

# WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2024

LEADERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

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February 7-9, 2024 India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

SUMMIT BULLETIN | DAY 1

# INAUGURAL SESSION



Venue: Stein Auditorium

## TERI@50 - THE ROLE OF KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTIONS IN DRIVING LEADERSHIP AND CHANGE

Speakers: Mr Nitin Desai, Chairman, TERI Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change H.E. Brigadier (Retd.) Mark Phillips, Prime Minister, Guyana Hon'ble Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice President of India Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI Dr Shailly Kedia, Senior Fellow and Associate Director, TERI

he Inaugural session titled "TERI@50 – The Role of Knowledge Institutions in Driving Leadership and Change" set the stage for the Summit deliberations. The Summit deliberated and amplified perspectives from the Global South on the means of implementation needed for achieving sustainable development and ensuring climate justice. Deliberations stressed the need for cooperation and collaboration amongst countries as ecosystems know no borders. The session highlighted the importance of ensuring

universal access to energy—more so clean energy. The developing countries face challenges of securing finance for adaptation and decarbonization. We need to be mindful of our international commitments whilst addressing the aspirations and needs of developing nations. While throwing light on climate negotiations from a Global South perspective, the first global stocktake reflects on a concerning picture as witnessed with the sliding back on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Emphasis was laid on the need of advancing



7 February 2024

Taking advantage of the synergy between energy access and the deployment of renewable energy for electricity, heating and transportation needs presents an opportunity to rapidly accelerate renewable energy share and stay on target of the 1.5 degree Celsius threshold

Image: Constraint of the second second



partnerships amongst countries to achieve the SDGs. We need to encourage climate inclusive responsibility to foster climate action. The aim needs to be to build a climateresilient future which allows for a people and nature-centric approach to climate justice. Climate justice urgently needs to be considered as the North Star for holistic sustainable development progression of nations, especially the vulnerable. We must adopt a collective spirit for integrating sustainable development and its principles need to guide our lives. We must internalize sustainable lifestyle choices. Further, we require targeted policy, technology and appropriate funding to advance our fight against climate crisis.

A TERI Publication titled 'TERI's Solutions for Sustainable Development' was also launched during the Inaugural session.

# **PLENARY SESSION | INVOCATION**

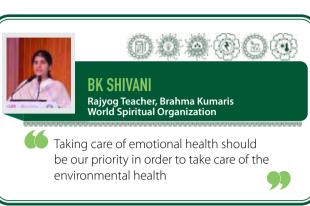
#### Venue: Stein Auditorium

## CLIMATE ACTION, PEACE, AND SPIRITUALITY

Guided Meditation for Healing the Self and the Planet

Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director-General, TERI B K Shivani, Rajyog Teacher, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization





he 23rd World Sustainable Summit (WSDS) 2024 commenced with a warm welcome from Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director-General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), emphasizing the historical context of sustainability discussions. Stressing the collective responsibility of individuals, beyond governments and research institutes, she underscored the global nature of the challenge, introducing the summit theme: "Leadership for Sustainable Development and Climate Justice." The plenary session titled, "Invocation: Climate Action, Peace, and Spirituality" was held as part of WSDS Summit. The session aimed at the sacredness of our relationship with nature, encompassing both resources and

# Image: Second Second

address climate impacts

human consciousness. The call to action centred on collective pause, analysis, reflection, and healing, linking the healing of individuals to synchronous healing with the planet. Expressing gratitude, Dr Dhawan introduced Brahm Kumari Sister Shivani, a Rajyog Meditation Practitioner with the Brahma Kumaris for over 25 years. Dr Dhawan also highlighted that it is the 50th year of TERI and how we are looking into what we have done right and what could have been done better to define the future path. The session aimed to set a reflective tone for the 3-day summit, emphasizing the fusion of scientific insights and spiritual wisdom. Attendees were encouraged to explore actionable climate solutions collectively, aligning with the summit's overarching goals of sustainable development, climate justice, and a harmonious relationship with the planet.

