



WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2025

PARTNERSHIPS FOR ACCELERATING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

March 5-7, 2025
India Habitat Centre, New Delhi



CONCEPT NOTE

Thematic Track

“Accelerating India's Pathways to Sustainable Transport and Emission Reductions through Transport Specific NDCs”

Date: Wednesday 5th March 2025

Time: 0930 hrs -1100 hrs

Venue: Hall - Silver Oak 1 (Ground Floor) Opp. to Stein Auditorium at India Habitat Centre (Entry Gate No. 3)
Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003, India,
Tel: 011-24332660 (Direct)

I. Background:

Since its inception in the COP21 under the Paris Agreement, the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) have been the guiding force in tackling the challenges faced with respect to the climate change by the member countries. Over the years, various international climate negotiations have strengthened these commitments. With the focus on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and enhancing climate adaptation efforts, many countries have set their targets based on their national priorities and capabilities. Globally, the transport sector contributes to about 23% of global CO₂ emissions and is the fastest growing end-use sector (along with industry sector).¹ The sector is heavily reliant on fossil fuels, contributing significantly to rapidly increasing global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

172 countries recognize the transport sector as a major source of emissions and highlighted key areas of action and 119 of them have outlined mitigation actions for the sector under their NDCs. Additionally, 14 countries including Japan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have established specific GHG emission reduction targets for the sector under NDCs.² Recently, at the COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, the critical role of sustainable transport in achieving climate goals were strongly emphasized. One of the key outcomes from the COP29 was the adoption of the Multisectoral Actions Pathways (MAP) declaration, which commits countries to develop and implement visions for a low & zero-emission integrated and connected transport system. The focus was also on energy efficient and fossil-free forms of land transport systems.³

¹ Details available at: < https://teriin.org/sites/default/files/2024-11/Roadmap%20for%20India%20Energy%20Transition_FINAL%20REPORT.pdf>

² Details available at: < https://changing-transport.org/wp-content/uploads/2017_Transport-in-NDCs.pdf>

³ Details available at: < https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Summary_Global_Climate_Action_at_COP_29.pdf>

India's updated NDC targets a 45% reduction in GHG emissions intensity by 2030, compared with 2005 levels. India's transport sector is the 3rd largest contributor in total emissions in the country, contributing around 12% of total GHG emissions. With rapidly increasing population, urbanisation and development of industry and tertiary sector, the country's transport demand is rising exponentially. According to TERI analysis, the passenger demand is expected to increase by more than four-folds and freight demand by more than twelve-folds by 2070-71 from 2019-20 levels, which will lead to a higher emission and a serious repercussion on the air quality.

India's NDC targets incorporate several mitigation efforts to promote sustainable transportation through increasing modal share of railways, promoting mass rapid transits, accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles with policies like FAME I-&II and PM E-Drive, implementing vehicle fuel efficiency improvement programmes and promoting alternate fuels, etc. However, India currently lacks explicit emission reduction targets for the transport sector which is crucial for achieving effective transport decarbonisation targets. Setting-up clear and achievable sectoral-specific targets can enhance India's existing NDC ambition, provide a structural pathway for transport decarbonization and reinforce country's long-term net-zero commitments.

II. Objectives:

It is high time for India to strengthen its commitments to reducing the transport related emissions and by setting some clear emission reduction targets. **To drive this critical discussion forward, TERI is organizing a thematic track on “Accelerating India's Pathways to Sustainable Transport and Emission Reductions through Transport specific NDCs” at the WSDS 2025.** The track aims to focus on the actionable strategies and design pathways including policy framework, energy transition, technological interventions and finance mechanism to achieve accelerated reduction in emission intensity of the sector. This discussion will explore sector-specific opportunities and challenges across road, rail and urban mobility, highlighting implementation pathways to enhance low carbon mobility solutions.

III. Guiding Questions:

- 1) What key policy measures and regulatory frameworks are required to align India's transport sector with its NDC targets and how can multi-sectoral collaboration ensure effective implementation?
- 2) The working groups formulated by different ministries provides a holistic approach with multiple stakeholder inputs to come-up with a plan. How can this be leveraged and transform into a policy action plan?
- 3) How can the country accelerate the transition from fossil-based fuels to alternative fuels like-green hydrogen, biofuels and vehicle electrification, while balancing energy security and affordability in the transport sector?
- 4) With India's push towards promoting the vehicle electrification by various direct and indirect incentives, the overall EV penetration still requires a significant uptake. What other measures could support accelerate the EV uptake and how can industries and policymakers work together to address them?
- 5) How can we leverage market-based mechanisms such as carbon credits to encourage adoption of low carbon measures in this sector?
- 6) How can India leverage these actions points to develop a comprehensive strategy with a well-defined GHG emission reduction targets for the transport sector under its NDCs?

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 24th edition of the annual flagship event of TERI—The WSDS—will be held from 5th March to 7 March 2025 in New Delhi, India. The Summit deliberations will focus on the umbrella theme: ***Partnerships for Accelerating Sustainable Development and Climate Solutions.***