

Ambition and Action in the Critical Decade for addressing Climate Change and Realizing Sustainable Development

INAUGURAL SESSION: SUMMARY

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Inaugural Session

About the Session

The inaugural session saw leaders set vision and policy directions in the present decade for enhanced ambition and accelerated actions. When these leaders from various spheres come together and reflect upon their experiences, they build their own representations and incorporate new information into their pre-existing knowledge, thus giving a new or evolved direction to policies and actions. The inaugural session and overall sought to reinforce commitments and actions at all levels to enhance ambition and urgency, which will create a more sustainable and equitable world for present and future generations.

Speakers

Welcome Address

• Mr Nitin Desai, Chairman, Governing Council, The Energy and Resources Institute

Opening Address

• Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Keynote Addresses

- H.E. Dr Irfaan Ali, President of the Republic of Guyana
- Ms Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations

Inaugural Address by Chief Guest

• Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi

Announcement of Sustainable Development Leadership Award

• Acceptance Speech by Awardee - Mr Michael Rubens Bloomberg, UN Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solutions, Founder of Bloomberg LP and Bloomberg Philanthropies

Vote of Thanks

• Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute

Disclaimer

The text of the addresses is based on auto-generated transcript from YouTube. Minor edits were made on grammar and spelling. The text for the 'Inaugural Address by Chief Guest: Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi' was taken from Press Information Bureau website. The exact wording of the discussion can be accessed from YouTube video: https://youtu.be/iGAz16O1yXA.

Actionable Messages

Message I: A lot has been said over the last 50 years, since the 1972 Stockholm Conference. Very little has been done. Time has come for all stakeholders to walk the talk. There is a need for a global movement towards globally sustainable lifestyles that respect planetary boundaries. Leadership is needed for strengthening protected area networks, Ramsar sites and restoring degraded land.

Message 2: The Paris Agreement goals cannot be reached unless all countries stay within their fair share of global carbon budget only then climate justice can be achieved. Developed countries must meet both their promises of reducing emissions drastically by a shift towards sustainable lifestyles and providing the developing countries with increased finance and technology support.

Message 3: It is time for all countries to think globally while accelerating efforts at local and national levels. This is indeed a critical decade and all will be answerable to future generations if there is a failure to act now. Measures to address climate change adaptation and mitigation will contribute to the economy, create jobs and protect people's health thereby also meeting social and economic objectives.

Message 4: Developing countries will need more energy and renewable energy must be deployed at the scale to ensure that the energy transition is not only fast but just. Along with energy transitions, there needs to be a focus on aspects such as reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, re-design and re-manufacture.

Message 5: Developing countries do not have years to wait and must urgently reduce the vulnerability of people particularly the poorest that is why the Secretary General and I have long called for 50 per cent of climate finance to be allocated to adaptation. Leaders in Glasgow agreed to double adaptation finance from 2019 levels. This is a good start but it will not be enough.

Message 6: Reducing the vulnerability of people particularly the poorest is important considering that climate impacts are being felt. There is need to strengthen the call on 50 per cent of climate finance being allocated to adaptation. While leaders in Glasgow agreed to double adaptation finance from 2019 levels, there is need to commit more finance to adaptation.

Making Words Count @WSDS 2022

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The World Sustainable Development Summit tries to bring together political leaders who can translate sustainable development into policy, corporate leaders and executives who can translate it into investment choices, and researchers and academics who can bring the knowledge, analysis and technology to allow corporates and governments to pursue sustainable development and people involved in civil society organizations to connect people with leaders who have the power.

Mr Nitin Desai

Chairman, Governing Council, The Energy and Resources Institute

We must act now on the basis of globally agreed rules taking into account the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities. The Paris Agreement goals cannot be reached unless all countries stay within their fair share of global carbon budget only then climate justice can be achieved.

Shri Bhupender Yadav Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Guyana will act strategically and responsibly as the sector develops supporting global energy security while diversifying and decarbonizing Guyana's domestic economy and investing in development priorities for all Guyanese including health education the productive sectors and low-carbon opportunities.