# PLENARY SESSION | LEADERSHIP PANEL

#### Venue: Stein Auditorium

#### FINANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

Chair Dr Dipak Dasgupta, Distinguished Fellow, TERI

**Ministerial Address** 

H.E. Ms Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Minister, Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Spain H.E. Mr Andreas Bjelland Eriksen, Minister, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway (Video Message)

Leadership Address

Mr Martin Raiser, Vice President for South Asia Region, The World Bank

Perspectives

Dr Amar Bhattacharya, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution and Grantham Research Institute, LSE Ms Priya Shankar, India Director, Climate and Environment Program, Bloomberg Philanthropies Ms Pamela Jouven, Director, SME Climate Hub, We Mean Business Coalition Dr Dhruba Purkayastha, India Director, Climate Policy Initiative

DEVELOPMENT SUBMIT



Despite the challenges and the daunting task to mobilize trillions, the longer we delay meeting the climate investment needs, the higher the cost will be

While investments in mitigation, especially in the emerging economies, provide opportunities, there is a need to recognize the imperative of channelling financial flows towards adaptation and building resilience. Therefore, there is a need to revamp the global financial architecture, as highlighted during India's G20 and at COP28, to build a framework for channelling finance in a timely manner towards the emerging investment opportunities. The panellists also explored the need to involve a more diverse network of stakeholders in the design of such a financial framework, especially including the perspectives





he plenary session titled, "Financing Sustainable Development and Climate Action" aimed at exploring the integration of sustainable development and climate change considerations in public and private institutions as well as processes such as investment flows, budgets, and revenue

collection. Discussions focused on the need to explore new financial instruments, such as green credits, blended finance, climate insurance and green bonds, to address the financing gaps around climate action, especially in the developing world.

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India's development trajectory matters globally. Its track record today puts it on a much lower carbon emissions path than other major economies before it



MS PRIYA SHANKAR India Director, Climate and Environment Program, Bloomberg Philanthropies

Every dollar invested in clean economy will lead to four-fold returns

#WSDS2024 #Act4Earth

and views of the private sector, the small-medium enterprises (SMEs), the multilateral development banks (MDBs), and the international philanthropies. These solutions must be inclusive of the citizens themselves, as the emerging economies of the world strive to balance their socio-economic development imperatives with the urgent need to undertake climate action. The panellists concluded the session by highlighting how the discussions around climate financing have grown more hopeful and optimistic over the past year, with seminal decisions being undertaken at India's G20 Presidency and COP28, thereby providing a necessary impetus towards concrete action around channelling climate finance.



# PLENARY SESSION | LEADERSHIP PANEL

#### Venue: Stein Auditorium

#### INTEGRATING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

#### Leadership Message

H.E. Mr Ban Ki-moon, 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations, and President, Global Green Growth Institute (Video Message) Dr Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (Video Message)

#### Perspectives

Mr Manish Bapna, President & CEO, Natural Resources Defense Council

- Ms Abanti Sankaranarayanan, Chief Group Public Affairs Officer & Member of the Group Executive Board, Mahindra Group
- Ms Vaishnavi Prabhakaran, Head Sustainability, The Tata Power Company Limited Dr Akanksha Chaurey, Director, IT Power Private Limited

#### Chair

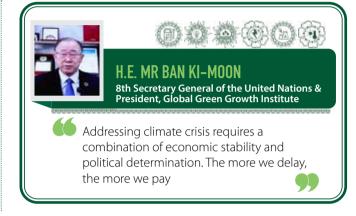
Dr Prodipto Ghosh, Distinguished Fellow, TERI



This study sought to develop an SDG Blueprint to inform integrated approaches to sustainable agriculture at the national level in India. It is crucial that the lenses of sustainable development, climate action, value chains, and multi-stakeholder approaches be considered for sustainable agriculture to contribute towards food security, livelihoods, and ecosystem integrity.

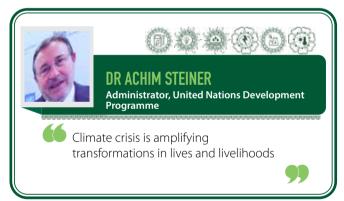
The plenary session titled, "Leadership Panel: Integrating Sustainable Development for Collective Action" emphasized the unprecedented urgency of addressing the climate crisis through collective action. It highlighted that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) form an interconnected framework to address various challenges faced by the planet. The discussion focused on the need for a cohesive approach to achieve the SDGs and emphasized that these goals are not isolated objectives. The session aimed to understand how collective action can ensure the attainment of SDGs and promote coordination among different efforts. It pointed out that current political, environmental, and commercial activities often operate in silos, lacking a systemic approach.





achievement of SDGs. The panellists also shared perspectives on how human activities negatively impact the climate and emphasized the need for collaboration among stakeholders. The deliberations centred on the idea that sustainability should not be relegated to a secondary role but must take a prominent position on the agenda.

