

Since 2001 the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS – prior to 2016 the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit) has been one of the most influential global gatherings on sustainability. Now in its 24th edition, WSDS 2025 comes at a crucial moment: we are just five years from the 2030 deadline for the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), yet only 14% of the 169 targets are on track while 20% are not even tracked. Alarmingly, 14% of targets show regression, including those related to hunger, education, employment, and the environment. At the same time, we are far from securing the urgent climate action needed to keep global warming below 1.5C.

The Summit is hosted by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), whose mission since 1974 has been to advance sustainable solutions for energy, environment, and development, bridging scientific research, grassroots initiatives, policy advice, and business engagement. The Institute has become a leading think tank and applied research centre on sustainability in Asia and globally.

The theme for this year's Summit is Partnerships for Accelerating Sustainable Development and Climate Solutions. The focus is clear: no single government, business, or civil society group can face these challenges alone. WSDS 2025 aims to foster transformational partnerships across governments, business, academia, youth, and grassroots organizations—moving beyond dialogue to decisive, shared action.



Founded: 1974 (Originally as Tata Energy Research Institute)



Mission: To create solutions for energy transitions, climate resillence, natural resource conservation, and sustainable lifestyles



Global Reach: Convenor of the World Sustainabile Development Summit (WSDS) since 2001, drawing leaders from governments, business, and civil society



Impact:

- Advises governments and international bodies on climate and energy policy
- Runs grassroots projects, from off-grid solar electrification in rural india to international (taorations (e.g. Guyana).
- Houses the TERI School of Advanced Studies, a university focused on sustainability education



Legacy: TERI played a central role in global climate diplomacy through Dr. R, K. Pachaurl's leadership of the IPCC, which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize



Anniversary: In 2024, TERI celebrated 50 years of advancing practical, research-based solutions

The Summit draws global thought leaders, heads of government, ministers, industry innovators, and civil society actors from across the world. Key voices include leaders from India, Brazil, and Guyana, each spotlighting how partnerships can drive climate resilience, protect ecosystems, and ensure equity for vulnerable communities.

WSDS 2025 Keynote / Headline Speakers

Name	Title / Role	Key Topic or Role at Summit
Brigadier (Retd) Mark Phillips	Prime Minister of Guyana	Keynote Address; sustainability & climate leadership.
Marina Silva	Minister of Environment & Climate Change, Brazil	Keynote Address; global environment policy & cooperation.
Prof. Jim Skea	Chair, IPCC	Science-leadership address; bridging climate science and policy.
Bhupender Yadav	Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, India	Inaugural Address; India's role & commitments.

Other Notable Speakers

These people also play significant roles in major sessions / panels, adding breadth of perspective: scientists, civil society, finance, diplomacy.

- Prof. Petteri Taalas (Director General, Finnish Meteorological Institute) environment / climate-science perspective.
- Dr Pema Gyamtsho (Director General, ICIMOD) resilience, ecosystems.
- Helen Clarkson (CEO, Climate Group) climate policy & leadership.
- Prof Jeffrey D. Sachs (Columbia University) sustainable development & global policy.
- Dr Soumya Swaminathan (Chairperson, M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation) science, public health and sustainability.

The daily agenda and a full schedule of speakers on each of the days is available in the WSDS Overview Report.

Why HOPE Readers Should Pay Attention

For HOPE Australia Inc. supporters, this is not just another international meeting. It's an urgent reminder that:

- Climate change and biodiversity loss are accelerating, and inaction anywhere affects us all.
- Equity and inclusion must remain at the heart of sustainability efforts.
- The solutions exist, but only bold collaboration will scale them.

As the world looks toward COP30 in Brazil next year, WSDS 2025 will shape the global narrative and set the stage for critical decisions.

Date Claimer

Mark your calendars now: 25–29 September 2025. Whether you follow online or through <u>HOPE's</u> updates, the conversations at this Summit offer a key opportunity to learn and be inspired.

Together, we can turn words into action, and action into a flourishing, sustainable future.

Statistics @WSDS 2025



(Written by Perry Bowe - HOPE researcher Qld)