



# WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2022

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

February 16-18, 2022 (Virtual)



## Collective Action for Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future

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### VALEDICTORY SESSION: SUMMARY

Virtual Venue: Gir

Date: February 18, 2022

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# Valedictory Session

## About the Session

Environmental problems, such as climate change, represent a classic 'social dilemma' wherein people have little individual incentive to act but, for societies or social groups as a whole, it is 'rational', or in their collective interest, to act. Environmental behavior can be understood as a type of collective action because individuals who engage in these behaviors likely overestimate their individual contribution to mitigating an environmental problem. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including their ambitious targets on climate action, universal healthcare and financing for development, will require stakeholders to work together at all levels in innovative partnerships and initiatives. Only through a renewed momentum for multilateralism, can we shift the world towards a sustainable and resilient path to ensuring that no one is left behind. Multilateral environmental discourses play a critical role in the overall framework of environmental actions and conventions.

The valedictory session is the closing session of the World Sustainable Development Summit. The session saw the launch of Act4Earth. Building on the discussions of WSDS, this initiative will seek to continuously engage with stakeholders from public and private spheres on agendas around sustainable development and climate action. WSDS activities seek to evolve to incorporate principles of outcome-based continuity in stakeholder engagement and action. Being a major global Summit based in the developing part of the World, WSDS seeks to pioneer conversations to drive ambition and action to protect our fragile planet. Efforts will be made to reach out to policy makers and stakeholders to share best practices and also ask them to take up practices. The Act4Earth platform will have two main initiatives: COP Compass and SDG Charter.

## Speakers

### **Chairman's Remarks**

- Mr Nitin Desai, Chairman, Governing Council, TERI

### **Release of Act4Earth Manifesto and Act4Earth Strategy Paper**

- Ms Nivedita Chalayil, Research Associate, TERI
- Ms Anuradha Mathur, Associate Fellow, TERI

### **Keynote Address: The Next Big steps for Multilateralism on Act4Earth**

- HE Mr Abdulla Shahid, Foreign Minister, Maldives, President of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly

### **Special Remarks**

- Ms Kathleen McGinty, Vice President & Chief Sustainability Government and Regulatory Affairs Officer, Johnson Controls
- Mr Manjeev Singh Puri, Distinguished Fellow, TERI

### **Acknowledgments**

- Dr Shailly Kedia, Senior Fellow, TERI

### **Closing Remarks**

- Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director-General, TERI

## Disclaimer

The text of the addresses is based on auto-generated transcript from YouTube. Minor edits were made on grammar and spelling. The exact wording of the discussion can be accessed from YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/xqs6zANNSaM>.

## Actionable Messages

**Message 1:** As we recover from the pandemic, it falls on us to strengthen global cooperation and mobilize political will to implement a comprehensive global recovery, one built upon the goals and aspirations of the SDGs. This, we must do with the full understanding that all of the major challenges of our century are global in scale, and cannot be met without the concerted effort of all actors spanning the globe, from governments, to businesses, to civil society.

**Message 2:** It is up to the international community to support initiatives which provide debt relief to economically vulnerable countries such as Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs); to support industries crucial to their economic well-being, such as tourism; and to strengthen global regimes for development, cooperation, and assistance.

**Message 3:** Through Act4Earth, TERI seeks to drive ambitious and urgent action on climate change and sustainable development through knowledge, dialogue, and capacity building. TERI envisages that through one of its components, namely the COP Compass, to drive change through knowledge creation, dissemination and dialogue, which will inspire and mobilize leadership at all levels for inclusive transitions through ambitious and informed policies and measures. This will enable paradigm shifts towards meeting the Paris goals through mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation.

**Message 4:** Through the second component of Act4Earth, SDG Charter, TERI seeks to develop inclusive and ambitious policy frameworks. This, which Charter will seek to ensure that sustainable development is further mainstreamed in government agendas, which will lead to enhanced environmental, social, and economic outcomes.

