COP31 Event | RCF Pavilion

Energy Security and Multilateralism: Assessing the Global Energy Governance Architecture

Concept Note | Agenda | Speaker Profiles

CONCEPT

Venue: Regional Climate Foundation (RCF) Pavilion, Blue Zone, COP31, Antalya
Date: 17th November 2026 (Tuesday)
Time: 3:00 to 4:00 pm (15:00 to 16:00 hrs)

Recent 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 of global energy security governance and the role of multilateral institutions in addressing contemporary energy challenges.

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 have recent energy shocks reshaped the understanding of energy security, climate action and the role of international cooperation?

2. Is the existing multilateral energy architecture sufficiently coordinated and adaptable to address both immediate supply concerns and longer-term transition objectives?

3. How can multilateral frameworks on energy and climate better reflect the priorities of developing and emerging economies?

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 paper on energy security and multilateralism
- Panel discussion (5 minutes initial inputs by each speaker)
- Moderated discussion
- Audience Q&A
- Key takeaways

AGENDA

WELCOME AND CONTEXT-SETTING

- **Dr Vibha Dhawan**, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

LAUNCH

Launch of TERI paper on energy security and multilateralism

PANEL DISCUSSION

5 minutes initial inputs by each speaker, followed by a moderated discussion.

- **Mr Ovais Sarmad**, Independent Adviser on Sustainability & Innovation; Vice Chair, GHG Protocol Steering Committee
- **Mr Shubhashis Dey**, Founder & Council Member, Global South Sustainability Foundation (GSSF)
- **Dr Debajit Palit**, Centre Head, Centre for Climate Change and Energy Transition, CRF
- **Dr Kira Vinke**, Co-Director and Head of Center for Climate and Foreign Policy, German Council on Foreign Relations
- **Dr Shailly Kedia**, Senior Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute (moderator)

AUDIENCE Q & A

KEY TAKEAWAYS

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.



Mr Ovais Sarmad

Independent Adviser on Sustainability & Innovation; Vice Chair, GHG Protocol Steering Committee

Mr Ovais Sarmad is Vice Chair of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Steering Committee and former Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). His experience spans climate governance, multilateral cooperation, sustainable development and organisational leadership. During his tenure at the UNFCCC from 2017 to 2023, covering COP23 to COP27, he managed secretariat operations and advised successive Executive Secretaries on strategic planning and organisational development. He contributed to international discussions on climate change and multilateralism, engaging with public policy discourse and the institutional challenges of advancing collective action. His current work focuses on supporting initiatives that accelerate sustainable development, strengthening public policy and empowering young people through education. He also advises and mentors individuals and organisations on climate change, diplomacy, geopolitical issues and institutional change. Mr Sarmad is a Chartered Management Accountant and Chartered Global Management Accountant, with a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Osmania University, Hyderabad, and extensive international experience.



Dr Kira Vinke

Co-Director and Head of Center for Climate and Foreign Policy, German Council on Foreign Relations

Dr. Kira Vinke has been co-director of the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) since October 1, 2026. She is also the head of its Center for Climate and Foreign Policy. She is also a member of the Advisory Board to the Federal Government for Civilian Crisis Prevention and Peacebuilding, which she co-chaired from 2018 to January 2025. From 2014-2022, she worked at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK). Before joining DGAP, she headed the East Africa Peru India Climate Capacities (EPICC) project there. Vinke completed her doctoral dissertation (summa cum laude) at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin on the subject of climate change and migration. Vinke has been a member of the advisory board of Germany's Federal Academy for Security Policy (BAKS) since 2022. She is also a member of the board of trustees of the German Climate Foundation (Deutsche KlimaStiftung) and of the World Vision Deutschland e.V. In addition, Vinke is a member of the German section of "Aktion gegen den Hunger" (Action Against Hunger) and the Development Service and Humanitarian Aid Committee of "Brot für die Welt" (bread for the world) as well as an elected member of the German Committee for UNICEF e.V.



Mr Shubhashis Dey

Founder & Council Member, Global South Sustainability Foundation (GSSF)

Shubhashis Dey is a climate strategist and institutional builder with more than two decades of experience in climate change mitigation, adaptation, resilience, sustainable finance, and low-carbon development. He is Founding Partner of Solutions for Sustainable Living (SoSuL LLP) and Founder and Council Member of the DIFC-domiciled Global South Sustainability Foundation (GSSF), where he focuses on building credible institutions and delivery mechanisms for sustainable economic growth. Shubhashis has contributed to several major elements of India's climate transition, including the Net Zero pledge, India Cooling Action Plan, National Carbon Market, Taxonomy for Sustainable Activities, and Green Hydrogen Mission. He served on SEBI's ESG Advisory Committee and has advised NITI Aayog, the Department of Economic Affairs, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Mitigation Action Facility and other national and international platforms. A Certified Energy Auditor and Manager, Canberra Fellow, and SABIT alumnus, he was recognised as Energy Innovator of the Year for Asia by the Association of Energy Engineers.



Dr Debajit Palit

Centre Head, Centre for Climate Change and Energy Transition, CRF

Dr. Debajit Palit heads the Centre for Climate Change & Energy Transition at Chintan Research Foundation, an independent, not-for-profit think tank based in New Delhi. He is a researcher, practitioner, author, editor, and trainer, with around 30 years of experience in renewable energy and related fields, including solar PV, biomass, clean energy access, microgrids, energy transitions, climate action, and the energy-livelihood-gender nexus. Dr. Palit has extensive national and international experience, having worked on projects across 17 countries in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. He is a prolific writer and has authored four books and around 150 research papers published in scholarly journals, conference proceedings, and books, among other publications. He has consistently been listed among the world's top 2% of scientists in the Stanford University rankings since its inception.



Dr Shailly Kedia

Senior Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute (moderator)

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 programme development, policy research, outreach, and capacity building. At TERI, she has spearheaded the work on green budgeting, green public procurement, green finance, sustainable consumption and production, multilateralism, and international cooperation. 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.