



# WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2022

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

February 16-18, 2022



## Reducing plastic and chemical pollution to the marine environment

**Supported by  
Royal Norwegian Embassy in India**

Date/Time: 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (Friday), 2:45 PM-4:15 PM (IST)

### 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 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 **16th to 18th February 2022** in a virtual format.

### Background

Oceans and coastal areas have plastic fragments, commonly known as microplastics, which are harmful to the environment, human and animal health. They have been found in fish, mussels, turtles, sea birds and have even been seen in municipal tap water and bottled mineral water. These issues are of emerging concern, especially for India as improper waste handling is a major driver for marine litter and microplastics pollution, where a potentially significant consequence is the ever-increasing levels of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)- a group of hazardous chemicals which are toxic, resistant to degradation, has potential to bio-accumulate as well as long-range transportation potential. Plastics may contain chemical additives and contaminants, and thus are carriers for (POPs).

This thematic track titled '**Reducing plastic and chemical pollution to the marine environment**' is being organized at an opportune policy juncture at the World Sustainable Development Summit 2022, which

is hosted by The Energy Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi. The discussions during this event would be focused on the interlinked challenges of marine litter, microplastics and POPs. Research in this area is being conducted by the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Mu Gamma Consultants Pvt. Ltd. (MGC), Central Institute of Petrochemical Engineering & Technology (CIPET), Toxics Link (TL), and SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) in the Indo-Norwegian project on Capacity building on reducing plastic and chemical pollution (INOPOL). The objectives of this project is to support India's ambitious targets to reduce plastic releases and to implement the Stockholm Convention on POPs by (1) providing science-based knowledge and (2) strengthening the local and regional capacity to prevent and mitigate the environmental threat posed by plastic and chemical pollution. This thematic track event aims to share the findings of the research study under the above project, discuss the future directions and opportunities for further collaborative research and policy relevance.

**Key questions:**

1. What are the recommended policy actions arising out of the research findings to help reduce the releases and impacts of plastic pollution?
2. What are the most critical data gaps and research needs that continue to exacerbate unresolved issues in plastic pollution and POPs?
3. How does the research findings support the implementation of Stockholm Convention in India?