



## **RELEASE OF STRATEGY PAPER ON RESOURCE EFFICIENCY**

**30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2017**

**DESIRE HALL, HOTEL LE MÉRIDIEN, NEW DELHI**

### **PROCEEDINGS**

#### **Background**

India's large population, rapid urbanisation and expanding industrial production have led to exploitation of available limited natural resources with concerns regarding resource depletion and future availability becoming more pronounced. Ensuring resource security requires an integrated, concerted and collaborative approach to fulfil the needs of a vast and growing population. Also, the environmental burdens emanating due to resource extraction, utilization and disposal, including land degradation, biodiversity loss, as well as air and water pollution remain of great concern. Enhancing resource efficiency (RE) and promoting the use of secondary raw materials (SRM) is a pertinent strategy to address these challenges. RE & SRM has the potential to reduce the need for primary resources.

Considering the need, and in accordance with the commitment of Government of India NITI Aayog along with the EU Delegation to India has rolled out the Strategy on Resource Efficiency which includes an action plan for promoting resource efficiency in India.

#### **Discussion**

The workshop on Release of Strategy Paper on Resource Efficiency along with Action Plan was chaired by Shri Ratan P. Watal, Principal Adviser, NITI Aayog and the welcome remarks were presented by Shri. B.N. Satpathy, Sr. Consultant, MeitY. Mr. Satpathy informed that the process of making RE Strategy Document was initiated in the month of July 2017 and formal release is now taking place on November 30, 2017 after stakeholder meeting held on July 21, 2017 and comments received from public. These inputs were incorporated after due consideration.

Shri Jigmet Takpa, Joint Secretary (International Cooperation & Sustainable Development), Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change gave opening remarks and mentioned that the Strategy on Resource Efficiency has adapted the recommendations from the Indo-German bilateral project on Fostering Resource Efficiency. He stated that India is facing highest resource extraction pressure in the world and is the third largest material consumer in the world. There is a global commitment of achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) agenda and it can be achieved through RE. He stressed that India needs to reverse the trend of demand of raw materials through material lifecycle analysis and management. He expressed that circular economy (CE) approach is in the best interest of the Nation. He emphasized that Resource Efficiency is the key element to ensure sustainable production and consumption pattern for sustainable development. He also stated that there is a need for market transformation, and programmes & policies of GOI like Make in India, PAT scheme, GRIHA Rating system need to integrate RE and CE. Therefore, the implementation of RE Strategy can be a game changer in achieving SDGs. He added that taking cognisance of the potential of RE, GOI in 2015 launched the Indian Resource Panel (InRP), making

India to have such a panel at the national level. InRP drafted recommendations for policy makers for an Indian Resource Efficiency Programme (IREP). These recommendations have set the guiding framework for RE agenda in the country.

For future work, he suggested that along with life-cycle approach, RE should also more strongly integrate the waste recovery. At MoEFCC, to carry forward the work an RE Cell will be launched that will work with academia, relevant ministries, InRP, industry and other institutions to support in establishing RE agenda in the country along with supporting the implementation of the RE Strategy. .

Dr. Tishyarakshit Chatterjee, Director, IIPA and member of Indian Resource Panel congratulated the concerned team for producing the strategy document on resource efficiency. He thanked European Union delegation, MOEFCC, CPCB, DA, TERI, Adelphi and all other associated who have provided technical inputs for the outcome document. He said that RE Strategy is a first policy on enhancing resource productivity, and marks the end of a long beginning on the work of RE. He added that we are not considering biotic resources initially, we are dealing with a huge chunk of informal employment and about 15% of India's GDP in the automobile and construction

sectors. To address this the task force under the core action agenda will need to identify the niche technologies and models in order to form a platform for communicating with informal metal extractors and suppliers to train and wean them away from a technology deficient and ineffective methods of recovery to a more skilled labour force. Furthermore, he added for the RE & SRM policy, an urgent step is needed in the direction of sustainable public procurement (SPP). It will be single most important driver of RE and SRM at the nascent stage as government is a big procurer of vehicles and automotive components besides being a large builder of housing and infrastructure.

Another activity component for Task Force is to delineate activity content for the stated milestones in the Action Plan including recommending a Material Flow Analysis (MFA) formula for assessing material use at the regional, state and lower levels for the auto and construction sector incorporating validation of data, effective promotional strategy, regulatory measures and effective monitoring at Centre and State levels. He also expressed that as per suggestions of InRP, setting up of Bureau of Resource Efficiency (BRE) should be worked out. Non-Bank and Financial Institutes must recognize the India's urgent need for

funds in the areas like sand mining, brick use, etc.' The other sectors like agriculture can be incorporated later for resource efficiency programme, he added.

