

23rd session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

Written statement by South Asian Network for Public Administration (SANPA)

Agenda item Item 6: Principles of effective governance for sustainable development

Building inclusive institutions that leave no one behind at the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

As a consortium of scholars and practitioners across Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, SANPA is dedicated to advancing public administration and fostering sustainable development in one of the world's most populous yet dynamic regions.

South Asia, home to over a quarter of the global population, is a region of both profound challenges and significant opportunities. While it is experiencing economic growth at nearly 6% annually—making it one of the fastest-growing regions globally—it still grapples with persistent structural issues that impede its full potential. The latest Sustainable Development Goals Report reminds us that our progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is insufficient. With an overall progress of just 14.4%, South Asia lags behind the expected mid-point achievement of 50% by 2030, highlighting a critical need for intensified efforts.

SANPA recognizes the urgency of these challenges. Our mission extends beyond academic discourse; it is a call to action. We have cultivated a platform where the Global North and South can collaborate, bringing together distinguished scholars to translate the South Asian experience into effective, context-sensitive policy dialogues. These efforts are not just academic—they are a crucial part of our strategy to foster real-world impact, aiming to significantly reduce poverty and enhance the quality of life across the region.

Our commitment is also reflected in our publications, including a book series with Springer Publishers focusing on the SDGs, with a particular emphasis on SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. These volumes are more than texts; they are toolkits for building the sustainable institutions necessary for long-term regional stability and prosperity.

We are excited to host the International Conference on Sustainable Development in South Asia in October 2024 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This event will showcase our latest research and initiatives and serve as a forum for meaningful exchange and collaboration. We cordially invite all members of CEPA to join us in this important dialogue as we strive to enhance our collective ability to meet the ambitious goals set for our region.

In conclusion, through collaborative efforts and shared knowledge, SANPA remains dedicated to understanding and actively improving the complexities of public administration in South Asia. We believe that together, we can accelerate progress and achieve a sustainable future for South Asia. Thank you for your attention and your partnership in this vital endeavour.