. Further, the current data sets must be made more dynamic to anticipate change and design interventions. Spatial and temporal granularity should be accounted for not just with respect to data but also at the policy level. In this regard, more interaction is warranted between scientists, policymakers, and stakeholders. Talking about disaster management, Mr Bhardwaj suggested that the innovative sourcing of PPP model can help solidify localized planning and action. He also pointed out that resilient infrastructure and disaster management must cross-cut all sectors identified for intervention.

#### Dr Shashikant Chopde, ISET



Dr Chopde elaborated on three action points that need to be implemented concurrently. The first one was on the 'Localization Agenda'. For the localization of CCA, DRR, and resilience, there is a need to a) strengthen local governments, PRI, and ULBs in partnership with state and central governments; b) empower local communities in both urban and rural areas through private sector involvement; and c) digitize data which should be ideally a locally driven agenda. He added that ULBs can have a standing committee on DRR to address issues related to risk reduction, mitigation, and so on. He emphasized that the idea is to empower local institutions and in this regard, integrating climate change with DRR and formulating District Disaster Management

Plans are important. The second point was related to addressing capacity gaps and risk assessment through building tools and capacities, and creating systems to evaluate risks in the multi-hazard context. For this, Dr Chopde suggested designing sovereign scale risk maps which are climate informed and can aid in identifying opportunities for risk-financing across geographies of various hazards. In the third point, he called for urgent action for drafting and mooted recovery strategy and adopting the 'build back better' philosophy for recovery efforts. He mentioned that losses and damages from the more frequent smaller disasters are seldom addressed. There is a requirement for a well-defined policy approach that would bind recovery targets in a time-bound manner. And finally, Dr Chopde reiterated the importance of empowering communities for faster local action.

#### Mr Sanjay Vashisht, CANSA



Mr Vashisht pointed out the challenges in the way of strengthening the adaptation and resilience agenda which include a) aggregation of global goal which is important for monitoring the progress made and allocating resources; b) lack of universally acceptable targets or set of targets as they vary according to sectors, vulnerabilities, and time frames; c) measurement of the adequacy of the adjustment required after a solution is suggested and implemented.

In his concluding remarks, he said that adaptation need not focus on a single goal or level. There should

be categorization of multiple goals and these must be defined and anchored in the national adaptation plans. Finally, he emphasized that there should not be any competition between global and national goals; instead, overall progress should be measured.

### **Summary and Vote of Thanks**

As summarized by Ms Bhadwal, the key points that were discussed in the roundtable centered around and intensively mentioned inclusive approaches to adaptation. The significance of integrating risks in policy and planning and the empowerment of local communities, governments on action on climate change and DRR formed a major part of the discussion. The source of budgetary allocations, gaps in technology, and the methods to monitor the progress of work should be identified. The governments shall be encouraged to set defined goals for adaptation and resilience for both the near and the long term. Another topic raised was the involvement and efforts of the private institutions in the process. Although the goals can be divided into short and long-term categories, the implementation must be viewed as a continuum. It was noted that the questions on defining the policy landscape of India weren't distinct. Aside from building capacity and delving into new research, we must acknowledge the things and plans that work well and are functioning

and operational, and enhance them to ameliorate the given conditions. The debate on adaptation is double-edged with the issue of maladaptation getting ignored. The negative potential of some ongoing actions needs to be recognized as well. There always exists a trade-off between long-term goals and short-term expectations. This must be studied and thoroughly analysed, taking cognizance of the effectiveness and efficiencies of the same before advancing further. There is also a need for a systems approach for policy formulation and planning. This includes optimizing the role of communities at all levels. Finally, a foray into science-based research and inclusion will also be of immense insight for the policymakers. Overall, the approach must be inclusive, taking all factors into consideration to ensure equitable justice.

### **Ms Shailly Kedia, Associate Director, TERI**

Ms Kedia thanked all the speakers for joining the roundtable discussion. She reiterated that all the points were duly noted and as a follow-up, a questionnaire was circulated where the speakers shared their inputs. All the funders and supporters who contributed to developing this Charter, namely, the British High Commission, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and Tata Cleantech Capital were acknowledged.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

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On the basis of the four key questions addressed, some of the pointers are listed below:

### **Strategies and measures needed by 2030**

- ◆ Build capacities both at the institutional and community levels to deal with the cascading and compounding effects of climate change. Further, for optimally 'resourcing' adaptation, undertaking capacity building of first responders and block/village/community institutions to see through effective implementation and checking losses with the resources already available and in use is important;
- ◆ Integrating Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction and design disaster management plans at district levels;
- ◆ Address research gaps by investing in science-based tools and building rich data sets, and establish better information flow and interaction between scientists and policy makers;
- ◆ Enhance the role of private sector and incentivize their involvement in adaptation and resilience building. Greater political interest and ambition in adaptation and resilience is necessary to signal this shift.

### **Strategies and measures needed by 2050 (long-term strategies)**

- ◆ It was not necessary to look at climate change and adaptation goals as a mid-term and long-term affair. By not characterizing it as that, and realizing the fact that it is important to start working on all the issues simultaneously is what might lead to better results for the future.
- ◆ The role of the private investors and organizations is key, their willingness to help and contribute being at the helm of the debate. Another important stance should be on the front of building capacity and providing enough information to tackle the problems at multiple levels. Since the advances made today will help establish a better future, it is important to start somewhere and head in the direction of positive change.

### **Implications for equity/just transitions**

- ◆ Decision-making processes have to become more inclusive and must involve greater participation of stakeholders at all levels.

### **Role of the international community**

- ◆ The government needs some hand-holding from international organizations to provide the necessary and required resources of information and technological knowhow to proceed in a paced yet comprehensive fashion.
- ◆ Whether it is about cross-border issues that require international cooperation in dialogue and discourse or the funding for several initiatives towards the common goal of adaptation, the role of the international community is becoming increasingly important.
- ◆ The example-led solutions are also ways in which the regional differences can be overcome and the countries can build on each other's policies to contest the challenge.

## ABOUT COP26 CHARTER OF ACTIONS

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Under the presidency of the UK in partnership with Italy, the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), to be held from 1–12 November 2021 in Glasgow, will aim to mobilize the action on mitigation, adaptation, and resilience, and strengthen the narrative for better alignment with sustainable development goals. COP26 is to deliberate on four key goals: (i) Secure global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach; (ii) Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats; (iii) Mobilise finance; and (iv) Work together to deliver. COP26 will bring together countries, companies, civil society, and citizens on a common platform to work towards to a more sustainable future through adaptation, mitigation, finance, and collaboration.

There is a need to address the developmental deficit in emerging economies such as India while simultaneously taking measures to limit global warming as agreed in the Paris Climate Change Agreement. TERI is preparing a COP26 Charter of Actions which will assimilate questions and challenges posed by keys sectors in India, propose probable and sector specific options which can advance climate action and ambition in the country, and also propose a normative framework for a global agenda on climate ambition and action. The Charter is expected to be released at the COP26 in Glasgow. The discussions from COP26 would culminate in a review at a plenary session at the World Sustainable Development Summit 2022, which would assess the efforts of international climate negotiations in securing a sustainable future, and deliberate on future actions. The Charter will examine the themes of energy, clean transport, nature-based solutions, adaptation & resilience, green finance, business and industry, and equity. The Charter activities are supported by the British High Commission, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation and Tata Cleantech Capital.

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