

DA advocates for gender-inclusive and community-led adaptation at Adaptation Futures 2023



Panel of the Side Event on “Empowering the most vulnerable, women, youth, elderly, indigenous populations, and incorporating local and traditional knowledge” at the Adaptation Futures 2023

CANADA, OCTOBER 06: Development Alternatives shared cues on empowering local communities and incorporating traditional knowledge into adaptation efforts in a side event at the Adaptation Futures 2023, on October 06 in Montreal, Canada.

The Adaptation Futures Conference is an internationally known platform dedicated to bringing together policymakers, practitioners, and researchers from developed and developing countries to exchange knowledge about challenges and opportunities related to climate adaptation and resilience building. The side event was organised by the Adaptation Fund and witnessed the National Implementing Entities (NIEs) from Micronesia, Indonesia and Costa Rica share insights on community involvement in the local adaptation building process under their respective projects. Zeenat Niazi, the Senior Vice President and Chief Knowledge Officer - DA Group joined the panel as a member of the Adaptation Fund CSO Network to contribute from the evaluation of the AF funded projects in India, co-led by the Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSAs), between 2019 and 2021.

Speaking from the findings of the evaluation, Zeenat called for involvement of the community in the adaptation efforts from the get-go. Within this, she highlighted the need for a **gender-inclusive approach in the adaptation projects**, focusing on having women not only as beneficiaries of the intervention, but also enjoying representation in the project designing and auditing stages of the projects.

Adaptation strategies offer tremendous scope for “greener development trajectories and therefore, offer mitigation benefits.” Underpinning this, Zeenat emphasised on the role of **adaptation-mitigation strategies** at community and industrial levels in the fight against climate change.

Lastly, she recognised that building resilience is a slow and steady process and that **Loss and Damage** can offer a solution when running against the clock or until resilience is built.



Zeenat Niazi during her panel discussion