

## **Background & Context of the Consultation**

Since 2009, every year prior to the annual COP (Conference of the Parties under the auspices of the UNFCCC – U N Framework Convention on Climate Change), INECC – Indian Network on Ethics in Climate Change – has organized an annual consultation on issues relating to communities from different eco-systems. Whilst all members of INECC and those closely related to our engagements during the year come together for this, we keep it open to others involved in similar work, with a similar perspective – *People's Voices in Policy Choices*. To this end, we relate our grassroots experiences with researchers, scientists and analysts, who can articulate policy elements within the perspective of people's voices.

One of the key developments in the last few years has been our engagement with rural energy needs which has led to the development of an integrated perspective on decentralized energy options in the context of climate change.

More recently, INECC has undertaken grassroots studies on vulnerability of communities in different eco-systems – coastal, urban, forest and mountainous (the one in the semi-arid regions is on the anvil). We had an interim presentation at which the coastal study, the first to be completed a year back, was presented at length. The parameters of the other studies were briefly presented – forest, urban and mountainous eco-systems. This is an opportunity to go into greater depth into these which are completed. There are other experiences of relating specifically with climate change in semi-arid regions; we have the opportunity to share these experiences.

In the course of these engagements, we find that the crux of the various issues in the context of Climate Change – mitigation, adaptation, technology and financial transfers - from the ethical perspective is the development needs of the majority of the population, which has not been met through decades of Planning, and is in great jeopardy, given the state of international negotiations and the pressure put by the rich, developed nations. INECC is engaged in an exploration that relates its work on energy and the vulnerability studies to these issues of equity and justice – the well-being of the marginalized majority.

Finally, in the last few years, we are also relating to the COP process, earlier, through the engagement of 2 core members attending these annual Conferences, and recently through a greater participation of a few members and representatives of the communities. (COP – 8 was held in Delhi, and it was a great opportunity to facilitate nearly 100 representatives from communities in these eco-systems to relate to the COP process, and participate in side-events that articulated their voices in policy choices).

Hence, at these pre-COP consultations, we try to articulate an understanding of the current pressing issues in these international negotiations, to enhance the quality of our participation with international civil society in the COP, as well as the side-event that we have been organising at these COPS since 2009.