Background Note: Industrial Decarbonisation Roundtable

Date: 12/02/2025
Location: Eros Hotel, Royal Ballroom Part 1, New Delhi
Format: Closed-Door Roundtable (Chatham House Rules)

Context and Rationale

The industrial sector accounts for a significant share of global greenhouse gas emissions, with steel, cement, and aluminium being among the most carbon-intensive industries. As India progresses towards its climate goals, including achieving net-zero by 2070, industrial decarbonisation has emerged as a critical challenge and opportunity. This roundtable aims to foster collaboration among policymakers, industry leaders, and sustainability advocates to identify pathways for reducing emissions while ensuring economic growth and global competitiveness.

Objective

The roundtable seeks to provide a platform for candid discussions under the Chatham House Rule, enabling participants to explore practical, scalable, and economically viable strategies for decarbonising the steel, cement, and aluminium industries. The session will:

1. Share insights on policy frameworks, technology innovations, and financing mechanisms.
2. Highlight best practices and commitments from global and Indian stakeholders.
3. Facilitate dialogue to align industry and policy actions with India's climate goals.

Participants

The roundtable brings together key stakeholders, including:

- **Government of India**: Offering policy insights and guidance on India's industrial decarbonisation strategies.
- **Steel Companies**: Sharing sector-specific challenges and opportunities for emission reductions.
- **Signatories of WRI India's Business Charter**: Demonstrating leadership in sustainability initiatives.
- **Others**: Experts from academia, NGOs, and technology providers contributing diverse perspectives.

Key Themes for Discussion

1. **Policy and Regulatory Frameworks**:
    - Aligning industrial policies with decarbonisation goals.
    - Incentives for adopting low-carbon technologies.
2. **Technology Innovations**:
    - Carbon capture, utilisation, and storage (CCUS).
    - Transition to alternative fuels and raw materials.
    - Energy efficiency and digital transformation in production processes.
3. **Financing Decarbonisation**:
    - Mobilising green finance and public-private partnerships.
    - De-risking investments in low-carbon technologies.
4. **Global Competitiveness**:
    - Leveraging India's industrial decarbonisation to gain a competitive edge in global markets.

Outcome

The roundtable aims to culminate in actionable insights and recommendations, which could inform sectoral roadmaps, support policy development, and drive collective action. A summary report will synthesise key takeaways and provide direction for continued collaboration among stakeholders.

Note: Discussions will adhere to the Chatham House Rule to encourage openness and transparency, with all remarks being non-attributable.

We look forward to your valuable contributions to this crucial dialogue.

AGENDA: Industrial Decarbonisation Roundtable

Time	Session	Speakers
09:00 AM – 09:30 AM	**Registration and Networking**	Arrival of participants, Tea & Coffee
09:30 AM – 09:50 AM	**Welcome and Opening Remarks and Publication Launch** **Context:** India's decarbonisation goals and the role of steel, cement, and aluminium sectors	**Opening Remarks: Ashwini Hingne,** WRI India **Keynote Address: Ms. Ruchika Drall**, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) **Special Address: Dr. Alexander Fisher,** Director Climate Change, GIZ India
Steel Sector Focus		
09:50 AM – 10:15 AM	**Context Setting and presentations – Steel Sector Decarbonisation**	*Using E3ME-FTT to Model Decarbonisation Pathways for Steel in India* - **Shruti Dayal,** WRI India and **Pim Vercoulen,** Cambridge Econometrics *Role of Hydrogen in Industrial Decarbonisation* – **Anuraag Nallapaneni,** WRI India *Freight: A low-hanging fruit for logistics decarbonisation* – **Chandana K,** WRI India **Key Insights:** • Sectoral challenges in transitioning to low-carbon production • Modelling technology adoption and emissions reductions
10:15 AM – 11:15 AM	**Roundtable Discussion – Steel Sector Decarbonisation**	**Discussion Points: Subrata Chakrabarty,** WRI India (Facilitator) • Technology transition in the steel sector • Material efficiency and future of scrap • Policy mechanisms for low-carbon investment • CBAM's impact on the steel sector • Financing for decarbonisation and feasibility of emerging technologies • Employment and economic impacts of industrial decarbonisation **Panellists:** Representatives from Steel Companies, NITI Aayog*, Sustainability Experts, Industrial Decarbonisation Specialists (WRI India), Prabodha Acharya

		(JSW Steel), Kapil Narula (Climate Champions), Prosanto Pal (TERI), Shreekant Gupta (DSE)
11:15 AM – 11:30 AM	***Tea/Coffee Break***	
Cement Sector Focus		
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	**Context Setting and presentations – Cement Sector Decarbonisation**	*Insights from the Energy Policy Simulator – Decarbonisation Strategies for Cement in India* **Speakers: Varun Agarwal,** WRI India and **Gowthami T S,** WRI India
		Key Insights: Opportunities for energy efficiency and fuel substitution Emissions reductions through clinker substitution and CCUS technologies
		Freight: A low-hanging fruit for logistics decarbonisation – **Chandana K,** WRI India
12:00 PM – 01:00 PM	**Roundtable Discussion – Cement Sector Decarbonisation**	**Discussion Points: Varun Agarwal,** WRI India (Facilitator) • Challenges in adopting low-carbon cement production technologies • Policy incentives for waste heat recovery and alternative fuels • Financing and feasibility of new technologies • Employment and economic impacts of industrial decarbonisation
		Panellists: Cement Company Representative, CII/FICCI Representative, Technology Provider
01:00 PM – 02:00 PM	***Networking Lunch***	
Aluminium Sector Focus		
02:00 PM – 02:30 PM	**Context Setting and presentations – Aluminium Sector Decarbonisation**	*Exploring Pathways for Decarbonising Aluminium Production in India* **Speaker: Ankit Pandey,** WRI India
		Key Insights: • Renewable energy transition in aluminium production • Emissions reductions through recycling, energy & material efficiency
		Freight: A low-hanging fruit for logistics decarbonisation – **Chandana K,** WRI India
02:30 PM – 03:30 PM		**Discussion Points: Deepak Sriram Krishnan,** WRI India (Facilitator)

	Roundtable Discussion – Aluminium Sector Decarbonisation	• Emissions reduction in alumina refining and smelting • Circular economy models for aluminium recycling • Role of global value chains in decarbonisation • CBAM's impact on the aluminium sector • Financing for decarbonisation and feasibility of new technologies • Employment and economic impacts of industrial decarbonisation
		Panellists: Aluminium Industry Representative, Policy Expert, NITI Aayog* Representative, Seema Arora (CII), Saon Ray (ICRIER), Payoj Gupta (Xynteo)
03:30 PM – 04:30 PM	**Concluding Remarks followed by Tea**	**Deepak Sriram Krishnan,** WRI India