## Making Words Count @WSDS 2022

“ Today the challenge of sustainability is not just getting governments to act on sustainability and governments to get together, but also to get corporations to integrate this into their policies, to get local authorities to integrate it into their work, to get trade unions to accept the importance of world sustainability, as something that is important for the future of work

**Mr Nitin Desai,  
Chairman, Governing Council, The Energy and Resources Institute**

“ The era of isolationism is long over. COVID-19 has underscored that reality quite clearly. We will not succeed if we ignore the world around us, if we prioritize one region or issue over others, or if we neglect marginalized and vulnerable communities. We must breathe new life into multilateralism and shape it so that everyone benefits.

**Mr Abdulla Shahid,  
Foreign Minister, Maldives, President of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly**

“ We need multinational collaboration, but vitally we need the energy, the nobility and the true north values of intergenerational collaboration. Young people demanding that we bring equity together with that mission to protect the environment.

**Ms Kathleen McGinty,  
Vice President & Chief Sustainability Government and Regulatory Affairs Officer, Johnson Controls**

“ Is it not absolutely wonderful that governments have started taking this to be serious and governments have now made sustainable development and climate action priority areas? Indeed, it is now a matter that domestically impacts governments it becomes part of the election manifestos, it gets done by governments across the world not just in small countries but in the largest of countries in the world.

**Mr Manjeev Singh Puri,  
Distinguished Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute**

# Narrative

## Chair

### **Mr Nitin Desai, Chairman, Governing Council, The Energy and Resources Institute**

So, we are now coming to the valedictory session of the 21st World Sustainable Development Summit. It has been a little over 20 years since we started the Summit process. It is about 30 years since the Rio conference of which I was the Deputy Secretary General. About roughly 35 years after the release of the Brundtland Report: Our Common Future, in whose drafting I played a very key role. The first sentence of the Brundtland Report is, "The earth is one, but the world is not." That means the boundaries that define the countries of the world are not at all coterminous with the boundaries of ecological systems and our focus then was to try and bring the worlds together. By that we meant the countries together, and that was the focus when we moved from the Brundtland report onto the Rio conference, where I was the Deputy Secretary General but even then in Rio we realized that we had if we wanted governments to act, we had to bring in non-governmental actors in a big way and Rio was the beginning of large-scale engagement of non-governmental actors in the processes of intergovernmental discussions and so on, and our primary motive then was to influence governments.

I would like to go stage further now. If I look now at the world then the engagement of people outside governments has become critical not just because they can influence governments but because they themselves are determined how the challenge of sustainability is going to be met, and I say non-governmental people, I do not just mean activists and so on but I am including people like research institutions, corporations, trade unions, local authorities and all of them and we brought them in. Have a look at agenda 21, you will see the separate sectors dealing with the role of corporations of trade unions of local authorities and so on.

In 1992, as far as corporations were concerned, we had just 20 chief executives who participated in a business council on sustainable development. Ten years later, when we did Johannesburg, the numbers who wanted to participate was so large that we had to have a separate event and a parallel event of corporations who wanted to participate in partnerships dealing with sustainable development. Who created that? Mark Moody Stuart, who retired as the chairman of Shell. That the chairman of a fossil fuel company was the one who decided that he had to do something about sustainable development? That was a change that once saw and that change has escalated. Today practically every fossil fuel company is trying to get out of fossil fuels, even Exxon has now been accepted that climate change is a challenge. And how did they accept it? An ESG oriented financing company, managed to place three directors on the board of Exxon, and today that has led to the change. I am mentioning this in order to emphasize that basically today the challenge of sustainability is not just getting governments to act on sustainability and governments to get together, but also to get corporations to integrate this into their policies, to get local authorities to integrate it into their work, to get trade unions to accept the importance of world sustainability, as something that is important for the future of work, also.

