



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



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### G20 Series #37

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Environment Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) meeting

(Gandhinagar, Gujarat - March 27 - 29, 2023)

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting)

May 02, 2023

*“India is not just taking huge strides in the field of renewable energy, but also guiding other nations of the world. Today's new India is moving ahead with new thinking, new approach.”*

*-[Prime Minister Narendra Modi](#)*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) meeting was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from March 27 – 29, 2023. It was attended by 130 delegates from G20 member countries along with 9 invitee countries and 13 international organizations. The three-day meeting focused on thematic areas like arresting land degradation, accelerating ecosystem restoration & enriching biodiversity; Encouraging resource efficiency and Circular economy, and Promoting a Sustainable and climate-resilient Blue economy. Special presentations on major initiatives like Namami Gange, Climate Resilient Infrastructure, Participatory Ground Water Management, Jal Jeevan Mission, and Swachh Bharat Mission were also made during the meeting.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> ECSWG meeting is a critical step in fostering the efforts of the G20 countries, invitee countries, and international organizations towards a sustainable and resilient future.

### **Day 1: March 27, 2023**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Environment and Climate Sustainability Working group started with a focus on water resource management. Ms. Debashree Mukherjee, Special Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti in her opening address highlighted the fact that management of water resources in a holistic manner is pre-requisite for the development of a nation and consequently water secured world. She emphasized the need for collaboration and knowledge sharing in the field of water resources.



She also pointed out that G20 India Presidency appreciates the valuable work, successful programmes, and innovations in the field of water resources by G20 members, and India is committed to strengthening this cooperation in water resources development and management through sharing of the technical experiences, best practices, usage of state-of-the-art tools and technology and case studies of successful interventions in the water sector for mutual benefits.

Thereafter, G20 members & other participants shared their Best Practices on Water Resources Management with presentations. The following were the major themes of the presentations:

- Integrated & Sustainable Use of Water Resources /Ecosystem Management
- Water body Restoration / River Rejuvenation
- Rainwater Management
- Groundwater Management
- Water Efficiency Approach with Adaptation to Climate Change
- Drought/ Flood Management
- Watershed Management with Focus on Civil Society Participation
- Efficient Water Governance
- Safe Drinking Water and Wastewater Management
- Water supply augmentation
- Participatory Groundwater management practices

During her closing remarks, Ms. Mukherjee emphasized that India always plays an active role in such collaborative scientific endeavours as India believes in the concept of ‘Universal brotherhood & Collective wisdom’, and always contributed to the betterment of humankind and collectively, it will lead to ‘One Earth, One Family, One Future’.

The side event held on Day 1 focused on global perspectives and best practices on universalisation for participatory groundwater management, climate-resilient water infrastructure, and water use efficiency.



The session was followed by a visit to the exhibition stalls put up by the organizations under the Ministry of Jal Shakti showcasing various themes & sharing the quality work done under Atal Jal, Swachh Bharat Mission, Jal Jeevan Mission, Namami Gange, Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Nation Water Mission, etc.

### **Day 2: March 28, 2023**

The second day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) meeting commenced with the opening remarks by G20 Co-chair for India, Ms. Richa Sharma, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

The inaugural session was followed by the **first technical session of the day on Water Resource Management**. The presentations made during the session highlighted the need for efficient management of water resources to achieve the overarching UN Sustainable Development Goals and also addressed global water challenges such as climate change, population growth, and increasing water demand.

Thematic presentations were also made on Namami Gange - an integrated Conservation Mission to accomplish effective abatement of pollution, conservation, and rejuvenation of Ganga, climate-resilient infrastructure – water storage/ Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project (DRIP), participatory groundwater management, Jal Jeevan mission – a project to provide safe and adequate drinking water by 2024 to all households in rural India, and Swachh Bharat - the project on Universalization of Water Sanitation & Hygiene and its effects.

