

WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2024

LEADERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

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



SUMMIT BULLETIN | DAY 3

9 February 2024

YOUTH PLENARY



Venue: Stein Auditorium

CLIMATE JUSTICE AS THE NORTH STAR FOR INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY

Speakers

- Ms Heeta Lakhani**, Founder & Director, The ClimAct Foundation
- Ms Prachi Shevgaonkar**, Founder, Cool the Globe
- Mr Ivan Ransom**, Founder, Resilience 2020 - Mexico
- Ms Sunaina Saxena**, Editorial Team, TERI School of Advanced Studies

Moderator

- Dr Ash Pachauri**, Founder, POP Movement

The “Youth Plenary: Climate Justice as the North Star for Intergenerational Equity” was a dynamic and inspiring session that brought together a diverse panel of youth speakers, each presenting impactful projects and highlighting the crucial role they are playing in addressing climate justice. The moderator, Dr Ash Pachauri, Founder, POP Movement opened the discussions by highlighting the power of youth leaders and how the young minds in the panel will speak on solution oriented change and inspiring actions.

Ms Prachi Shevgaonkar, Founder, Cool the Globe, explained how it all started for her when she was a student and with her father, she was able to produce 10% reduction in individual carbon footprints. Her effort ‘Cool the Globe’ emphasizes on the transformative impact of collective actions. She asserts that

the real power of climate action lies in unity and converting it to opportunities and change on ground. Ms Heeta Lakhani, Founder & Director of The ClimAct Foundation, emphasized the need to empower young people for leadership in climate negotiations. Her organization trains youth to become youth negotiators who further delve at important platforms such as COP. Mr Ivan Ransom, Founder of Resilience 2020 in Mexico, shared insights of his initiative in Eco Technologies while promoting autonomy and sustainability. The speakers believed that climate justice is at the centre stage in all what they are set for, while Ms Prachi talked about climate change as a people’s issue, Ms Lakhani said representation of youth at platforms like



MS HEETA LAKHANI
Founder & Director, The ClimAct Foundation

“If we want to make change in policy making and negotiations, we need young people sitting at the decision-making tables to be able to do this”



DR ASH PACHAURI
Founder, POP Movement

“Actions led by youth will address climate crisis, this will be achieved by connecting with communities, networking with like-minded people, exchanging lessons, ideas and opportunities and by supporting each other”



MS SUNAINA SAXENA
Editorial Team, TERI SAS

“Vasundhara’s strength lies in its well-rounded approach, combining factual information, constructive suggestions for the future, and a rich tapestry of diverse opinions”



MS PRACHI SHEVGAONKAR
Founder, Cool the Globe

“Climate change is everywhere; it’s like that absent devil in disguise, affecting and aggravating every single issue we see on the ground”



MR IVAN RANSOM
Founder, Resilience 2020 - Mexico

“Since the outbreak of COVID-19, we are making everyone more autonomous; such that community members reduce the dependence on supply chains and enhance their livelihood in the times of crisis”

COP will address climate justice issues and Mr Ivan on the other hand believed climate justice is when one works with the notion of ‘leaving no one behind’.

In conclusion, the Youth Plenary acted as a platform for mobilizing and recognizing the potential of young people in addressing climate crisis. By amplifying their voices, recognizing their contributions, and fostering collaboration, the session underscored the pivotal role of youth in shaping a more equitable and sustainable future for all.

The session included launch of TERI School of Advanced Studies (TERI SAS) magazine, Vasundhara themed “EquiClimate-Vulnerabilities if Vulnerables”, introduced by Ms Sunaina Saxena, Editorial Team, TERI SAS. In addition, the presentation of Youth Plenary awards and GO-WSDS certificates recognized the commitment of young participants to climate activism and leadership. The session concluded with felicitating the “Cool it for the Climate” competition awardees. ■

WOMEN LEADERSHIP



Venue: Stein Auditorium

WOMEN-LED GREEN DEVELOPMENT

Speakers

Ms Vaishali Nigam Sinha, Co-Founder and Chairperson, Sustainability, ReNew Power Private Limited (Chair)

Ms Charlotte Morton, Chief Executive, World Biogas Association

Dr Purvi Mehta, Senior Advisor, Global Growth and Opportunities, Gates Foundation