And that is why I would say something like the World Sustainable Development Summit, that we run is important, what are we trying to do – we are trying to bring together these actors to talk with each other, to meet each other, to exchange experiences with each other, and so on. In many ways TERI, because of the breadth of its engagement and sustainability from technology all the way up to research and policy, advocacy, is well organized for doing this. I am therefore very happy that one of the major tasks of our valedictory session is to launch this initiative on an Act4Earth program. Because what that program is about is essentially what I have been talking about and therefore somebody who has been engaged in this for the past 35 years. I am truly happy that we are moving forward to say that this is something we should do, not just once a year but as a continuous process throughout and use the new methods of connectivity that are available to us now, which were not available in 1992. Remember, in 1992, there was no worldwide web available. Internet was there but no worldwide web. The worldwide web comes afterwards. Today we have much more connectivity available. So let us use that and let us see how we can bring this type of conversation, integration, communication, through time, throughout the year, rather than just one week or one time a year. So let me stop here and thank all of the people who have been involved in organizing this Summit not this year for the past 21 years because I think the Summit has been very successful in building up this way of bringing together people, who are as independent people, not just as people who are trying to influence governments.

So thank you very much for all of the work that all of you youngsters have done in preparing for the Summit and may I now stop here and wait and listen to see what the Act4Earth Manifesto and the Act4Earth Strategy Paper has in store for us.

## **Release of Act4Earth Manifesto and Act4Earth Strategy Paper**

**Ms Nivedita Choyalil, Research Associate, The Energy and Resources Institute**

Through the 21st Edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit, The Energy and Resources Institute brought together stakeholders including representatives from international organizations, government, business & industry, research & academia, civil society and youth to deliberate on the modus operandi required for ensuring equitable responses to protect our planet through sustainable consumption and production, energy & resource security, climate justice, and the protection of global commons.

We pledge to Act for Earth by:

- Reinvigorating current multilateral systems by ensuring that climate negotiations and other norm-setting bodies are informed by principles of equity and climate justice, as well as with perspectives from developing countries to drive national and international action.
- Developing multi-level and poly-centric approaches to govern and protect our global commons, which is inclusive of all those who use and depend on these commons, including non-human species.
- Inviting stakeholders to generating financial capital and building capacities for developing green technologies, which helps in inclusive clean energy transitions.
- Avoiding wasteful consumption, and promoting efficiency in production patterns, by raising awareness and promoting responsible practices among governments, businesses and consumers.
- Advocating for paradigm shifts in the global narrative which decouples the economic growth from environmental degradation.
- Critically examining the dominant narratives on traditional and non-traditional security to advance inclusive, concerted, coherent and effective efforts on sustainable development and climate action.
- Calling upon the global community to bridge the gap between mitigation and adaptation through effective means of implementation including climate finance, innovation and capacity building.
- Ensuring policy coherence through mainstreaming sustainable development into economic policy, including through SDGs-linked budgeting processes.
- Communicating issues related to climate change and sustainable development to all stakeholders effectively, through a balanced approach which instils hope, without losing our sight on the gravity of the climate change and limits to growth.

**Ms Anuradha Mathur, Associate Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute**

The Energy and Resources Institute is delighted to announce a major initiative titled Act4Earth. Building on the discussions from this Summit, this initiative will seek to continuously engage with stakeholders from across the board on issues related to sustainable development and climate action. Being a major platform in the Global South, Act4Earth together with WSDS, will seek to pioneer conversations that will drive ambition and action on climate change and sustainable development needs. The Act4Earth platform will have two major components: the COP Compass and the SDG Charter. We will kick-start activities under the Act4Earth platform, from April 2022. The overarching objective for Act4Earth would be to drive ambition and urgent action on climate change and sustainable development through knowledge, dialogue and capacity building.

**Keynote Address: The Next Big steps for Multilateralism on Act4Earth**

**H.E. Mr Abdulla Shahid, President of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

We gather at a time when global multilateralism is under immense stress, under the weight of an unprecedented pandemic. Yet it is in these challenging times that we need multilateralism more than ever, as the fate of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development hangs in the balance.

