

WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2023

MAINSTREAMING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

February 22-24, 2023
India Habitat Centre, New Delhi



SUMMIT BULLETIN | DAY 1

#Act4Earth

INAUGURAL SESSION

Venue: Stein Auditorium

VISIONARY LEADERSHIP FOR MAINSTREAMING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Welcome Address: Mr Nitin Desai, Chairman, The Energy and Resources Institute
Opening Address: Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Inaugural Address: H.E. Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, Vice President, Republic of Guyana
Keynote Address: H.E. Dr Sultan Al Jaber, Special Envoy on Climate Change and COP28 President Designate, UAE
Special Message: Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
Vote of Thanks: Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute



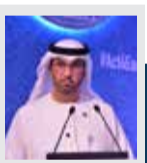
H.E. DR BHARRAT JAGDEO
Vice President, Republic of Guyana

“Returning to the principles of equity and justice should not be only in climate issues, but also in sustainable development”



SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV
Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change

“India has been correcting ecological wrong into ecological *harmony*”



H.E. DR SULTAN AL JABER
Special Envoy on Climate Change and COP28 President Designate, UAE

“Transitioning in food and water systems is as important as transitioning in energy systems”



The world is approaching the crucial midpoint of the 2030 Agenda and the sustainable development goals. Efforts have been made in bringing to the forefront the issues related to the environment, biodiversity loss, climate change, and India has achieved many milestones in integrating sustainable development into the public, private, and societal discourses. But, we still have a long way to go especially in terms

of horizontal and vertical integration of sustainable development across spheres. With this rationale, this year's WSDS focuses on the overarching theme: Mainstreaming Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience for Collective Action.

The Inaugural Session set the stage for the Summit deliberations. Since India is holding the Presidency of G20, this is a golden opportunity to further the voice of the Global South on issues related to sustainable development and climate action. The year will also see the important process of global stocktake at the climate negotiations at COP28.

In the Welcome Address, Mr Nitin Desai focused on the linkages between conservation and protection in discussions related to our environment. "There should be a specific link between conserving resources and protecting livelihoods. The horizontal link between institutions at both the government and global levels is missing, and we need to make these connections through such deliberations," he asserted.

Following suit, Shri Bhupender Yadav in the Opening Address, foregrounded the importance of ecological sustenance and said, "India has been correcting ecological wrong into ecological harmony. Living in harmony with nature has been traditionally in our ethos, which is

reflected in the mantra of Lifestyle for Environment Initiative (LiFE) of India."

In the Inaugural Address, H.E. Dr Bharrat Jagdeo stressed that "Returning to the principles of equity and justice should not be only in climate issues, but also in sustainable development. We know the known, but from the developing-world perspective, we need the ability to do the known. Balancing extremes in global discussions is needed if we need lasting solutions."

The Keynote Address by H.E. Dr Sultan Al Jaber underscored that "Transitioning in food and water systems is as important as transitioning in energy systems. Let us ensure that the progress is truly inclusive so that no one is left behind. Step change and progress require a lot of capital; capital that should be available, if available, accessible, if accessible, affordable."

In a Special Message, Shri Narendra Modi underlined the necessity of preservation and protection. "Environment conservation is a commitment and not compulsion for India. Human empowerment is impossible without a better environment and the way forward is through collectiveness rather than selectiveness," he asserted.

Being conferred this year's Sustainable Development Leadership Award (SDLA), Shri Narendra Modi shared in his message, "The conferring of Sustainable Development Leadership Award (SDLA) on the occasion recognizes the contribution of global leaders from diverse fields towards the cause of sustainable development and environment protection."

