



WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2022

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

February 16-18, 2022 (Virtual)



Leadership in Developed Countries: Reconciling the Role of States and Markets for Sustainable Consumption and Production

MINISTERIAL SESSION: SUMMARY

Virtual Venue: Gir

Date: February 16, 2022

Time: 07:00 PM - 08:00 PM (IST)

Suggested Citation

World Sustainable Development Summit (2022), Ministerial Session: Leadership in Developed Countries- Reconciling the Role of States and Markets for Sustainable Consumption and Production, Summary, New Delhi: The Energy and Resources Institute.

Inaugural Session

About the Session

The Ministerial Session saw leaders from developed countries share experiences that have implications for national and international leadership to achieve the goal of sustainable consumption and production. The role of governments and states is paramount to give market signals. The deliberations examined policy instruments such as macro frameworks, regulatory instruments, fiscal measures, market instruments, information and voluntary instruments. Considering the role of financial markets in determining what is to be valued and consumed, another focus of the discussions were on how could markets be reoriented to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Speakers

Moderators

- Mr Arne Walther, Former Chairman, International Energy Agency
- Mr Manjeev Singh Puri, Distinguished Fellow, TERI

Ministerial Addresses

- Mr John Forbes Kerry, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, United States
- Mr Espen Barth Eide, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway
- Ms Steffi Lemke, Hon'ble Minister, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany
- Mr Steven Guilbeault, Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Canada
- Ms Emma Kari, Hon'ble Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Finland
- Ms Barbara Pompili, Hon'ble Minister of Ecological Transition, France
- Ms Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Spain

Disclaimer

The text of the addresses is based on auto-generated transcript from YouTube. Minor edits were made on grammar and spelling. The exact wording of the discussion can be accessed from YouTube video:

<https://youtu.be/qC9Hn6AdXpk>.

Actionable Messages

Message 1: The future is optimistic in terms of markets for green goods and services. Green capacity is needed to translate to sustainable transitions so that developing countries can develop without making the mistakes that the developed world has already made. Governments have to create the right environment and give the necessary market signals for sustainable consumption and production. There are opportunities to 'race to the top'.

Message 2: Sustainable consumption and production and circularity needed to be looked in terms of cost sharing but also opportunity sharing. It is also very unfair to leave people behind when the rich and developing world is moving to a post-carbon economy and then large part of the world is stuck with an economy which is no longer in demand.

Message 3: It is essential to strengthen consumer rights and the interface of environmental protection and consumer protection is central to sustainable consumption and production. Rights-based approaches such as the 'right to repair' could be important to steer the present throwaway society in a more sustainable direction. One symbol of this throwaway society is the mountains of plastic waste. To that end, a global agreement to reduce plastic waste is key. Information instruments such as 'repairability index' can help to inform consumer choices. Along with this, lifestyles are of paramount importance. Formal education and consumer awareness are key to sustainable lifestyles.

Message 4: Nature-based solutions can ensure that measures being taken for climate action will also be working for nature conservation. The decline and death of species is the second large crisis here and if we want to maintain the basis of life for our next generations, we have to solve these two crises together. Glasgow was also a nature's COP because it also emphasized on maintaining and increasing nature's capacity to give us the ecosystem services that we need to survive. There is an urgent need to connect the outcomes of CBD, UNFCCC and UNEA.

Message 5: In the field of sustainable finance, while citizen and consumer movements are important, we continue to believe that governments need to play a key role in terms of regulation and send in market signals. Financial disclosures and taxonomy for driving sustainable investments is essential drive investments.

Message 6: Environmental taxation is a way to put a price on pollution and the use of natural resources. We need to give a price signal to markets towards more responsible consumption and production patterns. Another way to direct markets is public procurement. The public sector can also act as an important trendsetter in introducing to the market more sustainable products and services with less harmful environmental impacts.

Message 7: It is important to design national strategies on circular economy after thoroughly assessing the gaps and needs based on a lifecycle approach. Sectors such a tourism and construction offer huge potential for circular economy measures. Governments have an important role to play in terms of creating the infrastructure, setting the framework, the tax system, the fees to bring resources together and use incentives, use rules and regulations, prohibitions and policy frameworks.

Making Words Count @WSDS 2022

“ Given the population growth we are going to witness the level of current resource utilization is rapacious and not at all geared towards the prospect of sustainability. That does not mean we cannot get there but it is going to take a monumental transformation. To manage the climate crisis is central the concept of being sustainable.

Mr John Forbes Kerry, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, United States

“ Norway will work towards what I hope will be a global treaty on reducing plastic litter. In global governance, we need to have every country on board because it is extremely unfair to create a green economy which is good for the world and for nature and climate but which leaves a lot of people behind. But it is also very unfair to leave people behind when the rich and developing world is moving to a post-carbon economy and then large part of the world is stuck with an economy which is not any longer in demand.

Mr Espen Barth Eide, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway

“ Financial issues are key and that is why Germany will make sustainable finance a key issue under this year's G7 Presidency. We need to make sure how to finance the transition of our economies and our society towards climate neutrality. We have to make sure that the investments will be transparent.

Ms Steffi Lemke, Hon'ble Minister, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany

“ Canada now has one of the most stringent carbon pricing systems in the world and carbon pricing is a central policy to allow our country to meet its climate targets including commitment to net zero by 2050. In Canada, there are proposals to establish 'recyclable content requirements' in plastic products and packaging these will send the necessary market signals to drive investment in recycling infrastructure and spur innovation and technology and product design.

