



COP28

India Priorities

INTRODUCTION

Climate change is a humanitarian crisis impacting the poorest and most vulnerable countries, communities, and individuals with strong gender-based differences. Climate change and its related consequences have destabilizing effects on economies, livelihoods, water, food and nutrition security, health and numerous other aspects including gender-relations. While mortality from climate-related disasters have reduced due to anticipatory action, governments need to scale up investments for preparedness, early warning and resilience building strategies. Collaboration and peer-learning should be encouraged from India and other countries who have successfully implemented disaster risk reduction initiatives in the past. Climate resilience should prioritize to Leave No-One Behind (LNOB) as per the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This requires meaningful inclusion of stakeholders across the board and adopting a human-rights based approach for integrating the needs of the most marginalized and vulnerable people in policy, practice, and investment towards climate solutions.

GLOBAL STOCKTAKE (GST)

COP28 will witness the conclusion and presentation on global progress on climate action against the Paris Agreement Goals. The stocktake is aimed at identifying gaps to accelerate equitable and gender-just climate action. India in its submissions to the UNFCCC has emphasized that the outcome of the stocktake ought to consider pre-2020 gaps in climate action and its impact on mitigation burden afterwards. Additionally, the integrity of the Paris Agreement and the principles of equity and CBDR-RC should be reaffirmed in the process of advancing long-term climate action. The Global Stocktake should be based on just transition in mitigation and adaptation, including gender-just transition. The GST should highlight the gaps in funding required by developing countries and the available and additional funding for the same. The barriers to access support by developed countries including finance, technology deployment and transfer, and capacity building for developing nations should be acknowledged. India has stated that equity should be integrated as a cross-cutting theme in all outcomes of the GST.

OUR POSITION

- GST should highlight the gaps in funding required by developing countries and the available and additional funding for the same.
- Barriers to access support by developed countries including finance, technology deployment and transfer, and capacity building for developing nations should be acknowledged.
- Principles of equity and CBDR-RC should be reaffirmed in the process of advancing long-term climate action.

ADAPTATION

Adaptation refers to the process of adjusting to a changing climate and building systems capable of coping with actual or expected climate to reduce harm and take advantage of

beneficial opportunities.¹ Adaptation is critical for equity and climate justice. While mitigation is essential for climate action, adaptation to climate change is critical for coping with the impacts of climate change. Funds available currently for adaptation are grossly insufficient to meet the demands of building resilience for countries and communities already facing the impacts of climate change-induced disasters. The finance falls short of the estimated USD 212 billion per year by 2030 necessary for developing countries alone.²

OUR POSITION

- Enhance commitment (by 50% to two-thirds) to provide climate finance for adaptation through the existing financial mechanisms like GEF, GCF, and Adaptation Fund.
- Establish transparent, accessible, and accountable mechanisms for transfer of adaptation funds that are additional and distinct from other forms of humanitarian assistance.

MITIGATION

India aims to invest in just energy transition in accordance with sustainable socio-economic development. The [New Delhi Leaders' Declaration](#) of the G20 Summit also emphasizes just transitions relying on low-GHG/low-carbon emissions, and climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable development pathways. It also highlighted support for developing countries in their transition to low-carbon pathways and facilitating low-cost financing for them. An annual investment of USD 4 trillion is required for Low-cost Financing for the Energy transitions as per the report prepared under the Indian Presidency for new and emerging clean and sustainable energy technologies. As part of its commitment to promote clean energy, India has set up the National Clean Energy Fund though there are significant financing gaps that persist.

OUR POSITION

- Annex 1 countries must commit, with benchmarks to a high-ambition implementation plan for the fast deceleration of greenhouse emissions and investments in renewables to adhere to the Paris Agreement commitments of keeping the earth's average temperature below 2°C.

LOSS AND DAMAGE (L&D) FUND

Loss and Damage (L&D) fund should encompass a holistic approach, considering economic and non-economic impacts, establishing clear governance, and funding criteria, emphasizing collaboration and partnerships, ensuring inclusivity through local involvement, and recognizing India's influential role in supporting and facilitating these initiatives.

OUR POSITION

- **Inclusion of non-economic factors:** The L&D fund should address the multifaceted impacts of climate change, going beyond just economic development to include non-

¹ IPCC, 2022: *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability*.

² Climate Policy Initiative, 2023. *Global Landscape of Climate Finance 2023*.

economic factors like ecosystem loss and degradation, biodiversity loss, cultural heritage erosion, and effects on vulnerable groups. The fund should be established as a distinct entity, easily accessible to the most marginalized and affected by climate change, and be in addition to humanitarian assistance and adaptation funds.

- **Adherence to the principle of equity:** Contribution to the L&D fund should adhere to the integrity of the Paris Agreement and the principles of equity and CBDR-RC with Annex 1 countries committing to contribute to the L&D fund.
- **Governance of L&D fund:** The fund should have transparent and clear funding arrangements encompassing the entirety of loss and damage. The funds provided should be as grants, non-debt creating, and ensure predictability and adequacy. Equitable governance recognizing intersectional human rights and prioritizing community involvement in decision-making processes is critical.
- **Partnerships and Focus:** Advocacy for partnerships, collaboration, and coordination, leveraging international mechanisms like the Santiago Network, is essential, with an emphasis on India's role in facilitating these collaborations. The focus should extend beyond immediate relief efforts, emphasizing supplementary and complementary endeavors for rehabilitation and reconstruction.
- **Transparency and Inclusivity:** The set-up of a national platform for the L&D fund can foster a more consultative and transparent process. It should also stress the involvement of local organizations in resource distribution, acknowledging the pivotal role played by local NGOs and community-based organizations in accessing and effectively utilizing the fund.
- **Role and contribution of developing countries:** The role of developing countries such as India is crucial despite potential limitations in direct benefits from L&D. There's a call for India to contribute and exhibit its leadership through technical skills and experience sharing. India can support Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and other developing countries through technical expertise and play a facilitating role in international collaborations and partnerships.