SHRI NARENDRA MODI
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

OPENING SESSION

Venue: Stein Auditorium

LEADERSHIP FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE CENTERED APPROACHES

Chair's Address: Mr Nitin Desai, Chairman, The Energy and Resources Institute

Mainstreaming Sustainable Development- DG's Flag-off

Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute
Presidential Address: H.E. Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, Vice President, Republic of Guyana

Keynote Addresses: Prof Jeffrey D. Sachs, Professor, Earth Institute and Columbia University

Mr Manish Bapna, President & Chief Executive Officer, Natural Resources Defense Council

Vote of Thanks: Dr Shailly Kedia, Senior Fellow and Associate Director, TERI

With a legacy of over two decades, the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the only independently convened Summit based in the Global South that is organized at a massive scale for pioneering conversations to nudge ambition and action on sustainable development and climate solutions. The platform strives to provide long-term solutions for the benefit of global communities by assembling the world's most enlightened leaders and thinkers on a single platform.

Addressing the august gathering, Mr Nitin Desai shared his opening remarks and reminisced, "When we started WSDS 22 years ago, our focus was on informing people about Sustainability Development, Climate Change, Land Degradation, because there wasn't much awareness. That has changed significantly now." He highlighted that the need of the hour is action over information. "Focus must shift from informing people about sustainability to taking actions towards sustainability and protecting the environment."

The Summit with the overarching theme: 'Mainstreaming Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience for Collective Action' was declared open by Dr Vibha Dhawan, who said, "To deliberate on issues of climate change and sustainability, TERI, through WSDS, has brought together prominent leaders from the government, international organizations with academia, and civil society to mainstream climate resilience for climate change." However, she cautioned that we have a long way to go, especially in terms of horizontal and vertical integration of sustainable development across spheres.

In the Presidential Address, H.E. Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, underlined, "We will never meet the net zero target of 1.5°C without looking at forests."



H.E. DR BHARRAT JAGDEO
Vice President, Republic of Guyana

“Sustainability means adaptation with nature-based solutions.”

Regarding the importance of preparedness, H.E. Dr Bharrat Jagdeo added, "If a single hurricane could wipe out years of accumulated GDP, then we can't talk about sustainability. Sustainability means adaptation with nature-based solutions." About the incentives generated through certified forests, "15% of money will be for indigenous people and the remainder 85% will be used to deal with adaptation issues," asserted Dr Jagdeo.

In the successive Keynote Addresses delivered by Prof. Jeffrey D Sachs and Mr Manish Bapna, what came across was the pertinence of fostering collaboration and collective action in addressing climate crisis.

"We are amidst droughts, flood, heatwaves, rising sea level: everything that was projected. We are not 0.4°C warmer than what we were used to 20 years ago. We are in an exhilarating crisis," said Prof. Sachs while highlighting the positive ways in which India's G20



PROF JEFFREY D. SACHS
Professor, Earth Institute and Columbia University

“There is a fundamental change in global politics which is underway. We are in the beginning of the multi-lateral world”

Presidency can be used. "There is a fundamental change in global politics which is underway. We are in the beginning of the multi-lateral world," he added.

Continuing the argument, Mr Manish Bapna said, "We can't tackle climate change without recognizing poverty and development. And we cannot tackle poverty without tackling climate change." Financial strength is central to both the agendas, he stressed.

The developing world needs support and equity must be ingrained in the climate agreements and India plays an important role in making that happen. The esteemed panelists spoke on how leadership for people in the world needs to chart pathways and abide by nature-centric approaches in the collective fight against climate crisis. 🌍

FIRE SIDE CHAT

Venue: Stein Auditorium

DRIVING AMBITION AND ACTION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Moderator

Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Distinguished Fellow, TERI

Panelists

H.E. Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, Vice President, Republic of Guyana
Prof. Jeffrey D Sachs, Professor, Earth Institute and Columbia University

With the passage of the Paris Agreement in 2015, the international community vowed to create societies that will be resilient to climate change and will be supported by the required financial flows to keep the global temperature increase between 1.5°C and 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

With this sentiment in focus, the fireside chat on achieving a sustainable future began with comments from Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, who highlighted that the answer to sustainability "lies in politics and its intertwining with economics for nation states like India. Nation states have to learn to collaborate for their own benefit and future; we need to work and act together."