Mr Steven Guilbeault, Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Canada

“ Targets are important. Finland has, for example, decided to phase out coal as a source of energy by 2029 and become climate neutral by 2035. We have also set a cap to curb the over-consumption of natural resources. We have set a target to double the productivity of resources as well as to double the circular material use by 2035. The targets will guide the mobilization of a whole range of policy instruments.

Ms Emma Kari, Hon'ble Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Finland

“ In 2020, France enacted a new law dedicated to promoting circular economy and curbing loss and waste. As an example, since January 2021, electronic appliance must feature a Repairability Index. This new index has been quickly successful with measurable effects on the conception and repairability of appliances sold in France.

Ms Barbara Pompili, Hon'ble Minister of Ecological Transition, France

“ We need consumers, producers and innovators in the system to work together to facilitate the logistics but also to facilitate the good design and the good management of any product.

Ms Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Spain

“ The future comes by itself but a sustainable one does not. And political leaders and all those other stakeholders have a lot of work to do.

Mr Arne Walther, Former Chairman, International Energy Agency

“ We all need to do something in terms of our lifestyles so that we keep this particular mantra of sustainability in consumption and production absolutely at the core of what we do.

Mr Manjeev Singh Puri, Distinguished Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute

Narrative

Emcee's Welcome

Dr Shailly Kedia, Senior Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute

Excellencies, dignitaries, ladies and gentlemen. Namaste and a very warm welcome to all! On behalf of the Energy and Resources Institute—TERI—I welcome you all to the World Sustainable Development Summit 2022. The Summit is the only independently convened event of such a scale in the developing world that brings together world leaders on a single platform to work towards long-term solutions for the planet's health.

This Ministerial Session is on Leadership in Developed Countries: Reconciling the Role of States and Markets for Sustainable Consumption and Production. We have two very seasoned diplomats moderating this session - Ambassador Arne Walther who is on the International Steering Committee of WSDS and Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Distinguished Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute.

We are privileged and delighted to have a very distinguished line of seven speakers who will deliver the Ministerial Address. We are pleased to note that 4 out of 7 speakers in this Ministerial Session are Women. These dignitaries need no introduction-

- His Excellency, Mr John Forbes Kerry, United States Special Presidential Envoy for Climate
- His Excellency, Mr Espen Barth Eide, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway
- Her Excellency, Ms Steffi Lemke, Hon'ble Minister, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany
- His Excellency, Mr Steven Guilbeault, Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Canada
- Her Excellency, Ms. Emma Kari, Hon'ble Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Finland
- Her Excellency, Ms Barbara Pompili, Hon'ble Minister of Ecological Transition, France
- Her Excellency, Ms Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Spain

I now invite Ambassador Walther and Ambassador Puri to conduct the proceedings of the session.

Moderator's Opening Remarks

Mr Manjeev Singh Puri, Distinguished Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute

Your Excellencies, we have just had the inauguration of WSDS by the Minister of Environment of India and the Honourable Prime Minister of India. We have been honoured to have Mr Michael Bloomberg receive the Sustainable Development Leadership Award which TERI gives every year. So this has begun very well in a very auspicious manner. Although we are still hampered by the COVID restrictions but that gives us this opportunity of having you all from across the globe tuning in and being with us. Let me tell you Excellencies, we have roughly about 120 countries registered in terms of participants from across the world. We have thousands of people registered for this Summit. And I have little doubt in my mind that this shall be perhaps one of the more defining sessions.

Your Excellencies, time is short and I will hand over to Ambassador Arne Walther but I want to just remind you of one thing about this session. This is a session from where we want to take inspiration. Normally speaking, the big talk in sustainable development as well as climate change is leadership of the developed world. And most of the efforts from people like me is to see what can be done in terms of cooperation. That is certainly very important but I personally believe that much more important is what can be done in terms of role models and best practices. Your Excellencies, the title of this session is leadership 'in' the developed countries not 'by' developed countries- that we almost take for granted and we are sure that you will be there in support of the developing world and in the service of humankind.

Your Excellencies, I will not take up more of your time. I want to say a very big thank you once again on behalf of TERI. Secretary John Kerry is of course an old friend of TERI. This is not the first time he is at the WSDS but all the rest of you if you haven't been here before—Sirs, Ladies—we would like to see you here in Delhi. Let me reiterate what Shailly had said, WSDS is perhaps the biggest and most important sustainable development event held in the developing world and it has been held for nearly 20 years. It is therefore a platform which reaches out in an extremely big manner and we are very proud to be hosting it here in Delhi.

Moderator's Opening Remarks

Mr Arne Walther, Former Chairman, International Energy Agency

Since we are all with you in TERI in India, what better way to kick off this ministerial session on sustainable production and consumption and the leadership challenges involved by recalling the words of Mahatma Gandhi who said that the earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs but not every man's greed. Add to that our current concerns about the climate, environmental degradation and economic disparities not only among nations but within nations. These concerns will not go away tomorrow. Our session theme is indeed crucial. One for a just and orderly transition to a sustainable common future. We have the privilege to hear from the climate and environment supremoes of seven industrialized countries, all committed to the SDGs, all forceful voices in addressing climate change. They have much to say but our time is short and we look forward to their cherry picking among their many efforts, the challenges they face and the results they have achieved. But let me start with the 'C' word COVID. With its ongoing human toll and societal lockdown, it has disrupted our lifestyle but it also offers an opportunity to build that better in terms of reversing our current unsustainable patterns of production and consumption. Disrupted global economic relations with high commodity prices energy prices would seem to make that path more difficult and current geopolitical tension now at the boiling point of the Ukraine does not make things any easier.

