



## Title: Regional and Local Air Quality Management in India

Date: 8 February 2024

Time: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Venue: India Habitat Centre

### (i) Problem statement and state of play

Air pollution is a global issue, affecting cities worldwide and requiring local and global management solutions. Worldwide, air pollution is recognized as one of the leading causes of deteriorating human health, causing around seven million premature deaths every year. Despite various initiatives taken by the government of India to control air pollution, several Indian cities are still exposed to concentrations of PM<sub>2.5</sub> above the value specified under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS); thereby making them vulnerable to serious health risks. To address the burgeoning level of air pollution in the country, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India (GoI) launched the National Clean Air Program (NCAP) in January 2019, intending to reduce 20-30% of PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations by 2024 in non-attainment cities. Later, the Centre revised the target of reducing air pollution to 40% by 2026. One of the objectives of the NCAP also stresses that sharing best practices and increased cooperation with international agencies are critical elements for overcoming and tackling air pollution. Due to the implementation of NCAP, there are success stories on best practices and regional and local air pollution management and mitigation in cities like Surat, Indore, Lucknow and Delhi. In this context, a thematic track titled '**Regional and Local Air Quality Management in India**' is being organized in WSDS, 2024 to discuss future air quality scenarios for developing countries like India, and exchange learning, experiences, and best practices for air pollution management and control.

### (ii) Objectives of the thematic track

- To exchange learning experiences and best practices for air pollution management and mitigation
- To understand the major challenges faced by regulatory agencies to manage air quality in their cities.
- To help inform and evolve strategies for future policy action.

(iii) Questions to guide the discussions.

- What are some key low-hanging interventions for immediate and medium-term air quality management?
- What are the major challenges faced by the regulatory agencies to manage air quality in their cities? How do we overcome the challenges? What learnings can be effectively used to manage the air quality in similar Indian cities?
- What are other countries' and cities' success stories and experiences in tackling the air quality problem?

#### **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 23rd edition of the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)—the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)—will be held from 7-9 February 2024 in New Delhi. The Summit deliberations will focus on the umbrella theme: Leadership for Sustainable Development and Climate Justice.