Dr Dipankar Saharia, Senior Director, TERI

Dr Shailly Kedia, Curator, World Sustainable Development Summit

The world is on the brink of a polycrisis and women continue to be invariably underrepresented in decision-making positions. There must be greater emphasis on gender equality, women leadership, and entrepreneurship for the SDGs to combat this polycrisis. Women's participation and leadership in the green sector will bring enhanced cooperation, collaboration, and inclusivity that are essential to meet climate targets. However, the stark gender disparity in political,

economic, and social spheres continue to act as barriers in women's participation and contribution, thereby restricting their growth and development. With environmental and climate spill overs in recent times, women's critical role as climate action leaders needs acknowledgment and encouragement. A gender lens to understand women's role in achieving enhanced climate outcomes and innovation is necessary. Gender equality and equity with more women in leadership positions can ensure



MS VAISHALI NIGAM SINHA

Co-Founder and Chairperson, Sustainability, ReNew Power Private Limited

“The renewable energy sector is not women-welcoming due to long working hours, remote locations, etc. Today in India, only 11% of women are involved in the renewable energy sector”



MS CHARLOTTE MORTON

Chief Executive, World Biogas Association

“A lot of the barriers around women often come from how they are raised, whether they are raised to be restricted to the belief that they can't do anything or they are raised with confidence to do everything”



DR SHAILLY KEDIA

Curator, World Sustainable Development Summit

“Through discussions about women in India's G20 presidency and the union budget, we now discuss 'women-led development' not just women development”



DR PURVI MEHTA

Senior Advisor, Global Growth and Opportunities, Gates Foundation

“The impact and implication of climate change is very sexist and affects women more severely”



