



WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2022

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

February 16-18, 2022



Concept Note

Strategies to Decarbonize Transport Sector - Multi-Sectoral Approach

Date: February 16, 2022 Time: 3.30-5.00 pm (IST)

India's energy demands for passenger and freight transportation are predicted to expand at an unprecedented rate in the future, and our reliance on fossil fuels is likely to continue. At present, India accounts for a significant multimodal transport sector contribution of 13.5% of the energy-related CO₂ emissions¹, making it the third most carbon emitting sector in the country. Also, 90% of the total emissions within the transport sector comes from the road sector, making it the highest contributor to CO₂ emissions (IEA, 2020).

At the COP 26 Climate Summit in Glasgow, India set ambitious targets of attaining net-zero emissions by 2070 and 45% reduction in emissions intensity of its GDP below the 2005 levels by 2030. A number of countries have stepped up their commitments. For instance, European Union has the target of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030. India has also indicated that it would work towards sale of only zero-emission cars and vans by 2040.

There is a need for a robust plan of action which is multifaceted and comprehensive in its approach to decarbonize India's transport sector with an understanding of the role of line ministries in doing so. The amalgamation of rapid urbanization, modal shift, increasing ownership of private vehicles and the overlap of powers governing the transport sector eventually leads to higher carbon emissions.

The objective of the thematic track is to discuss strategies and pathway/s to decarbonize the transport sector through a process of discussion with varied stakeholders from the government, academia and industry in order to gather ideas and suggestions. The thematic track also reflects TERI's efforts in bringing

¹ https://shaktifoundation.in/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Intermodel-Study_Final-Report.pdf

about meaningful change in the transport sector while investing its expertise in projects like the 'National Transport Decarbonization Council (NTDC)', which intends to examine high impact policy solutions and pathways that lead to transport decarbonization, particularly at the central level, and to steer the activities of capacity building and research in the sector as would be envisaged by the NTDC.

About National Transport Decarbonization Council: The NTDC project envisages to build consensus among policy-makers, initially at the central level, through informed discussion on select policy tools and topics. The aim is to initiate a feedback mechanism for supporting decarbonization strategies/policies of the ministries through the Council. One of the key objectives of the Council is to bring the central organizations involved in policy-making on a single platform and to discuss the strategies and impacts of important policy levers towards decarbonization of the Indian transport sector. TERI will bring out information related to the identified strategies and develop a common understanding of the transport decarbonization measures.

Topics of discussion:

- How do you view the energy transition taking place in the transport sector? What are the institutional and governance changes required for this transformation?
- What are the key pathways for India's transport sector to achieve the target of net-zero emissions by 2070?
- What is the current policy, technology and capacity gap that need to be overcome?
- Railway is the most efficient mode of land transport. We have observed a drastic downfall in the freight share of railways in the last one decade, how railways can act as a 'bellwether sector' to decarbonize the transport sector?
- What will be the role of the Ministries in decarbonizing the 'hard-to-abate heavy-duty vehicle' segment?