INNOVATIVE CLIMATE FINANCE

Climate finance is a critical priority for COP28. With unmet promises of delivering USD 100 billion and lack of operationalisation or commitments from most developed countries to the Loss and Damages fund, reform of the global financial system is crucial to meet climate action. Innovative climate finance mechanisms are essential to ensure availability of adequate resources to support transition to low-carbon, climate resilient development pathways. Innovative finance strategies that integrate non-economic factors including nature and biodiversity and prioritize easy and direct access for the most vulnerable and affected communities and people is essential.

OUR POSITION

- Developed countries have not fulfilled their 2009 commitment to provide USD 100 billion per annum till 2020 for climate action in developing countries. There is a need for a clear and transparent update on climate finance mobilized so far.
- A high ambition is required for the new financing goal for 2025 and beyond with clarity on the mode of climate finance which should be provided as grants and not as loans or subsidies.

- Enhance commitment (by 50% to two-thirds) to provide climate finance for adaptation through existing financial mechanisms like GEF, GCF, and Adaptation Fund.
- Promote innovative finance mechanisms that bridge the gaps of existing structures like GEF and GCF for climate-affected vulnerable communities to access essential resources.
- The new finance goal must include a clear framework for gender-just processes, benchmarks, and outcomes.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

COP28 will witness the first-ever Health Day and Climate-Health ministerial in collaboration with WHO. Climate change-induced disasters are causing adverse health impacts due to increasingly intense and frequent heatwaves, intense torrential rains breeding disease-carrying mosquitoes, air pollution causing respiratory illnesses and worsening respiratory conditions, etc. The consequences of climate change-induced health disasters are disproportionately borne by the poorest and most vulnerable countries and populations.

OUR POSITION

- Advocacy for improving disease surveillance, strengthened healthcare systems and capacity building of healthcare professionals for climate-related health risks.
- Promote research on climate-health linkages and its impact on vulnerable communities with limited access to essential services.
- Invest and Improve Early Warning Systems for Extreme Weather Events.
- Anticipatory social protection schemes to ensure availability of resources for vulnerable populations to cope with impacts of climate change induced disasters.
- Enhance linkages between health and livelihoods in climate solutions.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR)

India is advantageously placed to share technical expertise based on its experience of successful Disaster Risk Reduction over the past few decades. The [G20 Working Committee on DRR](#) also put forth certain key recommendations on opportunities for Action in the Asia-Pacific region. This includes prioritizing early warning, sharing experiences and technical expertise, and private sector investment for DRR. Investing in Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) and anticipatory social protection are also suggested strategies for improved resilience in the case of frequent and recurring extreme events. Mutual learning on effective preparedness and response from countries like India can be beneficial in coping with increased instances of extreme events.

OUR POSITION

- Prioritize early warning and anticipatory action for disaster preparedness and management.
- Enhance and bolster any existing investments for extreme events, establish early warning systems specifically Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) to reduce mortality.
- Invest in Anticipatory Social Protection schemes prior to extreme events to prevent and mitigate the effects of extreme weather on the food security and nutrition of highly vulnerable people.

- Use the DRR-CCA (climate change adaptation) lens to plan and implement climate solutions.

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRI-BASED LIVELIHOODS

Advocating for food security and sustainable agriculture livelihoods in the context of climate change should emphasize the importance of low carbon footprint agriculture practices and food products, including policy and financial support to millets. It is important to advocate for international cooperation to address climate change impacts on agriculture, including the transfer of technology and knowledge between developed and developing countries South-South cooperation and use of traditional and indigenous knowledge. Initiatives that promote sustainable agricultural practices and food security as integral components of global climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts should be supported.

OUR POSITION

- Advocate for increased public and private investment in agricultural practices that enhance resilience to climate change.
- Targeted support programs including access to climate information, financial resources, and technology for smallholder farmers given their vulnerability to climate change.
- Policy and financial support to enhance production and backward-forward linkages of millet crops.
- Emphasize the importance of sustainable water management practices in agriculture to address changing precipitation patterns and increased water scarcity.
- Integration of climate considerations into national agricultural policies to ensure coherence between climate action and food security objectives. Encourage cross-sectoral collaboration to address the interconnected challenges of climate change, agriculture, and food security.
- Improved market access for smallholder farmers, including fair trade agreements that ensure equitable returns for their produce.

Sphere India is a National Coalition of Humanitarian, Development and Resilience Actors in India. The strategic outreach of 155 full members includes key nodal organizations from UN, INGOs, National NGOs, CSR, Academic Institutions, Sector Networks, Expert Individuals, and State IAGs/Networks. The local outreach is evolving with 805 associate members as Sphere India Locally Empowered Organisations Network (LEON) and 1,80,000 community volunteers (CDRF -Community Disaster Response Force) mapped for varied capacities all over India. Sphere India facilitates multi stakeholder coordination, knowledge & capacity sharing and collaborative advocacy for enhancing accountability to affected and at-risk population.

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