

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 3

#Act4Earth

MEDIA COLLOQUIUM

Venue: Stein Auditorium

SHAPING PUBLIC AND POLITICAL ATTITUDES, DRIVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Panelists

Ms Bahar Dutt, Environment Journalist and Conservation Biologist
Ms Jayashree Nandi, Assistant Editor, *Hindustan Times*
Mr Himanshu Shekhar Mishra, Senior Editor, New Delhi Television Ltd
Ms Aarti Khosla, Founder & Director, Climate Trends
Mr Rajiv Tikoo, Consulting Editor (Sustainability), Outlook Group
Mr Rajiv Chhibber, Vice President - External Affairs, Sahajanand Medical Technologies. Ltd.

Moderator

P Anima, Media and Communications Lead, TERI



MR RAJIV TIKOO
Consulting Editor (Sustainability), Outlook Group

“There is unfortunately illiteracy in media about sustainable development in terms of the understanding of the issue and the nuances”



In the age of social media, people get information from various sources, much of which is misinformation. Therefore, the responsibility of media becomes more crucial, and the media fraternity needs to get out of the echo chamber and reach out to a wider audience to get the right information.

At this media colloquium, seasoned practitioners across realms of communications, who have covered climate change disasters and the



MS JAYASHREE NANDI
Assistant Editor, *Hindustan Times*

“Readers might not acknowledge or know that it is the biggest story because climate crisis often overlaps with very fundamental issues like health, weather, agriculture, economy, and geopolitics”

environment at large, discussed ways to shape dialogues on climate action in the public and political spheres. Moderating the session, Ms P Anima said, “Media is a significant cog in the wheel when it comes to highlighting problems and the urgency of solutions.”

Climate crisis is the biggest story in the newsrooms today. Ms Jayashree Nandi observed, “Readers might not acknowledge or know

that it is the biggest story because climate crisis often overlaps with very fundamental issues like health, weather, agriculture, economy and even geopolitics, but as reporters, we understand that it is the most important story of our generation today and possibly the next.” Therefore, she reiterated that climate crisis must be covered consistently.

Mr Himanshu Shekhar Mishra raised a pertinent point about the mindset of people regarding climate change. “It is only when there’s a crisis that we start reporting extensively... (However), in the pre-disaster phase and the post-disaster phase, there is not much attention. We need to recalibrate our priorities. It needs a new approach, a new strategy, a new focus to bring all such challenges to the mainstream consciousness,” he averred.

About the lack of a literate media in terms of climate-related issues, Mr Rajiv Tikoo underscored, “There is unfortunately illiteracy in media about sustainable development in terms of the understanding of the issue and the nuances. There has to be a skillset development in the media. There is no trained SDG reporter in media, as per my knowledge. But, we need to build capacity of people who are inside,” he added. On the role of media schools, Mr Tikoo said, “Media schools need to get sustainable development into their curriculum.”

Ms Bahar Dutt said, “Sustainability and sustainable development are very idyllic, esoteric terms. And I think we need to figure out how to pitch to our editors better. Sustainability is an economic story, it’s a political story, it’s an investigative story and that’s how we should be talking to our editor about the story. Good journalism must question power structures. And if we are not doing that, we are failing as journalists.”

Mr Rajiv Chhibber pointed out, “We have seen a change in the national politics in the last 15–17 years, where the Honourable Prime Minister talks about sustainability at various platforms. That shows how change has now been politically motivated. I feel it is time that we move to a PPP model (partnerships for a public purpose) even when we talk of communication and media.”

Unlike climate disasters, which are stories in themselves, climate action is more of a continuing process, which in turn calls for sustained investment in communication strategies and tools for the media. Ms Aarti Khosla remarked, “The research community has sparsely only looked at how media is shaping public opinion on climate and sustainable development. It feels that there is some kind of connection between people’s awareness and climate conversations. Climate can apply itself to every level of our existence.”