In our affluent and vibrant democracies, elections are always around the corner. Political promise of lifestyle sacrifices today for a more sustainable tomorrow is not an easy vote-getter. Some politicians would admit that they know exactly what to do but if they do it in full measure then they would not get re-elected and an angry electorate would vote for someone else. Government would face equal anger especially from the youth should they not show leadership and not do much more of what has to be done for sustainable and equitable development. That anger too can jeopardize their re-election. So may I also ask you to add a comment on the extent to which, if at all, short-term lifestyle threats and worries in your affluent societies limit government ability to take more of the urgent action that is needed to meet SDGs both domestically and globally in boosted multilateral endeavour and if so what to do about it.

Ministerial Address

Mr John Forbes Kerry, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, United States

I want to thank TERI for continuing to organize this Summit around one of the most critical issues of our day, perhaps the most critical despite the noise coming from Ukraine and the potential of Ukraine to be incredibly disruptive to every effort we are all making. But still, fundamentally the climate crisis remains the single greatest security challenge we all face and without any question, you can't talk about sustainability if you don't deal with the climate crisis. That would just obviously not be anything sustainable if we don't do our homework here and get the job done. So last year when I joined this event, I said at the time that India is a red-hot investment destination for clean energy transitions and why do I say that about clean energy transitions because obviously clean energy policy writ large is central to our ability to be able to be sustainable and central to our ability to be able to pull back from the abyss with respect to the climate crisis. And India's clean energy transitions is absolutely critical to that endeavour so it goes without saying but we will say it anyway and I am sure everybody will emphasize this there are only a handful of less developed countries that are even trying sincerely. And with consequence to become sustainable, the truth is that almost no country on the planet is living sustainably today.

And given the population growth we are going to witness the level of current resource utilization is rapacious and not at all geared towards the prospect of sustainability. We all understand that. That does not mean we cannot get there but it is going to take a monumental transformation. To manage the climate crisis is central to the concept of being sustainable.

Prime Minister Modi to his credit has set a ambitious goal for India of 500 gigawatts of renewables to be deployed over the course of almost 8 years to 10 years. And the criticality of achieving that goal is very simple. It is the only way that India itself becomes compliant with the 1.5 degree goal that we all ratified and embraced again in Glasgow recently.

So let me just zoom out for a moment and give you a macro sense of where I think we are with respect to the conditioned precedent to be able to engage sincerely and genuinely for sustainability and that is- are we going to tackle the climate crisis? Are we going to be serious about this? Are we going to be real and to some degree I believe we are trapped in a business as usual mode right now. We have to be honest about where we find ourselves in this climate fight. We are seeing devastating consequences around the planet and the scientists are telling us that we may well also be seeing already tipping points with respect to critical elements of this battle the Arctic, the Antarctic, coral reefs and pollution writ large. That is what greenhouse gases are. Its pollution and pollution is killing 10 million people a year just due to the impact on health and breathing and on lungs. And it kills another 5 million

people a year just to the extreme heat and that's today before we go beyond the 1.2 degrees that we are at as a planet now.

So in 2022, we have said this has to be the decisive decade and it does not because John Kerry or Espen Eide or Barbara Pompili or Steven Guilbeault are saying this. But people, who have spent their lifetime, measuring where we really are in terms of empirical evidence, people who analyse science. Scientists who tell us why things are happening and the way and that evidence is now insurmountable and that they are is not even in doubt that we are seeing these profound changes on the planet earth which threaten life itself. And the level of resource depletion, the level of biodiversity destruction together with the real threats that we are seeing to life on a daily basis through floods, fires, mudslides, drought, heat and intensity of storms all of which is going to grow even more. Now that is the sort of challenge.

The upside, and there is an upside here, is that in Glasgow, we got 65 per cent of global GDP to commit to plans that are legitimately judged to be able to get us to 1.5 degrees to hold on to that to keep it alive, that is the way we framed it. And you have Canada that's here, Europe that's here, United States, Japan, South Korea, the EU writ large, the UK and South Africa has a plan to get there. Indonesia plans to get there but is not yet part of the 65 per cent of GDP that is on track to get there. The problem is we have 35 per cent of GDP that's not getting there. And that 35 per cent that's not getting there is made up mostly by developing countries but also of some very powerful economies G20 economies. Twenty countries in the world account for 80 per cent of all the emissions on the planet. And unfortunately some of those countries are not yet adopting plans that do what the science tells us we need to do, which is to reach the 1.5 degrees goal and to cut our emissions by 45 per cent over the course of this next eight-year period. So we hope that the pledges made in Glasgow will be fulfilled. That's the task we have in front of us right now- fulfilment of the promises made in Glasgow and achievement of greater promise from some of those countries that have large economies but are not yet in a position to be able to keep 1.5 degrees alive now.

China joined with the United States in Glasgow to say that this year they are going to submit an ambitious national action plan to deal with methane which is, as we know, 20 to 80 times more damaging than CO₂. And so that is a big beginning and China also committed to try to accelerate their transition out of coal, also very critical. And what we need to be doing on a global basis now, is taking the trillions of dollars that many of the richest countries in the world and richest corporations in the world have committed to this transition. And we have to make sure we deploy it.

