



# WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2022

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

February 16-18, 2022



A TATA Steel Foundation-TERI Initiative

## **Futurists for the Future: A Younger, Greener Collective**

February 17, 2021 | 10:00-11:30 am | Duration: 90 minutes

### **About the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)**

The **World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)** is the annual flagship 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 21<sup>st</sup> edition of the WSDS is being held under the umbrella theme of '**Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future**' from **February 16–18, 2022** in a virtual format.

### **Background note**

The devastating consequences of climate change have led to environmental degradation, natural disasters, weather extremes, food and water insecurity, economic disruption, and conflicts. Humans increasingly influence the climate, and failure to act today will profoundly affect the future of the Earth. Now is the time for unprecedented global actions.

At COP21 in Paris, on December 12, 2015, the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) reached a landmark agreement to combat climate change and accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future. *Article 12 of the Paris Agreement based on the UNFCCC Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)<sup>1</sup> framework highlights the role of the people (esp. youth) to bring about sustainable positive change.*

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<sup>1</sup> ACE is a term adopted by the UNFCCC to denote work under Article 6 of the Convention (1992) and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement. The overarching goal of ACE is to empower all members of society to engage in climate action, through education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information, and international cooperation on these issues.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries and recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.<sup>2</sup>

### **What role do youngsters, or futurists, play in bringing a positive change in society?**

According to UN estimates, there are 1.21 billion young people between the ages of 15 and 24 in the world today, accounting for 15.5 per cent of the global population.<sup>3</sup> Young people are victims of climate change and are also valuable contributors to climate action. *They are agents of change, entrepreneurs, and innovators and can benefit science, technology, and innovation to address climate change.* India being the youngest nation globally has 25.1 crore (2021) youth population<sup>4</sup> and exhibits maximum chances to lead the path to climate action for greener future. And education is essential to empower these young people with necessary skillsets to understand climate change, which encourages them to change their attitude and behaviour to make informed decisions.

Considering the above and the importance of sensitizing young people, Tata Steel Foundation and TERI run 'The Green School' programme, which was initiated in April 2017. It aimed to create awareness about the environment in school networks through curriculum linkages, action projects, and capacity-building activities on four broad environmental themes: energy, water, forests & biodiversity, and waste. Continuing its legacy, The Green School executed the third phase of the project in several regions of Jharkhand and Odisha to reach out to more people and continued to create awareness and educate them about environmental sustainability. Going ahead, in phase IV the students' and teachers' capacity is further built by providing them the knowledge about the interlinkage of the themes (Energy, Water, Forests & Biodiversity, and Waste) with Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goals.

The project engages the schools' fraternity in taking actions (at the individual level due to the sudden closure of schools because of the COVID-19 pandemic) to achieve possible impacts in and around the school campus. These initiatives promoted environmental stewardship through activities to improve their critical, interdisciplinary, and holistic thinking. In this phase, students acted as 'The Green School Buddies' and took lead in taking actions at their level to protect the environment or bring some positive change in the community. They were also motivated to take informal sessions on the topic (Water, Energy, Forest & Biodiversity, Waste Management) to engage the whole school fraternity in mega awareness drive at school/community levels.

The thematic track on '**Futurists for the future: A Younger, Greener Collective**' is a representation of such surprising but bold actions. This thematic track will be organized during the WSDS wherein we shall hear the present young generation sharing their action being taken towards environment protection or conservation. Where on one hand during the WSDS the adults and global thinkers try to develop a pathway towards a resilient planet, here we will be surrounded by young crusaders of change who have already embarked on that path. This theme will also cater to discussions on the importance of education in channelling young adolescents' energy towards a greener future.

This track will be a platform for the students and teachers from remote locations of Jharkhand and Odisha to showcase their efforts towards protecting the environment, build collaborations with stakeholders from different states and subject areas while empowering them with the knowledge and skills needed to facilitate a greener future. This session will also be an amalgamation of knowledge, experience and action-based work witnessed by various other players in the field of education, environment, and sustainable development to witness these changemakers and take the narrative further in their own contexts.

**For more information, contact:**

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<sup>2</sup> <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

<sup>3</sup> <https://unfccc.int/news/young-people-are-boosting-global-climate-action>

<sup>4</sup> <https://theprint.in/india/indias-population-to-cross-152-crore-in-next-16-years-more-people-will-be-of-working-age/481018/>

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