



Research Unit
 Press Information Bureau
 Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
 Government of India



G20 Series # 19

India's G20 Presidency

1st Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) Meeting (Bengaluru– February 09-11, 2023)

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

March 06, 2023

“Environment and sustainable development have been key focus areas for me all through my 20 years in office, first in Gujarat and now at the national level.”

- [Prime Minister Narendra Modi](#)

The 1st meeting of the Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) marked the beginning of constructive discussions within G20 countries for a sustainable future, led by India's G20 Presidency. The three-day meeting of the ECSWG from February 09-11, 2023 was led by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India.¹

The discussions revolved around the following three key priorities as identified by the G20 Indian Presidency.

Arresting Land Degradation

Accelerating Ecosystem Restoration and
 Enriching Biodiversity

Promoting a Sustainable and Climate Resilient
 Blue Economy and Encouraging Resource
 Efficiency and Circular Economy

¹ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1898304>

Day 1: February 09

The deliberations of the ECSWG under the G20 Sherpa Track commenced with the 1st meeting of the Working Group on February 09 at Bengaluru. Setting the tone for the ECSWG meetings, a discussion was held on how the theme of the India Presidency - Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: One Earth, One Family, One Future,

is championing a fundamental mindset shift from a sense of ownership of natural resources towards trusteeship, sustainable lifestyles, inclusion and universal oneness. The first session of the three-day event concluded on a hopeful note to create a rich dialogue among all the delegates to shape a future where the world lives in harmony with nature.²

Later, a visit to the Bannerghatta National Park and Kalkere Arboretum was accorded to showcase the forest ecosystems of Karnataka, ecosystem restoration and ecotourism models, as well as wildlife protection.



² <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1897620>

Day 2: February 10

The second day started with an inaugural address by Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs and Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Hardeep Puri.

The discussions during the first half of the second day revolved around methods to restore land-based ecosystems affected by anthropogenic causes and enhancement of the Global Biodiversity Framework. In the second half, discussions were held on the creation of circular economies in various sectors, including



steel and bio-waste, and the role of extended producer's responsibility in the creation of a circular economy. The idea of a G20 industry coalition for resource efficiency and the circular economy was also tabled. The sessions saw the enthusiastic participation of delegates from all countries.³

A cultural event was organized in the evening to showcase the rich cultural heritage of Karnataka and provided a unique 'India' experience to the delegates who had arrived from 29 countries.



³ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1898304>

Day 3: February 11

The third and last day commenced with the session focusing on the ‘Sustainable and Climate Resilient Blue Economy’ theme. The Oceans and Blue Economy discussions covered a range of issues, including marine litter, conservation and enhancement of coastal and marine ecosystems, and marine spatial planning, over three meetings and one side event. The focus of discussions was on the problem of marine plastic litter and its adverse impacts.

The Indian Presidency presented the inception report of the technical study on ‘Accelerating the transition to Sustainable & Climate Resilient Blue Economy’ that would cover all G20 countries and provide inputs for the development of high-level principles on ‘Sustainable and Climate Resilient Blue Economy’. It was also mentioned that Indian



Presidency will publish the Fifth Report on actions against marine plastic litter under the G20 Framework for Marine Plastic Litter, in collaboration with Japan.

Concluding session – Forward agenda

Towards the concluding session, it was highlighted that the Indian Presidency plans to convene an Ocean 20 dialogue to facilitate detailed discussion on important aspects of the Blue Economy. The Indian Presidency also announced a coordinated beach cleaning event to be conducted on May 21, 2023, on the sidelines of the Ocean 20 dialogue to emphasize the importance of action on marine litter and community participation.

The importance of LiFE (Lifestyles for Environment) Principles was highlighted, as behaviour changes to encourage the use of sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics, prevention of littering, etc. would contribute to clean and healthy oceans.

The 1st G20 ECSWG meeting concluded in Bengaluru on a positive note. All the G20 countries expressed interest and commitment to constructively work towards the objective of the three priority areas of Arresting Land Degradation, Accelerating Ecosystem Restoration and Enriching Biodiversity; Promoting a Sustainable and Climate Resilient Blue Economy and Encouraging Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy.⁴

⁴ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1898304>



The G20 delegates at the ECSWG meeting in Bengaluru also enjoyed the savouries, especially prepared from millets, an endeavour towards 2023 being observed as the International Year of Millets.⁵

References:

- PIB Press Release on [First Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group \(ECSWG\) meeting concludes](#) dated February 11, 2023.
- PIB Press Release on [Shri Hardeep Singh Puri addresses the First Environment Climate Sustainability Working Group \(ECSWG\) meeting](#) dated February 10, 2023.
- PIB Press Release on [India is uniquely positioned to champion the aspirations of the Global South](#) dated February 10, 2023.
- PIB Press Release on [Deliberations of the First Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group \(ECSWG\) commenced](#) dated February 09, 2023.
- PIB Press Release on [First G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group Meet to begin in Bengaluru](#) dated February 08, 2023.
- PIB Press Release on [Shri Bhupender Yadav briefs the media on the First Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group Meeting](#) dated February 06, 2023.
- PIB Press Release on [G20's First Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group \(ECSWG\) Meeting to be held from February 09-11, 2023 at Bengaluru](#) dated January 21, 2023.
- <https://twitter.com/moefcc/status/1623834132953309185?s=20>
- <https://twitter.com/moefcc/status/1624148970552578048?s=20>
- <https://twitter.com/moefcc/status/1624297542044491777?s=20>
- <https://twitter.com/moefcc/status/1623558361626341376?s=20>

AG/HP/PK/JA

⁵ <https://twitter.com/moefcc/status/1624285732725719042?s=20>