Yes, the pandemic has temporarily diverted our attention and resources towards addressing its immediate repercussions. Given the urgency and scale of the crisis, this was only common sense. However, the pandemic has not absolved us of our duty to address the other concerns facing our people and planet, concerns very much summarized and addressed in the Sustainable Development Goals. It falls on us now to strengthen global cooperation and mobilize political will to implement a comprehensive global recovery, one built upon the goals and aspirations of the SDGs. And we must do so with the full understanding that all of the major challenges of our century are global in scale. They cannot be met without the concerted effort of all actors spanning the globe, from governments, to businesses, to civil society. The era of isolationism is long over. COVID-19 has underscored that reality quite clearly. We will not succeed if we ignore the world around us, if we prioritize one region or issue over others, or if we neglect marginalized and vulnerable communities. We must breathe new life into multilateralism and shape it so that everyone benefits. We must acknowledge the gravity of the issues that confront us – climate change, poverty and economic loss

among them – so that we can effectively address them and recover better. And we must act with compassion, committing to prioritize the most vulnerable amongst us. We must leave no one behind. I call on the international community to support initiatives to provide debt relief to economically vulnerable countries such as SIDS, LDCs, and LLDCs; to support industries crucial to their economic well-being, such as tourism; and to strengthen global regimes for development cooperation and assistance.

Excellencies, of the challenges that will remain after the pandemic, climate change is among the most pressing. Frankly, COP 26 did not meet our expectations. But the deliberations reaffirmed the importance of multilateralism to address climate change and its impacts, and to stay within the 1.5-degree target. For the first time in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process, there is a reference to phasing down unabated coal power and phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies. Developed countries have agreed to double their adaptation finance from 2019 levels, by 2025. Parties that have not yet communicated new or updated nationally determined contributions agreed to do so before the next COP. The Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, signed by 120 countries, aims to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030. The Global Methane Pledge, signed by over 100 countries, commits to collectively reduce global methane emissions by 30% by 2030. Finally, in completing the Paris Agreement rulebook, the Agreement is now operational and implementable. My overall assessment of COP 26 is that there is some ground for cautious optimism. Nevertheless, much more political will and cooperation will be required to enhance the ambition for rapid emission reductions over the coming decade to avoid dangerous levels of climate change.

Excellencies, we must build on that momentum in the lead up to COP27. As President of the General Assembly, I will continue to do my part and will convene a High-Level Moment for Nature in July, to reflect on the lessons we learn from the three complementary RIO conventions that will have been held this session: on climate, biodiversity, and desertification. During the event, I will echo my message during the High-Level Event I held on climate last October, and during COP26: Humanity has the ingenuity and resources to act on climate – but only if our efforts are fortified with political will and cooperation. I applaud The Energy and Resource Institute for launching the Act4Earth initiative to facilitate greater multi-stakeholder partnerships in meeting the 2030 Agenda. As a Maldivian, I join islanders from across the world in feeling anxiety over the fate of our homes in the face of climate crises, and rising sea-levels. We are on the front-lines of a battle that will one day engulf the entire world. The Act4Earth initiative captures the urgency with which we need to protect our planet. And it captures the scale of cooperation required to be successful.

Excellencies, rest assured that throughout my Presidency of Hope I will make every effort to support partnerships that will help us protect our planet and meet the Sustainable Development Goals. I express my gratitude to the organizers for providing me this opportunity to speak and wish you all a very successful event.

Thank you.

### **Special Remarks**

***Ms Kathleen McGinty, Vice President & Chief Sustainability Government and Regulatory Affairs Officer, Johnson Controls***

It is a distinct honour and privilege for me to participate in these valedictory exercises of this most consequential 21st World Sustainable Development Summit and what a summit it has been. Rightly demanding and attracting the attention of the highest-level leaders as well as those local in our communities, making a huge difference every day. You know, I am humbled to hear the wisdom of Sri Sadhguru who today and so many times have told us that it is time now to heed that as he says collective karma of climate change and turn humanity our human consciousness and ingenuity to what is right for this earth and for climate.