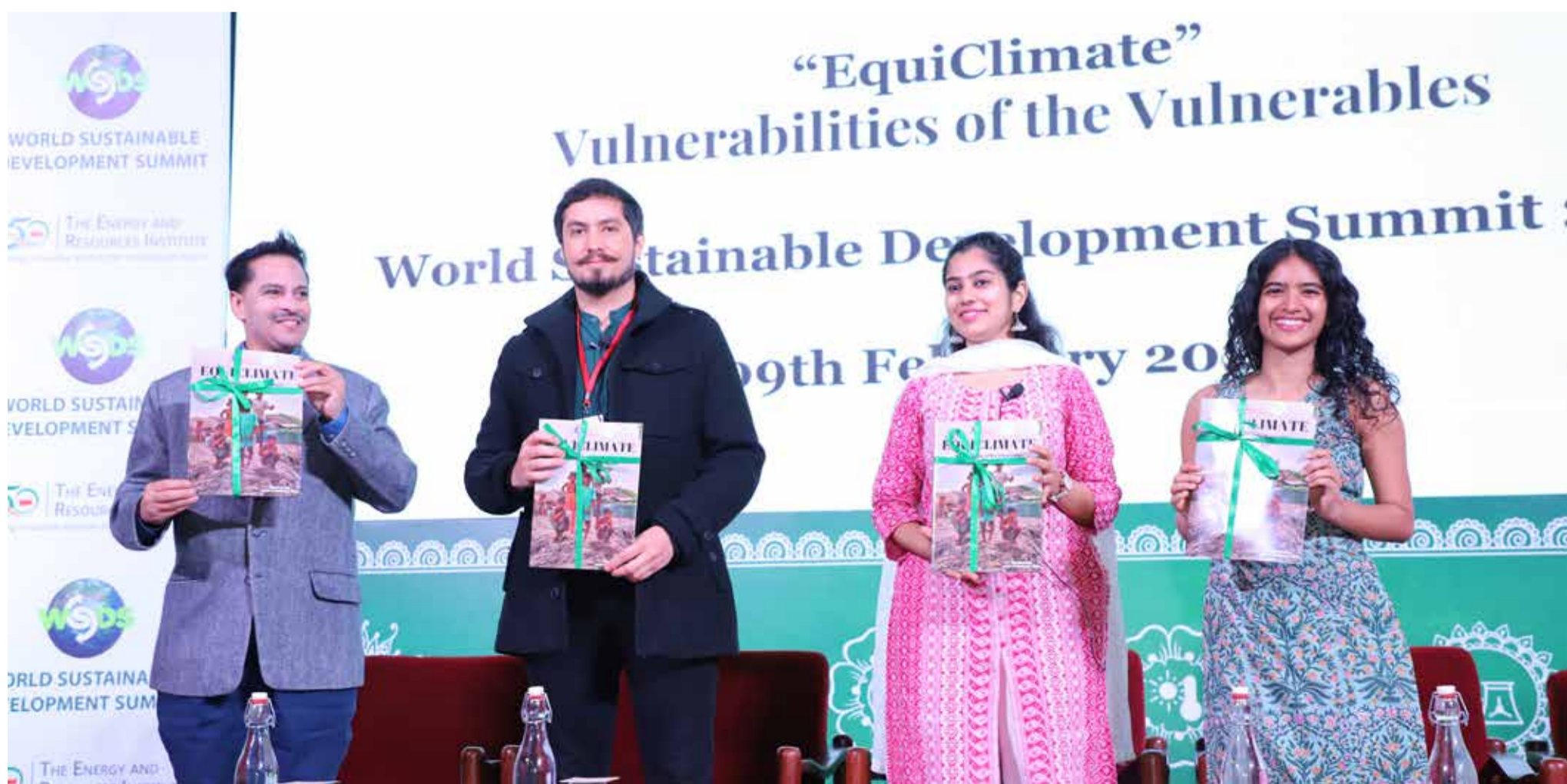
DR DIPANKAR SAHARIA

Senior Director, TERI

“The main challenge in combating effects of climate change in women is lack of awareness and quality education”

improved strategies in solving sustainability issues. Transitioning to green development requires more women as leaders, investors, and entrepreneurs. Diversity in perspectives, lived experiences, and approaches brought about by women makes their involvement in participatory policymaking for climate action and sustainability more critical.

The session deliberated on challenges and actionable solutions in advancing women's leadership in climate action and SDG progression. The session also examined the role of women from the lens of bio-economics. ■



Launch of TSAS Vasundhara Magazine

Venue: Stein Auditorium

ACCELERATING BUSINESS ACTIONS FOR REALIZING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Panel Discussion

- Mr Manish Chourasia**, COO – Corporate & Cleantech Finance, Tata Capital Limited
- Mr Yasuo Takahashi**, Executive Director, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
- Mr Vineet Handa**, Founder, CEO, Kaizen PR Services Pvt. Ltd
- Ms Neha Upadhyay**, Founder, Guna Organics
- Dr Livleen Kahlon**, Senior Fellow and Associate Director, TERI
- Ms Sugandha Gopal**, Partner, JSA Advisors & Solicitors

Chair

Mr Sanjay Seth, Vice President & Chief Executive Officer, GRIHA Council and Senior Director – Sustainable Habitat Programme, TERI



During the plenary session titled, “CEO Forum: Accelerating Business Actions for Sustainable Development” the panellists discussed key pillars that would help businesses accelerate their actions on sustainable development, and these included greater focus on financing green projects, improved company disclosures on sustainability, and enhanced engagements between investors and businesses. A growing interest in ESG has promoted greater interest



DR LIVLEEN KAHLON
Senior Fellow and Associate Director, TERI

“ There is a need to focus on policy alignment and legal frameworks... Long-term agreements need to become flexible to help account for the changes in technologies, and the resulting drop in tariffs that may take place ”



MS NEHA UPADHYAY
Founder, Guna Organics

“ There is a need to ensure holistic development and a happy sustainable organization where there is diversity and green inclusive leadership ”



MR MANISH CHOURASIA
COO – Corporate & Cleantech Finance, Tata Capital Limited

“ There is a need to improve project execution framework. If we want to achieve the goal of having 175 GW of renewable energy by 2030, then it is necessary to have better framework for contract enforceability that will accelerate the business commitment ”

in company disclosures. Further, focus was emphasized on maximizing the synergies presented by the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For implementing sustainability practices, climate financing is a crucial component; simultaneously, there is a need to attribute costs to emissions. A focus has to be laid on developing standardized taxonomies that help define what ‘green’ products, services or projects are. Along with a clearly defined taxonomy, a right project execution framework is needed to enhance investments in green projects. Emphasis was also laid on developing strong and policy legal framework. Non-alignment across the policy environment can lead to uncertainty among investors, and hence contractual frameworks need to be flexible to help factor in advancements in technology, better frameworks for land acquisition, power evacuation and contract enforceability. Given that more than majority of the carbon budget is exhausted, there is a need to develop and invest in technologies that can help remove carbon from the atmosphere.



