



WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2022

**TOWARDS A RESILIENT PLANET:
ENSURING A SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE FUTURE**

February 16-18, 2022



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

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Enablers for SAPCC revision and implementation

17th February 2022 | 10:00 – 11:30 AM IST | Duration: 90 minutes

About the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)

The **World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)** is the annual flagship Track II initiative of **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)**. Instituted in 2001, in 2021, the Summit series marked 20 years in its journey of making ‘sustainable development’ a globally shared goal. Over the past two decades, the Summit platform has pioneered conversations by bringing together governments, scholars, corporates, youth groups, thought leaders, and civil society representatives from across the world.

The present state of planetary health and humanitarian crises calls for revisiting the agenda around global action and equity. The 21st edition of the WSDS is being held under the umbrella theme of ‘**Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future**’ from **16th to 18th February 2022** in a virtual format.

Background note

Sub national actors have recently emerged in the global climate agenda as influential decision makers. The role of subnational actors, state governments and/or local bodies in driving climate related actions has been recognised, of late, even in the international climate discourse. The importance of sub national action stems from a variety of factors that include but are not limited to, the localised climate risks faced across regions, the variation in climatic variables such as rainfall and temperature, topography, availability of resources that determine the vulnerability of geographies and climate variation across regions that demand localised grass root level action. Developing countries, will face huge risks in the advent of climate change, as their vulnerabilities are exemplified due to developmental constraints. It has been observed that the impact of climatic disasters and climate variation are felt largely at the grass root levels. This mandates sub national

action for adaptation to these risks and vulnerabilities. This is because most risks manifest at the regional level and hence can be managed better at that level.

The importance of sub national actors stem from a bottom up approach, as contemporary research suggests that the vulnerabilities, risks and capacities to adapt to and mitigate climate change are better identified and assessed at the sub national level. Subnational governments also face the direct consequences of the impacts of climate change and are involved in the implementation of most of the policies, initiatives, interventions and strategies at the local level. This makes them an informed, well-placed and critical agency in the fight against climate change. Sub national actors also have an advantage for dealing with such situations due their proximity and in depth understanding of local conditions.

The Paris Agreement in 2015 established that adaptation as a phenomenon involves local and sub national aspects. This has prompted the incorporation of sub national actors while framing National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). The Paris agreement envisages that the sub national and non-state actors including cities, states, regions, businesses, etc. could play a role, subject to the domestic legislation as applicable, in enhancing actions within the UNFCCC framework, and the contribution of such sub national actors could be measured, supported, and mobilized. Adaptation action is context specific and depends largely on the regional risks and vulnerabilities. According to a report by the Adaptation Committee of the UNFCCC, adaptation action can be an all-encompassing term for the assessment of regional and local impacts, risks and vulnerabilities, planning measures to deal with the same, implementation of the plans, and monitoring and evaluating them.

Countries with large territories, such as India, require sub national climate action for enhancing resilience to climate risks and improving adaptation to climate disasters and climate variation. Being a large country with varied geography and climatic zones, India needs customised climate change actions at the local level. All states vary in terms of their topography and access to natural and human resources. They have different levels of vulnerability to climatic risks and disasters and their capacity to deal with them also differs.

Following the launch of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in 2008, the state governments in India were called upon to devise state specific action plans on climate change, SAPCCs, as consistent with the NAPCC. Considering the advances made in the international climate scenario and taking into account the evolving nature of climate science as well as the developments that have taken in the national policy, the government of India advised, in 2019, all the states to revise their State action plans on climate change (SAPCCs). The revision of the SAPCCs is an opportunity for states to prepare a strategy to enhance their climate resilience and strengthen the existing mechanisms for addressing climate change. The learnings from the experience of previous SAPCCs can feed into the new plans and help states to improve the current policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks so as to ensure more effective and robust response to climate change.

As most of the states in India are preparing their revised SAPCCs, through this thematic track we would intend to have a discussion around the experiences of the states in drafting these. The session will also enable a dialogue on the kinds of facilitative, regulatory and institutional frameworks along with financing mechanisms that are required to implement the revised SAPCCs in India.

Key questions

The key questions that would guide this discussion include the following:

1. How has sub national climate action panned out across the globe post the Paris Agreement?
Any best practices that could be mentioned in this context from other countries?
2. What were some of the opportunities utilised and challenges faced in revising the SAPCCs?
How different was it from the first round?
3. From the previous experience, what kinds of facilitative, regulatory and institutional frameworks along with financing mechanisms will be required to implement the revised SAPCCs in India?