

WEBINAR

Sustainable Development Goals and Multilateralism: Agenda 2030 and Beyond

Date: 5 August 2026 | Wednesday | Time: 2 pm to 4 pm (IST)

SPEAKER LINE-UP



Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Former Diplomat; Distinguished Fellow, TERI: Manjeev Singh Puri joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1982 and has served as Ambassador of India to the European Union, Belgium, Luxembourg, Nepal and as Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the UN. In addition, he has served twice in Germany (in Bonn and Berlin), in Cape Town, Muscat, Bangkok and Caracas. From 2005 to 2009, he headed the UN-Economic & Social Affairs- Division in the Ministry of External Affairs of India and led the Indian delegation for the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Brussels in July 2007 and the presentation of various reports by India at the Human Rights Council. During 2011-2012, when India served on the Security Council, he was a senior member of its delegation. Major areas of his experience and professional focus relate to the environment, in particular climate change and sustainable development. He was a lead negotiator for India at the UN on issues relating to the post 2015 development agenda, Sustainable Development Goals and at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012. He was a key member of India's delegation at various Climate Change negotiations, including the Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC in Copenhagen in December 2009 and before that at Montreal, Bali, Bonn and Poznan. Furthermore, he was closely involved with India's participation in the G8-G5 Summits from 2005 and he was the points-person on the Indian side at the Major Economies Forum. Puri has a Masters degree in Management and did his BA (Honours) in Economics from St. Stephen's College, Delhi. He is a Distinguished Fellow and on the Advisory Board of TERI.



Prof. Phoebe Koundouri, Co-Chair, Independent Group of Scientists for the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) 2027, United Nations: Professor Dr. Phoebe Koundouri (MPhil/PhD, Univ. of Cambridge) is a world-leading economist pioneering systems science for the sustainable interaction of Nature-Economy-Society. She is Professor at the Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB); Visiting Professor at the University of Cambridge; and Senior Research Fellow at Peterhouse, University of Cambridge. Ranked among the top 2% of scientists globally, she has authored 21 books, 800 publications, and led more than 100 international research projects in 120 countries. In the past, she held academic positions at University of Cambridge, UCL, University of Reading, LSE, and Technical University of Denmark. She is Co-chair UN Global Sustainable Development Report 2027; President World Council of Environmental and Resource Economists Associations; Chair UN SDSN Global Climate Hub, Co-chair SDSN Europe, and Founder and Director AE4RIA Research Center. A Fellow of multiple scientific academies and a member of the Nobel Prize in Economics Committee, she has received the ERC Synergy Grant and numerous awards, including those from the Academies of Athens and Cyprus, in recognition of her overall scientific impact.



Dr Nilanjan Ghosh, Vice President, ORF Kolkata and Development Studies, Observer Research Foundation (ORF): Dr Nilanjan Ghosh is Vice President – Development Studies at the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in India and also heads the Foundation’s Kolkata Centre. His career trajectory in reverse chronological order includes roles such as Senior Fellow at ORF, Senior Vice President & Chief Economist at the Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited, and faculty positions at TERI School of Advanced Studies. From 2015 to 2020, he advised WWF India in establishing their Ecological Economics practice. His other roles also included Member of the Global Future Council on the Future of Nature and Security at the World Economic Forum (2023-24), Co-Chair of Task Force 3 on International Financial Architecture for Think20 under Brazil’s G20 Presidency (2024), Member of the Board of Country Representatives for the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE, 2024-25), and Member of the Research Advisory Committee for WWF India (2023-24). Nilanjan was the President of the Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE, 2022-24) and the Director of the Think20 India Secretariat during India’s G20 Presidency in 2023. He was also a Member of the Expert Committee constituted by the Supreme Court of India in 2021, formulating the Net Present Value criteria for forest land diversion. Nilanjan has taught at institutions including Linnaeus University (Sweden), the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, and Jadavpur University, and visited Uppsala University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Stanford University. A natural resource economist with over two decades of experience, Nilanjan holds a Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta. He has authored/ edited 15 books and monographs and has written over 100 peer-reviewed papers and several commentaries/ op-eds. His advisory work spans organisations like IUCN, USAID, FORMAS, UNCTAD-India, WWF-UK, IWMI-WLE, etc.



