

# PREFACE

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India along with other countries has signed the declaration on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, comprising of seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the Sustainable Development Summit of the United Nations in September 2015. SDGs are comprehensive and focus on five Ps – people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership.

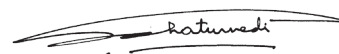
On its current trajectory, India has already set for itself more ambitious targets for implementation of SDGs in several areas of economic progress, inclusion and sustainability.

The role of State governments is central to implementation of these programmes as well as in designing convergence with the SDGs in order to effectively influence all social and economic parameters to achieve the SDGs. Keeping this perspective in view, NITI Aayog has been in the forefront on articulation of India's approach to implement SDGs. In this context, RIS, jointly with NITI Aayog, UN Office, New Delhi; and State Governments has been organising a series of Consultation Meetings to evolve a cohesive policy framework for effective implementation of the SDG agenda. Earlier the Institute has also provided inputs to the Ministry of External Affairs in this regard.

As part of this major work programme on SDGs, RIS has also come out with a set of 19 papers dealing with various aspects of sustainable development goals. These papers have been prepared in collaboration with prominent experts from respective fields. Apart from 17 papers on each goal there are two papers covering the cross cuttings themes of technology and finance. The paper on technology has tried to explore operationalisation of Technology Facilitation Mechanism, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanisms and how to enhance the use of enabling technologies, in particular information and communications technology because these questions need to be addressed. It is also pertinent to underline here that RIS in collaboration with the National Institute of Advanced Studies and Department of Science and Technology, has also been working on the issue of TFM.

Further, financial inclusion is extremely important preposition, particularly for developing countries, which are facing huge inequalities. Recent studies on the rising cost of financial services for poor people across some of the developing economies are extremely worrying.

We strongly believe that the papers presented in this Volume would be found useful by all those who are working for successful implementation of SDGs agenda, particularly from the point of view of India.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sachin Chaturvedi', with a stylized flourish above it.

Sachin Chaturvedi