Mr. Sachin Joshi, Chief Operating Officer, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development, said that RE is about cost-competitiveness, therefore it is extremely important to make a strong business case for RE so that industry can take it forward. He emphasized that policy directions, standards, rules, guidelines, procedures, etc. on resource efficiency are required for businesses in India to run effectively and resource efficiently. He added RE Strategy document has clear intent, is focussed with specific scope and timelines – the key success factors that also resonate well with the industry. He highlighted that Sustainable Public procurement (SPP) is again an important key to move in the direction of Resource Efficiency. The sudden growth of LEDs, green buildings and expected growth of e-vehicles in market are the set examples on how prices can come down for sustainable products when procured by public institutions making them at par with substitute products. Furthermore, he added that the sectoral action plan along with a taxation regime with preferential taxation that GST allows will

also be important drivers. He concluded that the standards in aspect of green technologies need to be revisited and identified for a holistic approach towards RE.

Ms. Henriette Faergemann, Counsellor, Environment, Energy & Climate Change, European Union Delegation to India, spoke about joint efforts put by European Union (EU) and NITI Aayog for developing the strategy document. She also informed about Climate Change mitigation actions of EU highlighting that in recent times, 23% GHG emissions reduced in spite of increase in GDP, so there is a case example for decoupling the resource consumption with growth. She mentioned that there is a need for circular approach for resource consumption. Other stakeholders like MEITY, Club of Rome and other Ministries etc. can also play a vital role in implementation of strategy document in India. She stressed that at EU-India Summit in October and also at G20, RE agenda has emerged as a key priority for EU-India cooperation with an agreement to prioritise for exchange of knowledge. . Under the big umbrella of RE, EU is also working on Energy Efficient Buildings, Solar program, etc. She shared that around 2 billion Euros have been spent on RE programme by European Investment Bank. Lastly, she added that Joint Work Programme (JWP) can be agreed between NITI Aayog, MoEFCC and EU for implementation of the RE Strategy.

Shri Ratan P. Watal, Principal Adviser, NITI Aayog gave the key note address highlighting the work carried towards the Strategy Document on Resource Efficiency. He said that Post 2015 SDG goals have clearly articulated the goal of Resource Efficiency. GOI is committed to the goal RE and it has been the core framework of planning since 11th FYP. In NITI Aayog too this sustainability is a major thrust area, and as such it is the coordinating agency for India to achieve its commitment of SDGs. He added that Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy are important goals and central principles for achieving sustainable development. Resource efficiency very simply put is making more with less materials. The economic rationale for this goes beyond environment and is articulated in the concept of circular economy wherein the 'take-make-dispose' logic of linear economy is replaced by 'cradle-to-cradle' approach of CE that keeps the products at their highest value and utility at all times, and on all scales.

He added that around the world more research is being conducted to devise solution and many economies are taking steps in the directions. For instance, Japan is already working out the principle of '3 Rs' since long and Germany too has

RE program, China has adopted circular economy principle in its economy, Ontario and Canada are catching up the waste recovery methods, he added. He urged for combined efforts by Government, Corporates, Businesses, Research Institutions, Academia, Communities, etc. for moving ahead towards the path of RE in India. He quoted that Shri Narendra Modi, Honourable Prime Minister of India calls the circular economy as 'Waste to Wealth' and mentioned that NITI Aayog is deeply committed towards working for RE. He hailed the efforts and contributions of Dr. Tishyarakshit Chatterjee (member of InRP) and mentioned that the journey of InRP should continue. He informed about the various initiatives towards RE such as Indo- German bilateral cooperation with the MoEFCC, policy and tools promoting green mining practices and waste recycling & other solutions. . Highlighting some key elements of the resource efficiency strategy, he said that it aims at mainstreaming RE strategy based on life-cycle approach targeting reduced abiotic resource use, especially of high priority materials in selected sectors and to accomplish the same with a short term and medium term action plan (Duration is December 2017 – July 2020). The key interventions of the RE strategy is to develop a baseline data collection