H.E. Dr Irfaan Ali President of the Republic of Guyana

Developing countries do not have years to wait and must urgently reduce the vulnerability of people particularly the poorest that is why the Secretary General and I have long called for 50 per cent of climate finance to be allocated to adaptation. Leaders in Glasgow agreed to double adaptation finance from 2019 levels. This is a good start but it will not be enough.

Ms Amina J. Mohammed Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations

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Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi

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We all know we have a lot of work to do and not a moment to waste. The good news is all the steps we take fighting climate change will also grow the economy and create jobs and protect people's health.

Mr Michael Rubens Bloomberg UN Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solutions; Founder of Bloomberg LP and Bloomberg Philanthropies

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TERI is a rich resource human resource centre with very dedicated and motivated colleagues who are working relentlessly.

Dr Vibha Dhawan Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute

Narrative

Welcome Address

Mr Nitin Desai, Chairman, Governing Council, The Energy and Resources Institute

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 21st World Sustainable Development Summit. It is my honour to welcome the Honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, His Excellency Dr Irfaan Ali, President of the Republic of Guyana; Her Excellecy Ms Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; and Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

It is our honour and privilege to have them with us for this Inaugural Session. The World Sustainable Development Summit tries to bring together political leaders who can translate sustainable development into policy, corporate leaders and executives who can translate it into investment choices, and researchers and academics who can bring the knowledge, analysis and technology to allow corporates and governments to approach pursue sustainable development and people involved in civil society organizations to connect people with those in power. More than 10000 people will be participating in this event and we all look forward to the deliberations and discussions and the Outcome of this Summit which has always been very effective and influential in shaping practical actions on sustainable development.

With this, once again I welcome you all to this virtual summit and I look forward to the discussions over the next three days. Thank you very much

Opening Address

Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change

It is my pleasure to address you all at the Inaugural Session of the World Sustainable Development Summit 2022. The Summit has a legacy of over two decades. It is an annual flagship event by TERI for discussions on climate action and sustainable development. The theme for this year's event is very timely- towards a resilient planet ensuring a sustainable and equitable future. While economic growth since the industrial revolution has granted countries greater prosperity, it has come at a huge cost to the environment. What we need today is an approach that balances the quest for economic growth and mindful resources consumption. We need to move towards globally sustainable lifestyles that respect planetary boundaries.

At a time, when environmental degradation and emission caused by a lop-sided model of growth was being called an inconvenient truth, the then Chief Minister of Gujarat and currently our Respected Prime Minister came out with a model based on convenient action to protect our planet. At Paris, under his eminent leadership, India gave the concept of sustainable lifestyles and climate justice, both of which found a place in Preamble of the Paris Agreement. Subsequently, India embarked on a path of strong actions across major sectors of the economy to transition toward low emission development pathway.

As a result of ambitious implementation, we were in a position to further increase the ambition in our climate action at COP26 within five years of ratification of Paris Agreement. For instance, our goal for energy transitions has increased consistently from 175 gigawatts by 2022 to 450 gigawatts by 2030 and now 500 gigawatts by 2030. India demonstrates a clear resolve to move ahead along a sustainable resource efficient growth path.

At COP26, as the implementation of the Paris Agreement began, India reassured the world yet again conveying our *'Panchamrit'* (five nectar elements) to the world including the goal of net zero by 2070 and the one-word mantra of LIFE = which means 'lifestyle for environment'.

All these concepts draw from India's old age-old culture and traditions of reverence for Mother Nature and a constant reminder to humanity that a cocoon of luxury will not save us from the impact of climate change. All of us need to do our bit and choose moderation over profligacy and less with excess consumption. In fact the very logo of my Ministry states 'nature protects if she is protected', the meaning in the Sanskrit is Prakriti Rakshati Rakshita. Nature can no longer be taken for granted.

