



WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2022

**TOWARDS A RESILIENT PLANET:
ENSURING A SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE FUTURE**



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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



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Virtual Stakeholder Roundtable on Sustainable Mobility for COP26 Charter of Actions

Concept Note

1. Background on COP26 Charter of Actions and World Sustainable Development Summit

Under the presidency of the UK in partnership with Italy, the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), to be held from 1–12 November 2021 in Glasgow will aim to mobilize the action on mitigation, adaptation, and resilience, and strengthen the narrative for better alignment with sustainable development goals. COP26 is to deliberate on four key goals: (i) Secure global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach; (ii) Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats; (iii) Mobilise finance; and (iv) Work together to deliver. COP26 will bring together countries, companies, civil society, and citizens on a common platform to work towards to a more sustainable future through adaptation, mitigation, finance, and collaboration.

There is a need to address the developmental deficit in emerging economies such as India while simultaneously taking measures to limit global warming as agreed in the Paris Climate Change Agreement. TERI is preparing a COP26 Charter of Actions which will assimilate questions and challenges posed by key sectors in India. The Charter will also propose probable and sector specific options which can advance climate action and ambition in the country. The Charter will propose a normative framework for a global agenda on climate ambition and action. The Charter is expected to be released at the COP26 in Glasgow. The discussions from COP26 would culminate in a review at a plenary session at the World Sustainable Development Summit 2022, which would assess the efforts of international climate negotiations in securing a sustainable future, and deliberate on future actions.

Five themes have been identified as key areas for raising ambition. These include energy, clean transport, nature-based solutions, adaptation & resilience, and green finance. The research team would like to seek feedback from stakeholders on thematic issues so that the document can be informed and strengthened further.

2. Objectives of the Stakeholder Roundtable

The objectives of the stakeholder roundtable include the following:

- (1) Engage with stakeholders and experts on Sustainable Mobility to solicit feedback to strengthen the sectoral/thematic chapter.
- (2) Solicit inputs for the chapter from stakeholders and experts on aspects related to implications for the international community, equity, actions by 2030, and actions by 2050.

3. Overview of the Sustainable Mobility as Covered in the Chapter

Driven by increasing economic growth and population expansion, transport activity has grown more than 7-fold since 1992. The increase in transport activity has been accompanied by a significant shift towards emission intensive modes, for both passengers and freight movement. The rapid expansion of road infrastructure has also led to an exponential rise in motor vehicle sales, driven by an increased dependence on private modes of travel. As a result, the sector is responsible for around 300 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually, 12% of the total emissions in India. Going forward, passenger and freight activity is estimated to grow by three-fold and seven-fold, respectively by 2050. Without significant policy interventions, this would translate into transport emissions increasing faster than most other sectors. Thus, transport decarbonization is an important cog in India's ambitious climate change commitments and achieving net-zero emissions by mid-century.

India's NDC clearly lays down the focus areas to reduce emissions from the transport sector. Fuel efficiency improvements, electric vehicles (EVs) and biofuels receive mention. Additionally, there is a clear intent to move passengers rather than vehicles through development of urban mass transit systems – metro and bus. Shift to low carbon modes such as railways and waterways is also addressed, with a stated goal of achieving a 45% share of rail in land transport.

Though NDCs provide a good guide, it is necessary to formulate policies that focus on the targeted areas of decarbonisation in the transport sector. India has taken pioneering efforts in promoting electric mobility through Central and State level initiatives. Fuel efficiency and biofuels have also received a lot of focus through national level policies. The share of railways, however, continue to decline for both passenger and freight movement and public transport systems remain inadequate and underfunded. The share of non-motorised transport (NMT) is very low, which is expected to pick up through initiatives like the Smart City Mission and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT). While overarching policy documents highlight the role of NMT, dedicated infrastructure remains limited.

This stakeholder consultation aims to take stock of the present status of decarbonisation policies and strategies in India and identify further actions for accelerating climate actions in the short and long term. This session will also be used to present results from a recent TERI analysis, supported by Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), estimating future trends in the transport sector and the emission reduction of potential of certain specific strategies.

4. Format of the Event

The roundtable will begin with welcome remarks with the speaker briefing the audience of the expectations from the discussions. The TERI study team will make a presentation based on a recent study assessing the potential of certain decarbonisation pathways in India. This will be followed by a roundtable discussion comprising experts and stakeholders who will provide feedback and inputs on specific questions which will be posed by the team. In the final segment of the event, the discussions will be summarized and next steps will be communicated. The team will also circulate a post-event questionnaire for any further inputs. The inputs provided by the experts will be duly acknowledged in the COP26 Charter of Actions.

5. Questions for discussions

The following questions will guide the roundtable discussions:

- i. Where can further action accelerate the climate change mitigation ambitions from the transport sector?
- ii. What gaps need to be filled for realizing the ambition? What actions are needed?
- iii. What measures are needed until 2030 and what measures are needed until 2050?
- iv. How can the international community play a role? What are the 'asks' from the international community?
- v. What are implications of the current transport strategies on equity in terms of gender aspects and socio-economic strata?
- vi. Based on learnings from the Indian transport sector, what are the normative implications for the global framework on climate ambition and action?