

LOSS + DAMAGE



# ANNUAL REPORT

2021

Climate Action Network International



CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK



Photo Credit: CAN International

Front cover. Photo Credit: CAN International



## Foreword

### Climate Action Network's journey : becoming people-centered, bottom-up and node-driven work

It was the Climate Action Network (CAN) Global Annual Strategy Meeting in 2019, in Costa Rica, that marked a turning point for the network. Coming out of a crisis that resulted in a change in leadership, Tasneem Essop was appointed as the Interim Executive Director (later appointed as Executive Director), and this meeting provided the opportunity for some critical introspection.

Reflecting on the state of the world and the deepening and interconnected global crises, CAN members recognized the need to urgently step up their fight for a just, safe and sustainable future. Reflecting as a network, CAN recognized that there is huge untapped potential to evolve towards a more node and member-driven network. Having been born in the context of UNFCCC negotiations with the aim to coordinate civil society there, CAN's historic focus has been that of policy and advocacy. While this remains a critical area of engagement, CAN recognized that this as the sole focus limits this network in reaching its full potential and power. Over time, CAN has broadened its expertise, including knowledge and expertise from local organizations, grassroots and frontline communities, especially in the Global South. To better contribute to transformational change, CAN recognized that it must harness - through meaningful participation and representation - its diverse members and their experience to drive its strategies.

Out of this understanding, CAN developed in 2019 what was referred to as the 'Renewed Approach'. It is a commitment for CAN to become increasingly people-centred, bottom-up and node-driven. From this, CAN developed its 2020-2025 global strategy with the following priorities:

- Catalysing Transformational Change
- Shutting Dirty Down
- Multilateral Action and Ambition
- Building Power Through Movements

In line with this, justice and intersectionality are increasingly centred in CAN campaigns, communication and policies. Recognizing that it is not only what we do that matters, but also how we do it, CAN has embarked on a journey of institutional transformation, enhancing equitable and inclusive participation, with a commitment to decolonialize the way the network operates. To further strengthen this approach, CAN -I appointed Harjeet Singh as a Senior Advisor on Climate Impacts in 2021 to deepen the work with global south and frontline communities, with a special focus on Loss and Damage. To strengthen the bottom-up principle, CAN has made significant efforts to strengthen its Nodes as the network's intermediaries who connect local, national and regional levels to the global level. A key challenge here is the resource inequity between different Nodes, especially affecting Southern Nodes. This poses a major challenge to CAN's full convening power at all levels. To address this, Nodes and CAN International collectively introduced the Node Development Fund (NDF). Since 2019, the NDF has operated as CAN's internal democratic regrating mechanism, providing basic funding to all Nodes with scarce resourcing. Even though the NDF comprises small grants, it has had a tremendous effect in strengthening Nodes in their convening power at national and regional levels, and enhancing Node engagement at global level, thereby strengthening network cohesion and the alignment to build our power as a network for transformational change.

Today, CAN continues its own journey of growth and development. We stand in solidarity and partnership with climate justice and human rights activists and movements who have been fighting for decades for justice, and we strive to become good allies and join them to amplify our collective power for a just, peaceful, and life-sustaining planet.

**Tasneem Essop**  
Executive Director

**Jean Su**  
Board Co-chair

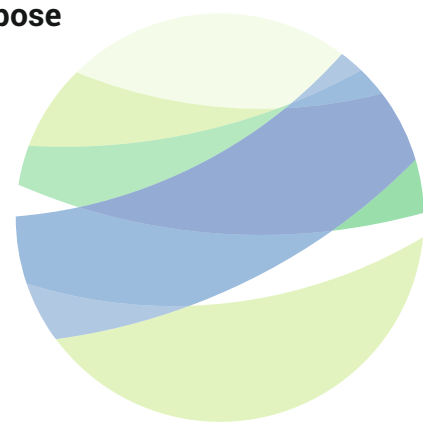
## 2021: Building and Using our power for transformational change

2021 brought home the reality of a world under siege by multiple crises - the pandemic, the ensuing economic slowdown and inflation due to the lockdowns; climate devastation, and rising food scarcity, the debt crisis, hunger and poverty. The system is broken. Fixing the system requires that equity, justice, and the needs of people must be prioritised over profits and corporate interests.

In this background, CAN became even more determined to help pivot the climate policy discussions to put the people most adversely impacted by the climate crisis and interrelated global crises at the centre of our work.

Our work in 2021 was embedded in the following interrelated efforts:

- 1. Working for Climate & Social Justice**
- 2. Building Meaningful Relationships**
- 3. Supporting Node Leadership**
- 4. Building a Secretariat that is Fit for Purpose**



## The Power We Build - The Power We Use

We have continuously worked on building power on multiple fronts and to help unlock the full potential and power of CAN for a transformational change. In 2021, we demonstrated the impact of building power from the bottom up and using it at a global level.