As we hear those powerful words, I just reflect how fortunate we are to be joined by those who have led this effort in this movement. My goodness to see and hear the words of Mr Nitin Desai today; he captured it beautifully the bringing together of people in shared vision around not just what our nations need and deserve but what our planet calls and requires us to do and how exciting that after his years of leadership with Brundtland Commission with the Rio Earth Summit. With these Summits that we begin to see the promise of that vision. Ambassador Puri, a gentleman of such distinction who has committed his prestige and talents to sustainable development and to protecting the climate, and certainly our minister from the Maldives who we just were privileged to hear a message calling us to compassion but also to justice and action and putting ingenuity to work.

This is the handy work of TERI - Dr Dhawan and experts at TERI. I cannot thank you enough. It is right, as I know in these proceedings we remember our friend Dr Pachauri for his pioneering work, but it is with great joy that we see

the continued excellence of TERI. The cutting-edge scholarship, policy advocacy and technology development that TERI, uniquely in the world, brings together. You are hard-pressed to think of an institution that spans that spectrum from research to technology to action. That excellence was certainly in display when my husband and I had the honour to serve as Distinguished Visiting Fellows at TERI. Now 22 years ago just after I also had the privilege of helping to negotiate the Kyoto climate treaty as Deputy Assistant to then President Bill Clinton. But you know Dr Dhawan, you have made all the truer today that TERI under your leadership is recognized as an institution of truly world-class thought and action and today it is proven again.

I thank our colleagues who bring forth this powerful Act4Earth. I would just say, in my 30 years now in working on these issues you have got the key elements to progress and success. Absolutely, we need multinational collaboration, but vitally we need the energy, the nobility and the true north values of intergenerational collaboration. Young people demanding that we bring equity together with that mission to protect the environment. You know, honoured guests, we launched this coming together with the charge of his Excellency the Prime Minister of India. You know the prime minister is correct the time for action is now. Equity and care for each other and the environment are the pressing business, we are called to, and I believe India has so much to be proud of. Extraordinary to see the pace of renewable energy development. I think it is correct to say that achieving that goal that was set out of 40 percent electric power from non-fossil sources, I believe that is accomplished nine years ahead of pledge and it is inspiring to see so many initiatives in this most recent budget including the path breaking initiative in energy efficiency harnessing energy services contracts and performance contracts that can multiply by a hundred times investments to boost efficiency and cut waste and in the hierarchy of what we need to do for the planet from an environmental point of view efficiency first to cut that energy we do not need in the first place these initiatives are brilliant.

I also welcome with excitement the One Sun, One World, One Grid initiative that our other friend Dr Ajay Mathur, another TERI alum yet, brings what innovation we will see through that important effort to tackle climate change. But I want to honour and respect the many inputs we heard in these summit proceedings. So many initiatives that were brought to the fore, ideas around for example the circular economy and eco-friendly designs, absolutely vital – the days of waste and non-reuse need to be days that are behind us. The opportunity we now have, Nitin Desai talked about the business community involved. Part of that business community, the financial communities now involved and the idea of taking capital and making it truly green with regulations so that our infrastructure will be sustainable. Those ideas were brought to the fore in this Summit. I do think the charge of the foreign minister of Egypt – how wonderful it is to see Egypt stepping up for COP27, and absolutely right we gained tremendous momentum in Glasgow. But now is the time to build on that energy and momentum and I think our colleagues from TERI are right in Act4Earth. Let us put young people front and centre in those initiatives. As I reflect on what we heard and we were privileged to participate in here, in this 21st World Sustainable Development Summit proceedings, I think we heard about much more than just work more than just initiatives or projects. We heard passion and determination: determination that we would join together women and men passion to protect the planet, to ensure equity and justice and inspiration. I think inspiration to bring technology and share it broadly, so that we are respecting the dignity of all – north and south, east and west. In all of these presentations to me, I was hearing the echoes of some wisdom that is quite meaningful. I think we were hearing from people who deeply understand and tirelessly live the beautiful words of Rabindranath Tagore, “Let us not pray to be sheltered from dangers but fearless when facing them.”

