



Title: **Best Practices for Air Pollution Management and Mitigation**

Date: 8 February 2024

Time: 11:30 - 1:00 hrs

Venue: Juniper Hall, India Habitat Centre

(i) Problem statement and state of play

Air pollution is a global issue, affecting cities worldwide and requiring local and global management solutions. Worldwide, air pollution is recognized as one of the leading causes of deteriorating human health, causing around seven million premature deaths every year. Despite various initiatives taken by the government of India to control air pollution, several Indian cities are still exposed to concentrations of PM_{2.5} above the value specified under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS); thereby making them vulnerable to serious health risks. To address the burgeoning level of air pollution in the country, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India (GoI) launched the National Clean Air Program (NCAP) in January 2019, intending to reduce 20-30% of PM₁₀ concentrations by 2024 in non-attainment cities. Later, the Centre revised the target of reducing air pollution to 40% by 2026. One of the objectives of the NCAP also stresses that sharing best practices and increased cooperation with international agencies are critical elements for overcoming and tackling air pollution. Since the launch of NCAP, Government of India has taken up number of strategies for abatement of air pollution and has shown significant improvements in non-attainment cities. Furthermore, to help manage pollution hotspots, there are success stories on best practices and regional and local air pollution management and mitigation in cities like Surat, Indore, Lucknow and Delhi that focuses on street-level “hyperlocal” pollution sources that significantly contribute to emissions, which are often, remains invisible. In this context, a thematic track titled ‘**Best Practices for Air Pollution Management and Mitigation**’ is being organized in WSDS, 2024 to exchange learning, experiences, and best practices for air pollution management and control across Indian cities.

(ii) Questions to guide the discussions.

- Some of the non-attainment cities have shown significant improvement in air quality since the launch of the National Clean Air Program. What are the best practices/success stories adopted by these cities that can be replicated in other Indian cities to mitigate air pollution?
- How the knowledge of regional and local air quality management plan can guide in developing tailored

interventions that authorities can implement to reduce local emissions, improve community health and meet NCAP targets?

- What are the learnings from the experiences of other countries and cities globally that could particularly apply to Indian cities and NCAP in tackling the problem of air quality?

About the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship Track II initiative organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Instituted in 2001, the Summit series has a legacy of over two decades for making 'sustainable development' a globally shared goal. The only independently convened international Summit on sustainable development and environment, based in the Global South, WSDS strives to provide long-term solutions for the benefit of global communities by assembling the world's most enlightened leaders and thinkers on a single platform. The 23rd edition of the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)—the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)—will be held from 7-9 February 2024 in New Delhi. The Summit deliberations will focus on the umbrella theme: Leadership for Sustainable Development and Climate Justice.