The key takeaway from the session was that collaboration and shared responsibility can serve as driving forces to address



climate crisis and achieve sustainable development targets. The panellists advocated for a dialogue among all stakeholders to build a greener and more resilient environment for everyone.

The session concluded with the launch of the SDG Blueprint Policy on Sustainable Agriculture Brief. ■

To overcome this, the session proposed integrating sustainable development into various areas through policy instruments such as green budgeting, sustainable public procurement, green investments, and regulatory frameworks. The importance of breaking down organizational silos through a There is a need for simple and harmonized reporting standards and rating frameworks. Within the national framework, collaboration between the national and international governments is important

vertical and horizontal approach across institutions, government bodies, organizations, and communities was underscored as crucial to expedite the sustainable development process.

The speakers highlighted that without robust global action and political will, climate crisis will only worsen, hindering the



Countries have strong policies in place. The real challenge is implementation. It is tough to translate policies into implementation. Vertical and horizontal integration is at the heart of how we can implement effectivelys

# PLENARY SESSION | LEADERSHIP PANEL

#### Venue: Stein Auditorium

#### SHAPING CLIMATE RESPONSIVE FUTURES

#### **Ministerial Address**

Mr Mukhtar Babayev, COP29 President Designate & Minister, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Republic of Azerbaijan (Video Message)

#### Leadership Address

Ms Jennifer Morgan, State Secretary and Special Envoy for International Climate Action Federal Foreign Office of Germany (Virtual Live) Prof. Hoesung Lee, Former Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

#### Perspectives

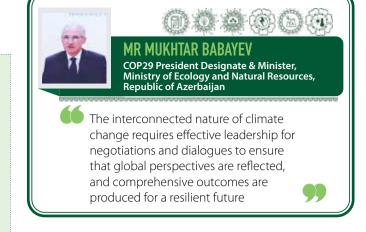
Ms Deepali Khanna, Vice President, Asia, The Rockefeller Foundation Mr Perumal Arumugampillai Kalyani, Manager - Mitigation Division, UNFCCC

Mr Joe Phelan, Executive Director, Asia Pacific, World Business Council for Sustainable Development

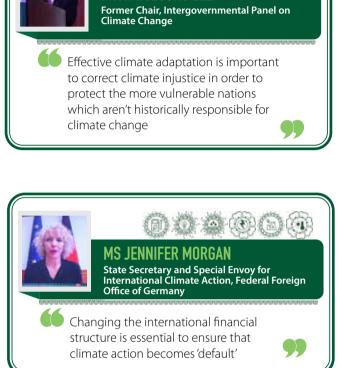
#### Moderator

Ms Suruchi Bhadwal, Senior Fellow & Director, TERI





PROF. HOESUNG LEE



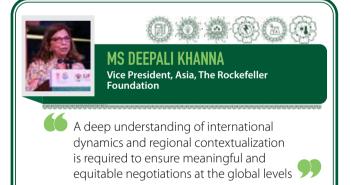
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The plenary session titled, 'Leadership Panel: Shaping Climate Responsive Futures' aimed at understanding the role that effective leadership could play towards accelerating climate action in a pressing timeframe to restrict global temperatures. As climate negotiations and cooperation assume importance in addressing the impact of climate change, proactive leadership can bridge gaps that have led to a kind of regression in climate action—be it policy gaps, technology issues, or financial constraints. The focus of climate change must widen to involve adaptation and resilience building alongside mitigation. Instead of being considered a hindrance to economic development, climate action must be perceived

as an enabler in economic growth. With able leadership, climate-responsive and climate-positive actions could be made equitable across countries and communities. Significantly, climate change can no longer be treated in isolation. It needs to be understood in terms of reducing its impact across various vulnerable groups, as well as in terms of opportunities its redressal provides through co-benefits that cover health, food production, and economic development. Collective leadership shall enable the vertical and horizontal integration of climate action across diverse stakeholder groups and ensure a more equitable and sustainable future.

