

Build up to World Environment Day 2021



Supporting Partner



Virtual Curtain Raiser to WSDS 2022
and
Discussion on Sustainable, Equitable and Resilient Water Use

4 June, 2021
(Friday)

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM, IST
(90 minutes)

**WORLD SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
SUMMIT 2022**
TOWARDS A RESILIENT PLANET:
ENSURING A SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE FUTURE



BACKGROUND NOTE

Curtain Raiser Event to WSDS 2022 and Discussion on Sustainable, Equitable and Resilient Water Use

4 June, 2021 (11 AM to 12:30 PM, IST)

World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) over the past 20 years has become a flagship Track II event to connect policy makers, corporates, civil society, and citizens to bridge the gap between ambition and action on sustainable development and climate change. The next edition of WSDS will focus on meeting the needs of planetary health in an equitable and sustainable manner. The ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the forefront on how human health and the health of our planet are inextricably linked, requiring wise stewardship of natural resources across all levels. Already in 2021, we are in the decade of action with more than five years gone since the adoption of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, both which set forth ambitious agendas. TERI is also preparing the 'COP26 Charter of Actions' which will be a document that will propose a global framework for equity and climate justice while highlighting sector specific needs and solutions to address climate change.

The year 2021 started on an optimistic note with the United States taking steps to rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement and pledging to cut carbon emissions by 50-52% below 2005 levels by the year 2030. Thirty two countries have net zero targets set or proposed in law and existing policies, while other countries are discussing their own net zero targets. The renewed momentum on 'net-zero emissions' is seen not only at the national policy level but also at sub-national levels and in companies.

However, safeguarding planetary health in the Anthropocene epoch needs more than climate change mitigation such as better mainstreaming of environment into political and economic frameworks to improve planetary boundary markers such as biodiversity, atmosphere, ocean acidification, biogeochemical flows, freshwater use, land-use and those markers that have not yet been quantified. The humanitarian crisis unleashed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the devastation caused by Cyclone Tauktae and Cyclone Yaas reveal socio-economic vulnerabilities as well as highlight the need for resilience. The COVID-19 pandemic not only reminds the world of declining planetary health but of the deep inequalities prevailing across the world and busts the myth that "everyone is in the same boat". The impact of the pandemic, when felt most strongly by the more vulnerable sections of society clearly highlights inequity in our society.

The curtain raiser event to WSDS 2022 will be held on 4 June 2021 to commemorate the World Environment Day and bring together perspectives on the theme of '**Sustainable, Equitable and Resilient Water Use**'.

The objectives of the curtain raiser event are:

- Underscore perspectives on the issue of water use from the perspective of resilience, equity and sustainability.
- Public sensitization on World Environment Day on the need to conserve water and preserve water-based ecosystems by involving communities, policymakers, researchers, and civil society.

The theme of 'water' is crucial to the overall WSDS 2022 theme. Using the lens of water can help provide perspectives on local, sub-national, national, transnational and global environmental and social issues.