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Title: A Roadmap for Mainstreaming Inclusive Climate Action Planning in Urban Landscapes

Date: 8th February 2024

Time: 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Venue: Silver Oak II, India Habitat Centre

Background

With more than half of today's world population living in cities, cities have evolved into the driving forces behind economic, social, physical, and cultural progress. Projections from the United Nations indicate that this urban population share is anticipated to rise to nearly 70% by 2050. Nevertheless, the swift pace of urbanization brings about intricate challenges for cities, including increased infrastructure demand, extreme events triggered by climate change, healthcare crises etc. The challenges of urbanization clubbed with climate change are also intricately linked with socio-economic disparities, including those related to income, gender, age, and ethnicity. This connection exacerbates issues such as poverty and inequality.

Achieving sustainable and climate-resilient urbanization requires a collaborative approach that harmonizes long-term perspectives, considering social, economic, and environmental aspects. Despite global commitments and expanded efforts through instruments like Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and national urban policies, the integration of climate-sensitive urban development remains a challenge. The key barriers include the operationalization of existing policies, insufficient coordination both horizontally (across sectors) and vertically (across multiple levels of governance), limited financial resources etc. Especially at the level of cities and local government units, mandates are often unclear, and capacities for evidence-based and climate-sensitive planning, steering and implementation are still scarce.

Inclusive climate action planning can be achieved through improving integrated urban planning and mainstreaming climate change mitigation and adaptation in the relevant processes to systematically reconfigure key elements and sectors of urban systems. Moreover, through collaboration among various stakeholders, including local governments, communities, businesses, and non-profit organizations, inclusive urban climate action strives to build cohesive and sustainable cities that actively engage citizens in the pursuit

of climate resilience and environmental justice. To nurture equity in decision making, the fundamental of inclusion is also crucial in existing legislative planning procedures (master plans, local area plans etc.) as well as governance mechanisms.

Against this background, and towards the objective of highlighting the importance of inclusive climate action planning, this session seeks to provide a platform for diverse stakeholders leading the inclusive and climate-sensitive urban development. It aims to facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practices on leveraging opportunities to overcome the barriers to integrating and mainstreaming climate-sensitive urban development through multi-level governance and participatory approaches. Ultimately, this track intends to inform, inspire collaboration, and catalyse action towards creating cities that are not only resilient to climate change but also socially equitable and inclusive for all residents.

Key Questions

1. In what ways can multi-level governance be strengthened to overcome challenges in integrating climate-sensitive urban development?
2. How can we effectively integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation into urban planning?
3. What role do collaboration and partnerships among various stakeholders, including local governments, communities, businesses, and non-profit organizations, play in achieving inclusive urban climate action?
4. How are the conventional urban planning processes such as formulation of spatial plans incorporating inclusive climate action, if any?
5. In moving towards socially equitable and inclusive cities resilient to climate change, what actionable steps and collaborative initiatives can be recommended for immediate implementation?
6. How does one assess the impact of climate action policies, mandates and plans on various socio-economic groups within urban settings?

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.