



MacArthur  
Foundation

Title: Just Transition Framework for a Sustainable Future in India's Coal Mining Regions

Date: 8th February 2024

Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Venue: Casuarina, India Habitat Centre

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

As India's energy mix witnesses increasing diversification, there is greater deliberation around a just and equitable transition that considers the diverse impacts on workers, communities, the environment, and associated industries. Recognizing this imperative, TERI has developed a Just Transition Framework, drawing insights from the extensive field research in the eastern coal-belt of India and engagement with diverse stakeholders. The framework has its underpinning in the theories of procedural, distributive, and restorative justice. While existing policy initiatives at national and state levels acknowledge the necessity for a just transition, the framework allows for a more organized structural transformation to comprehensively address concerns in regions affected by coal mine closure. The Just Transition Framework proposes a dual approach involving structural institutional transformations at central, state, and district levels, and targeted interventions focusing on consensus building, socio-economic transformation, and green development. Each theme aligns with procedural, distributive, and restorative justice, with specific focus areas forming the basis for interventions at different governance levels. The framework maps stakeholders, challenges, risks, and change indicators under each focus area, providing a comprehensive understanding of a just transition at the ground level and a monitoring system for the same. Case studies from various global regions undergoing coal mining reforms illustrate each focus area, and the report presents a phased matrix aligning national, state, and district-level interventions up to India's net zero emissions target year in 2070.

#### (ii) Objectives of the thematic track

- Share TERI's Just Transition Framework, emphasizing its relevance in India's coal mining regions.
- Seek inputs of various stakeholders and facilitate a discussion to collectively shape the future course of action in India's coal mining regions, ensuring a sustainable and equitable transition.

(iii) The following questions will form the discussions.

1. Are institutional changes required for the facilitation of a just transition in coal mining regions as we move towards the 2070 net zero target? If so, what changes and how?
2. What policy triggers can promote sustainability in coal mining regions which are characterised by a mono-economy around the coal value chain?
3. What should a bottom up approach to a sustainable and climate resilient future in coal mining regions look like?
4. What are the nuances at the ground level that must be taken note of to ensure a sustainable and green future in coal mining regions?

#### **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.