



Mercedes-Benz Foundation Ursula Merz



Global Nature Fund
SaciWATERS
SOUTH ASIA CONSORTIUM FOR
INTERDISCIPLINARY WATER RESOURCES STUDIES



Youth Training on Climate Change, Coastal Resilience, and Policy Advocacy

7 August 2024 | 9:30 AM- 3:15 PM IST

Venue: Vestin Park Hotel, #39. Montieth Road, Egmore, Chennai – 600 008

Time	Activity	Details/Speaker
9:30-9:45 AM	Registration	
9:45 - 9:50 AM	Opening Remarks	Dr. Jayati Courey, ED, SaciWATERS
09:50 - 10:20 AM	Climate Champions: Youth & Policy Advocacy “How Youth Can Transform the Future”	Kabindra Sharma, Associate Fellow, SaciWATERS
10:20 - 11:20 AM	Session: Track II Diplomacy in Environmental Dispute: Lessons from Kaveri Water Dispute	Prof. S. Janakarajan, President, SaciWATERS & Former Director, Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS)
11:20 - 11:30 AM	Tea Break	
11:30 - 1:30 PM	Mock Parliament	Conducted & Moderated by Kabindra Sharma
1:30- 2:30 PM	Lunch Break	
2:30 – 2:50 PM	Q&A and Experience Sharing	
2:50-3:00 PM	Certificate Distribution	
3:00 - 3:10 PM	Vote of thanks	Aradhana Amalthe, Research Associate, SaciWATERS

Track II Diplomacy in Environmental Dispute: Lessons from Kaveri Water Dispute

Prof. S. Janakarajan

Environmental disputes, particularly those involving shared water resources, are complex and often contentious. Traditional diplomatic efforts (Track I diplomacy) sometimes face limitations in addressing these conflicts effectively¹. Track II diplomacy, which involves informal and unofficial dialogues among various stakeholders, has shown promise in building trust and fostering cooperation in such disputes. The aim of this diplomatic approach is to reduce or resolve conflicts by decreasing existing tensions, enhancing communication and fostering a better understanding of each other's perspectives². In generic term "Track II" refers to people who become involved "in the middle" of a conflict. They are not disputants, but rather people who try to work with the disputants to resolve the conflict or transform it to make it less destructive³. Sometimes these intermediaries are official or "formal" intermediaries: professional mediators, arbitrators, judges, or other official actors. But often they are informal, or unofficial people who work outside official negotiation, mediation, or "Track I" processes⁴. For e.g. During the Paris Agreement (a global accord adopted in 2015 to combat climate change and limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius), Track II Diplomacy played a crucial

¹ Magalhaes, C. J. (1988). *The pure concept of diplomacy*. New York: Greenwood Press.

² McDonald, J. W., & Bendahmane, D. B. (EDs). (1987). *Conflict resolution: track two diplomacy*. Foreign Service Institute, U.S. Dept. of State: For sale by the Supt. of Docs., U.S. G.P.O.

³ Nan, A.S. (2003). *Track I Diplomacy*. Retrieved July 25, 2024, from http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/track1_diplomacy/

⁴ Ury, W. (1999). *Getting to peace: Transforming conflict at home, at work, and in the world*. New York: Viking Penguin.



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role behind the scene. Civil society, scientists and activists were instrumental in advocating for strong climate action, facilitating dialogues and influencing national commitments.

This talk aims to explore the role of Track II diplomacy in environmental conflicts, using the Kaveri River dispute as a focal case study.

Background: The Kaveri River conflict is a long-standing water dispute between the Indian states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The dispute, which dates back to the 19th century, revolves around the allocation of water from the Kaveri River, which is a crucial source of water for agriculture, drinking and industrial purposes for both states⁵. Despite numerous legal and political interventions, the conflict remains unresolved, highlighting the need for innovative and collaborative approaches.

