

Press Release



India has a great opportunity to develop and implement effective mitigation strategies: TERI

Globally renowned thought-leader, Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, moots for India taking the lead in collaborating with the US and China, and other global economies, to address climate change

New Delhi, October 8, 2016: TERI, a premier think tank, today organised a plenary session at its flagship event – the World Sustainable Development Summit - Beyond 2015: People, Planet & Progress (WSDS) – to discuss the many challenges and opportunities for nations within the global effort to address climate change, including India’s key role to develop and implement effective mitigation strategies.

India has a unique role to play in mitigating climate change since it is one of the most vulnerable nations, said TERI, adding that it perhaps has the greatest opportunity to develop and implement effective climate change mitigation strategies.

Taking note of the constructive role played by India in the Paris Agreement, and its ratification on October 2nd, 2016, there is global consensus today about India’s positive intent to rally support to act against climate change across policy, industry and civil society audiences.

The plenary, ‘Climate Finance and Implementation Towards Sustainability’, was attended by Dr Parthasarathi Shome, Chairman, TARC, Ministry of Finance, Government of India (Invited); Mr Nitin Desai, Distinguished Fellow, TERI & Former UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs; Mr Dinesh Sharma, Special Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, India; Mr George N Sibley, Minister Counsellor for Economic Affairs and Environment, Science and Technology, US Embassy in India.

Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, TERI, said, “India has identified several sources for funding its INDC achievement efforts. The majority of the share of India’s current climate finance comes from budgetary sources as most of the resources for adaptation and mitigation are built into the ongoing sectoral programmes. The availability of funds for such purposes is largely guided by the overall resources and requirement of different sectors.”

The event witnessed a special address by Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, renowned economist and director of The Earth Institute at the Columbia University. Sharing his views on this occasion,

he said, “India is at a crucial crossroad: while it enjoys a robust economic growth, it has a daunting task of making this economic development one that is inclusive and sustainable. The substance of its economic growth needs to be built on strong investments in people and in infrastructure and with a strong emphasis on the protection of the natural environment.”

The discussion also focused on how India could benefit from the efforts undertaken to address climate change and mitigation through better climate finance policies. India has one of the largest areas, in terms of land mass, in the world, therefore, better endowed with the ability to tap into solar energy for instance, which is one of the most widely available sources of renewable energy. Among the set of initiatives by the Government of India is the Surya Mitra programme by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, in which TERI has collaborated to facilitate the training of different stakeholder groups in the installation and upkeep of solar roof-top panels.

This also makes India one of the leading beneficiaries of the climate finance, where, on its own, it requires around \$100 billion to achieve its solar target of a 100 GW by 2022.

Earlier in the morning thematic track, ‘International Solar Alliance (ISA)’, commending India’s commitment towards solar energy promotion and use, **HE Ms Brigitte Collete, Ambassador for Renewable Energy and Special Representative of the French government for ISA**, said, “India has demonstrated leadership in making a positive contribution to assist and help achieve the common goal of increasing the use of solar energy by its ratification of the Paris Agreement and the launch of the ISA. We can together turn the ambitions of the Paris Agreement into reality for our future generations.”

Mr Guy-Cedric Werlings, National Focal Point of International Solar Alliance, France, emphasized the goal to bring about change in the scale of deployment of solar energy across the world, and said, “We are the first ‘buyers group’ of countries. The idea is to borrow surplus energy from solar rich countries and give it to developing nations that need it. We want to be a platform for knowledge exchange that promotes decisions and action. Only through harmony can we overcome the challenge of scaling up solar energy.”

TERI’s World Sustainable Development Summit is an international platform that aims to identify opportunities for consensus and collaboration to balance the realities of ecosystem preservation with aspirations for holistic economic development. The summit has so far brought together thought leaders from the government around the world, business leaders, academia and the civil society.

Over the last two decades, TERI’s research has consistently supported the Government of India in global climate policy negotiations. TERI is among the few institutions in India with climate modelling capability to forecast climate risks at regional scales.

Minister of Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar said in his video valedictory address, “WSDS started the sustainability debate the world over. The only way forward is sustainability and India is committed to walk this path. I believe development and climate protection can be done simultaneously. India’s NDCs in the Paris Agreement are robust, ambitious, yet doable. TERI is important for us, as a think tank. Under the leadership of Dr. Ajay Mathur, TERI can bring about this change”.

The Summit has seen great interest from a range of luminaries from different fields, such as Mr Tomasz Kozlowski, Ambassador of the European Union to India; Mr Karmenu Vella, commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission; Mr Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India), Government of India; Mr Jaco Cilliers, Country Director, UNDP India; and Ms Xueman Wang, Senior Carbon

Finance Specialist, The World Bank, Sustainable Development Network. Taking place from October 5 to 8, 2016, at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, the WSDS is also an attempt to initiate discussions on methodologies to be adopted in order to envisage a plan to realise the Global Goals beyond 2015. The idea is to create a common platform for countries to identify opportunities for consensus and collaboration to balance the realities of ecosystem preservation with aspirations for holistic economic development.

About WSDS

WSDS (World Sustainable Development Summit) has been the flagship conference of TERI since 2001. It is a global forum that seeks to provide long-term solutions to protect this planet. Held annually, WSDS is the only event of its kind in the world with participation by global stakeholders—multilateral and bilateral development organizations, governments, the corporate sector, non-governmental organizations, and academic and research institutions. Now, globally esteemed as a credible summit on global issues related to sustainable development, it continues to provide hope to communities lagging behind on development indicators.

About TERI

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is a leading think tank dedicated to conducting research for sustainable development of India and the Global South. TERI was established in 1974 as an information centre on energy issues. However, over the following decades, it made a mark as a research institute, whose policy and technology solutions transformed people's lives and the environment. TERI's key focus lies in promoting clean energy, water management, pollution management, sustainable agriculture and climate resilience.

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