These presentations further corroborated the ever-demanding need for such initiatives to address the depleting level of groundwater at an alarming rate. The G20 countries expressed their concerns on the subject; the following are some of the key suggestions from the participants:



1. Jal Jeevan Mission & other Indian interventions were highly appreciated.
2. The role of cooperation at all possible levels is key to effective Water Resource Management (WRM).
3. Common understanding of water and groundwater and integrating principles of sustainable development in the implementation of WRM is critical.
4. Indonesia will be hosting World Water Forum in 2024 and the importance of the same for water cooperation was highlighted.
5. An integrated approach is essential for recognizing the key role of water resource conservation and sustainable development, to ensure adequate water allocation both in terms of quality and quantity.
6. Interventions in Monitoring and evaluation of the water ecosystem are important.
7. Strong legal and policy instruments are necessary for the regulation and implementation of strategies in WRM.
8. Technology, cooperation, and joint research are crucial for successful WRM.
9. Safeguard measures for vital ecosystems may be promoted.
10. The role of communities in implementing WRM measures like Human right to water, sound sanitation, access to clean water, green recovery plans covering water as a resource, etc is crucial.
11. Sustainable national water strategy needs to be developed.

The focus of the **second technical session was on land restoration and sharing of best practices** on this topic.

The second half of the day began with a **technical session on Encouraging Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy**, with presentations and the release of draft G20 documents on the four sub-themes identified under the Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy priority, namely: G20 Knowledge Exchanges in Circular Economy in Steel Sector, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Circular Economy and Circular Bio-economy, and the proposed G20 Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Industry Coalition.



The day concluded with Media Interaction on an upbeat note to use the G20 as a forum to further the cause of tangible outcomes that can be carried forward by future Presidencies for the sustainable use of resources and the overall benefit of the Environment.

### **Day 3: March 29, 2023**

The final day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ECSWG meeting had a special address by Ms. Darshana Vikram Jardosh, Union Minister of State for Railways and Textiles, Government of India. She acknowledged the efforts of the G20 countries, with a comprehensive approach to address climate change.



Following this was the technical session which witnessed engaging discussions to outline ways of effectively accelerating the transition to a sustainable and climate-resilient Blue Economy. Experts from organisations like the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) made presentations emphasising the need for protecting and conserving coastal and marine ecosystems for a healthy ocean, ecosystem conservation from Blue Carbon initiative, mainstreaming Marine Spatial planning for a sustainable Blue Economy and MSP Global Initiative. The delegates deliberated on the G20 High-Level Principles for a Sustainable and Climate Resilient Blue Economy that was presented during the technical session. The technical study on Accelerating the Transition to a Sustainable and Climate Resilient Blue Economy was also discussed among the participating delegates during the session.

The concluding technical session of the day was on the alignment of the Global Biodiversity Framework 2022 and its implementation modalities under the priority of biodiversity, land degradation, and ecosystem restoration. The focus of the session on Biodiversity was to accelerate the action on implementing the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework across G20 countries and concluded by posing three key questions for deliberation on the topic.

### **A Glimpse of the Excursions on the sidelines of G20**

1. Delegates visited the Dandi Kutir, which is the world's largest and only Museum built on one man's story - Mahatma Gandhi, Father of the Nation. The delegates were delighted with a tour of the experiential museum.
2. A [visit to the historic Adalaj Ni Vav, spectacular Sabarmati Riverfront & Sabarmati Siphon, and Narmada Main Canal](#) was also organised for the delegates.



## **References:**

[G20's Second Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group \(ECSWG\) Meeting to be Held in Gandhinagar from March 27-29, 2023](#)

[Second Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group meeting is to begin tomorrow at Gandhinagar](#)

[G20 Delegates in Second Environment Climate Sustainability Working Group \(ECSWG\) meeting at Gandhinagar discuss key issues pertaining to identified priorities with emphasis on developing inclusive, action-oriented outcomes](#)

[Second Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group \(ECSWG\) meeting concludes in Gandhinagar with G20 member countries reaffirming their commitment towards combatting environment and climate crisis with a renewed sense of urgency](#)

## **Twitter Links:**

[Successfully drawing the curtains on the 2<sup>nd</sup> ECSWG meeting](#)

[Agenda for Day 1](#)

[Agenda for Day 2](#)

[Agenda for Day 3](#)

[Delegates visited the stalls which displayed the exhibits, informative posters, crafts & innovations of India](#)

## **Video Link:**

[Media Briefing on 2nd Environment And Climate Working Group Meeting](#)

**NR/HP/RK/KG**