Dr Lynn M. Wagner; Senior Director, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD): Dr. Lynn M. Wagner is the Senior Director of the International Environmental Governance program at the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), where she oversees projects that seek to increase the accountability of decision making for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and support SDG implementation. She began working with IISD in 1994 as a writer for the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin*, and she continues to observe and analyse multilateral environmental negotiations with IISD’s flagship publication. Wagner teaches classes on bargaining and negotiation as an adjunct professor at the Johns Hopkins University’s Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Her research and publications focus on the relationship between negotiation processes, outcomes, and justice. Her publications include *The Roads from Rio: Lessons Learned from Twenty Years of Multilateral Environmental Negotiations* (co-edited book, 2012).



Dr. Guillaume Lafortune, Vice President and Head of SDSN Asia, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN): Dr. Guillaume Lafortune is Vice President and Head of Asia Office at the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) – the largest global network of scientists and practitioners mobilized to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – and Professor at Sunway University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. With Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs, he established the SDG Transformation Center - SDSN's flagship program to advance long-term investment, policy, and monitoring frameworks for sustainable development. Since 2017, Guillaume has coordinated the preparation of the Sustainable Development Report series (which includes the SDG Index and Dashboards). Previously, he served as an economist at the OECD in Paris and at the Ministry of Economic Development in the Government of Quebec (Canada). He is the author of 60+ publications on sustainable development, economic policy, and good governance. Guillaume studied at the Université de Montréal and the Ecole Nationale d'Administration Publique (ENAP) and earned his PhD in Economics from Université Grenoble Alpes in France.



Dr Eric Zusman, Programme Director and Director of the Integrated Sustainability Centre, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES): Eric Zusman is a senior policy researcher/area leader at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies in Hayama, Japan. Dr. Zusman holds a bachelor's degree in Mandarin Chinese from Rutgers University, a dual Master's Degree in public policy and Asian studies from the University of Texas at Austin and a Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles. For much of the past two decades he has conducted research on environmental issues in Asia. This has included working with China's Yellow River Conservancy Commission, the Chinese Research Academy on Environmental Science, Woodrow Wilson Center's China Environment Forum as well as Taiwan's Academia Sinica. He has published books and articles on water scarcity, air pollution regulation, environmental law, multilevel governance, sustainability transitions, low carbon development and the Sustainable Development Goals. He is currently serving as a lead author for the sixth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change



Dr Nabaneeta Rudra, Senior Programme Director, Development Alternatives: Dr. Nabaneeta Rudra is an accomplished development leader with more than 25 years of expertise in climate resilience, sustainable water, nutrition and natural resource management, and environmental policy in India. She has consistently demonstrated the ability to design and lead multi-sectoral programmes, manage complex partnerships, conduct policy research, and translate evidence into actionable solutions. Her career spans extensive collaboration with national ministries, NITI Aayog, state departments, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, UN agencies, bilateral donors such as USAID, GIZ, FCDO, and multilateral institutions including the World Bank, JICA, and ADB. She brings advanced skills in systems thinking, programme governance, and building high-performing, inclusive teams. Dr. Rudra has been recognised by government ministries for her leadership in scaling transformative, community-based interventions across climate, water, sanitation, hygiene, nutrition, and livelihoods. She has also been honoured for advancing climate-resilient development in remote forest-fringe communities through evidence-driven, system-oriented approaches.



Mr Christopher Garroway de Coninck, Economist and Development Coordination Officer, UN Resident Coordinator's Office: Chris Garroway is the United Nations country economist for India based in New Delhi since 2021. He has more than two decades experience working with international organizations analysing poverty & inequality and development finance around the world. During India's 2023 G20 Presidency he was seconded to India's G20 Sherpa Office and in 2022 he served on the UN Secretary-General's Global Crisis Response Group task force responding to global food, energy and debt crises triggered by the war in Ukraine. Chris was special assistant to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, the UN trade body, in Geneva from 2013 to 2021. He joined the UN as a Young Professional in 2011, when he helped establish the New Delhi Office of UN-ESCAP, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific. Prior to that he held positions at OECD Development Centre and the World Bank. He holds degrees from Paris School of Economics and McGill University.



