



WSDS-ACT4EARTH NATIONAL DIALOGUE

Multilateralism and Global Governance: Road to COP30 and Beyond

Date: 10 October 2025 (Friday) | **Time:** 3:00 pm – 5:30 pm (IST)

Venue: The Energy and Resources Institute, 6C, Darbari Seth Block, India Habitat Centre
Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003

Google Map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/sa1Kq1sMTp57HFCa8>

CONCEPT NOTE, FLOW AND SPEAKERS

About World Sustainable Development Summit

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship multistakeholder convening organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Instituted in 2001, the Summit series has a legacy of over two decades in making ‘sustainable development’ a globally shared goal. As the only independently convened international summit on sustainable development and the 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. Since its inception, WSDS has convened 59 Heads of State and Government, 149 Ministers, 13 Nobel Laureates, 2,158 Business Leaders, 3,730 Speakers, and more than 41,000 Delegates representing a diverse base of ecosystem actors from around the globe.

About Act4Earth

The Act4Earth initiative, launched at the valedictory session of the 21st World Sustainable Development Summit, builds on WSDS discussions to sustain engagement through research and dialogue. Its core objectives are to amplify Global South perspectives for equitable global governance, and to accelerate progress towards climate and sustainable development goals through knowledge-based dialogue. Act4Earth comprises two interlinked components. The COP Compass seeks to promote equitable multilateral mechanisms capable of driving paradigm shifts in climate action. The SDG Charter focuses on identifying policy gaps and recommending measures to embed sustainability within governance frameworks, thereby advancing environmental, social, and economic outcomes.

Background

In 2024, the world crossed a sobering threshold, recording its first year with average temperatures above 1.5 °C. This milestone is a stark reminder that the Paris Agreement’s promise remains unfulfilled. As 2025 marks its tenth anniversary, the continued rise in extreme floods, droughts, cyclones, and wildfires underscores the urgency of accelerating adaptation efforts (World Meteorological Organization [WMO], 2025).

A major gap persists between the means of implementation required and the resources available. At COP29 in Baku, India and the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDCs) expressed

disappointment at the limited outcomes. Scientific assessments estimate that USD 1.3 trillion will be required annually until 2035 to meet climate finance needs, yet developed nations committed only USD 300 billion, much of it non-grant-based (Press Information Bureau [PIB], 2024). Restoring credibility to the COP process will require reforms that enhance urgency and build trust.

Equity is central to this debate. India, with 18 per cent of the world’s population, accounts for just 3.4 per cent of cumulative emissions, compared to the European Union’s 17 per cent and the United States’ 24 per cent. Operationalizing equity through measurable metrics is essential, reinforcing common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) as the cornerstone of climate action.

Climate finance remains skewed, with adaptation underfunded despite its urgency for developing countries. Market mechanisms under Article 6 may help, but only with transparent governance and genuine contributions to sustainable development.

Unsustainable consumption in high-income economies underscores the need for a just energy transition that enables developing countries to advance low-carbon pathways while meeting developmental aspirations. Against this backdrop, TERI will host a national Act4Earth dialogue to gather diverse perspectives and share preliminary findings from its study on reforms in multilateralism.

The following questions will be deliberated upon.

1. How can equity and CBDR be translated into measurable frameworks for climate finance?
2. What reforms in multilateral processes are required to restore trust and deliver meaningful outcomes for developing countries?
3. What emerging issues, such as artificial intelligence and other frontier technologies, should be integrated into climate and sustainability discussions?

The expected outcomes of the dialogue will include actionable insights on operationalizing equity in climate governance and concrete proposals to strengthen multilateral mechanisms.

Format and Flow

The dialogue will be conducted in a roundtable discussion format, designed to enable maximum participation and exchange of insights from all attendees, fostering an open and interactive exchange of perspectives across government, academia, civil society, and international organisations.

FLOW

[1] Registration (30 minutes)

Participants arrive and register at the venue. Informal networking and seating of dignitaries take place prior to the commencement of the roundtable discussions.

[2] MC’s Opening Prompt (3 minutes)

The Master of Ceremonies welcomes all participants. The MC then invites the Director General of TERI to deliver the Welcome Address.

[3] Welcome Address (5 minutes)

- **Dr. Vibha Dhawan**, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

Dr. Dhawan delivers the Welcome Address, setting the institutional context and underlining the importance of the discussion.

[4] Chair's Remarks (5 minutes)

- **Dr. Prodipto Ghosh**, Distinguished Fellow, TERI, and Former Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India

Dr. Ghosh delivers the Chair's Remarks and sets the rules for the roundtable discussions.

[5] Framing Remarks (5 minutes)

- **Dr. Shailly Kedia**, Senior Fellow and Director, TERI

Offers contextual and framing remarks based on the Act4Earth knowledge documents.

[6] Special Remarks by Lead Discussants (7-8 minutes each)

- **Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri**, Distinguished Fellow, TERI, and Former India's Ambassador to the EU and UN

- **Mr. Deepak Dasgupta**, Distinguished Fellow, TERI, and Former Principal Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance, Government of India

Both speakers deliver special remarks offering contextual and strategic insights, linking national and international governance perspectives.

- **Mr. Abhishek Acharya**, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

- **Prof. Archana Negi**, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)

Each discussant shares focused interventions of around ten minutes, reflecting institutional, policy, and thematic perspectives on the issues under discussion.

[7] Roundtable Discussion (75 minutes)

An interactive and moderated discussion among participants, where diverse viewpoints and experiences are shared. The chair will invite speakers to share their perspectives.

[8] Summing-up by Chair

The chair presents the summing-up remarks, highlighting key takeaways, emerging points of consensus, and possible next steps.

[9] Closing

The MC delivers the closing note, thanking all speakers, discussants, and participants for their contributions. The MC concludes the session by inviting everyone to join for high tea.

List of Roundtable Speakers

- Mr. Siddharth Singh – International Energy Agency (IEA)
- Dr. Ashish Chaturvedi – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Ms. Jayashree Nandi – Hindustan Times
- Mr. Jatinder Cheema – Lawyer and Author
- Mr. Soumya Bhowmick – Observer Research Foundation (ORF)
- Ms Neha Misra – World Resources Institute India (WRI India)
- Dr. Debajit Palit – Chintan Research Foundation (CRF)
- Dr. Anand Madhukar – South Asian University (SAU)
- Ms. Avni Sablok – Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)
- Dr Saurabh Mishra, Research Fellow – MP-IDSA
- Mr. Syed Arsalan Ali – Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)
- Mr. Anup Kumar Dey, Project Associate, RySS, Government of Andhra Pradesh
- Mr. Jai Kumar Gaurav – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- Prof. Anandajit Goswami – Ashoka University
- Mr. Venkat Jayagopi – Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation
- Dr. Pooja Sehbag – Chintan Research Foundation (CRF)
- Dr. Ritu Mathur – Senior Fellow and Director, TERI
- Dr. Manish Kumar Shrivastava – Associate Director, TERI
- Mr. Varun Grover – Fellow, TERI
- Ms. Taruna Idnani – Associate Fellow, TERI
- Dr. Abhilash Kolekar – Research Associate, TERI
- Ms. Ishita Srivastava – Research Associate, TERI
- Ms Asmita Biswas – International Energy Agency (IEA)
- Mr Joy Chakravorty – ekgaon Technologies Pvt. Ltd