Background Note

The 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), to be held from 1–12 November 2021 in Glasgow will aim to mobilize the action on mitigation, adaptation, and resilience, and strengthen the narrative for better alignment with sustainable development goals (SDGs). COP26 is to deliberate on four key goals: (i) Secure global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach; (ii) Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats; (iii) Mobilise finance; and (iv) Work together to deliver. COP26 will bring together countries, companies, civil society, and citizens on a common platform to work towards a more sustainable future through adaptation, mitigation, finance, and collaboration.

There is a need to address the developmental deficit in emerging economies such as India while simultaneously taking measures to limit global warming as agreed in the Paris Climate Change Agreement. The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is preparing the COP26 Charter of Actions, a knowledge document which will assimilate questions and challenges posed by keys sectors in India. The Charter activities are supported by the British High Commission, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, Tata Cleantech Capital Ltd. and Rockefeller Foundation.

The Charter will examine the themes of energy, clean transport, nature-based solutions, adaptation & resilience, green finance, business and industry, and equity. In August 2021, the research teams organized five stakeholder roundtable discussions on thematic issues to gain inputs for the Charter. The Charter will also propose probable and sector specific options which can advance climate action and ambition in the country. The Charter will also propose a normative framework for a global agenda on climate ambition and action. The discussions from COP26 would culminate in a review at a plenary session at the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2022, which would assess the efforts of international climate negotiations in securing a sustainable future, and deliberate on future actions.

The ‘National Conference on COP26 Charter of Actions’ will disseminate the messages from the COP26 Charter and will also seek to facilitate discussions aimed at raising ambition at the national and global level.

Key questions for discussion

- **NDC timeframe**: What strategies would be needed by India on climate action considering the timeframe of 2030?
- **Long-term timeframe**: What strategies would be needed by India on climate action considering the timeframe of 2050?
- **Equity and climate justice**: What considerations become important for ensuring that climate actions are equitable and just for both mitigation and adaptation?
- **Role of the global community**: What role do you expect from the global community for COP26 and beyond?