Since 2014, our tree and forest cover is only increasing and our forests are filled with life. The population of endangered species such as tiger has been increasing. It is based on such achievement that i want to reassert that both environment and development are just two sides of the same coin and must proceed hand in hand. For development, we do not have to dismantle and degrade our green assets, Utilization of resources must be based on mindful and deliberate utilization and not mindless and destructive consumption. The goal of LIFE—lifestyle for the

environment—that our Honourable Prime Minister unveiled during COP26 at Glasgow should be adopted by the world to safeguard humanity and the planet.

Those who have contributed the most in taking the world in the wrong direction must also make the maximum effort to come back to the path of sustainability to address global environment challenges including climate change. We must act now on the basis of globally agreed rules taking into account the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities.

The Paris Agreement goals cannot be reached unless all countries stay within their fair share of global carbon budget only then climate justice can be achieved. In this context, I am happy to say that India is striving to walk the path with its vision of inclusive low carbon growth and development in its domestic policies and through international cooperation.

Apart from our resolute domestic actions we have reached out to all nations globally as per vision of our Honorable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modiji of One Sun, One World and One Great as part of our pioneering International Solar Alliance. We have also shown our commitment to adaptation in action rather than mere words by setting up and promoting the Coalition of Disaster Resilience Infrastructure.

India has not contributed to aggravating the problem of global warming into a crisis. Our cumulative emissions are only about four percent from the pre-industrial period. Though we have about 17 percent of the world's population, our per capita annual emission is only about one third of the world average.

Our way forward will continue to be that of low carbon development based on responsible use of our natural resources with our equitable share of the global carbon budget. India's Nationally Determined Contributions are ambitious and they make a significant contribution toward achieving the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement. Despite the adverse impact of the pandemic on the economy, India has enhanced its climate ambition, India is spearheading one of the most ambitious clean energy transitions in the world.

Inclusive and sustainable macro-economic development of India require that both adaptation and mitigation objectives of the country are uniformly and equitably addressed within the larger goal of meeting our people's aspiration and needs. Our latest Union Budget has reaffirmed our determination to go down with this path.

The developed countries must respond on their part with due ambition. They must meet both their promises of reducing emissions drastically by a shift towards sustainable lifestyles and providing the developing countries with increased finance and technology support. India will do more than its fair share but global climate action requires collective resolve to be successful.

With these words, I wish this Summit all success.

Thank you very much.

Jai Hind!

Keynote Address

H.E. Dr Irfaan Ali, President of the Republic of Guyana

Let me begin by saying that I am honoured to be back at the World Sustainable Development Summit. This event continues to play an important role in facilitating dialogue on climate action and sustainability and provides a vital platform to engage with issues that are of particular significance to the developing world.

The theme of this year's Summit—towards a resilient planet: ensuring a sustainable and equitable future—is an ambitious call to act before it gets too late, a call which Guyana fully supports.

Climate change and its impact are not bound by physical borders. Developed and developing countries will feel the impacts, some more than others. The extent of extreme climate events experienced by the planet in the past years have reinforced the fact that the well-being of humans and the health of the planet are inextricably linked. This is indeed a critical decade and we will be answerable to future generations if we fail to act now.

Speaking at WSDS last year, I had underscored the need to work towards our common future. This is impossible to achieve unless the global leadership is committed to the common global good. This requires less talk and urgent attention on mitigation actions as well as adaptation support.

Guyana is also committed to its climate goals. Our emissions are negligible and through our forests we are in net carbon sink. In other words, we are already net zero.

In October 2021, I launched Guyana's low carbon development strategy 2030 which provides clear indicators of our efforts to build a low-carbon economy in Guyana through low-carbon energy, employment and development opportunities for all sections of our society; a transformation of digital, marine and transportation infrastructure and significant investment in adapting to the impacts of climate change.

In the first phase of the strategy and over the period 2010 to 2015, Guyana was able to establish one of the first payment for forest climate service model working with Norway and earning over 200 million US dollars which supported the implementation of the LCDS.

In 2015, Guyana made commercial discovery of oil and gas resources and by 2020 commercial oil production was approximately 0.1 million barrels per day. Several projects are advancing and which would put production in approximately at approximately 0.8 million barrels per day by 2027. Notwithstanding our utilization of oil and gas resources, Guyana remains committed to its low carbon agenda.

