2022 Annual Strategic Meeting of South Asia Network on the Sustainable Development Goals (SANS)

28 July 2022 (Virtual)
2:00-4:00 PM, Indian Standard Time
MS Teams Platform

Background

The South Asia Network on the Sustainable Development Goals (SANS) has been conceptualized to foster greater subregional cooperation by sharing good practices on sustainable development and act as a knowledge-sharing platform among all South Asian stakeholders, including policymakers, subnational and local government representatives, think-tanks, development practitioners, civil society organizations and other stakeholders.

A virtual brainstorming meeting on “How to Make South Asia Network on the Sustainable Development Goals (SANS) More Effective and Sustainable” was convened by the South and South-West Asia Office (SSWA) of UNESCAP on 4 August 2021. The objective of this dialogue was to bring together SANS members to hear their perspectives on strategies for strengthening SANS and making it a more effective and sustainable network for achieving the 2030 Agenda in South Asia. ¹

The success of the SANS will only be achieved if all the network partners proactively get engaged in its initiatives and guide the way forward in this regard. To discuss the upcoming sixth South Asia Forum as well as the next steps to expand the network, a brainstorming session will be held virtually on 28 July 2022, 2:00-4:00 pm IST time using MS Teams.

Objectives

✓ Introduction of the new head of ESCAP SSWA and the two new member organizations
✓ Discussion on the theme of the sixth South Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals and SANS participation
✓ Expanding the SANS membership

¹ For more details, visit SANS website at https://unescap.org/projects/sans .
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda</th>
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| 2:00-2:10 pm | **Agenda 1: Introduction of Ms. Mikiko Tanaka, Head of UNESCAP South and South-West Asia Office**  
By Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP-SSWA  
Remarks by:  
- Ms. Mikiko Tanaka, Head of UNESCAP South and South-West Asia Office (ESCAP-SSWA), New Delhi |
| 2:10-2:20 pm | **Agenda 2: Introduction of the two new member organizations**  
(A brief self-introduction by the heads of each organization - 3 minutes each)  
- Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID)  
- Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS International) |
| 2:20-3:00 pm | **Agenda 3: Discussion on the theme for the sixth South Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals (Islamabad, Pakistan, 4-6 December 2022)**  
The sixth South Asia Forum on SDGs will be organized in partnership with SDPI and Government of Pakistan in Islamabad, Pakistan. There will also be policy dialogue on a contextual topic by SANS members during the Sustainable Development Conference by SDPI. The meeting will be held in hybrid mode. ESCAP will invite government nominees, SANS members, experts, and CSOs.  
The Forum will concentrate on the following SDG goals (as per HLPF 2023 theme):  
- SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation  
- SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy  
- SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure  
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities  
- SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals  
These goals will be discussed in break-out sessions. This meeting seeks input/comments of SANS members on doing a subregional study on each of the theme. One SANS member can take a lead on one theme and prepare the report so that it can be presented in the Forum meeting.  
The tentative timelines can be:  
Submission of first draft – 15 September 2022  
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
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<tr>
<td>3:00-3:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Agenda 4: Expanding the SANS membership</strong></td>
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<td>• Possible new organizations to join SANS for the current countries</td>
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<td>• Discussion on including organizations from Iran and Turkey</td>
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<td>3:30-3:45 pm</td>
<td><strong>Agenda 5: Any other matter to be raised by members</strong></td>
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<td>3:45-4:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Closing remarks and way forward</strong></td>
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<td>• <strong>Ms. Mikiko Tanaka</strong>, Head of UNESCAP South and South-West Asia Office (ESCAP-SSWA), New Delhi</td>
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