MS BAHAR DUTT
Environment Journalist and Conservation Biologist

“Sustainability and sustainable development are very idyllic, esoteric terms. We need to figure out how to pitch to our editors better”

WOMEN LEADERSHIP SESSION

Venue: Stein Auditorium

PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION FOR A GREENER FUTURE

Ministerial Addresses

H.E. Ms Elba Rosa Pérez Montoya, Minister of Science, Technology and Environment Republic of Cuba
 H.E. Ms Nialé Kaba, Minister of Planning and Development, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
 H.E. Ms Emma Theofelus, Hon'ble Deputy Minister of Information, Communication, and Technology, Namibia

Keynote Address

Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Former Chief Scientist, World Health Organization

Special Address

Ms Riddhima Yadav, Board Director of the Institute for Women, Peace and Security
 Prof. Prateek Sharma, Vice Chancellor, TERI School of Advanced Studies

Chair

Ms Deepali Khanna, Vice President, The Rockefeller Foundation



We are heading into a 'new' world whose common future would be an assortment of climate change-induced conflicts, waves of pandemics, extreme weather events, plummeting socio-economic disparities and unending humanitarian crises. In view of this, listening to, acting by, and enabling inclusion in decision-making processes becomes imperative. One of the biggest fallacies in the gender and climate discourse has been either elevating women to the status of heroes, or relegating them to that of being mere victims.

With this premise, Day 3 of WSDS began with a special Women Leadership Session. In the series of Special Addresses, Ms Deepali Khanna highlighted, "Promotion of diversity and inclusion drives a just and equitable world. Women leaders are critical to leadership. By bringing people from diverse backgrounds, we can make bridges to fill the gaps."

Reports and decisions in favour of women must be put into effect to ensure accommodation of needs. "There is a need for emphasis on education and training as well-trained women contribute to development and higher leadership," pointed H.E. Ms Nialé Kaba in the Ministerial Address through a video message.

Despite the exorbitant usage of the word 'intersectionality', much of the world continues to design solutions in silos — keeping women outside the decision-making process and consequently, limiting the perspectives for holistic policymaking. In this regard, empowerment of women in public and private spaces is important. "Climate resilience and action need more women leaders to drive change," asserted H.E. Ms Emma Theofelus while adding how "specific and intentional actions were taken to mainstream women into leadership in Namibia."

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development rightly calls for ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. Women must be structurally represented in the decision-making process at all levels. "Countries must pay attention to important social, economic, and environmental goals and indicators in the global context to address triple environmental crises, that are climate change, loss of biodiversity, and environmental pollution. To

YOUTH PLENARY

Venue: Stein Auditorium

COLLECTIVE ACTION AND INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY FOR OUR COMMON FUTURE

Youth Leadership Addresses

Ms Prachi Shevgaonkar, Founder, Cool the Globe
 Ms Heeta Lakhani, Co-Founder, Youth Negotiators Academy
 Ms Laura De Vries, European Climate Pact Ambassador

Moderators

Dr Livleen Kahlon, Senior Fellow, TERI
 Mr Edwin Koekkoek, First Counsellor, European Union Delegation

Youth Climate Conclave Pledge
 Youth Climate Conclave Awards
 Green Olympiad Awards

Building a better tomorrow is extremely essential, since global economies have built a world that has become unsustainable.

In a special youth plenary, moderated by Dr Livleen Kahlon and Mr Edwin Koekkoek, fresh and uninhibited perspectives around roles, responsibilities, competencies, and rights of youth in promoting a sustainability agenda, were shared by the esteemed panellists on Day 3 of WSDS.



H.E. MS ELBA ROSA PÉREZ MONTOYA
 Minister of Science, Technology and Environment Republic of Cuba

“To achieve progress on the SDGs, increased access and use of knowledge, science, and innovation are essential”



H.E. MS EMMA THEOFELUS
 Hon'ble Deputy Minister of Information, Communication, and Technology, Namibia

“Climate resilience and action need more women leaders to drive change”

achieve progress on the SDGs, increased access and use of knowledge, science, and innovation are essential," H.E. Ms Elba Rosa Perez Montoy foregrounded via a video message. Senior leaders with an emphatic streak can ensure minimum gender bias. Women have led sustainable development actions as activists, advocates, and scientists and yet, men outpace women in leadership roles and pay parity across sectors including — corporates, non-profits, governments, law, education, and security establishments.

