

Collaborations and Partnerships for Development and Equitable Climate Change Mitigation Policy and Initiatives

Effective action towards development and climate change mitigation and adaptation hinges upon collaborative efforts and partnerships across issue areas, interest groups, and geographic and socio-economic boundaries. Thus it is important in the current stage to clarify and establish the stake of all people and sectors in climate change mitigation and adaptation, and in the pursuit of development.

A collaborative and partnership based approach can synergise efforts to realign different interests and help secure space for Southern perspectives with respect to policy and initiatives. Collaborations and partnerships also enable the effective leveraging of opportunities for advocacy and action. Partnerships have proved successful for creating information and knowledge networks as well.

Climate change is an issue of global concern, engaging actors across science, politics and the grassroots. The topic cuts across interest groups and issues, proving the inadequacy of restrictive responses and highlighting the need to break out of silos. Thus there is a need for strategic alliances across the private sector, civil society, government and with different actors at the local, national, regional and international levels. Extensive partnership network can help to push the climate change and climate justice agenda onto relevant regional and global platforms.

South Asia is home to a variety of collaborations and partnership models that are providing the framework and implementation mechanisms for a range of development initiatives. These collaborations and partnerships can bring together sectors of knowledge, policy, technology, aid and finance, development, and also engage with grassroots communities as appropriate.

Partnership models that have evolved from public-private partnerships to multi-stakeholder partnerships can engage in concerted effort towards identified common goals. There is now a perceived need for a

South Asian platform on climate justice and sustainable development.

The relevance of these collaborations and partnerships can be extended to addressing regional and local climate change challenges, and also towards ensuring more equitable and just global climate policies and action. These networks can also be used as a ready platform to integrate development efforts, climate change response and climate justice issues. They can be leveraged to acquire knowledge, technology and financial solutions to development and climate change concerns.

A number of such partnerships are directed towards connecting communities, community livelihoods and empowerment programmes, education, country level transformation, and also engaging with non-governmental networks. Information networks (which can also be very successfully operated and expanded using ICT platforms) in particular facilitate better policy making along with increased transparency and responsibility.

Corporations are now engaging in partnerships for sustainable development, focusing upon the aspects of inclusive development and climate change. There is also effective internal corporate action being undertaken to align business processes and productions with environmentally sustainable goals. Voluntary actions in terms of reducing internal energy consumption, managing water consumption, limiting greenhouse gas emissions by way of business processes and activities can be popularised in this space.

Given the utility of partnerships and collaborative approaches it is useful to work towards defining the kind of understanding, knowledge, approaches, nature of collaboration and models of working to underpin partnerships for climate justice. The relevance of a technological platform to facilitate collaborations and partnerships can be cited once more.