⁵ Janakrajan, S. (2016, October 12). *The Cauvery Water Dispute*. Economic and Political Weekly. Retrieved July 26, 2024, from <https://www.epw.in/journal/2016/41/commentary/cauvery-water-dispute.html>

Mock Parliament

Enactment of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Management Bill, 2024

The enactment of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Management Bill, 2024 aims to simulate the legislative process, enhance understanding of parliamentary proceedings, and educate youth on the importance of coastal regulation. This mock parliament initiative reflects a growing policy focus on involving young people in civic and political life. Such initiatives are driven by beliefs in their fundamental right to participate and concerns over declining political and civic engagement, particularly among younger generations (Brady, Chaskin & McGregor, 2020). India, being the world's largest democracy with a significant voter base exercising universal franchise, plays a crucial role in strengthening democratic values and the participation of young people in the communities and contexts in which they live. Building their capacity as social actors can support their positive development as individuals, enhance their future role as citizens, and help to ensure better responsiveness to their needs (Flagan, 2013). In this direction, mock parliament sessions are designed to cultivate discipline, tolerance for diverse viewpoints and provide youths with practical insights into parliamentary practices and procedures, leading to the formulation of rules, regulations and bylaws (NYPS, 2024).

Initiatives like this aim to build youth leadership capacity, highlight issues of importance to young people and provide them with experience engaging with democratic processes. A prominent stated concern of many policies is to ensure that the structures and processes are representative of different groups of youth, including vulnerable and marginalized groups and mock parliaments stand at the forefront as a torchbearer (Barrett & Pachi, 2019).

Let us dive deep into the different roles and responsibilities in preparation to conduct a mock parliament in the upcoming national forum.

Roles and Responsibilities

- **Speaker of the House:** Oversees proceedings, maintains order and ensures adherence to parliamentary decorum.
- **Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change:** Presents and advocates for the Bill.
- **Leader of the House/ Prime Minister:** Support the bill and speaks on its merits.

- **Members of Parliament (Treasury):** Engage in debates, mostly supporting the bill and propose amendments if necessary and vote on the Bill.
- **Leader of the Opposition:** Critiques the Bill and offers alternative perspectives and tries to send to standing committee for more discussion with different stakeholders with the aim to come up with strong bill addressing all the concerns.
- **Members of Parliament (Opposition bench):** Engage in debates, propose amendments, put their views and oppose it if they feel that's not in the favour of general public.
- **Standing Committee:** On being referred by the Lok Sabha Reviews the Bill in detail, holds hearings, and provides recommendations.
- **Experts and Stakeholders:** Provide testimony and insights during committee hearings.
- **Media Representatives:** organise media coverage and report on the session.

Youths/Participants needed for Role Playing

Speaker of the House: 1

Prime Minister/Leader of the House: 1

Home Minister: 1

Proposer of the Bill, Minister of the concerned ministry (Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change): 1

Members of Parliament (MPs) of the treasury: 3-5

Leader of the opposition: 1

Members of the Parliament (MPs) of the Opposition: 3-5

Standing Committee Chairperson: 1

Standing Committee Members: 3-5

Environmental Experts: 2

NGO Representatives: 2

Coastal Community Representatives: 2

Media Representatives (optional): 2

Total participants required for the successful conduct of mock parliament: 25-30.

Reference

Brady, B., Chaskin, R. J., & McGregor, C. (2020). Promoting civic and political engagement among marginalized urban youth in three cities: Strategies and challenges. *Children and Youth Services Review, 116*, 105184. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.105184>

Flanagan, C., & Levine, P. (2010). Civic engagement and the transition to adulthood. *Future of Children the Future of Children, 20*(1), 159–179. <https://doi.org/10.1353/foc.0.0043>

Martyn, B., & Dimitra, P. (2019). *Youth civic and political engagement*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429025570>

National Youth Parliament Guidelines. (2024, May 3). nyps.mpa.gov.in/Guidlines.aspx. Retrieved July 7, 2024, from <https://nyps.mpa.gov.in/Guidlines.aspx>