



WSDS-ACT4EARTH VIRTUAL DIALOGUE

Strengthening Multilateralism on the Road to COP30 and Beyond

Date: 17 October 2025 (Friday) | Time: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm (IST) | Virtual (WebEx)

BIO-NOTES

CHAIR



Mr Rajani Ranjan Rashmi, Distinguished Fellow at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), is engaged with the Green Shipping Programme and works on climate policy, carbon markets, and sustainability. A former bureaucrat with 35+ years of experience, he has shaped India's climate strategies and international negotiations, including as the country's principal negotiator under the UNFCCC during the Paris Agreement process.

SPEAKERS (alphabetically arranged)



Professor Benito Müller is Managing Director of Oxford Climate Policy (a not-for-profit company aimed at capacity building for developing country climate change negotiators), and Director of the European Capacity Building Initiative (ecbi), an international initiative for sustained capacity building in support of international climate change negotiations.



Dr Bob Reinalda is a Dutch political scientist (Radboud University Nijmegen), who has published about the history of IGOs (2009) and international secretariats (2020). He is an Editor of IO BIO, the *Biographical Dictionary of Secretaries-General of International Organizations*.



Dr Dhanasree Jayaram is a Senior Assistant Professor in the Department of Geopolitics and International Relations and Co-coordinator of the Centre for Climate Studies at Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), India. Her research focuses on environmental and climate security, climate diplomacy, and environmental geopolitics across Southern Asia, the Indo-Pacific, and polar regions.



Mr Ethan Spaner is the International Policy Senior Advisor at The Climate Reality Project, where he supports global policy development and strategy to advance climate solutions. With experience across the UNFCCC process, energy transition, and climate finance, he has worked on policies involving cities, small island states, tropical deforestation, and sustainable bioenergy.



Mr Huw Davies is Managing Director of the Centre for Multilateral Negotiations (CEMUNE) and was formerly part of the senior leadership teams for the UK's COP26 Presidency and the UAE's COP28 Presidency. He has over two decades of experience leading and supporting governments and international organisations in negotiations and diplomacy, spanning the G20, G7, UNFCCC, UNCBD, EU and other multilateral forums.



Mr Indrajit Bose has worked on policy research and advocacy in the areas of sustainable development and climate change over the past 15 years. Mr Bose works with Third World Network and has acquired expertise in climate change negotiations and developed in-depth understanding of international climate change policy, politics and diplomacy.



Mr Niclas Svenningsen is the Manager for Mitigation at the UNFCCC Secretariat, where he oversees collaboration on climate action with governments, the private sector, civil society, and UN organisations. He served as Senior Advisor to the COP29 Presidency in 2024 and currently coordinates UNFCCC's support for the development of Parties' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).



Mr Ovais Sarmad, Vice Chair of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Steering Committee, formerly served as Deputy Executive Secretary (ASG) at the UNFCCC and as Chief of Staff at the International Organization for Migration. At UNFCCC, he oversaw operations from COP23 to COP27, guiding key processes including the Paris Agreement implementation and the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund.



Mr Tim Bosch is a Research Fellow at the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), focusing on the security implications of climate change and the geopolitical challenges of the green transition. At DGAP's Center for Climate and Foreign Policy, he works on strengthening the science-policy interface in Germany's climate and energy policies.

COORDINATORS



Dr Shailly Kedia is a Senior Fellow and Director at The Energy and Resources Institute, where she leads the Sustainable Development vertical. With two decades of experience, her work focuses on sustainable development, climate policy innovations, and multilateralism.



Dr Abhilash Kolekar, Research Associate at TERI, holds a PhD in International Relations from JNU. His research spans global governance, climate politics, and sustainable development.