Our development path as outlined in the low carbon development strategy is aligned with global climate change goals. Guyana will act strategically and responsibly as the sector develops supporting global energy security while diversifying and decarbonizing Guyana's domestic economy and investing in development priorities for all Guyanese including health education the productive sectors and low-carbon opportunities.

In this regard we have and continue to forge relationships with like-minded partners. Guyana is a member of the International Solar Alliance, an initiative pioneered by India and France.

The Government of India through a line of credit is supporting Guyana's renewable energy program. One of the initiatives is installation of 30,000 solar home units for hinterland villages. We intend to expand this collaboration with the Government of India.

Over the last decade we have fruitfully engaged TERI through multiple projects. TERI has forged successful partnerships with key stakeholders in Guyana and the private sector, the government agencies and communities, providing expertise and cutting-edge technologies to reduce energy costs and accelerate renewable energy use. My government is committed to building this relationship with TERI to support not only Guyana's effort on energy efficiency and renewable energy but also the wider Caribbean region by working with many small island developing states.

The WSDS platform has brought together heads of state, ministers as well as top representatives from the United Nations and other important organizations.

It is time for us to think globally while we double our efforts at local and national actions. We have no option but to work together and to commence that work now. Once again, I wish to commend the leadership shown by Prime Minister Modi and the Government of India and the tremendous efforts being made by organizations such as TERI. The government and people of Guyana remain a willing partner in supporting you. Once we pursue this agenda, we must ensure that we develop in a responsible and sustainable manner our natural resources so that we can raise the standard of living standard of living of all our people.

The disparities that exist globally must be addressed. When we speak about the climate agenda, we must be able to provide alternatives, we must be able to support the development aspirations of people all across the globe especially of the developing countries. So, while Guyana remains committed to this agenda, we also remain committed to the advancement of the living conditions, and livelihood of our people through sustainable exploration and exploitation of our natural resources to the benefit of the people.

I thank you and God bless you.

Keynote Address

Ms Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations

It is a pleasure to speak to you at this Summit. Our need for action on sustainable development is clear. The pace and scale of the climate crisis is accelerating costing lives and livelihoods. 759 million people still suffer from lack of access to energy and billions more lack sources of clean through cooking.

The situation is untenable but we have a roadmap for an inclusive and sustainable future. The 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement have set global objectives. The Secretary General has also issued the Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG 7 Action which has made clear that we need an avalanche of action. Without transformative efforts made in this decade led by all major economies to cut global emissions by 45 percent, our collective hope for a 1.5 degree world will disintegrate.

We are already speeding past 1.2 degrees. We have made strides in deploying renewables and growing the net zero coalition exemplified by Prime Minister Modi's leadership. But much more as needed. Coal must be rapidly phased down globally by 2030 and fully phased out by 2040. At the same time renewable energy must be deployed at the same scale to ensure that the energy transition is not only fast but just.

Ladies and gentlemen, climate impacts have been severe and traumatic and they are getting worse. Developing countries do not have years to wait and must urgently reduce the vulnerability of people particularly the poorest that is why the Secretary General and I have long called for 50 per cent of climate finance to be allocated to adaptation. Leaders in Glasgow agreed to double adaptation finance from 2019 levels. This is a good start but it will not be enough.

Access and eligibility systems must be reviewed to allow developing countries to get the finance they need on time. We are also calling on all stakeholders to develop energy compacts with specific targets and timelines to drive achievement of SDG 7 and clean and affordable energy for all. Current energy compacts total more than 600 billion dollars in voluntary and trackable commitments. Commitments must become action. 2022 must be a year for urgent implementation on all fronts- mitigation, adaptation and finance. Our sustainable development needs really do depend on you now.

Thank You.

Inaugural Address by Chief Guest

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi

I am delighted to join you at the Twenty First World Sustainable Development Summit. Environment and sustainable development have been key focus areas for me all through my 20 years in office, first in Gujarat and now at the national level.

