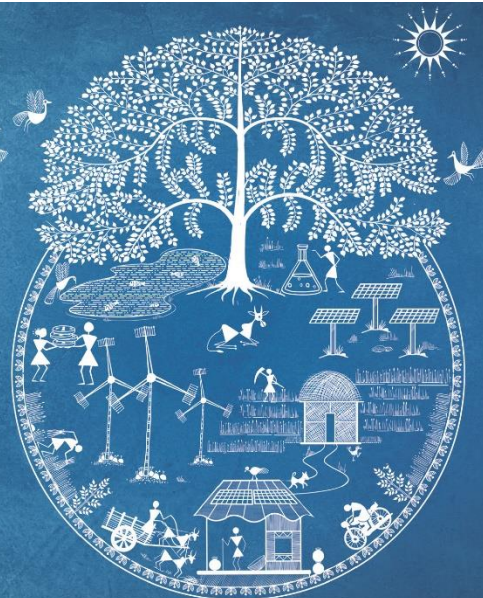




WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2023

MAINSTREAMING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

February 22-24, 2023
New Delhi



Title: **Breaking the Boundaries of Holistic Development: Philanthropic and Social Initiatives Lead the Way**

Date: 23rd February 2023

Time: 4-5.30 pm

Venue: Gulmohar, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Format: In-person (speakers can join virtually if not located in Delhi)

Background

Social initiatives in India led by philanthropies and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) have created pathways for ushering development in rural areas and engaging with underserved communities. It has evolved over the years from merely being a compliance mechanism for a policy mandate to a movement of forward thinking and pro-active endeavors that merge larger social and environmental objectives with ethical business practices aimed at 'giving back to the society'. Digressing from a tick-box approach of implementing certain activities, the scope of such initiatives have moved on to engaging meaningfully with local communities, building partnerships with a variety of stakeholders across the value chain and working towards long-term impacts.

In India, there are several developmental challenges that hinder the development of rural and semi-urban areas, which are further exacerbated due to poverty and social marginalization. These issues range from constrained access to basic amenities like water and sanitation, education, and awareness reliable energy access, to challenges with generating and sustaining livelihoods. Added to these, sustainability is both a challenge and an opportunity necessitated by global climate change and energy transition. As with the challenges, the solutions also need to be contextual, varied but holistic, as well as sustainable. There are several successful examples of philanthropic and CSR interventions that have changed the rural landscape of development in terms of improved facilities, infrastructure and livelihood opportunities, and contributed to India's larger objectives of socio-economic and sustainable development, including Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With this background, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is conducting a thematic discussion on **‘Breaking the Boundaries of Holistic Development: Philanthropic and Social Initiatives Lead the Way ’** at the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2023, on 23rd February from 4 to 5.30 pm at Gulmohar, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. The interactive session would entail understanding the challenges and opportunities of transitioning philanthropic and CSR activities from niche to integrated development approaches to attain greater impacts. The space for social initiatives and philanthropic support in the livelihood domain, in the context of clean energy and MSMEs, would also be explored from the perspectives of philanthropic organizations, funders, CSR planners, project implementers and sector experts. The session would not just highlight successes but also shortcomings, and deliberate on how every failure could be a step towards future success and sustainable impacts.

The thematic track will bring together stakeholders from leading philanthropies, corporates, public sector undertakings, government agencies, research and academia, and industry to deliberate on the amalgamation of social initiatives and sustainability in the context of holistic interventions along with livelihood enhancement in the rural community.

About the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship Track II initiative organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Instituted in 2001, the Summit series has a legacy of over two decades for making ‘sustainable development’ a globally shared goal. The only independently convened international Summit on sustainable development and environment, based in the Global South, WSDS strives to provide long-term solutions for the benefit of global communities by assembling the world’s most enlightened leaders and thinkers on a single platform. The 22nd edition of the annual flagship event is being held from 22-24 February 2023 in New Delhi. The Summit deliberations will focus on the umbrella theme: Mainstreaming Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience for Collective Action.