



WSDS-ACT4EARTH

National Roundtable: Road to Baku

Date: 17th September 2024 (Tuesday) | Time: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Venue: TERI, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi

CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA

About World Sustainable Development Summit

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship multistakeholder 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. Over the years, the Summit platform has brought together thought leaders, heads of state and government, scholars, corporates, youth groups, and civil society representatives from across the world. The Summit series has established itself as a responsible and an effective platform for mobilizing opinion-makers to drive ambition and advance pioneering actions to address some of the most relevant issues concerning sustainable development and climate change.

About Act4Earth

Act4Earth initiative was launched at the valedictory session of the 21st edition of WSDS. Building on the discussions of WSDS, this initiative seeks to continuously engage with stakeholders through research and dialogue. Act4Earth initiative has two components: COP Compass and SDG Charter. The COP Compass will seek to inspire and mobilize leadership at all levels, for inclusive transitions through ambitious and informed policies and measures which will enable paradigm shifts – towards meeting the UNFCCC and Paris goals through mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation. The SDG Charter will seek to identify gaps and suggest ways for strengthening and mainstreaming sustainable development in policy agendas for enhanced environmental, social, and economic outcomes. This event will bring together the findings the studies undertaken under SDG Charter and COP29 Compass.

Background

Even after almost a decade since the adoption of the ambitious Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the world continues to remain off-track. According to the latest SDG Progress Report, 13.6% targets are on track (or target met), 14.2% targets have made moderate progress, but acceleration is needed, 24.3% of targets have made marginal progress, and significant acceleration needed, 14.2% targets have seen stagnation, 13.6% targets have regressed while 20.1% are not tracked due to insufficient data (United Nations, 2024a). Analyses of the targets listed under Goal 13 corroborate the slow progress (ibid). On the target of climate finance and resilience and adaptive capacity, marginal progress, and significant acceleration needed. On climate change awareness and capacity, there is insufficient data. Further, according to the First Global Stocktake, 43% of emissions need to be reduced by 2030 while implementation of current nationally determined contributions (NDCs) will lead to only 2% reduction (UNFCCC, 2023).

The IPCC Synthesis Report finds that the global temperature has already increased by 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels and is likely to reach or surpass the critical 1.5°C tipping point by 2035 (IPCC, 2018). Currently, only 23 out of 173 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) explicitly reference the SDGs, indicating a significant gap in integrated planning. According to UNDESA and UNFCCC, climate action is linked to 80% of the 2030 Agenda targets, providing a strong case for integrated policymaking (United Nations, 2023a). Inadequate progress towards the sustainable development goals (SDGs) by 2030 reduces climate resilient development prospects” (IPCC, 2022). There is a need to consider both synergies and trade-offs when it comes to climate action and the SDGs. Meeting nearly 70% of SDG targets by 2030 necessitates robust adaptation measures, particularly in urban areas and vulnerable countries. Globally, there is a leadership vacuum from the Global North when it comes to sustainable development. This area becomes crucial for India and the Global South to demonstrate leadership in terms of sustainability and achieving climate justice. A critical analysis of international processes along with norms around sustainable development and consumption is crucial.

As part of the global climate action, this year, the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), a new global target for climate finance is to be established by the end of 2024. It will be key determinant of success for the upcoming COP29 to be held in Baku in December 2024. It is essential to take into account the needs and priorities of developing countries for both adaptation and mitigation while determining NCQG. The average adaptation finance needs for all developing countries for 2021–2030 are estimated at US\$387 billion per year (with a range of US\$101–975 billion per year). In five-year period of 2017-2021, the disbursement ratio for adaptation finance was lower than the development finance indicating specific barriers to adaptation that hinder the implementation of climate action in developing countries (UNEP, 2023). In 2022 itself, the share of adaptation was less than 30% of the total climate finance mobilized that year (OECD, 2024). Consequently, equitable distribution and access to resources globally are essential for achieving climate justice. Since COP26, India has sought to be a norm leader and has been a strong advocate for sustainable lifestyles. Sustainable consumption along with addressing underconsumption is key to achieving sustainable development goals as well as ensuring climate justice.