framework for the federal as well state level, development of indicator monitoring framework, capacity development and awareness raising of the relevant stakeholders. In the medium term, the policies and tools promoting RE like recycling standards, voluntary labelling or standards promoting SRM utilization, promoting green mining practices, technological facilities for material rich wastes like e-waste, C&D and End of Life Vehicles (ELVs), Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP), economic instruments and development of sustainable industrial areas etc. is proposed. In terms of implementation of the RE strategy cooperation between Niti Aayog, MoEFCC and EU – REI project is planned which will provide a multi-stakeholder engagement strategy. These elements of the RE strategy also promote India's implementation of the SDGs by enhancing resource productivity and minimizing environmental impacts. Furthermore, with this strategy, India can also utilise the growing international momentum, including that the G20 Resource Efficiency dialogue. The partnerships with G20 countries can bolster the efforts on capacity building and exchanging best practices on the toolkits to enhance competitiveness of Indian industry with an eye on the transition from linear to circular economy. Also, as the first country with a national

panel, we seek for active engagement of the Indian Resource Panel with the International Resource Panel to enhance cooperation and knowledge exchange. He outlined the three-take away messages from the panel. Firstly, he said that there is a suggestion for working towards a Bureau of Resource Efficiency (BRE) on the lines similar to the successful case of Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), secondly, India's G20 engagement need to be disseminated. RE Strategy work is to be initially picked up for the automotive sector and management of end-of-life vehicles is a first step in this direction.

Shri. B.N. Satpathy, Sr. Consultant, MeitY and Dr. Rachna Arora, Deputy Team Leader & Coordinator, European Union – Resource Efficiency Initiative (EU – REI), India, presented the strategy document highlighting short & medium terms core action plans in the direction of working for Resource Efficiency in India.

The Strategy on Resource Efficiency was launched by Shri. Ratan P. Watal, Shri Jigmet Takpa, Ms. Henriette Faergemann and Dr. Tishyarakshit Chatterjee.



For concluding remarks, Ms. Henriette Faergemann, Counsellor, Environment, Energy & Climate Change, European Union Delegation to India thanked to all the dignitaries, organizers and participants of the workshop for finalizing the strategy document a remarkable success. She stressed that India is one of the biggest emerging economies and hence playing active role in G20. Therefore, RE is an important aspect for Indian economy. Key ministries have agreed to initiate joint work programme with India and EU will continue to provide support in this direction. The implementation part would be of immense importance after the release of strategy document on RE. She finally thanked the consortium partners under EU-REI and the esteemed audience.

## Press Coverage Report (December 1, 2017)

- PIB - NITI Aayog and EU Delegation to India release the First ever Resource Efficiency (RE) Strategy for India  
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx>
- NITI Aayog and EU Delegation to India release the Strategy on Resource Efficiency (RE)  
[https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/india/36545/niti-aayog-and-eu-delegation-india-release-strategy-resource-efficiency-re\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/india/36545/niti-aayog-and-eu-delegation-india-release-strategy-resource-efficiency-re_en)
- Release of Strategy Paper On Resource Efficiency prepared by NITI Aayog and EU Delegation to India  
[https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/india/36401/strengthening-eu-india-ties-resource-efficiency\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/india/36401/strengthening-eu-india-ties-resource-efficiency_en)
- **ECONOMIC TIMES** NITI Aayog-European Union panel bats for efficient use of resources  
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/niti-aayog-european-union-panel-bats-for-efficient-use-of-resources/1/1101410.html>
- **Business Standard** - NITI Aayog-European Union panel bats for efficient use of resources. The strategy paper was unveiled by principal adviser to NITI Aayog Ratan Watal  
[http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/niti-aayog-european-union-panel-bats-for-efficient-use-of-resources-117120101013\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/niti-aayog-european-union-panel-bats-for-efficient-use-of-resources-117120101013_1.html)
- **DD News** - NITI Aayog & EU Delegation to India release 1st ever Resource Efficiency Strategy for India  
<http://www.ddinews.gov.in/national/niti-aayog-eu-delegation-india-release-1st-ever-resource-efficiency-strategy-india>
- **India Today** - NITI-EU panel bats for efficient use of resources  
<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/niti-eu-panel-bats-for-efficient-use-of-resources/1/1101410.html>
- Global Business Coalition - NITI Aayog and EU delegation to India release the Strategy on Resource Efficiency

<http://www.radiancemedias.in/newsDetails.php?Id=1765>

- **WEALTH MANAGEMENT -**  
NITI Aayog and EU delegation to India release the Strategy on Resource Efficiency (RE)

[https://wealthmanagement.adityabirlacapital.com/news/economy/NITI-Aayog-and-EU-delegation-to-India-release-the-Strategy-on-Resource-Efficiency-\(RE\)/982415](https://wealthmanagement.adityabirlacapital.com/news/economy/NITI-Aayog-and-EU-delegation-to-India-release-the-Strategy-on-Resource-Efficiency-(RE)/982415)