Truly colleagues we are blessed to be alive in this moment; this moment in our collective history, I think we are privileged to have an occasion to rise above difference and instead to walk together in love. Thank you, TERI, for convening this summit and affording me the considerable honour of joining you again and participating in this 21st World Sustainable Development Summit.

### **Special Remarks**

#### ***Mr Manjeev Singh Puri, Distinguished Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute***

Ms McGinty, we know that you are a great friend of TERI but it is only today that I came to know that you must have pushed us, and that is how this Delhi Sustainable Development Summit and the World Sustainable Development have started.

It is not from nothing that you are here in this valedictory session. You are here in this session, firstly, because you are our great friend and we want friendships and when I say friendship, I do not just mean it in the sense of one-on-one but I mean in sense of partnerships, I mean in the sense of collaboration and secondly, what you stand for. You very modestly mentioned Kyoto and just left it at that. Have there been any such monumental things? No let us leave aside what happened or did not happen, but that effort is the kind of thing that you bring to the table. We want to thank you very much; it is such absolutely incredible friendships that drives this organization.

You know we are obviously honoured that the President of the General Assembly, the Foreign Minister of the Maldives, but the president of the UN General Assembly has addressed us and we have all seen the comments that he made which started off with the concerns of the small island developing states, the countries who have had nothing to do with the problem that we are facing yet who faced almost existentialist questions in front of them that is particularly important. He also then had a broad sweep and said that he is looking at everyone coming on board and everyone taking the necessary action. He reminded us of what we are going through today: the pandemic. Many of us have gone through it, seen its ups, its downs, tried to keep our chair up and take things forward, but it has been one of the most difficult times in our generation, perhaps the generation before that too, none of us anticipated this. We all thought globalization was all great wonderful; and it is, but it does have its dips.

When we are talking about climate change, you know TERI is very fortunate and India is very fortunate to have someone like Dr Nitin Desai. You know he very again modestly mentioned his own contribution but you know so many of these things have been authored by him in his head and by those with whom he was a great friend and who took this forward. Dr Desai, you would be particularly happy that what you started off at a particularly sweet spot in terms of international relations, which is the times when the Soviet Union had collapsed. There was only one player and that one player was willing to display generosity or you were able to tease the generosity out of that one player. These good things and bringing people from all walks together and you are mentioning the Chairman of Shell heading the next thing but is it not absolutely wonderful that in another 10 years, governments have started taking this to be serious and governments have now made this a priority. Indeed, it is now a matter that domestically impacts governments it becomes part of the election manifestos, it gets done by governments across the world not just in small countries but in the largest of countries in the world and this is where I believe that what you pioneered, what you took forward has had an immense impact – an impact that we would not have been aware of till the day of reckoning, as we are already where we are today.

Now, TERI itself is an absolutely fantastic institution. I do not think many people here are aware that it is almost 50 years old and in fact I would urge Director General- Dr Vibha Dhawan who herself has a sterling association with TERI over a very long period of time and is one of India's leading biotechnologists, that we should try and see what we can do in terms of leveraging our own legacy.

We are very fortunate to have had Dr R K Pachauri and he was there for a long enough time not only nurturing TERI but actually taking India into the global scene by his chairmanship of the IPCC at a time, when the IPCC was also recognized by the world with the Nobel Peace Prize having been awarded. So this is the kind of background from which it comes from. You noted my dear friend Ajay, who now heads the International Solar Alliance. Look this is an institution which has done human service for India but I want to say that what makes me particularly proud is that it has done human service for the developing world and indeed for the globe itself. It is a fantastic institution – an institution that nurtures research, that nurtures talent and today, people who are passed out from the doors of TERI are holding some of the most important positions anywhere in the world. I am delighted that the UNEP DSG in New York happens to be a TERI alumnus, so many other multinational organizations have people from TERI sitting there and this is what then brings me to this wonderful team which shepherded and really took care of this particular WSDS this year.