"Empower women through education and mainstream women into policymaking," urged Prof. Prateek Sharma, while taking cognizance of the fact that gender equality is a fundamental right.

On adaptation and resilience in the Keynote Address, S Swaminathan shared, "Health impacts of climate change need actionable approach, by empowering healthcare workers and providing the needed support on the grassroots level. There are a lot of technological solutions available and there is no dearth of innovation happening especially in India. These innovations need to be affordable, sustainable and eco-friendly," she added.

"Just and inclusive spaces in the private sector hold the resources to drive capital and ensure that there are more women leaders in boardrooms. As climate is a behaviour-driven phenomenon, we need to cater driving economic and financial rationale towards women for a green economy," added Ms Riddhima Yadav.

This session facilitated a platform where a strong panel of women leaders across the world came together and deliberated on the path to a sustainable future for all. The discussions revolved around ways to address the numerous challenges confronting women and gender minorities in leadership positions; including poor access to social and economic capital, a constraining gender culture, paucity of role models/mentors, and inadequate positive attitudes about their own personal capacities.



H.E. MS NIALÉ KABA
 Minister of Planning and Development, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

“There is a need for emphasis on education and training as well-trained women contribute to development and higher leadership”




MS HEETA LAKHANI
 Co-Founder, Youth Negotiators Academy

“We need youth sitting at the negotiating tables”



MS PRACHI SHEVGAONKAR
 Founder, Cool the Globe

“Conversations we have today are going to impact not only our lives but the lives of successive generations”



MS LAURA DE VRIES
European Climate Pact Ambassador

“Youth are drivers of change who can make a huge impact because climate crises and environmental degradation are some of the most pressing issues today”

In the series of Leadership Addresses, Ms Prachi Shevgaonkar began with an emphatic message, “One action inspires others and

creates young people around the world. They become ambassadors of change. Of all the stakeholders in the world, youth has a yearning to make a difference. We find ourselves at the cusp of our youth in, perhaps, some of the most defining decades of human existence. Conversations we have today are going to impact not only our lives but the lives of successive generations. And for young people, this is not just a responsibility but an opportunity to make an impact,” she added.

If the maximum impacts are to be felt by future generations, then it makes sense that decisions of today are made by youngsters. “We need youth sitting at the negotiating tables. There is a systematic and intersectional gap for young people wanting to change and take action at the grassroots (level) or internationally at the UN, which must be navigated,” explained Ms Heeta Lakhani.

This youth plenary was organized to inspire the next generation of leaders to design innovative and cutting-edge sustainable development and climate solutions. “Youth are drivers of change who

can make a huge impact because climate crises and environmental degradation are some of the most pressing issues today. It is imperative to recognize that the young people have a crucial role in addressing climate change issues. We must understand that young people have a unique perspective. Because we are going to live a long time after now, we should look at climate change from a long-term perspective,” advised Ms Laura De Vrie while recognizing youth contribution and motivating the citizenry of tomorrow.

TERI and EU have strong youth programmes, and this plenary session reinforced the relevance of such forums as a platform for youth to engage in constructive dialogue and push for action leading towards sustainable development and to address the global challenge of climate change.

HIGH-LEVEL SESSION ON COP28 COMPASS

Venue: Stein Auditorium

TOWARDS EQUITY AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

Multilateral Leadership Address

H.E. Mr Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

Keynote Addresses

Ms Leena Nandan, Secretary (EF&CC), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

H.E. Mr Naseer Ahamed, Minister, Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka

Ms Jennifer Morgan, State Secretary and Special Envoy for International Climate Action, Federal Foreign Office, Germany

Discussants

Mr Siddharthan Balasubramanian, Senior Advisor, ClimateWorks Foundation

Dr Henning Wuester, Director, Initiative for Climate Action Transparency

Mr Janos Pasztor, Executive Director, Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative

Chair

Mr R R Rashmi, Distinguished Fellow, TERI

Announcement by TERI and UNFCCC



The 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will convene from November 30 to December 12, 2023 at the Expo City Dubai, United Arab Emirates. COP28 will be hosted at a time of continued economic uncertainty, heightened geopolitical tensions, and increasing pressure on food and energy security.