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# PLENARY SESSION | LEADERSHIP PANEL

#### Venue: Silver Oak

## ADDRESSING THE ENERGY TRILEMMA IN A RE-Source-constrained world

#### Speakers

Lord Adair Turner, Chair, Energy Transitions Commission Mr Sumant Sinha, Founder, Chairman and CEO, ReNew Power Private Limited

Dr Ajay Mathur, Director-General, International Solar Alliance Dr Priyantha Wijayatunga, Senior Director of Energy, Asian Development Bank

Ambassador Arne Walther, Former Secretary General of International Energy Forum

Mr Girish Sethi, Senior Fellow and Senior Director, TERI

Dr Damilola Ogunbiyi, CEO and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All (Video Message) Moderator: Ms Urmi Goswami, Assistant Editor, The Economic Times



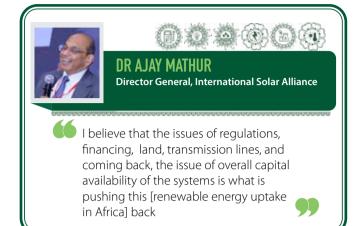
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he panel discussion explored the challenges inherent in addressing the energy trilemma: encompassing energy security, sustainability, and equity. A critical focus was placed on the intricate trade-offs involved, with financing emerging as a paramount obstacle. Heightened geopolitical tensions and a growing trend toward myopic regulatory

approaches exacerbate these challenges, necessitating a concerted effort to navigate resource constraints.

Key hurdles include securing critical minerals and land resources, navigating financing options, as well as perceived risks in the installation of RE projects, building new and optimizing existing transmission and distribution infrastructure, and effective supply-and-demand side management with storage solutions. Moreover, addressing energy demand in sectors reliant on heat generation requires substantial research.

Actionable insights highlighted the importance of electrification, responsible resource procurement, diversification of mineral dependencies, and promotion of low-carbon materials. Despite the magnitude of the task, investments in renewable energy present a monumental opportunity. Countries must translate their commitments into tangible outcomes, with a promising avenue being commercial and industrial (C&I) procurement bolstered by private investments.





We must be mindful of disruptive geopolitics these days. This affects the core interest of the nation as well as the energy policies. This undermines the global cooperation that we need to meet shared challenges

While challenges persist in raw material procurement, human ingenuity and innovative solutions offer pathways forward. However, the discussion cautioned against disruptive geopolitics and recognized that, for certain nations, fossil fuels remain integral to energy security. Businesses, nation-centric regulatory support, and international collaboration were identified as enablers in this transition, poised to contribute to resolving the energy trilemma.



# PLENARY SESSION | HIGH-LEVEL OPENING

#### Venue: Stein Auditorium

#### LEADERSHIP IN THE TIME OF POLYCRISIS

#### Speakers

- Initial Interventions/Statements
- H.E. Brigadier (Retd) Mark Phillips, Prime Minister, Guyana
- H.E. Mr Vatimi Rayalu, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways, Fiji
- H.E. Mr Willie Tokataake, Minister, Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy, Kiribati Mr P Mudalige, Director General (Planning), Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka

#### Message by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

#### Perspectives

Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI Mr Manish Bapna, President & CEO, Natural Resources Defense Council

#### Moderator

Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Distinguished Fellow, TERI (Moderator)

onsidering the new geopolitical challenges the world has been facing today, distinguished delegates deliberated on the role of global leaders to accelerate the sustainable development and climate action. The dire need to address the technology and financial gaps among developing and the developed states was highlighted. The esteemed speakers from small island states of Kiribati, Fiji, and Sri Lanka stressed upon the extreme vulnerability of the





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stakeholders from all corners of the world in pursuit of a common goal sustainable development for the betterment of humanity



Minister, Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy, Kiribati

There is a need to raise ambition to take urgent climate action if we are serious towards the goal of limiting the warming to 1.5 degree Celsius for a sustainable future



H.E. BRIGADIER (RETD) MARK PHILLIPS Prime Minister, Guyana

Urgent actions to resolve triple planetary crisis related to climate pollution and biodiversity loss require bold leadership and a shift in our mindset small island states to the climate impacts and underscored the need for urgent action. The esteemed speakers echoed the sentiments from increasing the global climate goals of the NDCs while reflecting upon the recently concluded global stocktake and its outcome. The importance of nature-based solutions and circular economy to address climate change was highlighted during the discussion. Speakers also focussed on the need for collaborative action and south–south solidarity was also emphasized during this session while recognizing the respective differences of the southern states.



Environment, Sri Lanka

Environment and climate justice are a civil rights issue, but climate crisis is leading to loss of lives, livelihoods, shortage of food, migration, and displacement





# **GLIMPSES OF THE DAY**



# WSDS 2024 PARTNERS