The UN report on finance tells us that in order to do what we need to do, to maintain even the breadth of light for sustainability, we must cut those emissions by 45 per cent over the course of the next few years. If we do not do that, then 1.5 degrees is gone. And if we do not do that, you cannot even reach net zero by 2050.

So Mr Ambassadors and my colleagues, we need to make sure that we are deploying literally about four trillion dollars a year for the next 30 years in order to bring the technologies that will empower us. To have battery storage, to have the electrolyzers that create green hydrogen fuel, to be able to actually deal with carbon capture and storage and utilization, we need much greater research by our nations.

We need to pull together. The good thing is that we have the greatest assembly of private sector partners now that we have ever had. We do have trillions of dollars that we are prepared to invest but we have to create the climate and capacity for that investment to actually take place. We have a new entity which we created in Glasgow called the First Movers' Coalition. Maersk, the largest shipping company in the world, the largest container company, has agreed that the next eight ships they build will be carbon free. Volvo has made a commitment that 10 per cent of the steel they buy now, even though it will not be economical for them, will be green steel. And that means that people who produce the green steel see that there is a market there that can move them forward. And in Davos we are going to launch carbon removal and aluminium commitments and we are going to have cement and chemical commitments for transition within industry.

Lafarge, also one of the largest cement dealers in the world, is now already making green cement. So there is in the private sector and enterprise engagement here which I can really accelerate and jump start. And for all the developing countries in Africa, South Asia, Central Asia and other places they can look to a world in which there will be green products, green capacity to translate this to create this transition and as a result they do not have to develop by making the mistakes that already the developed world has made. We have an obligation as the developed world, to help provide the wherewithal, the finance and the technology to help them avoid that. And I think if we come together adequately in the next eight years, we have the opportunity to win this battle and that will set the stage for longer term transitions to the sustainable actions that have to be part of this effort even now.

But to get to that full measure of circular economy and of sustainability, we have to win this battle right away with respect to climate. I will end there.

Ministerial Address

Mr Espen Barth Eide, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway

I very much cherish the work of your institute which I have followed for many years as you know but also the leadership of India and your Prime Minister in this important work so it is great that we are together.

Having listened to John, I just want to start by saying that if I ever get pessimistic and worried in this job I will just listen to John again and then I am reminded that there is energy here to take us forward to change the world into a better place and I think it can be done. And what makes me optimistic, dear friends, is that more and more people get it. The youth have gotten it a long time ago, the researchers got it, and your institute got it, some of us worried. But now we really see movement in the private sector, we see green capital, we see corporations and companies all over the world looking at the transition to a sustainable, renewable and circular economy not as a problem but as an opportunity. That as something that you can, in an economy, you can flourish and win and compete constructively as a race to the top just as John was just saying. When people start asking for the carbon footprint of steel, it becomes economically viable. To come up with this deal with the lowest possible and preferably no carbon footprint and then you win that market. So it is very much I think the role of governments now is not any longer to tell business that there is a green shift coming. They know. It is more about creating the infrastructure, setting the framework, the tax system, the fees to bring resources together and use incentives, use rules and regulations, prohibitions and recommendations, everything we can do as governments on top of spending money. Which of course we also do in order to accelerate change that is already happening because it is moving now, the world is moving and I very much believe that it is possible the other essential role of governments is to make sure we have people on board.

In global governance, we need to have every country on board because it is extremely unfair to create a green economy which is good for the world and for nature and climate but which leaves a lot of people behind. But it is also very unfair to leave people behind when the rich and developing world is moving to a post-carbon economy and then large part of the world is stuck with an economy which is not any longer in demand. So to look at these both in terms of the cost sharing but also the opportunity sharing.

John, not many years ago, he visited Spitsbergen, which is in the extreme north of Norway, islands way north of Norway which a last stop before the North Pole. There we have one of several research stations. India by the way has its own research installation there for Arctic research and I go there once in a while with few years in between. There you can go literally on top of a mountain and then you look at the daily measurement of ppm, parts per million, and when I was there, it was 424. This is the northern hemisphere which has extreme winter. But I remember when I was there before that and I saw the reading to be 385 and I thought that was shocking. But this is sort of the physical proof, one of the physical proofs that the world is changing. We change it we have to act and we have to act now and that is why, we need leadership and cooperation. And we need cooperation between governments and private sector and civil society and academia.

Since you talked about Norwegian leadership, I happen to be the President of UNEA, the United Nations Environment Assembly and I would use this opportunity to ask all of you to come to Nairobi in 12 days. You can either come there physically if you have a role there or you can follow virtually. So you can come like we all are together in India today, in 12 days we can be together in Africa under firm Norwegian leadership where we will set off. We will start up the work towards what I hope will be a global treaty on reducing plastic litter. Not get rid of plastics but make sure that plastics move into a circular chain and that we stop throwing it into nature and into the ocean. And I also would like to work towards creating a chemicals panel because on top of biodiversity and climate, we also need to work on pollution and particularly the pollution that we have created.

So that is part of our leadership right now and I very much count on everybody to help us there. This is really a year when nature and climate is coming together. The climate COPs that many of us just went to in Glasgow was also a nature's COP because it really emphasized that net zero is not only about reducing emissions but it also is about maintaining and increasing nature's capacity to give us the nature services that we need to survive, carbon sink and biodiversity. And so we need to connect the Kunming work with the UNEA work that we are doing in Nairobi with what happened in Glasgow and will happen in Sharm-el-Sheikh is also very much about seeing that this is a package in which climate, pollution and nature preservation have to come together.