MR YASUO TAKAHASHI
Executive Director, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)


“ Key pillars that would help businesses accelerate their actions on sustainable development include greater focus on financing green projects, improved company disclosures on sustainability, and enhanced engagements between investors and businesses ”

The panellists emphasized that behavioural change, within employees of corporates is another crucial starting point to enhance sustainability momentum. There is a need for corporates to internalize sustainability and climate change practices that require sensitising employees about clean and green practices. Discussions also revolved around skilling the next generation of individuals to help build and sustain resilient



MR VINEET HANDA
Founder, CEO, Kaizen PR Services Pvt Ltd

“ With the intent to become net zero by 2070 and ensure its execution and management, the role of the communicator becomes challenging ”



MS SUGANDHA SOMANI GOPAL
Partner, JSA Advocates & Solicitors

“ There is a need to focus on policy alignment and legal frameworks... Long-term agreements need to become flexible to help account for the changes in technologies, and the resulting drop in tariffs that may take place ”



MR SANJAY SETH
Vice President & Chief Executive Officer, GRIHA Council and Senior Director – Sustainable Habitat Programme, TERI

“ We all know that 2030 is not far away and actions on SDGs are something we are worried about in terms of where we are currently and where do we want to see ourselves by 2030 ”

human resource that can easily adapt to future job requirements and changes.

The session concluded with the launch of the TERI CBS video highlighting the steps being undertaken by companies to decarbonize their operations. ■

SPOTLIGHT



Venue: Stein Auditorium


ENERGY TRANSITIONS FOR PEOPLE, PEACE, PROSPERITY, AND OUR PLANET

Speakers
Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI
Shri R K Singh, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister (Power, New & Renewable Energy), Government of India
Mr Nitin Desai, Chairman, TERI

The plenary session titled, "Spotlight: Energy Transitions for People, Peace, Prosperity and our Planet" brought to the fore that India has emerged as a leader in climate action. With this premise and perspective in place, 'Energy Transitions for People, Peace, Prosperity and our Planet' was aptly called the spotlight session at the 23rd edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS). The address delivered by Shri R K Singh, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister (Power, New & Renewable Energy), Government of India highlighted how India has been a champion in energy transition and climate action. "Forty-four

per cent of India's power generation capacity is from non-fossil sources (renewables)," pointed out the minister. He added how "India is one of the lowest emitters of greenhouse gases in the world and will always remain so."

A special announcement at the end of the session unraveled the intention of an MoU (memorandum of understanding) signing between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) for setting up the Centre of Energy Transition in Hyderabad. ■



DR VIBHA DHAWAN
 Director-General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

“ A world class Centre of Energy Transition will be established in Hyderabad with the support of TERI and all other stakeholders ”



SHRI R K SINGH
 Hon'ble Cabinet Minister (Power, New & Renewable Energy), Government of India

“ Developing countries need to be supported with technology and finance. We need to bring the price of transition down otherwise it won't happen ”



MR NITIN DESAI
 Chairman, TERI

“ The most crucial aspect of change in the way we meet today's needs is the area of energy transition ”

Certificate distributions in Youth Plenary



PLENARY SESSION | LEADERSHIP PANEL

Venue: Stein Auditorium

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION, LIFESTYLES AND CLIMATE TRANSITIONS

Ministerial Address

H.E. Ms Minister Steffi Lemke, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany

Keynote Address

Prof. Jim Skea, Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Perspectives

Ms Nameeta Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India

Mr Tim Gould, Chief Energy Economist, The International Energy Agency

Mr Satyajit Bhatkal, CEO, Paani Foundation

Dr Tejal Kanitkar, Associate Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies

Mr Golo J Pilz, Adviser, Brahma Kumaris

Chair

Mr R R Rashmi, Distinguished Fellow, TERI



H.E. MS MINISTER STEFFI LEMKE

Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany

“ In the large part of Global South, the consumption led development is not a current model; it is not yet sustainable, to a very large degree the consumption of resources are much lower than in the rest of the world ”



DR TEJAL KANITKAR

Associate Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies

“ For the sake of tackling climate crisis and ensuring food security, I believe there is no single solution that resolves everything. But I am sure that further communication and collaboration amongst researchers and stakeholders in various sectors will be crucial ”

The session emphasized the necessity of integrating individual behaviours into global efforts to address sustainability challenges. It acknowledged that consumption-driven development models, particularly prevalent in the Global South, are unsustainable and require a shift towards more holistic approaches. Participants stressed the importance of nature-based solutions, blending progress with nature, and India's role in showcasing alternative development models.



MR TIM GOULD

Chief Energy Economist, The International Energy Agency

“ The development of nature-based solutions should be promoted as a key component of our collective response to climate-related losses and damages ”

Furthermore, the session highlighted the interconnectedness of environmental, social, and economic issues, advocating for a multidimensional approach to problem-solving. It called for collaboration among governments, businesses, researchers, and stakeholders to foster sustainable practices and lifestyles.