Let me tell you last year when WSDS was held virtually, we thought that would be the last time that we would be doing it this way and everybody was looking forward to going back in the old ways perhaps in a smaller scale in the India Habitat Centre, perhaps taking some baby steps forward and venturing out and yet the pandemic refused to let go of us but these young people led by Shailly Kedia, Nivedita Cholayil, Anuradha Mathur, and there are several others. They stepped forward and said we would take it forward. Mr Desai has found as usual the lovely silver lining to this dark cloud by saying that now we have connectivity, now we could have the privilege of having you on the screen with us. I do not know whether you are in California or New York or wherever you are but thank you very much but we have the privilege of having you virtually in our rooms out here, this perhaps may have been more difficult in those days but I am a bit of an old-fashioned guy, I still believe that the ideas of personal interactions are important. You look at somebody in the eye, not across this video screen.

TERI has done human service in actual research, hard research. It is known to most of us across the world as a lead player in terms of policy research and even policy advocacy, but it is also known very well for tremendous amount of hard research and perhaps Dr Dhawan may touch upon that when she addresses us but I want to thank everyone and lastly I want to point out, we were very fortunate that the honourable Prime Minister of India in the midst of his so many commitments, he took time off, held actually a briefing meeting with people from TERI and then addressed us. The minister of environment was personally present and I want to thank all the ministers and Special Representative Secretary Kerry was there with us. This was the event we had two days back, I had the honour of co-moderating that

event. We had with him the Ministers of Environment of Canada, Finland, Germany, France, Spain and Norway. The next day we had the Maldivian minister of environment. We also had the president of COP26. We had the president of COP27 as well as his colleague the Environment Minister of Egypt and let me again mention this we also had the environment minister of the United Arab Emirates, the country that will host COP28. We are integrated in this process. This process means a lot and we are very happy that this process is now back on track and it is going to go forward.

The government of India the prime minister of India has put ourselves in the forefront of ambition leading with renewables pushing for all kinds of action that is possible but it requires all of us in the world all of us in the global community to come together because we owe it to our common heritage and our common future. Thank you very, very much and TERI with all good visions to this lovely organization. I have been privileged to be associated with it for more than 17-18 years including at the time when I was a serving officer of the government of India it is an absolutely great place. Shailly to you your team and Dr Dhawan all part your elbows.

## **Acknowledgments**

### ***Dr Shailly Kedia, Senior Fellow, TERI***

First and foremost, I would like to thank all our participants and over 12,000 delegates registered from 143 countries. Thank you so much for tuning in through our platform and I do hope that you enjoyed the proceedings over the past three days. The World Sustainable Development Summit involves tremendous planning, engagement and most importantly, teamwork. As we near the close of the summit, it would only be right to acknowledge our partners and team WSDS. First and foremost, we would like to thank all our supporters including our environment ministry, the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, our country partner, the Royal Norwegian Embassy, the star partner, our premier partners, senior partners. We would also like to thank the outreach partners who helped and are going to help further to get the messages from WSDS across.

We would like to thank our platform partner and also our PR partner. We would like to thank our leadership Mr Nitin Desai, Dr Vibha Dhawan, Ambassador Puri who have been very instrumental in driving WSDS. Next, we have our International Steering Committee members, and we are privileged to have one of them amongst us. Thank you so much Katie for joining us and tuning in. Then we have colleagues from the Director General's office Mr Shyam Sundar, Mr Anoop Variyambath, Ms Pooja Sehbag and Ms K Y Valsa. All of you have been very instrumental in terms of ensuring that all the communications go on time.