We can get this right and I really believe that as long as we have people with us, regions with us, a global united effort, we have a great opportunity to create a world which is very different but much better than the one that we will get if we do not get it right. Thank you for your attention.

Ministerial Address

Ms Steffi Lemke, Hon'ble Minister, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany

I would like to add to the speakers before. The issue of sustainable production and sustainable consumption is for me personally and also for the German government is a priority therefore it is a positive development that the environment ministry in Germany has also become the ministry for consumer protection. I am looking forward to our dialogue today and I would also like to thank TERI for organizing this event and for your year-long commitment in this regard. We have around eight years left in order to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable consumption is one of many components. Here it is clear that the measures have to become more ambitious. For me it is important that at the future Summit of the UN in 2023 in New York, we can display concrete progress.

Financial issues are key and that is why Germany will make sustainable finance a key issue under this year's G7 Presidency. We need to make sure how to finance the transition of our economies and our society towards climate neutrality. We have to make sure that the investments will be transparent. In order to make sure that public and private investors can invest their money as effectively in environmental protection and climate action as possible, we also need to make better use of the potential of a green and better recovery. Many countries have launched programs for tackling the effects of the pandemic in order to make sure that these investments will not maintain the status quo but will be geared towards a climate neutral and research friendly economy.

Germany is supporting partner countries to achieve an economic recovery through investments in climate action and biodiversity. It is clear that individual acts and national measures cannot do justice to this necessary and wide transformation. We need a whole toolbox of legal, political and economic instruments. Without the economy, without committed companies, this will not be possible. Many companies are tackling the challenge and have already started with the transition. However, consumers should also benefit from the improvements in their daily lives. As the new consumer protection minister, I want to strengthen their rights at the interface of environmental protection and consumer protection. I want to make and introduce the 'right to repair' to make sure that the throwaway society will not use as many resources as in the last decades. One symbol of this throwaway society is the mountains of plastic waste that are being created year after year. That is why I support my colleague from Norway to have the global agreement on the reduction of plastic waste to have less and less plastic in the oceans and in the environment, In general, Germany and the German government will advocate this in Nairobi at UNEA to have a strong and solid agreement.

Prime Minister Modi also wants to end the throwaway culture and wants to encourage more sustainable lifestyles. Should consumption and production be sustainable, this would save resources and emissions and this would help us in reaching our sustainable development goals of the 2030 Agenda and the conservation of species and the fight against global warming.

The best solutions are those that counter the environmental crises and also alleviate the problems of the daily lives of our citizens. We have to start now. We have to take our planetary boundaries more seriously. That is why, I as the federal minister for the environment plan to also make sure that nature-based solutions will be a major priority over the next few years, to ensure that measures being taken for climate action will also be working for nature conservation. The decline and death of species is the second large crisis here and if we want to maintain the basis of life for our next generations, we have to solve these two crises together.

This is a major challenge but I am quite confident that we can overcome these challenges working side by side. Thank you very much.

Ministerial Address

Mr Steven Guilbeault, Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Canada

It is a pleasure and a privilege to speak to you today on behalf of the Government of Canada. The timing of this Summit could not be more appropriate. The world, as John said, the world can no longer ignore the cost of the natural environment brought about by an unsustainable consumption and production that we have seen in recent decades.

Unsustainable consumption and production are on a collision course with environmental survival we all know the science- outrageous food waste, carbon intensive industries and destruction of natural habitats. We also know we have an opportunity now to put a stop to this trend as we gradually make progress in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic, we can build greener and more sustainable patterns of production and consumption embracing the principles of a circular economy. No one country has all the answers of course, given how interconnected the world has become. We need solutions that involve as many nations as possible. Nor is the goal of sustainable development a matter of one single policy. It requires a broad range of measures.

In the few minutes that I have today, I want to tell you about Canada's experience. Last September, Canada became the first North American country to host a World Circular Economy Forum which we co-organized with the Finnish Innovation Fund, Sitra. The international event with more than 9000 registered delegates from over 160 countries brought together business leaders, policy experts, civil society and youth to help accelerate the global transition to a circular economy. The forum focused on the actions needed in the next five years to raise circular ambition globally, to bring in new allies and introduce new voices into the conversation. Those actions included implementing circular procurement, taxation, investment and trade policies that were meant to support innovation in circularity at all levels from SMEs to international partnerships. They also included the provision of capital, safe jobs, training and leadership opportunities for youth, rural and remote communities.

In fact, actions aim at integrating circular low-carbon and nature-based solutions into the workings of the world involve policy makers, business people and many others across the society. Only with everyone's help, can we tackle the planetary crisis of pollution and waste, climate and biodiversity. On the policy front, Canada has made several concrete commitments to bolster sustainable consumption and production in our economy. The government of Canada is taking real action to reduce plastic waste and pollution at home after thorough research and consultation with industry partners stakeholders and experts. We will be instituting a ban on harmful single-use plastics this year. This will however be only one element of our comprehensive approach to reduce plastic pollution and move toward our goal of zero plastic waste by 2030. Currently we are proposing to establish 'recyclable content requirements' in plastic products and packaging these will send the necessary market signals to drive investment in recycling infrastructure and spur innovation and technology and product design. The goal is very simple- to extend the life of plastic materials and keep them in the economy and out of the environment.