With this in mind, a high-level discussion on achieving equity and climate justice was organized to understand how COP28 will be a significant moment because it marks the first Global Stocktake (GST), a comprehensive assessment of progress against the goals of the Paris Agreement. “The GST can form the foundation for course correction in the global climate discourse and address unanswered questions. Political will and the support of all Parties are essential for collective action to push for operationalizing the goals of the Paris Agreement at COP28,” said H.E. Mr Simon Stiell in the Multilateral Leadership Address. The session was chaired by Mr R R Rashmi.

Transparency is the backbone of the Paris Agreement and is critical for delivering the goals of the PA. “The GST can and must come out with the strong message to Parties to develop their biennial transparency reports. Countries should keep in mind just transitions in their national processes so that no one is left behind,” said Dr Henning Wuester.

It is clear the world is completely off track as far as the Paris climate goals are concerned. To achieve the 1.5°C target, global emissions would have to reduce by 43% by 2030. “The global focus should be on adaptation in the run up to COP28 to shed a light on the most vulnerable communities affected by climate change. Movements such as the LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) initiative by the Government of India serve as an example for the global community to embrace mindful utilization of resources. India hopes to be a leader in advocating sustainable lifestyles,” said Ms Leena Nandan.

The ‘Loss and Damage’ fund announced at COP27 gave hope to vulnerable developing countries but left many questions unanswered. “The high-income economies need to recalibrate multilateral institutions so that they can enhance the finance flows to developing countries. The need of the hour is to mainstream climate finance,” explained H.E. Mr Naseer Ahamed.

Finance is a fundamental part of transition pathways. While the 100 billion USD is essential, the focus must be on reforming the financial multilateral institutions to support financial global flows, and this should be the focus in the climate discourse. “On GST and the outcomes of the GST, we are far from where we need to be for adaptation, mitigation and finance, and COP28 will tell us what to do about it. Going into COP28, there will be more conversations around just transitions,” stated Ms Jennifer Morgan.

The focus in the run up to COP28 should be on equity across mitigation, adaptation and finance, and should have tangible

outcomes. “The focus on finance should remain pertinent to further the conversation around finance flows for climate action. Broken promises are like broken pencils, they become irrelevant. Given the various global shocks and conflicts being witnessed, COP28 can serve as a platform to address economic instability driven by these situations,” said Mr Siddharthan Balasubramanian.

The focus of global discourse in the run up to COP28 should be on making sure the temperature goals are not overshoot. It is essential “to reduce the risks in the situation of temperature overshoots. The consequences of the potential overshoot will be brought up and highlighted by the GST post COP28,” said Mr Janos Pasztor.



MS LEENA NANDAN
Secretary (EF&CC), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

“Movements such as the LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) initiative by the Government of India serve as an example for the global community to embrace mindful utilization of resources”



H.E. MR SIMON STIELL
Executive Secretary, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

“Political will and the support of all Parties are essential for collective action to push for operationalizing the goals of the Paris Agreement at COP28”



Signing of ‘Letter of Intent’ by H.E. Mr Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC and Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director-General, TERI

VALEDICTORY SESSION

Venue: Stein Auditorium

MAINSTREAMING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

Chair's Address

Mr Nitin Desai, Chairman, TERI

Global Leadership Message

H.E. Ms Najla Bouden, Prime Minister, Tunisia

Keynote Address

Shri Hardeep S Puri, Hon'ble Union Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India

Valedictory Addresses

Mr Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC Leadership Addresses
H.E. Mr Ugo Astuto, Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to India
Dr Ajay Mathur, Director-General, The International Solar Alliance

Women Leadership Addresses

Hon'ble Justice Prathiba Singh, Judge Delhi High Court
Dr Renu Swarup, Former Secretary, Department of Biotechnology

