

LeadIT
Leadership Group for Industry Transition
Briefing Session

Stockholm
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Remarks
Ambassador Tanmaya Lal

State Secretary Daniel Westlen

Excellencies

Diplomats

Mr. Per Andersson & his colleagues at Stockholm Environment Institute

Representatives of LeadIT member Companies

Friends from other stakeholders

A very warm welcome to all of you here this morning.

We are **happy to partner** the **Swedish Ministry of Climate & Enterprise** and **SEI** in hosting this Briefing session on LeadIT initiative.

Many of the countries and companies represented here are **members** of this important global climate action mission. Good to have you here.

We also **welcome Ambassadors** from countries who are **exploring** more about this initiative.

As many of you may know, LeadIT or the Leadership Group for Industry Transition was established **four years ago** in 2019 at the UN Secretary General's Climate Summit in New York.

The aim of the initiative is to facilitate **implementation of real climate action**. To **Walk the Talk**.

LeadIT supports **decarbonization of heavy industrial processes** to help achieve the **global Net Zero goals**.

Governments of **Sweden** and **India** alongwith the **World Economic Forum** had facilitated the creation of this grouping of countries and companies, supported by **SEI**.

The group started with **23** members comprising **11** countries and **12** companies.

Despite Covid intervening immediately thereafter, the **group's work** has continued to attract attention and its membership has grown to **nearly 40** to now include **18** countries and **20** companies. Latest entrants include **SaltX** from Sweden and **Tata Motors** from India.

Following the ongoing **success** of the first phase, the **second phase** or LeadIT2.0 for the next three years was launched recently at COP 28 in Dubai by the Prime Ministers Modi and Ulf Kristersson.

Industrial processes are estimated to contribute a large percentage of carbon emissions and **last four years** have seen a significant stepping up of global efforts towards industrial transition.

Innovative engineering solutions are being explored and tested to reduce carbon emissions by switching to **renewable energy** and **electrification** processes in industries like **steel** and **cement** and pulp and paper, among others.

The challenge of keeping the additional costs down to retain competitiveness remains huge. Various avenues including **policy** interventions, **leveraging scale** and other solutions are being actively explored.

It is in this context that the work of LeadIT, for instance on creating a **Green Steel Tracker** and a **Green Cement Technology Tracker**, is important.

Global warming is a **global phenomenon** and, therefore, a **collective challenge**.

The **unique nature of the problem** is that it **cannot be managed without global collaboration**.

If we look at **industry**, it is **deeply interconnected** through **global supply chains** of **raw materials, technology, markets, talent, investment and impact of carbon emissions**.

Against this backdrop, it is **good to see that in LeadIT, countries from different geographies, population sizes, levels of development, needs, energy mix, technology and financial strength** are coming together with **companies of various sizes in different industries** to work towards a **common goal**. Facilitated by research institutions and other entities.

Sweden is an engineering nation. A **pioneer** for many technologies. And Sweden continues to lead today on **innovation** and efforts towards **cleaner technologies and broader sustainability**.

The **scale and speed of the ongoing transformation in India** is an important component of the **global success on climate action**. It also provides huge **business opportunities** and **avenues for global economic growth** going forward.

India is a country with **one sixth** of world's population. Its **economy is large** – fifth largest and among the **fastest growing**. However, our current **per capita** income is still a fraction of advanced economies. India perhaps represents the **first instance of an economy of that size that has to achieve rapid growth within a low carbon context**.

Given the serious constraints on our **energy mix** India is making all efforts to **decouple** its **GDP** growth from **energy** consumption and **carbon** emissions.

Sweden and India have a long history of working together on environment and climate action dating back more than five decades to **1972** first UN Conference on Human Environment hosted in Stockholm.

I had the opportunity to attend the **LeadIT Ministerial** held on the sidelines of **Stockholm+50** conference two years ago.

It was **impressive and encouraging** to see the level of political engagement & business participation and also the substance of technical discussions.

Especially from well established multinationals alongwith innovative startups coming up with technical breakthroughs.

The LeadIT Secretariat SEI has also done a great job in these four years by working with partners to come up with a series of technical **expert reports, roadmaps, holding workshops** on different sectors offering a **scale of complexity** in terms of what is required and recommendations on ways forward.

Having worked as a Chemical engineer in cement and oil & gas sectors in India in **1980s**, and later as a **Climate negotiator** in the leadup to **Paris COP**, this is a matter of **special satisfaction** to see **concrete engineering solutions** and **collaborative climate action**.

Climate negotiations sometimes seem **far from real world**. It is a **struggle to keep the spirit of collaboration** alive in those **intense negotiations**.

At the same time, **there have been very successful treaties**. For instance, **Montreal Protocol** that has led to a visible and direct impact on **reversing ozone depletion**. A remarkable feat. Based on **technological solutions and a spirit of accommodation**.

Here may I refer to **some other global climate action initiatives** also where India is actively involved with a large number of partners.

One such coalition is the **International Solar Alliance**. Launched at **2015 Paris COP**. Nearly **120** countries, both **advanced and developing economies** are now members. This alliance focuses on expanding **affordable access to renewable energy** and is doing good work on **scaling up use of solar power** for multiple uses, **lowering costs and driving innovation & investment**.

One more such initiative focusing on **energy** is the **Global Biofuel Alliance** launched last year. More than **20** countries are among its members.

Another multi-stakeholder partnership is the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure CDRI**. More active in the adaptation sphere. **40** countries are among the various stakeholders that have joined.

LeadIT addresses the difficult issue of mitigation focusing on industrial transition.

All these global initiatives strengthen the **spirit of SDG17** that stresses the value of **constructive partnerships in achieving a more sustainable collective future.**

LeadIT is a good example of collaboration for our low carbon future.

The active engagement of **private sector, many of them global players** in LeadIT is a **signal** of the seriousness of real players. It **provides hope** in an otherwise challenging context.

We are confident that **LeadIT will continue to bring value to climate action efforts** by facilitating a platform for **scaling up industrial transition** not only by advocacy but by **technology co-development and leveraging greater investment** by its membership in such efforts.

Once again, may I thank all of you for joining us this morning.

May I now invite State Secretary Westlen to address us.

Thank You.