Then I come to the core coordination teams within TERI. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of TERI Press in bringing out knowledge products that were very instrumental to the Summit. This also includes dissemination of children's book as well as the Summit bulletins which they over they worked overnight and they brought out which is available on the platform as well as WSDS website. They will also be working on the proceedings of the event as well as a special WSDS issue on a TerraGreen. Next, we have the communications and stakeholder engagement who tirelessly worked in promoting WSDS on social media pushing it out through mainstream media as well. Then I would come to our IT team which was very closely working with the platform team to make sure that we have a good and successful virtual summit. We also thank their efforts for ensuring that we have a good WSDS website and information is also disseminated by our mailers.

We thank our advisors Dr Prodipto Ghosh, Mr R R Rashmi, Mr Ajay Shankar, Ms Suruchi Bhadwal, and Mr Abhishek Kaushik and we would like to thank our thematic leads. This year we had 28 thematic tracks - I could not list all of them. Our rapporteurs, our emcees, our Admin colleagues for food transport and infrastructure during the Summit. We thank you for keeping us nourished, safe and sound. And finally, to my own little team the WSDS secretariat - thank you so much Ms Anuradha Mathur, Ms Nivedita Cholayil, Ms Sonali Mathur, Mr Ravi Nair, Ms Neha Joshi, Mr John Andruse and our intern Mr Dennis. Thank you everyone and stay tuned.

## **Closing Remarks**

### ***Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute***

You all can imagine how difficult my task is now because everything is said. We have told how many participants were there and what all subjects we covered and so on. So therefore, whatever I have written I cannot speak. I want to thank all the 12,000 registered participants who were part of this Summit and many of them were heads of states and I will also like to acknowledge the presence of recorded message from our Prime Minister. And I must say that the amount of time it was spent on his speech; it was that he wanted to understand what exactly he should be saying and what all TERI is doing. So, it was not that he simply came and spoke. It was after careful consultation, not just with TERI, also with MOEFCC and so on.

We are hoping that next year it will be in-person Summit or at least a hybrid mode kind of a thing. As Mr Desai rightly mentioned, it is good that many who cannot come otherwise they were also able to participate, but I also echo what Ambassador Puri said it is very different, and you actually make connections and long-term relationships with all those who come in. The outside conference discussions are equally productive the way we listen to them. Shailly also mentioned the wide range of thematic tracks that we have covered in right from energy transition, adaptation, resource and energy security, circular economy, industrial deep decarbonisation, and so on. We have attempted to ensure all possible stakeholder engagement through our plenary sessions ranging from grassroots level, youth, state ministers, union ministers, climate negotiators, businesses, state leaders and so on.

I again would like to highlight here that TERI has always been consistently working to ensure energy and resource security, foster sustainable development and combat climate change. I am proud to record today this edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit brings to all of us, the news of growing voices from across the globe and recognizing the opportunity arising from the current crisis to build more resilient economies, better prepared than ever for creating a carbon neutral and resilient world, ensuring a sustainable and equitable future: the ethos of our Summit.

As you already have witnessed The Energy and Resources Institute has launched a major initiative Act4Earth and I am sure in years to come it will become one of the most important fora where people will throw new ideas and also look for solutions, and it will become a major platform for discussion. So, it is not once in a year kind of summit but rather we will remain engaged throughout the year through this initiative. I look forward to continuous engagement with stakeholders across the world on issues related to sustainable development and climate change.

I would also like to say that with the Prime Minister's announcement in Glasgow and the very fact, in spite of his busy schedule he has sent us a recorded message, it shows his commitment and which becomes India's commitments towards a cleaner and greener planet. I am very happy to also inform again that now industry has started coming forward because they are also looking for decarbonisation and use of renewables and cleaner future. So, it is again Shailly had already made my job easy she had acknowledged the help of all the colleagues who have contributed to the conference but I would again like to acknowledge that I am very lucky to have a team of dedicated colleagues who can work around the clock when needed. So, thank you Shailly, thank you to the entire TERI colleagues for showing the kind of unity and the hard work you have displayed in last three days and again I like to thank the participants and, in the end, I would like to say that soon we will be announcing curtain-raiser event for WSDS 2023. So please stay tuned with us and thank you so much once again thank you.