Despite numerous pledges, we are still not on the path to curb the rising temperature and the increasing carbon emissions. Panelist Prof. Jeffrey D Sachs, asserted, "Multilateralism is essential for developing countries as it represents the whole world and not just the North Atlantic world. A stronger African Union will lead to a better world along with India and China, as I believe in a world with strong regional cooperation between nation states."

The fight for a sustainable future is the one unifying thread holding the world together, thus it is vital for big businesses in addition to governments and international bodies to come forward and act for the



earth and its complex ecosystems. In this regard, H.E. Dr Bharrat Jagdeo talked about how "Common But Differential Responsibilities (CBDR) has been effectively eroded to equal burden-sharing because the developed world refuses to enhance their decarbonization. We have to reform the entire architecture for scaling up funding for achieving greening infrastructure," he added.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its latest Assessment Report has underscored, "It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land." With the

clarion call for urgent, immediate, meaningful, and ambitious action, the fireside chat served as a stage to bring together perspectives from across sectors, domains, and geographies to drive meaningful climate action. Additionally, in light of India's G20 Presidency, the fireside chat sought insights from the esteemed speakers on how G20 can mobilize the developed world to raise their ambition in our collective fight against climate change. 🌍

PLENARY SESSION

Venue: Stein Auditorium

FINANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE ACTIONS FOR REALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

Introductory Remarks: Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI
Ministerial Address: H.E. Mr Laszlo Borbely, State Counsellor to Prime Minister, Government of Romania
MDB Perspectives: Dr Pradeep Tharakan, Regional Advisor - South Asia, Asian Development Bank
Leadership Address: Mr Amit Prothi, Director General, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure
 Mr Mahendra Singhi, Managing Director & CEO, Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited
 Mr Bård Vegar Solhjell, Director General, Norad
 Dr Dhruva Purkayastha, Director - India, Climate Policy Initiative
Chair: Mr Manish Bapna, President & Chief Executive Officer, Natural Resources Defense Council



Climate finance is one of the pillars in the proposed Green Development Pact outcome of the G20, under India's G20 Presidency. According to the latest financing for Sustainable Development Report, the world has seen some positive developments as far as green energy finance is concerned.

In her Introductory Remarks to the session on 'Financing Sustainable Development', Dr Vibha Dhawan asserted, "Green budgeting is a tool involving budgetary planning designed to systematically map and track the sources of funds, outlays, expenditures and policies. Areas such as climate adaptation, sustainable consumption and production, biodiversity preservation and pollution abatement need much more attention."

The Addis Agenda global framework for financing sustainable development supports implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This includes the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through innovative financing and diverse sources of finances including domestic public resources, private business and finance, development cooperation, debt, trade, systemic issues, and technology and capacity.

Chairing the session was Mr Manish Bapna, who remarked, "We are at a crossroads between two very different futures. We know finance is at the heart of the better environmental future we are hoping for."

Furthering this argument, in the Ministerial Address, H.E. Mr Laszlo Borbely said, "Everyone is responsible in contributing to sustainable development. Without a very clear message (or an able) partnership with civil society, we (will) fail to achieve sustainable investments."

The COVID-19 pandemic plunged millions into extreme poverty in 2021, and according to the United Nations, one in five developing



H.E. MR LASZLO BORBELY
 State Counsellor to Prime Minister,
 Government of Romania

"Everyone is responsible in contributing to sustainable development"



MR MANISH BAPNA
 President & Chief Executive Officer, Natural Resources Defense Council

"We know finance is at the heart of the better environmental future we are hoping for"



MR AMIT PROTHI
 Director General, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

"India needs to build 20 more cities like Mumbai to accommodate the urban push"

countries' GDP per capita would not return to 2019 levels by the end of 2023. In this regard, as part of MDB perspectives, Dr Pradeep Tharakan, said, "Sustainable financing for the future will rest on three pillars: more capital, Paris Agreement-aligned policies, and new investment models."

There is a need for strengthening financing mechanisms and processes. In this context, during the Leadership Address, Mr Amit Prothi stressed, "Every dollar invested in resilient infrastructure will lead to four-fold returns. India needs to build 20 more cities like Mumbai to accommodate the urban push."