Friends, we have heard people call our planet fragile. But it is not the planet that is fragile. It is us. We are fragile. Our commitments to the planet, to nature, have also been fragile. A lot has been said over the last 50 years, since the 1972 Stockholm Conference. Very little has been done. But in India, we have walked the talk.

Equitable energy access to the poor has been a cornerstone of our environmental policy. Through Ujjwala Yojana, more than 90 million households have been provided access to clean cooking fuel. Under the PM-KUSUM scheme, we have taken renewable energy to the farmers. We are encouraging farmers to set up solar panels, use it and sell surplus power to the grid. Standalone solar pumps as well as efforts for solarising existing pumps are being scaled up. The focus on "Chemical-free Natural Farming" will also help promote sustainability, and equity.

Friends, our LED bulbs distribution scheme has been running for over seven years. It has helped save more than 220 billion units of electricity and 180 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per year. We have announced the setting up of the National Hydrogen Mission. It aims to tap into Green Hydrogen, an exciting technology to power our future. I encourage academic and research institutes like TERI to come up with scalable solutions to realize the potential of green hydrogen.

Friends, India is a mega-diverse country. With 2.4% of the world's land area, India accounts for nearly 8% of the world's species. It is our duty to protect this ecology. We are strengthening our Protected Area network. The IUCN has recognized our efforts. The Aravalli Biodiversity Park in Haryana has been declared as an OECM site for its effective conservation of biodiversity. I am also glad that two more wetlands from India have got recognition as Ramsar sites recently. India now has 49 Ramsar sites spread over more than I million hectares. Restoring degraded

land has been one of our main focus areas. Since 2015, we have restored more than 11.5 million hectares. We are on track to achieve the national commitment of Land Degradation Neutrality under the Bonn Challenge. We firmly believe in fulfilling all our commitments made under the UNFCCC. We have also raised our ambitions during COP-26 at Glasgow.

Friends, I firmly believe, and I am sure you would agree that environmental sustainability can only be achieved through climate justice. Energy requirements of the people of India are expected to nearly double in the next twenty years. Denying this energy would be denying life itself to millions. Successful climate actions also need adequate financing. For this, developed countries need to fulfil their commitments on finance and technology transfer.

Friends, sustainability requires co-ordinated action for the global commons. Our efforts have recognised this interdependence. Through the International Solar Alliance, our aim is "One Sun, One World, One Grid". We must work towards ensuring availability of clean energy from a world-wide grid everywhere at all times. This is the "whole of the world" approach that India's values stand for.

Friends, The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), aims to build strong infrastructure in areas prone to frequent natural disasters. On the side-lines of COP26, we also launched an initiative called "Infrastructure for Resilient Island States". The Island Developing States are the most vulnerable and hence need urgent protection.

Friends, to these two initiatives, we now add LIFE - Lifestyle For Environment. LIFE is about making lifestyle choices to improve our planet. LIFE will be a coalition of like-minded people across the world who will promote sustainable lifestyles. I call them 3Ps - Pro Planet People. This global movement of Pro Planet People (3-Ps) is the Coalition for LIFE. These three global coalitions will form the trinity of our environment efforts for improving the global commons.

Friends, our traditions and culture are the sources of my inspiration. In 2021, I spoke about how the health of people and the planet are inter-linked. Indians have always lived in harmony with nature. Our culture, rituals, daily practices and numerous harvest festivals demonstrate our strong bonds with nature. Reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, re-design and re-manufacture have been part of India's cultural ethos. India will continue to act for climate resilient policies and practices as we have always done.

With these words, and with that solemn promise, I extend my best wishes to TERI and to all the participants from around the world at this Summit.

Thank you!

Thank you very much!

Announcement of Sustainable Development Leadership Award

Acceptance Speech by Awardee - Mr Michael Rubens Bloomberg, UN Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solutions, Founder of Bloomberg LP and Bloomberg Philanthropies

Hello everyone. I hope you and your families are well in managing through these challenging times and I want to thank everyone at The Energy and Resources Institute for all the great work you are doing and for this award.

