



Youth Unite for a Safe and Secure Environment for All (Thematic Track under WSDS 2021)

Date: 10 February 2021

Time: 1.30 – 3.15 PM (IST)

Location: Online

Coordinators: Ms. Monmi Barua (TERI) /Ms. Taru Mehta (TERI) /Mr. Nidhin Davis K (GIZ)

According to United in Science 2020 Report, during COVID 19 period, atmospheric CO₂ concentrations have continued to increase to new records. The average global temperature for 2016–2020 is expected to be the warmest on record, about 1.1 °C above 1850-1900 levels. The pandemic triggered lockdown related fall in emissions which did not reduce CO₂ concentrations.¹ Thus clearly stating that while COVID 19 restrictions may have altered the way entire civilization functions but climate change has not stopped even during the current times. In the post COVID recovery of countries to return to near-normal situation, youth have a major role to play. It is important that youth are empowered to decide upon meaningful changes in their life so as to usher in an era of new- normal. Youth are perceived as innovators and change makers who will bring in with them a new era of governance and models of start-ups to develop technological solutions to address future threats of pandemics. It is globally realized that the current governance model need youth driven policy responses that are tailored to specific contexts and needs.

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS 2021) provides an opportunity to address some of the above mentioned challenges. TERI will bring forward the voices of the youth through a special thematic track that will be held as part of the summit. An active engagement with young participants through deliberations and

¹ <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/key-findings#>

dialogues around evidence based, proportionate and important climate change issues will be the main highlights. The outcome that will emerge from the thematic track will feature in the summit proceedings. The programme will also be a precursor that will support establishment of youth network to further promote an exclusive event for youth to be held ahead of COP 26 (tentatively June- July 2021). This exclusive youth event will be held by TERI and is envisaged to capture the essence of youth as a sustainability driven work force.

Additionally, as part of the Strategic Partnership for Implementation of Paris Agreement (SPIPA) project of the European Union, TERI and GIZ organised “Youth Climate Conclave (YCC)”. As an outcome of the conclave, a Youth Declaration on Climate Action was drafted and presented in the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2020. In its second edition, a series of competitions (photography, blogging and short video) are organised for the youth, in order to understand perceptions of youth through different forms of expressions. The thematic track will also witness participation from already formed cohort of youth and the platform will be used for recognizing all the winners of the contests. The competitive and educative approach is adopted to enhance youth engagement for climate action and to provide a platform to them to showcase their stories of change.

This thematic track to be held jointly by EU, Italian Embassy, GIZ, CEEW and TERI will witness participation of approximately 100 students in the age bracket of 10 – 25 years. The event will comprise of a high level inaugural session and felicitation of winners from YCC contests followed by key inputs by dignitaries on the following indicated themes:

- Policy Action for Climate Change
- Youth Engagement on Climate Action through Eco-clubs by Environment Education Division, MoEFCC
- Overview of activities under Youth COP (special session pre-COP 26)
- Changes and challenges we foresee during and after pandemic
- Climate Change Education (CCE) paving the way for Climate Action