Areas such as climate adaptation, sustainable consumption and production, biodiversity and ecosystems integrity, and pollution abatement need attention. Mr Mahendra Singhi observed, "The Indian financial institutions are risk averse and they need to share risk along with multilateral development banks (MDBs) to provide financial access to clean technologies for Indian corporates and SMEs."

Developing countries have emphasized on bridging the financing gap between mitigation and adaptation actions. Questions around barriers towards scalable financing for adaptation and resilience must be addressed. This was highlighted by Mr Bård Vegar Solhjell who pointed out, "We are 3000 billion dollars short of financing SDGs, every year. India is a global leader in so many ways. It has shown leadership in solar power, hydrogen, and even in its G20 leadership."

The five pillars of the Green Development Pact, under India's G20 Presidency, are envisaged to include: Lifestyle of Environment (LiFE), Circular Economy, Climate Finance, Accelerating Progress on SDGs, and Energy Transitions & Energy Security. Dr Dhruva Purkayastha observed, "Cost of money is far higher in emerging economies than in OECD countries; (it is) nearly seven times higher," and therefore, there is a need for "modification of the financial architecture to socialize the climate investments," added Dr Purkayastha.

SIDE EVENT

Venue: 'We The People Hall', UN Office, 55 Lodhi Estate, New Delhi

STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION: MOVING THE GLOBAL AGENDA ON COOLING: SPOTLIGHT ON INDIA

Global Leadership Message: H.E. Mr Michael Bloomberg, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Climate Ambition and Solutions
Sherpa's Vision Address: Mr Amitabh Kant, Sherpa, G20, Ministry of External Affairs
Ministerial Addresses: H.E. Mr Steven Guilbeault, Minister, Environment and Climate Change, Canada
 H.E. Mr Hiroshi Ono, Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs, Ministry of the Environment, Japan
Leadership Addresses: Dr Bruno Oberle, Director General, International Union for Conservation of Nature
 Mr Sumant Sinha, Chairman & CEO, ReNew Power
 Prof. Iain Martin, Vice Chancellor, Deakin University
Discussant: Ms Suruchi Bhadwal, Director, TERI
Moderator: Dr Anshu Bharadwaj, Chief Executive Officer, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) states that "sustainable cooling has been put on the global agenda of the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28)." According to reports, almost 2.5 billion people do not have access to climate-friendly cooling solutions.

With this agenda in place, a side event was organized at the UN Office as part of Day 1 of WSDS where experts gathered to deliberate on the issue of sustainable cooling.

HIGHLIGHTS

"With rising heat, cooling is no longer a luxury, but rather a necessity for both the rural poor and the urban poor"
Dipa Bagai, Country Head, NRDC, India

"Reducing cooling demands must be integrated in every sectorial roadmap"
RR Rashmi Distinguished Fellow, TERI

HIGHLIGHTS

"Cost-effective solutions and joint efforts among the stakeholders is a way forward to address the increasing cooling demand"
Manish Bapna President and CEO, NRDC

"Cooling is becoming one of the most challenging sectors to reduce the GHG emissions"
Abhay Bakre Director General, BEE

"Cooling is becoming a global issue and to address this, a global solution is required"
Suruchi Bhadwal Senior Fellow and Director, TERI

"Integration of cooling with LiFE mission is a necessity"
Atul Bagai Country Head, UNEP India and Cool Coalition

PLENARY SESSION

Venue: Stein Auditorium

G20 LEADERSHIP FOR A GREEN DEVELOPMENT PACT


Global Leadership Message: H.E. Mr Michael Bloomberg, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Climate Ambition and Solutions
Sherpa's Vision Address: Mr Amitabh Kant, Sherpa, G20, Ministry of External Affairs
Ministerial Addresses: H.E. Mr Steven Guilbeault, Minister, Environment and Climate Change, Canada
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The G20 accounts for the majority of the world economy along with significant outputs in terms of global exports, energy consumption, and GHG emissions. Therefore, the G20 must provide impetus for action plans for promoting green transitions.