As a federation, we are also working closely with our provinces and territories to advance a Canada-wide strategy on zero-plastic waste. To rethink how we make use and manage plastics, the government has pursued creative approaches to support Canadian SMEs, as they address plastic pollution. We also support research to better understand the impacts of this scourge on our environment. Internationally, Canada spearheaded the Ocean Plastic Charter in 2018, initiating the first and only global framework that identifies actions and targets across the plastics value chain and move towards a more resource efficient and circular approach to plastic management. Building upon the Charter, Canada supports the establishment of a legally binding global agreement on plastics, one that is ambitious and effective and that takes into account the full life cycle in addressing plastic pollution.

As others have mentioned, the upcoming Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly is a crucial juncture where we will have the opportunity to launch negotiations toward a global agreement on plastics. Canada is pleased to be leading the process at UNEA 5.2 alongside its co-facilitator from Ghana. Together, we are working to rally UNEA participants in order to start negotiations. Canada is keen to continue cooperation with partners such as India, both bilaterally and in multilateral fora to promote the environment and sustainable development.

In the field of sustainable finance, while citizen and consumer movements are important, we continue to believe that governments need to play a key role in terms of regulation and send in market signals which is why we committed twenty per cent of our climate finance to fair transition in developing countries, recognizing the importance of factoring nature and biodiversity into financial decision making. Canada is pleased to see the official launch of the Task-force on Nature related Financial Disclosures (TNFD).

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that Canada would join the task force at the One Planet Summit a year ago. Given that more than half the world's economic output is linked to nature, the recommendations of the TNFD will help financial institutions and companies incorporate nature related risks and opportunities into their strategic planning, risk management and asset allocation decisions.

Sustainable finance is crucial to all countries including Canada as they strive to meet their climate and environmental goals. Our country first announced its support for the voluntary international disclosure standards proposed by the task force on climate-related financial disclosure in 2019.

The same kind of environmental economics approach that we in Canada take towards sustainable development, we use in our domestic climate policies. There too, we try to send strong market signals. Consider our escalating carbon price since 2019, which fosters market-based incentives to adopt more sustainable forms of consumption and production. Our country now has one of the most stringent carbon pricing systems in the world and carbon pricing is a central policy to allow our country to meet its climate targets including commitment to net zero by 2050. At the recent COP26 meeting in Glasgow, our Prime Minister challenged the world to expand the use of carbon pricing globally.

Governments and the private sector must work together to achieve the objectives of more sustainable consumption and production. Successful transitions, in our economies can lead us all to achieve the sustainable development that must be part of the 21st century world gatherings such as this Summit, can propel us towards those ambitions.

My thanks to The Energy and Resources Institute for its positive and proactive role in driving forward climate action in India and internationally. Thank you very much.

Ministerial Address

Ms Emma Kari, Hon'ble Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Finland

Sustainable development means well-being of all people within the limits of the earth's carrying capacity. So this is the reason why it is so important that all of us are here today to discuss this issue.

Sustainable consumption and production patterns have a crucial role in trying to get our societies within these limits, the limits of one planet. How and what we produce and consume has a big impact on this and on the sustainable development. The over consumption of natural resources is one of the key challenges that we need to tackle together.

The use of virgin natural resources is the main cause for climate change and decrease in biodiversity. We urgently need to change our consumption and production patterns towards more sustainable and circular way. Now is the final moment to decouple human welfare and economic growth from the use of virgin natural resources.

The European Green Deal under development and implementation in the European Union is an important and concrete step towards accelerating the achievement of the sustainable development goals. An important part of it is a circular economy action plan containing comprehensive initiatives for more sustainable and circular production and consumption.

We aim to significantly reduce the overall life cycle, climate and environmental footprint of the products placed in the EU market. Sustainability and circularity will be the new norm for products. There will be requirements for longer product lifetimes, durability, repairability and increasing the circular material use rate, reducing waste and achieving higher recycling rates. Sustainable society is not just about individual technologies and technological innovations but we have to move to social innovations and systemic change of societies.

Systemic change is often disruptive and we have to change and phase out certain activities. However, it does not have to mean that economy collapses but that the economy transforms. We have to stop, knock and block the old system and build back better.

Targets are important. Finland has for example decided to phase out coal as a source of energy by 2029 and become climate neutral by 2035. We have also set a cap to curb the over-consumption of natural resources. We have set a target to double the productivity of resources as well as to double the circular material use by 2035. The targets will guide the mobilization of a whole range of policy instruments, regulatory instruments, economic incentives but also soft law voluntary agreements and a lot of information.

One piece of good news is that markets are already reorienting themselves. Sustainable finance instruments that target positive income impact on the environment are worth more than 35 trillion dollars globally, to help investors, companies and citizens navigate in this growing market. The EU has established a classification for green investments. We call it sustainable finance taxonomy, the aim is to define and classify activities that make a significant contribution to addressing environmental challenges.

I see a big change in corporates and corporate governance. Companies are not just reporting about their corporate social responsibility but are more and more changing their business models to address environmental challenges.

Companies are counting the environmental footprint as well as the positive handprint of their business. But ministers, colleagues, we need to do more to accelerate this development. Environmental taxation is a way to put a price on pollution and the use of natural resources. We need to give a price signal to markets towards more responsible consumption and production patterns. However, as you know in a global market economy, this is not an easy task at a national level. For this reason, we need cooperation and together develop and implement economic instruments such as carbon pricing. The public sector can also act as an important trendsetter in introducing to the market, more sustainable products and services with less harmful environmental impacts.

