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 information. the echo chamber and reach out to a wider audience to get the right information.

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. Arima, Media and Communications Lead, TERI

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
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There is unfortunately illiteracy in media about sustainable development in terms of the understanding of the issue and the nuances. 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 skilful 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.”
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 challenges 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 Deepak Kharma 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 Riddhima Yadav.

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 achieve progress on the SDGs, increased access and use of knowledge, science, and innovation are essential” H.E. Ms Elba Rosa Pérez Montoya 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 policy-making,” 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.

**YOUTH PLENARY**

**Venue:** Stein Auditorium

**COLLECTIVE ACTION AND INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY FOR OUR COMMON FUTURE**

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**Moderators**

Dr Livleen Kahlion, Senior Fellow, TERI
Md Edwin Kokkoon, First Counsellor, European Union Delegation

**Youth Climate Conclave Pledge**

Youth Climate Conclave Awards

Green Olympiad Awards

**MS HEETA LAKHANI**
Co-Founder, Youth Negotiators Academy

**MS PRACHI SHEVADKAR**
Founder, CooL the Globe

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 Kahlion and Ms Heeta Lakhani, fresh and uninhibited perspectives around roles, responsibilities, competencies, and rights of youth in promoting a sustainability agenda, were shared by the esteemed panelists on Day 3 of WSDS.
In the series of Leadership Addresses, Ms Prachi Shevgaonkar began with an emphatic message, “One action inspires others and can make a huge impact because climate crises and environmental degradation are some of the most pressing issues today.”

The 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will convene from November 30th 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 review of progress against the goals of the Paris Agreement. The GST can and must come out with significant conclusions to protect the planet. “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 significant conclusions to protect the planet. The focus of global discourse in the run up to COP28 should be on making sure the temperature goals are not overshot. 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 Jans Pastzer.

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 Vries while recognizing youth contribution and motivating the citizenry of tomorrow.

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 for young people to 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 Vries while recognizing youth contribution and motivating the citizenry of tomorrow. T

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

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.

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.

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.

At the Valedictory Session of the World Sustainable Development Summit 2023, the Act4Earth Manifesto was released, which included messages for the G20 presidency as well as COP28, followed by the launch of the Vasundhara Magazine by TERI School of Advanced Studies (TERI-SAS). The session also served as a platform to showcase the curtain-raiser for 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.

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 sustainable development and climate change – these are engraved in each one of us at TERI.”