With this perspective, the afternoon session began with the Global Leadership Message from H.E. Mr Michael Bloomberg, who highlighted the significance of the steps the modern world takes to combat climate change, in turn would be beneficial for the economy and public health. He acknowledged the role of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the coalition through disaster-resilient infrastructure and how "India is helping countries work together and share ideas."

Moderated by Dr Anshu Bharadwaj and Ms Suruchi Bhadwal, the session steered towards bringing into focus the relevance of the concerted efforts from G20 countries to achieve global environment goals. Leading the discussion, as part of Sherpa's Vision Address, Mr Amitabh Kant shared crucial facts and said, "G20 accounts for above 85% of the global GDP. G20 is also important because it comprises all the top leaders of the world when they meet on the 9th and 10th September in Delhi." He further shared his concern over the fact that many developing countries are not responsible for carbonizing the world. "India accounts for 1.5% of carbon space and it must be the first country to industrialize without carbonizing the world. It was the first country that achieved its NDC targets 9 years ahead of schedule," he added.

Moving on, in the Ministerial Address, H.E. Mr Steven Guilbeault opined, "Choosing an ambitious path to work on solutions for climate, biodiversity, and other global issues requires all leaders to work together," also highlighting Canada's support for India's G20 proposal on blue economy, circular economy, and climate mitigation.



H.E. MR MICHAEL BLOOMBERG
 UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Climate Ambition and Solutions

“Steps we take to fight climate change also benefit the economy and public health by cleaning the air and water; and the faster we act the more lives we can save”



MR AMITABH KANT
 Sherpa, G20, Ministry of External Affairs

“G20 accounts for above 85% of the global GDP. G20 is also important because it comprises all the top leaders of the world when they meet on the 9th and 10th September in Delhi”



Continuing the thread in the Ministerial Address, H.E. Mr Hiroshi Ono joined in and made it clear that "One of the important tools to improve and enhance carbon financing is the market mechanism under the Paris Agreement." He added that "a wide range of approaches like sustainable technologies can help in increasing resource efficiency and (ensuring) improved economies under the G20 Green Development Pact."

Over the last 50 years, resource consumption in the G20 countries has significantly increased. With this in mind, in a series of Keynote Addresses, Prof. Iain Martin noted, "The G20 challenge is about leadership, because without the leadership, it will not change. It is not about the science, it is about the policy, the fusion of technology that sits behind the science to deliver progress." He pointed out with an example of how Australia and India are 10,000 km apart but are in fact "joined by an almost complete sharing of economic and social challenges (to ensure) clean and renewable energy economic development, food security, water security."

Leading the G20 presidency, India has set ambitious goals for inclusive sustainable economic growth and climate action. "Transforming the dreams into reality is about creating and maintaining investments in sustainable infrastructure," said Dr Bruno Oberle, as part of the Keynote Address series. "Sustainability is about creating a new consumption and production model, a new developmental model that is more aligned within the limits of the physical platform that we are living," Dr Oberle added.

Green Development Pact is expected to be a blueprint of strong actions for the next decade, powering green development in the world. Therefore, as brought out by the thought-provoking discussion, it now becomes essential to articulate the specifics of the Green Development Pact as well as mechanisms to ensure the operationalizing of the Pact. 🌍

PLENARY SESSION

Venue: Stein Auditorium

LIFESTYLES FOR ENVIRONMENT: INSTITUTIONS, POLICIES, AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Chair: Dr Prodipto Ghosh, Distinguished Fellow, TERI
Ministerial Addresses: H.E. Ms Mariam Almheiri, Minister, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, United Arab Emirates
 H.E. Dr Yasmine Fouad, Minister, Ministry of Environment, Egypt
Global Leadership Addresses: Prof. Jeffrey D Sachs, Professor, Earth Institute and Columbia University
 Prof. Jean-Pascal van Ypersele, Former IPCC Vice-Chair
 Dr Erik Solheim, Former Executive Director of UN Environment & President Green Belt and Road Institute, BRI Green Development Institute
 Dr Janez Potočnik, Co-chair, International Resource Panel
Discussant: Dr Suneel Pandey, Director, TERI



