

COP28 Compass Virtual Dialogue

Global Goal on Adaptation and Implications for Climate Justice

Date: 27 October 2023

Time: 2:00 p.m.– 4:30 p.m. IST

EVENT SUMMARY



COP28 COMPASS VIRTUAL DIALOGUE

Date: 27th October 2023 (Friday) | Time: 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. (IST)



Norwegian Embassy
New Delhi

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ABOUT

WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship Track II initiative organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Instituted in 2001, the Summit series has a legacy of over two decades for making ‘sustainable development’ a globally shared goal. The only independently convened international Summit on sustainable development and environment, based in the Global South, WSDS 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. Over the years, the Summit series has witnessed the participation of 54 Heads of State and Government, 103 Ministers, 13 Nobel Laureates, 1888 Business Leaders, 2745 Speakers, and 38,280 Delegates.

ACT4EARTH

Act4Earth initiative was launched at the valedictory session of the 21st edition of WSDS. Building on the discussions of WSDS, this initiative seeks to continuously engage with stakeholders through research and dialogue. Act4Earth initiative has two components: COP Compass and SDG Charter. The COP Compass seeks to inspire and mobilize leadership at all levels for inclusive transitions through ambitious and informed policies and measures, enabling paradigm shifts towards meeting the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Paris goals through mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation. SDG Charter seeks to identify gaps and suggest ways for strengthening and mainstreaming sustainability in policy agendas for enhanced environmental, social, and economic outcomes.

COP28 COMPASS DIALOGUE

Considering the recently adopted G20 New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration at the G20 Leaders’ Summit and the upcoming COP28 to be held in Dubai, it is pertinent to discuss the climate issues relevant to the Global South, given its significance for ensuring equitable global outcomes. According to the statement from the incoming COP presidency, COP 28 seeks to focus on four paradigm shifts: fast-tracking energy transition and reducing emissions before 2030; transforming climate finance and setting the framework for a new deal on finance; putting nature, people, lives, and livelihoods at the heart of climate action; and mobilizing for inclusivity. This dialogue will seek to engage with experts on climate negotiations and energy transitions to advance the discourse on climate justice.

GLOBAL GOAL ON ADAPTATION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

COP28 is expected to act as the cornerstone in creating a concrete outcome on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), which the Paris Agreement mandated. At COP 26, the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh (GlaSS) work program, a two-year program (2022–23) was established for operationalizing GGA. Decision 3, CMA.4 of COP27 suggest elements for GGA, which include consideration of dimensions [including the grounds for Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) systems]; themes; cross-cutting considerations (including metrics and targets set); and sources of information (including reports and communications from parties among others). The overarching question for this session is: What are your key expectations specific to the global goal of adaptation, considering the widespread vulnerabilities in the Global South?

Suggested Citation

The Energy and Resources Institute. 2023. COP28 Compass Dialogue: Global Goal on Adaptation and Implications for Climate Justice [Event Summary], Act4Earth and World Sustainable Development Summit. New Delhi: The Energy and Resources Institute.

Disclaimer

The event summary is based on an auto-generated transcript. Some edits were made on grammar and spelling. The discussion can be accessed from YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjFTnb2hje8&t=933s>.

SPEAKER LINE-UP

Welcome Address

- Dr Shailly Kedia (Senior Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute)
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Framing Presentation

- Ms Ishita Srivastava (The Energy and Resources Institute)
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Panel Discussion

Chair

- Dr Manish Srivastava (Senior Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute)

Panellists

- Dr Olga Pilifosova (Manager – Adaptation Programme, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)
 - Dr Saurabh Thakur (Consultant, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)
 - Dr Archana Negi (Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University)
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Vote of Thanks

- Ms Palak Khanna (Research Associate, The Energy and Resources Institute)

ACTIONABLE MESSAGES

Message 1: Taking forward the conclusions from the recent G20 Summit, for the countries from the Global South, a concrete and robust framework for the global goal of adaptation will be a key determinant of the success of negotiations at COP28.

Message 2: COP28 would be crucial on two major accounts: it will mark the completion of the first global stocktake and the Glasgow–Sharm-el-Sheikh Work Programme. It provides a unique opportunity to acknowledge and deal with the implementation gaps concerning adaptation measures at the global level.

Message 3: GGA and adaptation measures were crucial for the Global South, and it was necessary to consider multiple perspectives within climate negotiations to maintain the legitimacy of the process.

Message 4: Climate adaptation should not be limited to land-based measures. Even though UNFCCC negotiations have not adequately focused on it yet, oceans and maritime domains were crucial entities within the adaptation discourse.

Message 5: At COP28, defining targets and indicators while recognizing the differential responsibilities of developed and developing countries and adaptation finance will be the key to determining the future course for climate adaptation.

“ It is important to explore the implications of the global goal on adaptation and climate negotiations at the UNFCCC to ensure climate justice. In one sense, the need for adaptation can be seen to be inversely proportional to the idea of climate justice.

Dr Manish Srivastava
Senior Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute

“ The global stocktake was presently based on a framework that did not include concrete metrics on the Global Goal on Adaptation – a goal that was mandated by the Paris Agreement and should have been in place. From a Global South perspective, a robust framework for the global goal of adaptation will be a key determinant of the success of discussions at COP28.

Dr Shailly Kedia
Senior Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute

“ The upcoming COP28 will be significant for adaptation on two major accounts: it will mark the completion of the first global stocktake and the Glasgow–Sherm-el-Sheikh Work Programme, providing a unique opportunity for adaptation to transform itself into a global process.

Dr Olga Pilifosova
Manager, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

“ In the maritime domain, discussions around climate mitigation, adaptation, and finance are still at the advocacy level, highlighting the need for synergies between international policy processes.