One way to direct markets is public procurement. In Finland, the value of public procurement is around 16 per cent of our GDP, making it one of the largest by value in the Nordic EU countries. Innovative and sustainable procurement is a central goal in procurement in Finland. UK's climate change committee has estimated that over 60 percent of the required climate actions also require a change in behaviour. So consumer's role is critical. Formal education and awareness raising are both powerful ways to motivate people and promote changes towards more sustainable and circular consumption patterns. Feeling of being a part of the solution is important for us all. Involving citizens through cooperation and co-creation has been successful in Finland in finding solutions to everyday problems in ways that benefit also our common planet. Local authorities and NGOs have found ways to use soft interventions for nudging to help people make more sustainable choices reducing greenhouse gas emissions in transport or heating, for example.

Last but not least, as John Kerry also raised, one cannot overemphasize the role of research and scientific institutions in producing sustainability data as well as more sustainable and circular technologies and innovations. And in addition to technological innovations, we need social innovations, new ways of thinking and cooperating, sharing and taking care of each other including nature.

Thank you TERI for your important work for protecting our common planet.

Ministerial Address

Ms Barbara Pompili, Hon'ble Minister of Ecological Transition, France

Dear ministers, colleagues, I am delighted to attend today the ministerial session of the World Sustainable Development Summit—the objective of which is a towards resilient planet: ensuring a sustainable and just future—puts a light on the challenges we collectively have to face due to the evolution of our way of lives. Climate change and the loss of biodiversity, we are all one in facing their consequences and developed countries have to show the way. Our partnership with India is key to achieve ambitious and equitable solutions first on the fight against climate change. Since COP26, we are closer to the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. However, some parties still need to submit their national determined contributions and long-term strategies to contribute to the movement towards 1.5 degrees. This is key to send a strong signal to markets that they too need to align their practices with our common objectives.

Mobilizing finance is a key requirement to enable developing countries to implement their ambition at COP26. Developed countries showed that they would meet the target of mobilizing 100 billion dollar per year for developing countries in 2023 and then exceed it.

Moreover, an alignment of public and private investments with the objectives of the Paris Agreement is needed to ensure a sustainable future. The rules of the Paris Agreement are now finalized and it will allow the implementation of an international carbon market. In France, we are acting on finance. First over the past few years, we have implemented and regularly strengthened reporting obligations on the climate impact of financial investments. This system requires investors to report annually on the strategy for aligning with the Paris Agreement and to set five-year greenhouse gas emission targets up to 2050.

With regard specifically to the transparency of financial information, all of the large French companies now recognize the recommendations of the task-force on climate-related financial disclosures as a benchmark and are working to deepen their implementation then on transparency of climate action. France will act to strengthen the international framework for accountability of climate commitments. The consolidation of the International Programme for Action on Climate (IPAC) launched within the OECD will contribute to this. On solidarity, France alongside Germany, the US, the UK and the European Commission launched a just energy transition partnership with South Africa in 2021. We are ready to reiterate such collaboration with other partners to accelerate environmental transitions. France pledged to provide 6 billion euros in climate finance per year from 2021 to 2025, one third of which will go to adaptation. And with the EU, we are the biggest contributor of public climate finance with 21.9 billion euros provided in 2019.

As said before, all actors are needed in this fight against climate change. That is why the French One Planet Data Hub initiative to be launched in March 2022 will aim to improve the visibility of non-state actors commitments. Second, a resilient and equitable future also depends on the protection of biodiversity and of the global oceans. France and India are championing the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People which objective is to adopt a strong and ambitious target to protect at least 30 percent of lands and 30 percent of seas globally by 2030. We need to strengthen our efforts to mobilize new members and show a united front at the upcoming CBD and CCD COP. The fight against deforestation also needs to be a top priority. The French Presidency of the Council of the European Union is to conclude the negotiations on a regulation on deforestation free products at the EU level. There is an urgent need for policy coherence related to deforestation free supply chains for agricultural commodities. This will help transform our economies worldwide towards greener production, trade and consumption. India and France are working very closely for the conclusion of the UN BBNJ legally binding treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. This universal treaty will be the international legal framework to protect our global oceans. France, the European Union and all member states are working hand-in-hand with the most ambitious countries such as India who was among the first joining the High Ambition Coalition on BBNJ. This coalition was launched during the One Ocean Summit aiming to conclude the ambitious BBNJ treaty on ocean protection as soon as possible in 2022. It is time to act for the ocean and to send our strong political support to negotiators. Last a sustainable future also means the transition to a circular economy which will reduce pressure on natural resources and will create sustainable growth. This is the aim of Circular Economy Action Plan. Circular economy has been one of the building blocks of France's green policies. We have been actively promoting recycling and from 2015 we have been implementing measures against planned obsolescence, strengthening consumer rights and design to improve the availability of spare parts. In 2020, France enacted a new law dedicated to promoting circular economy and curbing loss and waste. As an example, since January 2021, electronic appliance must feature a Repairability Index. This new index has been quickly successful with measurable effects on the conception and repairability of appliances sold in France.