As part of the Global Leadership Addresses, Prof. Jeffrey D Sachs, Prof. Jean-Pascal van Ypersele, Dr Erik Solheim (who joined virtually), and Dr Janez Potočnik (who joined virtually), shared insights on adoption of sustainable lifestyles and the need to look at traditional practices while influencing consumer behaviour. Prof. Sachs asserted, "For a huge amount of transformation, it is a change of technology and not a change of lifestyle." We cannot afford to treat our planet as a big dumpyard. Echoing the thoughts of Prof. Sachs, Prof. Jean-Pascal van Ypersele reiterated, "We have been using the atmosphere as a big dustbin, as a free dustbin mostly, and the size of the dustbin the inhabitants of this planet are using everywhere, is not the same."

There are various channels through which consumer choices can be influenced: policies and market signals are the primary ones; apart from that, other channels could be the surrounding environment, work culture, urban amenities, and marketing campaigns. Adding to the discussion, Dr Erik Solheim said, "We must avoid a negative finger-pointing agenda and talk about a positive agenda for change; it is mainly about change in society, political decisions to organize society, business decisions as to how we draw on technology to scale that change, adding to that the component of lifestyle change."

An important policy instrument towards which India has taken a step is the 'right to repair', which advocates for reusing, refurbishing, and repairing products, benefiting not just in terms of sustainability, but also lead to cost savings and job creation. In this regard, Dr Janez Potočnik raised a pertinent point and remarked, "We need to move from extraction-based production to a creation-based production. We need to stop stimulating extraction-based economic success and rather reward the responsible, innovative, and creative ways of meeting human needs. Trying to maintain the current economic system and at the same time fixing chronic triple planetary crisis is not consistent and only creates a lot of lobbying and confusion. Taking painkillers will not heal chronic diseases, rather hide them and make them worse."

The major crux of the discussion established the need for a global campaign that can be supported by all relevant actors, at country and global levels, that will help promote understanding on sustainable lifestyles. India can work in launching a 'G20 Coalition on Lifestyle for the Environment' and a 'G20 Roadmap/Coalition on Responsible Advertisement'. 🌍

FIRE SIDE CHAT

Venue: Stein Auditorium

SUSTAINABLE OCEAN MANAGEMENT FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

Introductory Remarks

Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI

Moderator

H.E. Mr Hans Jacob Frydenlund, Norwegian Ambassador

Panelists

Dr M Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences

Dr Erik Olsen, Head of Research/ Research Manager, Institute of Marine Research



Humanity's well-being is intertwined with the health of the ocean. According to the World Ocean Assessment, the ocean is Earth's largest ecosystem, regulating global climate and driving weather-related systems.

The fireside chat titled 'Sustainable Ocean Management for People and Planet', moderated by H.E. Mr Hans Jacob Frydenlund, began with Introductory Remarks by Dr Vibha Dhawan, who highlighted, "The sustainable ocean management targets to find solutions of triad issues related to pollution, climate change, and biodiversity loss."

Marine Spatial Planning. Moderating the session, H.E. Mr Hans Jacob Frydenlund noted, "The pathways of oceans conservation will be found in the routes of ocean resource extraction," and added how "Indian UTs (Puducherry and Lakshadweep) have potentials of initiating ocean conserving activities."

Extremely crucial for 'blue carbon', which refers to carbon captured by the world's ocean and coastal ecosystems, including mangroves, sea grasses, and salt marshes, the ocean is also responsible for about 50% of the oxygen on Earth. In this regard, panelists Dr M Ravichandran and Dr Erik Olsen focused on ocean stress and sustainable resource harnessing. Dr Ravichandran said, "The extent of ocean management planning goes beyond the scientific and technical data inputs, rather it incorporates the dynamics of social and other local/regional factors."

