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### **DAY-1: Special Thematic Session 3**

September 19, 2023 (Tuesday); Time: 14:00-15:30 hrs (GMT +5:30)

***Theme: Integrating Climate Change in Education Systems***

Venue: India Habitat Centre, Jacranda 1

#### **Background**

Climate change is recognized as a critical global and national challenge by the Government of India. To address this challenge, various initiatives at both the central and state levels are contributing to collective efforts against climate change and the promotion of sustainable practices across different sectors. There is a growing need also for locally-driven actions that involve local stakeholders, authorities, governments, and communities. One effective approach to engage all stakeholders and communities in understanding and taking right decisions and climate actions is through promoting education on climate change, following the age-old environmental education principle of "catch them young".

Climate Change Education is gaining global recognition as an essential tool to facilitate locally-driven climate actions and empower the younger generation to effectively address the looming climate crisis. Educating school children about climate change is a crucial component of fostering such local initiatives by imparting knowledge, skills, and capacities.

India's new National Education Policy (NEP) for 2020 underscores the incorporation of climate change as a primary focus within environmental education. It also rightly emphasizes experiential learning, multidisciplinary education, and the promotion of critical thinking to address the challenges of our evolving world. Since environmental education is a mandatory subject in India's formal education system, integrating climate change education into it could significantly contribute to this objective (CEE, 2023).

Education on climate change needs to be integrated in various aspects of education systems – in curriculum, co-curricular activities, school governance, operations and facilities, teachers' training, teaching resources, larger school community and local community and the overall education systems' capacity. The Greening Education Partnership (GEP), launched at the UN

Transforming Education Summit in September 2022, also highlights the importance of greening education for addressing climate change through its four pillars – Greening Schools,

Greening Curriculum, Greening Teacher Training and Education Systems Capacity and Greening Communities.

This session will try and capture the various initiatives on climate change education in India and globally on aspects like policies, practices and building knowledge, skills and systems capacity as well as challenges and opportunities across the gamut of education landscape, as vast as that of India. This will be deliberated from the perspectives of different stakeholders who will be invited as speakers – policy makers, education sector experts, climate experts, multi-lateral organizations, civil society organizations, teachers and youths.

### **Session Objectives**

- Present various aspects and approaches to integrating climate change education in educational systems – curriculum, schools, teacher training, education system's capacity (teaching aids, resources) and taking climate education and action from school to community.
- Share some of the key national, sub-national and local initiatives happening on climate change education (curriculum integration, inside and outside classroom transactions, effective pedagogies, teachers training, programmatic implementation of such initiatives and schemes engaging students, teachers, whole schools and community).
- Discuss the opportunities and challenges of climate change education and recommendations of the UNESCO State of the Education Report for India 2023 on Education to Address Climate Change.
- Discuss the Greening Education Partnership framework and explore synergies for taking it forward in India

### **Outcomes**

- Understanding of climate change education integration approaches including key Policies level initiatives
- Familiarity with some of the recent initiatives on climate change education in India lead by various organizations
- Familiarity with the Greening Education Partnership in promoting and scaling up climate change education
- Potential partnerships and collaborations for scaling up climate change education in India

### **Programme Schedule**

The session will be conducted as a Panel Discussion in an interactive manner, where participants will be able to get familiar, learn, question, discuss and reflect on various aspects of climate change education in India through the diverse talks given by the speakers.

The discussions will be moderated by representatives of CEE India and UNESCO New Delhi.

### **Key Speakers**

1. Sh. Kartikeya Sarabhai, Founder and Director, Centre for Environment Education (CEE), India
2. Prof. Sunita Farkya, Head, DESM, NCERT
3. Ms Joyce Poan, Chief of Education, UNESCO, India
4. Dr. Ramachandra Rao Begur, Education Specialist, UNICEF New Delhi
5. Ms. Olivia Copsey, Director of Education, FEE Denmark
6. Sh. Souparno Banerjee, Senior Director, EE, CSE
7. Dr. Santanu Basu, Project Director, HCL Foundation
8. Ms. Heeta Lakhani, Youth Activist and Climate Educator. Green Warriors