With this backdrop, after undertaking analyses on topics such as climate finance, SDG-climate synergies, and SDG 12, TERI is organizing the Act4Earth National Dialogue on the Road to Baku.

Questions

Overarching questions for the roundtable discussions include:

[Question 1] What are the implications of sustainable consumption and lifestyles (and SDG 12) on climate justice?

[Question 2] How should the existing synergies between climate and SDGs be leveraged in the multilateral processes.

[Question 3] In light of the upcoming cycle of NDCs, what is India's approach towards climate negotiations including the questions of climate-SDG synergies, climate finance and sustainable consumption?

[Question 4] What will be an equitable outcome on NCQG and climate finance at Baku?

[Question 5] How can the international community be persuaded to adhere to the goals of climate finance while moving towards more sustainable consumption patterns?

Format

The dialogue will start with context setting followed by a framing presentations by TERI. This will be followed by panel discussions and Q&A. Each speaker will be allocated 8-10 minutes time.

Agenda

10:30 – 11:00 am	Registration
11:00 – 11:05 am	Context setting and introductory remarks by Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr RR Rashmi, Distinguished Fellow and Programme Director, TERI
11:05 – 11:20 am	Framing presentations by TERI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Shailly Kedia, Senior Fellow and Associate Director, TERI Ms Dorothy Ashmita Biswas, Research Associate, TERI
11:20 – 11:35 am	Keynote Address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shri Naresh Pal Gangwar, Additional Secretary, MOEFCC
11:35 am – 12:25 pm	Roundtable discussions Suggested themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate-SDG synergies Climate finance Sustainable lifestyles and climate justice Adaptation finance Ambition and progress on global goals
12:25 – 12:30 pm	Vote of Thanks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Ishita Srivastava, Research Associate, TERI
12:30 pm onwards	Lunch

About the Keynote Speaker: Mr. Naresh Pal Gangwar is an officer of Indian Administrative Service 1994 batch of Rajasthan cadre. He possesses Bachelor of Technology in Electronics & Communications from IIT, Roorkee and Masters degree in Communication and Radar Engineering from IIT, Delhi and in Economics from University of Rajasthan and Advanced Diploma in Financial Services & Legislations from National Academy of Legal Studies &

Research, University of Law, Hyderabad. Mr. Gangwar as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, heads important divisions like Climate Change, International Cooperation, Control of Pollution (Air & Water), Carbon Markets, Hazardous Substances Management Division dealing with Chemical & Waste Management, Resource Efficiency & Circular Economy. He is Lead Negotiator for India to UNFCCC; Paris Agreement and Kyoto Protocol. He is also Lead Negotiator for India on Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee for International Legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM), Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions. He has been instrumental in bringing in several policy reforms in respect of Extended Producers Responsibility framework for Management of Plastic Packaging Waste, Electronic & Electrical Waste, End of life Tyre Waste, Used Oil and Battery Waste. He is also steering implementation of National Clean Air Programme for improving air quality in selected cities in India and Green Credit Programme for incentivizing pro-environmental actions. Mr. Gangwar has long experience of working in Energy, Education, Industry and Agriculture sector as Principal Secretary in Government of Rajasthan. He was instrumental in bringing key policies in Power sector including development of solar energy and establishment of Solar Park at Bhadla, Jodhpur, Rajasthan in the initial phase of National Solar Mission during his tenure as Principal Secretary, Energy, Rajasthan, Chairman & Managing Director of Rajasthan Renewal Energy Corporation and several other utilities of power sector during the period 2009-2013 and 2019. Further, major policy reforms were brought in during his tenure as Principal Secretary, Education during the period 2014-2018. Mr. Gangwar also headed Agriculture and Industries department of Government of Rajasthan as Principal Secretary.