And Dr Olsen added, "Improved marine management and planning can be a catalyst for blue economy."

Ocean innovations must consider marine ecosystems as a whole and promote adoption of ecosystem-based approaches, marine spatial planning, strategic environmental assessments, and integrate traditional knowledge from local communities in policymaking on marine ecosystems. Without effective integrated management actions that can address the range of challenges, the ocean will fail to provide its full potential of goods and services to the planet and humanity.

The objective of this session was to examine some of the innovations linked to ocean, which include marine spatial planning and how it can contribute to addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. 🌍

PLENARY SESSION

Venue: Stein Auditorium

TOWARDS ENERGY SECURITY AND INCLUSIVE ENERGY TRANSITIONS

Ministerial Addresses: Mr Suman Bery, Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog, India, H.E. Ms Kadri Simson, European Commissioner for Energy

Leadership Addresses: Dr Damilola Ogunbiyi, CEO and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All, Mr Arne Walther, Former Chairman, International Energy Agency, Lord Adair Turner, Chairman, Energy Transitions Commission, Prof Kazuhiko Takeuchi, President, Institute for Global Environmental Studies, Dr Jon Creyts, Chief Executive Officer, Rocky Mountain Institute, Mr Saurabh Kumar, India Head, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet, Ms Seema Paul, Program Director, Sequoia Climate Foundation

Moderator: Mr AK Saxena, Senior Director, TERI



Attaining energy security has been one of the central pillars for countries around the world as energy is essential for human development and economic growth. Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all is Goal 7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In this context, the session on energy security and inclusive energy transitions began with comments from moderator Mr AK Saxena, who set the tone and said, "Energy security is usually seen from supply side perspective. However, it is equally important to underline that the demand side has an extremely important role in furthering energy security."

In a video message, H.E. Ms Kadri Simson shared thought-provoking insights and remarked, "Green hydrogen will be part of India's success, and it will be a pillar of our energy dialogue in future. One year ago, the Russian invasion of Ukraine kicked off a huge shift and how we think of our energy systems. We have not changed course but simply the speed at which we reach our end destination. Our sustainability and climate goals remain the same." The fact that we cannot take anything related to our environment and ecosystem for granted was highlighted by Ms Simson. The reliance on raw materials for a sustainable energy future, be it solar panels, batteries and electrolysers, was stressed upon by her. "We will work with India and others such as the International Solar Alliance to diversify our (energy) supply chains and make them more resilient," she added.

In the Ministerial Address, NITI Aayog's Mr Suman Bery said, "For a country like India, one can meet their access requirements while still providing a facilitating environment for new energy sources that require substantial government action."

It is important to note that the nature of access is also qualified by being reliable and affordable enough to ensure the fulfilment of basic energy needs to meet development objectives, that is, the lifeline energy. In this context, joining the Summit virtually, Dr Damilola Ogunbiyi talked about financial security and pointed out, "It is vital to have more investment and funding to developing countries to ensure that the twin objectives of energy access and energy transition are met."

Taking on a grave tone, Mr Arne Walther articulated, "We have to do more than just put on our life jackets, we must navigate through rough waters ahead of geopolitical change, economic change, and climate change. We are all on the same boat but I am afraid that the boat is leaking."

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), over the last two decades, energy consumption across sectors has increased by about 80%. On energy efficiency and decarbonization, Lord Adair Turner elucidated the situation with a practical example, "Every time somebody drives down the streets of Delhi or London in a 4-wheeler, 3-wheeler or 2-wheeler, if it is an internal combustion engine then they will be turning 75% of the energy into heat and only 25% of energy into kinetic energy. If we switch to battery electric vehicles, 90% or more of the energy will provide mobility."

Taking forward the discussion on how India has significant potential to become a leader in renewable energy technologies, Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi stressed, "We must work together to find innovative solution for a better future." And, Dr Jon Creyts advised, "Clean, green molecules are key resources to decarbonize sectors like steel, ammonia, and shipping."