Launch of Act4Earth Manifesto

Launch of Vasundhara Magazine by TERI School of Advanced Studies
Curtain-raiser for WSDS 2024 – Dr Shailly Kedia, Senior Fellow, TERI

Vote of Thanks

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





SHRI HARDEEP S PURI
Hon'ble Union Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India

“ At the global level, what you require is a paradigm shift in the international climate regime to move from a country-specific approach to a people-centric approach for climate action ”



H.E. MS NAJLA BOUDEN
Prime Minister, Tunisia

“ The current international forum is critical for developing nations, especially after the pandemic and fallout in Ukraine, which have led to unprecedented rise in food and energy prices ”

The Valedictory Session of the World Sustainable Development Summit 2023 summarized the key messages emanating from various sessions that were part of the Summit deliberations. During the valedictory, the *Act4Earth Manifesto* was released, which included messages for the G20 presidency as well as COP28, followed by the launch of *Vasundhara Magazine* by TERI School of Advanced Studies (TERI-SAS). The session also served as a platform to showcase the curtain-raiser for the 23rd edition of WSDS, where the dates and the theme of the next edition of the Summit were announced.

“More work is required in bringing countries together to discuss the issue of sustainable development and climate change. We must look at it from a global perspective rather than the national interest. We still need to do far more creative work on promoting collective action. India is playing a strong role in G20, particularly focusing on the Green Development Pact,” said Mr Nitin Desai in his address as the chair of the session. This is the first time in G20 that a country has decided to pick on

‘green development’ as a major theme and push it at the G20 meeting, which is “welcoming from the perspective of getting sustainable development as part of the collective action,” he added.

In the Global Leadership Message (conveyed virtually), H.E. Ms Najla Bouden urged all the governments at the national level to do a comprehensive review of policies to cater to the contemporary need of sustainable development. “The current international forum is critical for developing nations, especially after the pandemic and fallout in Ukraine, which have led to unprecedented rise in food and energy prices,” she averred.

Food, fertilizers, and fuel are the three areas of crises that the world is grappling with today. “These three (areas) have a solid link with the kind of discussions we should have and are having with reference to the issue of sustainable development. At the global level, what you require is a paradigm shift in the international climate regime to move from a country-specific approach to a people-centric approach for climate action,” said Shri Hardeep S Puri in the Keynote Address.

There is clear sightedness about the magnitude of the challenge and “there’s excitement about the historic possibility of now. This makes COP28 a transformational moment. There is a need for a world where we can build a just society for all and we should knock down all barriers,” asserted Mr Simon Stiell in the Valedictory Address.

Taking forward the discussion, H.E. Mr Ugo Astuto focused on the urgent need to act to curb climate change risks. “We need to act now and we need to act fast to address the climate change existential challenge. G20 is a great opportunity to inject momentum in our endeavour towards the green transition. There can be no real progress on SDGs without any progress on climate. And there can be no progress on SDGs without India,” he added.

“There is a need to build our solar capacities and it is important to see how we can achieve this feat. We are at the phase of convergence where sustainable development and climate change come together, and that forms the heart of the G20 Summit,” said Dr Ajay Mathur.

About the participation of women in the climate narrative and action, Hon'ble Justice Prathiba Singh said, “Women play a very important role in contributing to the environment. Going forward, tapping women and their potential is going to be key for sustainable development and for achieving all the targets for tackling climate change. While technologies are important, we must remember the grassroots changes we need to bring in our country.” Adding to this thought, Dr Renu Swarup said, “There is a need for a holistic framework to tackle the challenge before us. We must learn from case studies that were successful and decipher the steps that led to the success, and implement these whenever and wherever needed.”

In the Vote of Thanks, Dr Vibha Dhawan remarked, “This WSDS, we have (not just) discussed the problems but we have (also) started discussing the way forward. Sustainable development and climate change – these are engraved in each one of us at TERI!”



A ten-point Act4Earth manifesto was launched at the Valedictory Session of WSDS 2023 in an effort to nudge action, raise ambition, encourage dialogue, and bring like-minded people together for urgent and meaningful climate action



Launch of Vasundhara Magazine by TERI School of Advanced Studies

HIGHLIGHTS



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