Dr Saurabh Thakur
Consultant, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

“ The aim of GGA was not just to measure progress but to catalyse adaptation; GGA will need to perform the balancing act by being practically doable yet being ambitious enough to meet its objectives.

Dr Archana Negi
Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University

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

Dr Kedia welcomed the speakers by mentioning the relevance of the upcoming COP28 and emphasized the contemporary polycrisis the world is confronted with, namely, the triple challenges of planetary crises, the sliding back of key sustainable development goals, and the ever-growing conflict situation threatening world peace. The signs of crisis were also visible in the sixth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which called for rapid and large-scale action. Dr Kedia also stressed the need for these actions in the domain of mitigation and adaptation as well as in all means of implementation, including Climate Finance. The global stocktake was presently based on a framework that did not include concrete metrics on the Global Goal on Adaptation – a goal that was mandated by the Paris Agreement and should have been in place. From a Global South perspective, a robust framework for the global goal of adaptation will be a key determinant of the success of discussions at COP28. Considering the recently adopted G20 New Delhi's Leaders Declaration at the G20 Summit and the upcoming COP28, discussing issues relevant to the Global South was pertinent, given its significance for ensuring equitable global outcomes.

Dr Manish Srivastava, Senior Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute

Dr Srivastava opened the session by introducing the speakers and highlighting the importance of exploring the implications of the global goal of adaptation and climate negotiations at the UNFCCC to ensure climate justice. He added that the entry point to adaptation stems from the mitigation targets set in the Paris Agreement itself. He explained that 1.5 degrees was a desirable goal and that aspiring to achieve it would reduce the need for rapid adaptation while enhancing climate justice. In one sense, the need for adaptation can be seen to be inversely proportional to the idea of climate justice. He concluded by remarking that discussing various dimensions within the interaction on climate was essential for the durability and legitimacy of the Paris Agreement.

Dr Olga Pilifosova, Manager, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Dr Pilifosova began her remarks on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) by highlighting the difficult political situation before COP28, where state positions were sharpening and participants were backtracking their initial positions on issues. Discussing the progress on adaptation at UNFCCC, Dr Pilifosova remarked that the stakeholders were far more knowledgeable in theory and practice despite the implementation gaps mentioned in the IPCC reports. She added that initially, the major issues with adaptation at UNFCCC were rooted in determining how countries focused on mitigation would adapt while linking it to sustainable development. A holistic approach was formulated through the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and experts' groups, with the Paris Agreement solidifying it with the GGA.

Concerning the expectations from COP28 on GGA, Dr Pilifosova emphasized the significance of the upcoming COP on two major accounts: it will mark the completion of the first global stocktake and Glasgow–Sherm-el-Sheikh Work Programme. It provides a unique opportunity for adaptation as a global process while recognizing the need for a bottom-up approach targeting the most vulnerable. However, in the upcoming negotiations, three key areas could emerge as possible blocks of disagreement: articulating overarching targets or arriving at a common quantifiable understanding of shared adaptation priorities, means of implementation and whether adaptation finance should be discussed independently rather than within an integrated approach, and cross-cutting links between adaptation and just transitions, climate justice, and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Dr Pilifosova concluded by stating that the negotiations at COP28 will possibly complete the triad of the Paris Agreement: Mitigation, Finance, and Adaptation. There was a need to enhance action on adaptation and strengthen GGA by operationalizing it in a concrete framework.

Dr Saurabh Thakur, Consultant, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Dr Thakur remarked that the three decades of UNFCCC negotiations were based on constructive ambiguity, while constant progress was seen on a few major aspects. Speaking specifically on the maritime issues within the broader discourse on climate change, he argued that UNFCCC was a bit late in factoring in oceans with a minimal direct mention in Kyoto or the Paris Agreement. Due to institutional inertia and geopolitics, nationally and internationally, multiple issues exist with governance and discussing the degradation of oceans or marine ecosystems. The recent IPCC reports, though, have tried to bring out the deteriorating effects of climate change on oceans and the critical placement of the Indian subcontinent within the discourse.

On the issue of adaptation, Dr Thakur added that it was important to build clear strategies; however, there exists uncertainty over how to bring about the focus on adaptation within the maritime discussions at the level of negotiations as well as policy making. Despite scholarly attention in global forums such as CBD, G20, and UNFCCC, discussions are not focused on developing new institutional frameworks. He argued for a separation between land-based and maritime adaptation understanding. While climate mitigation and adaptation were institutionalized overall, in the maritime domain, discussions around climate mitigation or finance were still at the advocacy level, highlighting the need for synergies between international policy processes.

Dr Archana Negi, Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Focusing on the legal interpretation of the articles, Dr Negi highlighted three major sub-components that form the beginning of any discussion on GGA: enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience, and reducing vulnerability. The major prolonged objectives of GGA were to contribute towards sustainable development and ensure an adequate adaptation response towards the global temperature goal. The Paris Agreement recognized that adaptation was a global challenge but had local, subnational, national, regional, and international dimensions. Dr Negi emphasized the urgent and immediate adaptation needs of the developing and, particularly, vulnerable countries. She said efforts should be country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory, and recognize the indigenous people.

At COP28, with the conclusion of the first global stocktake, there seems to be a lack of agreement on defining adaptation targets and indicators. For instance, whether there should be differential targets for developed and developing countries. Another issue of concern would be finance. Defining more specific targets for adaptation would also mean tracking progress institutionally and funding the transition. Dr Negi stressed that the aim of GGA was not just to measure progress but to catalyse adaptation. She felt that GGA would need to meet the balancing act by being practically doable yet ambitious enough to meet its objectives. Even though climate justice is mentioned in the preamble of the Paris Agreement, it needs to sustain its momentum and should be seen within the larger context of conflict and sliding back of sustainable development goals.
