

Development Alternatives at CANSA (Climate Action Network South Asia) General Assembly and Strategy Meeting



Ms Zeenat Niazi (sitting extreme right) at CANSA General Assembly and Strategy Meeting, Sri Lanka along with Representatives from Member Countries.

Development Alternatives (DA), participated at the CANSA General Assembly and Strategy Meeting organised by CANSA Secretariat along with 8 South Asian countries. All the member organisations, came together in Sri Lanka for strategy framing for next 7 years, which aims at policy influence and bolstering capacity development, set for implementation from 2023 – 2030. Ms Zeenat Niazi, Senior Vice President, and Chief Knowledge Officer of DA Group, moderated the session on Mapping Sectoral Themes for the next 7 years. In the past, she has served as a third time member of the Board of the CANSA network. Ms Tanya Issar, Manager, Policy Studies and Planning for Climate Resilience and Ecosystem Restoration also represented the DA group.

Development Alternatives is one of the founding members of the Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA), with a robust membership of over 300 Civil Society Organisations spanning 8 South Asian countries, diligently focused on matters related to climate change. The network aims to promote government and individual action to limit human induced climate change. It promotes equity and social justice between peoples, sustainable development of all communities, and protection of the global environment. CANSA has been at the forefront of representing the southern perspectives at international climate fora and undertakes inter-governmental, regional, and national actions. CANSA works towards linking policy work, research- and action-based work in the region to address and set workable solutions to the adverse effects of climate change affecting the region.

The workshop extended over a span of three days. On the inaugural day, new member organisations were introduced to the CANSA network, acquainting them with its journey and current status. This was followed by a review of the previously established "Nagarkot Strategy" from Nepal. Furthermore, there was a segment dedicated to reshaping the narrative, emphasising the importance of effective climate change communication during multifaceted crises and the introduction of a metanarrative. The day concluded with an exploration of the roles and challenges faced by Civil Society Organisations in South Asia. There was also a presentation by the Climate Action Network-International (CAN-I) to

ensure that the CANSA strategy was in alignment with CAN-I's vision. Climate Action Network- South East Asia (CAN-SEA) also presented and shared their experiences and strategic alignment with a global climate change agenda.

The subsequent day was predominantly centred on devising a strategic plan for CANSA that would be effective for the upcoming seven years, both at the network and country levels. Through collaborative breakout sessions, each member nation pinpointed sectoral themes, prioritised areas, and pertinent stakeholders. The workshop's finale focused on an in-depth discussion concerning each member country's contributions, an overview of the financial situation, and a presentation on the draft of the Safeguard Policy. After two comprehensive days of deliberation and brainstorming, the "Colombo Strategy" was unveiled, synthesising insights and feedback from all member nation dialogues and showcases with special emphasis on Just and Inclusive Transition. For detailed Colombo Strategy keep following up CANSA website.



All the Participants at the CANSA General Assembly and Strategy Meeting, Sri Lanka

In summary, the three-day workshop was a profound testament to the collective dedication and vision of all member countries within the CANSA network. The rigorous sessions, strategic discussions, and the unveiling of the "Colombo Strategy" underscored the unwavering commitment of civil society organisations from South Asia to advance climate change solutions and sustainability in South Asia. The collective effort promises a future where collaboration and unity will steer the region towards a more resilient and sustainable path.