Dr Paula von Haaren, Senior Researcher, German Institute for Development and Sustainability (IDOS): Paula von Haaren is a senior researcher in the Directorate and the Department for Transformation of Economic and Social Systems at IDOS (German Institute for Development and Sustainability). Paula holds a PhD from the University of Heidelberg. Her research and advisory work centre on two main threads: the global health and climate nexus on one hand, and the geopolitical dynamics shaping a beyond-2030 sustainable development agenda on the other. Her advisory work has included engagements with the BMZ, the Hamburg Sustainability Conference, and the World Bank, among others.



Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Associate Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS): Dr. Sabyasachi Saha is Associate Professor at RIS since 2021. He was Assistant Professor at RIS during 2014-2020 and full-time Consultant during 2013-14. He is an economist with deep interest and specialisation in innovation studies; trade and technology; international trade and industrial development; and technological capabilities in developing countries. He is a resource person and expert on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); financing for development; sustainability transition and systemic transformation. Based on his specialisation and expertise he has widely contributed to thematic issues relevant for international cooperation and India's foreign policy under G20, BRICS, IBSA, South Asia, and Global South. He has been involved in numerous research projects and policy assignments of the Government of India, UN agencies, OECD and other international organisations. He has published edited books, research reports, peer reviewed articles and policy briefs. Dr Saha obtained his PhD in Economics from the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi in 2013 and completed his M.Phil. (2010) and Masters in Economics (2007) from JNU. During his doctoral studies, he was a recipient of the WIPO Prize for Young Scholars, DAAD funded fellowship of the Government of Germany and Government of India Travel Award. As senior research staff he has worked at JNU and at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER).



Dr Shailly Kedia, Director and Senior Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute – TERI: Dr Shailly Kedia is Senior Fellow and Director of the Centre for Sustainable Development Research at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). A multidisciplinary researcher, she has over two decades of experience in research and policy engagement. Since joining TERI in 2009, she has advanced its work on global governance, sustainable development and indicator frameworks, while shaping initiatives on green budgeting, green public procurement, green finance, and sustainable consumption and production. She serves on boards of the World Sustainable Development Forum and ESG Risk Assessments and Insights. Earlier in her career, she associated with the World Bank, Columbia University and NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies. She holds a doctorate in International Organization from Jawaharlal Nehru University.



Ms Ishita Srivastava, Research Associate, TERI: Ms Ishita Srivastava is a Research Associate with the Centre for Sustainable Development Research at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). She is a public policy professional working at the intersection of climate change, sustainable development, public finance, and environmental governance. At TERI, she contributes to research and policy initiatives on green budgeting, green public procurement, sustainable agriculture, and climate governance, with a focus on supporting climate-responsive policy frameworks at the sub-national level. Her areas of interest include climate adaptation, sustainable development policy, climate governance, public finance, and multilateral cooperation. She has contributed to policy briefs, publications, and stakeholder dialogues on climate finance, adaptation, sustainable consumption and production, and international climate negotiations. Prior to joining TERI, she worked with Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited, where she gained experience in energy law, regulatory affairs, and corporate legal compliance. She holds a Master's degree in Public Policy from O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat, and a BBA LL.B. (Hons.) from Amity University, Noida.



Ms Priyambada Upadhyaya, Webinar Coordinator, TERI: Priyambada Upadhyaya is an M.Sc. Economics student at the TERI School of Advanced Studies. She is currently an intern at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) under the Centre for Sustainable Development Research (CSDR), where her research focuses on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post-2030 Development Agenda. Previously, she interned at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), contributing to research on the BioE3 Policy (Biotechnology for Environment, Economy, and Employment). Her academic and research interests include sustainable development, development economics, environmental policy, climate finance, and impact consulting. Priyambada holds a Bachelor's degree in Life Sciences from Hansraj College, University of Delhi. Beyond her academic pursuits, she has actively volunteered with the National Service Scheme (NSS) and Muskurahat Foundation, reflecting her commitment to community engagement and social impact.