



WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2022

**TOWARDS A RESILIENT PLANET:
ENSURING A SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE FUTURE**



UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE UK 2021

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



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Virtual Stakeholder Roundtable on 'Adaptation and Resilience' for COP26 Charter of Actions

Concept Note

1. Background on COP26 Charter of Actions and World Sustainable Development Summit

Under the presidency of the UK in partnership with Italy, the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), to be held from 1–12 November 2021 in Glasgow will aim to mobilize the action on mitigation, adaptation, and resilience, and strengthen the narrative for better alignment with sustainable development goals. COP26 is to deliberate on four key goals: (i) Secure global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach; (ii) Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats; (iii) Mobilise finance; and (iv) Work together to deliver. COP26 will bring together countries, companies, civil society, and citizens on a common platform to work towards to a more sustainable future through adaptation, mitigation, finance, and collaboration.

There is a need to address the developmental deficit in emerging economies such as India while simultaneously taking measures to limit global warming as agreed in the Paris Climate Change Agreement. TERI is preparing a COP26 Charter of Actions which will assimilate questions and challenges posed by key sectors in India. The Charter will also propose probable and sector specific options which can advance climate action and ambition in the country. The Charter will propose a normative framework for a global agenda on climate ambition and action. The Charter is expected to be released at the COP26 in Glasgow. The discussions from COP26 would culminate in a review at a plenary session at the World Sustainable Development Summit 2022, which would assess the efforts of international climate negotiations in securing a sustainable future, and deliberate on future actions.

Five themes have been identified as key areas for raising ambition. These include energy, clean transport, nature based solutions, adaptation & resilience, and green finance. The research team would like to seek feedback from stakeholders on thematic issues so that the document can be informed and strengthened further.

2. Objectives of the Stakeholder Roundtable

The objectives of the stakeholder roundtable include the following:

- (1) Engage with stakeholders and experts on themes/ sectors to solicit feedback to strengthen the sectoral/ thematic chapter.
- (2) Solicit inputs for the chapter from stakeholders and experts on aspects related to implications for the international community, equity, actions by 2030, and actions by 2050.

3. Adaptation and Resilience

In the evolving climate policy narrative of the Global South, there is a pressing requirement for embracing climate resilient development pathways that are adept at decision making under increasingly uncertain and interrelated climate and social challenges arising across scales. The sustainability and efficacy of developmental processes is intrinsically linked to integrating climate change adaptation in the long term development strategy at all levels of development planning in a country. It is imperative that policies, plans and vision at the national level should recognise the economic, social, environmental risks arising from climatic events. The move towards a climate resilient development pathway would therefore need to envisage a long term adaptation strategy, in synergy with development plans, which is cognizant of the evolving socio-economic and climatic scenario of the country.

As the country is dealing with compounding socio-economic and ecological risks the shift to a more resilient society becomes imperative. Being a large country covering varying terrains and topographies and even climate, there is a felt need for undertaking sub national climate action that is reflective of the regional and local vulnerability contexts as well as their capacity to undertake adaptation interventions. Much of the world's vulnerable population reside in the country with limited access to resources that can enable resilience to climate risks and its impacts.

The prevalence of widespread development deficits and accelerating levels of socio economic inequalities in the country are likely to disproportionately impact the marginalised and the poor. Hence it is imperative that the discourse on adaptation besides the incremental step by step approach should also aim for a “transformative approach” that require wider systemic changes that address social, economic and ecological concerns in a holistic way. This therefore mandates the need to consider transformative adaptation pathways along with **just transition** in the country which ensures long term social, economic and ecological sustainability.

The chapter on ‘adaptation and resilience’ of the COP26 Charter will aim to explore the current landscape of adaptation and resilience in India, and highlight the steps ahead to “bridge the gap” while focusing on a systems approach. The chapter takes a holistic approach towards adaptation and resilience from a ‘systems thinking’ framework that recognises the intersections between various sectors will enable a more transformative change, embedded within a just transition frame.

4. Format of the Event

The roundtable will begin with welcome remarks with the speaker briefing the audience of the expectations from the discussions. The TERI study team will make a presentation on the theme/ sector as covered in the COP26 Charter. This will be followed by a roundtable discussion comprising key stakeholders and experts who will provide feedback and inputs on specific questions which will be posed by the team. In the final segment of the event, the discussions will be summarized and next steps will be communicated. The team will also circulate a post-event questionnaire for any further inputs. The inputs provided by the experts will be duly acknowledged in the COP26 Charter of Actions.

5. Questions for discussions

The following questions will guide the roundtable discussions:

- i. For the specific theme, where can the ambition be raised further?
- ii. What gaps need to be filled for realizing the ambition? What actions are needed?
- iii. What measures are needed until 2030 and what measures are needed until 2050?
- iv. How can the international community play a role? What are the ‘asks’ from the international community?
- v. What are implications for equity in terms of gender aspects and socio-economic strata?
- vi. Based on learnings on adaptation and resilience, what are the normative implications for the global framework on climate ambition and action?