Confident about India's position in the energy transition, Mr Saurabh Kumar talked about innovation and integration at the level of policymaking. He remarked, "There is a need for convergence in terms of ideas, in terms of policies and regulations. India stands as a shining example of what ambition would look like, and how we can catalyse very large-scale interventions."

Urging the people to understand and treat energy efficiency as the first fuel, Ms Seema Paul asserted, "When we reduce the demand for energy, we reduce the infrastructure investment costs and we don't have to ask for finance from the North. We need it, we deserve to have it, but we don't have to ask for that much more." 🌍

CEO FORUM

Venue: Stein Auditorium

ACCELERATING BUSINESS ACTIONS FOR REALIZING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Keynote Address

Ms Soma Mondal, Chairperson, Steel Authority of India Limited

Leadership Addresses

Mr Rasmus Valanko, Managing Director, We Mean Business Coalition

Mr Naveen Unni, Partner, McKinsey & Company

Mr Sandeep Bhatia, Managing Director, Capgemini Invent India

Chairs

Mr Manish Chourasia, Managing Director & CEO, Tata CleanTech Capital Ltd.

Mr Girish Sethi, Senior Director, TERI



The world is facing unprecedented challenges in the form of socio-economic inequities, unemployment, climate change, environmental degradation, as well as health crisis. In such a scenario, the business sector can play an important role in providing the much-needed support in terms of technology development, propelling innovation, and finance.

At the CEO Forum, chaired by Mr Manish Chourasia and Mr Girish Sethi, the former said, "In the last few years, a number of business houses have given huge commitments and there have also been a lot of actions on the ground."

Contributing to the discussion, Mr Sethi said, "According to me, water and waste are two important subjects which do figure very much in our all SDGs. These are two important topics that we always tend to forget in all the discussions when it comes to SDGs."

In the Keynote Address, Ms Soma Mondal highlighted, "The first thing that the corporate should understand in terms of the

steel industry is when we are looking towards reducing carbon consumption, we are reducing coke consumption and using better technology."

Technology and innovation are at the heart of sustainable development. Innovation is not limited to new breakthrough technologies and often involves incremental improvements and adaptations of existing technologies, processes, and practices. In the series of Leadership Addresses, Mr Rasmus Valanko and Mr Naveen Unni took forward the conversation and stressed on issues related to innovation systems from market-based approaches to innovation-based approaches. Mr Valanko said, "Government has a huge role. They can also help to provide the right signals. If we are talking about demand signals, green public procurement can have a big role in many countries in terms of incentivising some of the First Investments in creating that market and the business case." Mr Unni added, "We always overestimate what we can do in one year and we always underestimate what we can do in ten."

In this regard, Mr Sandeep Bhatia asserted how essential it is for the business sector and policymakers to come together to unlock means conducive for development, demonstration and deployment of green technologies and innovations.

Mr Bhatia remarked, "If you want me to leave three messages, just put it down into three areas – commit, act, and monitor. The last part of monitor is very clear – how can I have ESG? It's just not for compliance or getting funding, but also to make sure that internally, you are looking at everything which impacts the ESG on the 17 parameters."

Green innovations and policies can be given an impetus through green investments, demand-enhancing measures, innovation policies, standards, regulatory support, and public procurement.

Through this session, executive heads from businesses and industries came together to deliberate on how best can our society move toward a 'public goods' approach to accelerate realization of the SDGs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CLOCKWISE)

- H.E. Dr Sultan Al Jaber, COP28-President Designate conferred with Distinguished Alumni Award by TERI School of Advanced Studies
- Tete-a-tete with Professor Jeffrey Sachs
- CSO Roundtable with COP28 President Designate
- Release of TERI-CSIR-IORA-IIP report on 'An Assessment of Avoided CO₂ Emissions During Construction, Maintenance and Operation of National Highways'
- MOU Signing between TERI and Guyana on Sustainable Agriculture
- MOU Signing between TERI and Capgemini on Sustainability



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