I am very glad to accept it on behalf of the whole team at Bloomberg and Bloomberg Philanthropies who are working to tackle climate change. We all know we have a lot of work to do and not a moment to waste.

The good news is all the steps we take fighting climate change will also grow the economy and create jobs and protect people's health.

India is leading by example and it was great to see the country make ambitious new climate commitments at COP26.

Our Company and our Foundation are working with public and private sector leaders in India to help the country reach its goals. We are all in this together and the more we work together the faster we can make progress. So, thanks again for all your great work and for this award and all the best for a very successful Summit.

Vote of Thanks Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute

My heartfelt greetings to all of you. TERI is honoured to have such a distinguished line of dignitaries on this virtual platform for this year's edition of World Sustainable Development Summit. I am very thankful to all of you for taking time out and expressing your views on climate change and realizing sustainable development.

Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modiji, your dedication to the cause has been very inspiring to all of us and I am sure to all the citizens not only of this country but across the planet. The commitments made by you at Glasgow and your sharing the message with us truly deflects your commitment for cleaner and greener planet.

Apart from energy commitments, you have also listed about sustainable agriculture and the importance of restoring lands, I am sure the efforts which are presently being taken under your leadership will surely make our soils healthier and thus able to sustain biodiversity which fortunately our country is blessed with. I am sure it is the nature which will tide us through these difficult times of climate change and other impacts of high carbon and GHG emissions. Of course, it goes without saying we require energy and we need development. We need to ensure that nature is given due importance if we have to sustain ourselves on this planet. I am very grateful to all the dignitaries present for consistent efforts.

On behalf of TERI, I would like to express my gratitude for the support extended by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India ever since we started our journey twenty years back. They are always partners with us and thank you very much for this.

I would also like to thank our Country Partner- The Royal Norwegian Embassy, New

Delhi; Star Partner- Bloomberg Philanthropies; Premier Partner- Tata Cleantech Capital Limited; Premier Partner-Rockefeller Foundation; Senior Partner- The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Federal Republic of Germany; Senior Partner- ClimateWorks Foundation, Senior Partner- The World Bank, Senior Partner- European Union and GIZ.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors and partners not just for support to WSDS but to the work that we carry out at TERI. It is worth mentioning that earlier in the day today we have signed a memorandum of understanding with Vedanta to work together on issues related to sustainability. This shows willingness and commitments toward the cause and belief of corporates that cleaner that the only way to survive is to go clean and to go green. It is more of a mind-set. One can do things and together develop the technologies.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our supporters and partners who have made possible the kind of work TERI does. We have enjoyed partnership with number of organizations including bilateral, multilateral, ministries and corporates. I am not naming them individually but I would like to again say thank you very much. We do look forward to your support and I can assure you that we will try our level best to achieve the objectives with which TERI was established. TERI will keep on continuing on that path.

I would like to extend my special thanks to Mr Desai and all the members of the Governing Council for their valued leadership and suggestions which they give us from time to time and their involvement in functioning of TERI. I would like to thank all my TERI colleagues. TERI is a rich resource human resource centre with very dedicated motivated colleagues who are working relentlessly.

My special thanks to Shailly and the entire WSDS team. The team has been working tirelessly for organizing this Summit and I am sure they have not slept for many nights. So, thank you very much. But I am sure at the end of the Summit, they will be absolutely fresh because the Summit will be a great success. There are many of my colleagues who are also working behind the scene so thanks to them and the entire team at TERI.

We are looking forward to a very insightful and productive discussions during the sessions of this Summit. I am sure that all of you in next three days will find the Summit a very informative and insightful experience.

We do look forward to your involvement not just in the Summit but beyond. The platform which will be launching in the Summit is Act4Earth which will be extremely important and its success will depend on involvement of all of you in achieving the cause of greener and cleaner environment. I am hoping that next year, one can say what was achieved in last one year at the global level. Thank you and best of luck for the conference.