Once again the partnership with India is key. At the bilateral level, we would like to work on the fight against plastic pollution including marine litter. The French Development Agency launched innovative projects in India on this topic. At multilateral level, a draft resolution has been tabled in view of UNEA 5.2 to establish an Intergovernmental Committee to negotiate a global agreement on plastics. The resolution which France and the EU co-sponsor aims to address plastic pollution and its impacts on human health, ecosystems and landscapes. The objective is to reach the elimination or minimization of all negative impacts of plastic throughout its life cycle. India's support and mobilization during UNEA will be once again key.

I wish you a fruitful Summit and I trust that our team spirit will bring us success in all our initiatives. Thank you for your attention.

Ministerial Address

Ms Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Spain

It is my great pleasure to join you in this very important discussion on how to move from a linear economy towards a circular economy. Something that we all need. We cannot consume beyond what it is produced by the earth, by the environmental systems. This is absolutely key. But moving from the way we produce and consume today towards a very different model. It is not simple and we need everybody involved and committed to the show when thinking about our responsibility.

As governments, as public institutions, we know that we are key in order to decide what is the right framework to incentive it to facilitate any citizen to take the right decision, any producer to produce in the simplest way so to reduce the consumption of products, the consumption of raw materials but also the consumption of those goods that could be needed in the industrial process. How to do so, we need to think in all the different phases in order to produce and put a product into the market starting by how we define, how we facilitate the best eco-design of any product. Then of course we need to put in place every single policy oriented to this goal. So to think about the fiscal policy, to think about agriculture policy, the construction policy, all the information towards the citizens, consumers policies that can help in order to have smart consumers when deciding what to choose in any supermarket or in any acquisition of any goods. In Spain, we have already adopted the National Strategy on Circular Economy and together with the general assessment of what we need, what we are missing, how we are over-consuming beyond our capacities and possibilities. We have identified some of the very key sectors in order to introduce a much more powerful policy to facilitate the transformation of each of these sectors. Starting with tourism and how tourists can reduce his or her footprint when traveling; or the construction sector in order to facilitate the recovery of those

parts of any building, or infrastructure at the end of the life cycle. But it is not only tourism or construction, it is also the steel because it is a powerful industry here in our country.

Or thinking about what next in all the goods, we put in place in order to facilitate the first kickoff of the renewable energy policies. So what about the batteries? What about the photovoltaic panels? What about the windmills and all its goods and equipment? Another sector which is also very important is the agro industry. What about the agriculture sector what about the food industry? And this is a very common industry all over the world. There are over-packaging but there is also a need to think about the different wastes at the end of the production of the agro-products or the products that go through the agro-industry to our markets to our supermarkets. And starting to identify where we can reduce the consumption of the different pieces, and how we can go towards a zero waste policy is very important. Our general assessment is that all the stakeholders are really involved and feel they can improve the way they produce and the way they introduce their products into the market. We have also worked hard in a framework law so to introduce the new updates in the waste management and circular economy possibilities in our economy. This law is about to be adopted finally adopted by the parliament, introduces additional obligations in terms of reduction, in terms of separation of the different pieces of any waste or increasing reuse and recycle obligations as well as taxing and banning single-use plastics, or the final destination of our waste into the landfills.

We want to re-orientate and to insist on the right priorities to facilitate a better use of any raw material. It could be very difficult to succeed, if there is no strong commitment and willingness to develop public-private partnerships. Sometimes, it is just public with different levels of administration being involved but in general terms we need final citizens and consumers with producers and with the different innovators in the system to work together to facilitate the logistics but also to facilitate the good design and the good management of any product.

Finally, something very important that we have started to talk about is taxonomy and how to orientate the different decisions of any investor on where to invest on whether it could be more useful or more wasteful if you put your money here or there. So we also need to develop some clear messages on taxonomy to investors. What makes sense is that it is very important that any investor or any finance client and final consumer do understand on how to invest well and understand the differentiating products that have a strong and bigger footprint. And footprint of those that are properly designed and properly managed at the end of its lifecycle.

Discussions

On being asked on the views on the Arctic, Mr Espen Barth Eide, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway emphasized that research on the Arctic, Antarctica and the Himalayas are excellent vantage points for following the main global trends. He also highlighted that Arctic research and Himalaya-oriented research is important. Glaciers are melting whether they are in Himalayas or on the High North, and in these trends, we also see the face of tomorrow. International cooperation is absolutely essential. It is also important to cooperate internationally so that countries can compare findings and then see the bigger patterns. That is why it is so important that there are initiatives such as the IPCC which acts as a channel through which knowledge can be filtered, analysed and organized because true politics have to be based on true knowledge.

Mr Steven Guilbeault, Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Canada also underscored the role of indigenous communities when it comes to climate change adaptation and the Arctic. Going to COP27, Canada plans to work in partnership with the Inuits to develop Canada's position when it comes to adaptation to climate change especially in the Arctic but also inform the negotiations position with the knowledge and traditional knowledge of Inuits.

Mr Arne Walther, Former Chairman, International Energy Agency thanked the speakers for raising our awareness of the issues at hand, laying out government efforts with business and other stakeholders at the national level and in global cooperation and for the exposition on sustainable patterns of consumption and production. The future comes by itself but a sustainable one does not. And political leaders and all those other stakeholders have a lot of work to do.

Mr Manjeev Singh Puri, Distinguished Fellow, TERI underscored that the word that was heard most in the session was 'circularity' and there is no doubt that it is a word of critical importance in the context of sustainable consumption and production. He also underscored that two other words were of critical importance which included adaptation and lifestyles. To give substance to the idea of circularity, emphasis on lifestyles for environment is of paramount importance.