COP31 Event | Solar Hub (ISA Pavilion)

Energy Security and Multilateralism: Implications for Energy Futures

Concept Note | Agenda | Speaker Profiles

CONCEPT

Venue: Solar Hub (ISA Pavilion), Blue Zone, COP31, Antalya
Date: 17th November 2026 (Tuesday)
Time: 10:30 to 11:30 am (10:30 to 11:30 hrs)

Disruptions, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war and tensions in West Asia, demonstrated how disruptions to energy supplies could contribute to shortages, inflation and wider economic instability. At the same time, these shocks increased the emphasis on diversifying energy sources, suppliers and transport routes, while accelerating climate action through clean and renewable energy systems. Energy security refers to the continuous availability of energy at affordable and stable prices. Global energy trade, infrastructure networks and supply chains have created substantial interdependence among countries, making international cooperation essential. However, global energy governance does not operate through a single overarching authority. Instead, it is shaped by a fragmented and multilayered system of institutions working across different dimensions of energy supply and demand. These institutions support dialogue, crisis response, information sharing, norm development and cooperation among states. This session will deliberate on the existing architecture on global energy security governance.

The objective of this session is to deliberate on whether the existing architecture is sufficiently coordinated, representative and adaptable to address affordability and supply security while advancing sustainability, resilience and an equitable energy transition. The session will seek to contribute to the discourse on multilateral reforms and climate action through the following questions:

1. How can countries strengthen energy security and resilience while balancing affordability, diversification and climate objectives?

2. How can multilateral institutions strengthen global energy governance, coordination and representation of the Global South?

3. How can solar energy and international partnerships, particularly through the International Solar Alliance, advance energy security and equitable energy transitions?

The session will be structured as a panel discussion followed by an interactive question-and-answer segment.

The flow will be as follows:

- Welcome and context-setting
- Launch of TERI publication on energy security and multilateralism
- Panel discussion (5 minutes each) and moderated discussion
- Audience Q&A

AGENDA

WELCOME AND CONTEXT-SETTING *(5 mins)*

Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) (welcome and context setting)

LAUNCH *(5 mins)*

Launch of TERI publication on Energy Security and multilateralism

PANEL DISCUSSION *(40 mins)*

(5 mins intervention each speaker followed by moderated discussion. No power point)

- **Ms Namrata Mukherjee**, Strategic Planning Specialist, International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- **Ms Sophie Westlake**, Senior Advisor – Multilateral Strategy, International Energy Agency (IEA)
- **Ms Norela Constantinescu**, Deputy Director, IRENA Innovation and Technology Center, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
- **Prof Michiel Schaeffer**, Chief Scientist and Co-founder, Climate Analytics
- **Dr Shailly Kedia**, Senior Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) (moderator)

AUDIENCE Q & A *(10 mins)*

SPEAKER PROFILES



Dr Vibha Dhawan

Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

Dr Vibha Dhawan is Director General of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), with which she has been associated since 1985. She served as Vice-Chancellor of TERI School of Advanced Studies from 2005 to 2007. A Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, India, she has authored six books and over 50 publications. Her work spans biotechnology, biofuels, sustainable development and policy. She serves on national committees associated with the Department of Biotechnology, the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council and Biotech Consortium India. She is a member of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network's Networks Strategy Council and previously co-chaired the T20 Task Force on Refuelling Growth: Clean Energy and Green Transitions. Under her leadership, the National Centre of Excellence in Green Port & Shipping was established at TERI in collaboration with India's Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. She was instrumental in establishing TERI's Micropropagation Technology Park and led the DBT–TERI Centre on Integrated Production of Advanced Biofuels and Biocommodities. Her international experience includes roles with the Asia Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology, CIMMYT and the Borlaug Institute for South Asia. Her contributions have earned numerous honours, including the Woman in Agriculture Award and the Social Impact Leadership Award in 2023.