Key points included simplifying processes for individuals to make sustainable choices, promoting nature-based solutions,

and recognizing the interconnectedness of environmental problems. Additionally, the session emphasized the role of governments and businesses in providing information, fostering positive behavioural changes, and supporting the development of new business models for sustainability.

Participants underscored the need for a global campaign to promote understanding of sustainable lifestyles, emphasizing lifecycle approaches to consumption and production. They called for a focus on downstream components of value chains, including consumer attitudes and disposal, in addition to upstream and midstream efforts such as resource efficiency and circular economy. ■



PROF. JIM SKEA

Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

“ Demand side mitigation can be reduced by changes in socio-cultural factors, infrastructure design, and access to technology ”



MR RR RASHMI

Distinguished Fellow, TERI

“ Individual lead behaviour has to be complimented with global effects—it must form part of global discourse ”



MS NAMEETA PRASAD

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India

“ India consistently presents an alternative development model: blending 'Prakriti' (Nature) with 'Pragati' (Progress) to showcase the Indian approach ”



MR SATYAJIT BHATKAL

CEO, Paani Foundation

“ Cynicism can never serve as a solution for reducing carbon emissions. In addition to individual-based solutions, we must cultivate a culture within all communities on the planet that respects natural resources and acknowledges the critical nature of the situation ”

VALEDICTORY SESSION

Venue: Stein Auditorium

LEADERSHIP FOR ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

Speakers

- Mr Nitin Desai**, Chairman, TERI
- H.E. Mr Eric Garcetti**, United States Ambassador to the Republic of India
- Mr Shombi Sharp**, United Nations Resident Coordinator in India
- Mr Amit Raj**, Director, Climate Change Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India
- Dr Shailly Kedia**, Curator, World Sustainable Development Summit
- Dr Vibha Dhawan**, Director General, TERI



The valedictory session of the World Sustainable Development Summit 2024 marked the culmination of three days of intensive discussions, collaborative engagements, and visionary leadership towards addressing the pressing challenges of sustainable development and climate justice. As the flagship convening by TERI the Summit has been at the forefront of shaping global conversations on sustainability for over two decades. Against the backdrop of a world grappling with a multitude of crises, including planetary emergencies, setbacks in achieving sustainable development goals, and escalating conflicts, the valedictory session underscored the urgency of promoting environmental stewardship at all levels and across all spheres. The umbrella theme of the Summit, "Leadership for Sustainable Development and Climate Justice," resonated throughout the session as leaders reaffirmed their commitment to driving ambitious action towards a more sustainable and equitable future.

Leadership plays a pivotal role in driving the necessary transformations to achieve SDGs and ensure climate justice. Guided by climate ethics that involve intergenerational responsibility, actions acknowledge the obligation to safeguard the planet and demand a holistic approach that integrates ethical considerations and values. Achieving sustainable development demands concerted efforts involving



MR AMIT RAJ
Director, Climate Change Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India

“ We need far more work and effort by the global scientific community to actually develop the scenarios that show us what the pathway is and how to evolve along such a pathway ”


governments, the corporate sector, communities, and citizens. Forward-thinking leadership and effective management are indispensable across all sectors, ensuring the integration of climate-sensitive objectives into strategic initiatives and decision-making.

As the Summit drew to a close, participants embraced the call to action, pledging to work collaboratively to implement the outcomes and recommendations set forth during the event. The Valedictory Session presented key messages for leadership to drive agendas and actions that can balance the pillars of environmental sustainability, social equity, and economic growth. The session was followed by the release



H.E. MR ERIC GARCETTI
United States Ambassador to the Republic of India

“ World National Leaders must negotiate, make ambitious bold goals and pass the necessary legislations. These things are critical but they only work in a setting where we live, where we work, where we pray, where we study—local communities make this happen ”



MR SHOMBI SHARP
United Nations Resident Coordinator in India

“ In a divided world, when you need more heroes, India has emerged as a leader as a bridge builder between the North & South, between the East & West and as a leader in the voice of climate justice and increasingly as a provider of the development of best practices for other countries ”



DR SHAILLY KEDIA
Curator, World Sustainable Development Summit

“ The proceedings over the past three days delved into various topics such as the energy trilemma, climate solutions, sustainable development, nature and ecosystem-based approaches, as well as sustainable lifestyles and consumption. The message is loud and clear—addressing the policy crisis requires polycentric leadership ”

of the Act4Earth Manifesto, which summarizes the pertinent takeaways emerging from various sessions held at the 3-day Summit. ■

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