Ms Namrata Mukherjee

Strategic Planning Specialist, International Solar Alliance (ISA)

Namrata Mukherjee is Strategic Planning Specialist in the Director General's Office at the International Solar Alliance (ISA). She has extensive experience in energy policy, regulation, regional cooperation and clean energy investments, spanning electricity generation, transmission and distribution, renewable energy, energy efficiency and climate change. Previously, she served as Chief of Party and Deputy Chief of Party for Trade and Investments for USAID's South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP) at RTI International. Her work focused on regional energy market integration, cross-border power trade and private sector participation across the power, oil and gas sectors. She has held leadership positions in policy advocacy at Sterlite Power and policy and regulatory affairs at IL&FS Energy Development Company. At Mercados, she led clean energy assignments and advised government agencies and regulators on renewable energy strategies, tariff frameworks, regulatory reforms and investment assessments. Earlier, she worked with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and the Sustainable Energy Regulation Network under the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership. She holds an MSc in Environment and Energy Management from the University of Twente and a BA (Honours) in Economics from Delhi University.



Ms Sophie Westlake

Senior Advisor – Multilateral Strategy, International Energy Agency (IEA)

Sophie Westlake is Senior Advisor at the International Energy Agency (IEA), specialising in multilateral strategy and overseeing the clean energy transition programme. Sophie leads the IEA's engagement strategy in multilateral fora such as G7, G20, COP and climate dialogues. Sophie was previously a senior civil servant in the UK government, most recently as Head of the International Energy Unit at the UK Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). In this role she was also Chair of the IEA's Gender Advisory Council, and was the UK lead for the Summit on the Future of Energy Security. She has extensive experience in multilateral energy diplomacy and negotiations, as a former lead negotiator for UK in G7 and G20. Her career spans senior roles across the DESNZ, FCDO, Cabinet Office and HM Treasury, as well as international positions at the UK Permanent Representation in Brussels and in DG Energy working on European energy policy. She holds a BA from Oxford University and an MSc in Policy Analysis from the University of Bath, and was awarded an MBE in 2021 for services to public policy.



Ms Norela Constantinescu

Deputy Director, IRENA Innovation and Technology Center, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

Norela Constantinescu is Deputy Director at the IRENA Innovation and Technology Center. Until May 2024, she was Head of the Innovation Section at ENTSO-E, the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity, where she worked for 10 years, starting in 2014. From June 2022 to March 2024, she chaired the European Technology and Innovation Platform for Smart Networks for Energy Transition. Previously, she worked with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Energy on low-carbon technologies, wind energy, and smart cities and communities. She is an energy engineer with postgraduate studies in business administration and applied computer science.



Prof Michiel Schaeffer

Chief Scientist and Co-founder, Climate Analytics

Prof Dr Michiel Schaeffer is Chief Scientist at Climate Analytics and is one of the founders. He is a biophysicist and received his PhD in Dynamic Meteorology at University of Utrecht, The Netherlands, specialising in the interactions between atmosphere, ocean, ecosystems and society. Michiel has over 25 years of experience and expertise in climate modelling and climate impact science, energy-system analysis, mitigation and adaptation, and providing scientific advice at the climate-policy interface for both developing and developed countries, including targeted scientific support to SIDS and LDCs in the UNFCCC process. He focuses on expanding Climate Analytics' research and expertise, and helps bring together the scientific assessments with the policy applications across Climate Analytics. He is an author of, a.o. UNEP Emissions and Adaptation Gap reports, World Bank Turn Down the Heat reports, IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report and many peer-reviewed scientific studies. Prof Dr Schaeffer is also a researcher and lecturer at the International Islamic University of Indonesia and affiliated with the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Geosciences Faculty, Utrecht University, The Netherlands. He has been based in Europe, Africa, USA and Asia, working on building up co-operation with applied scientists and policy makers across and between these regions.



Dr Shailly Kedia

Senior Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

Dr Shailly Kedia is a Senior Fellow and Director with the Centre for Sustainable Development Research at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). She has been with TERI since 2009 and is a multidisciplinary professional with more than two decades of experience in policy research, outreach, and capacity building in sustainable development, climate change, resources, and green economy. She is a Board Member of World Sustainable Development Forum and serves on the Board of Directors of ESG Risk Assessments and Insights. In the past, Dr Kedia has worked with the Sustainable Development Network of the World Bank in Washington, DC; and with the Center for Climate Systems Research at Columbia University and NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York. Dr Kedia has a doctoral degree in International Organization from the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Master of Business Administration (Finance) from University of Stirling, Scotland; and Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical Engineering) from the National Institute of Technology, Surat.