Photo Credit: CAN International

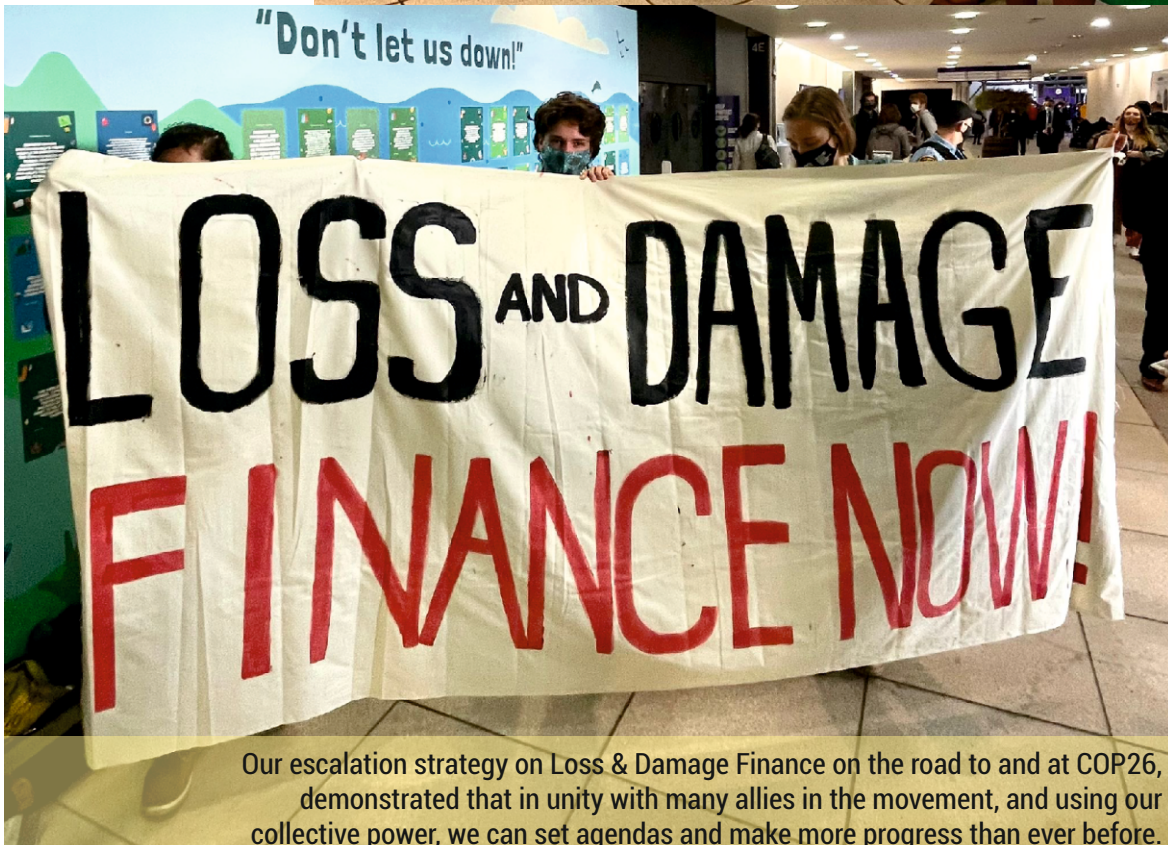


Photo Credit: CAN International

Our escalation strategy on Loss & Damage Finance on the road to and at COP26, demonstrated that in unity with many allies in the movement, and using our collective power, we can set agendas and make more progress than ever before.



Photo Credit: Collin Rees, USCAN

Being bold and putting real pressure on and calling out the COP26 Presidency for a safe and equitable COP26 helped shine a light on the almost impossible hurdles to equitably and safely participate, which especially many in the Global South were facing due to COVID and vaccine inequity. CAN called for a postponement of the COP if those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change were not able to attend due to lack of access to vaccines and high quarantine costs. CAN was supported in this call by many allies including the COP26 Coalition, and which resulted in the UK COP Presidency conceding on some of the demands.



Photo Credit: CAN International

# 1. Working for Climate & Social Justice

The following four main themes formed the basis of what CAN's global work focused on through 2021.

## 1.1 Centring the voices of frontline impacted communities

CAN's #WorldWeWant Impacts Campaign was scaled up through working closely with 19 nodes in their endeavour to centre frontline voices in advocacy and deepen their relationships with grassroots communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis. The campaign goes beyond producing visuals and assets to establishing meaningful non-extractive relationships and supports the leadership of communities in advocating for climate justice.

CAN Latin America (CANLA), CAN Western Africa (CANWA), CAN Arab World (CANAW), CAN Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), CAN Europe, CAN France, CAN South Asia (CANSAs), CAN Southeast Asia (CANSEA), CAN Africa, CAN Tanzania (CANTZ), CAN Zimbabwe (CANZIM), USCAN, CAN Eastern Africa (CANEAs), CAN Canada, CAN Uganda (CANU), Pacific Islands CAN (PICAN), South Africa CAN (SACAN), CAN Australia (CANA), CAN UK participated in the #WorldWeWant Impacts Campaign.

The experiences shared by communities from 35 locations in 19 countries ranged from floods, hurricanes, degradation of pastoral lands, forest fires, heatwaves etc. across both Global South and Global North countries. The resounding message from the short films produced through the campaign's approach of citizen journalism has been the devastation that frontline communities have been facing and how important it is for climate action plans to put their needs and requirements at the centre.

Accordingly, at a screening of the short films at COP26, CAN called for solidarity with affected people across the world and reduced debt burden for affected countries to be better equipped to face climate impacts.



Photo Credit: Annika Rach

*Pastoralists in Chalinzé, Tanzania bemoan the loss of pasturelands for their cattle due to climate change*

Photo Credit: CAN Latin America & CAN International



People in Gualliguaica, Chile facing drought due to a reservoir built for providing water to neighbouring areas, but ended up exacerbating deglaciation.

## 1.2 COP26 in Glasgow: Using power Inside and Outside

In 2021, the Statutory Bodies meeting in May and June was held virtually owing to Covid-19. Increased pressure by CAN, in collaboration with our UNFCCC Observer Constituency allies, resulted in the UNFCCC Bureau's decision to support virtual civil society participation at levels similar to physical meetings.



Photo Credit: CAN International



COP26 in November 2021 took place as a physical meeting in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. The widespread vaccine inequity due to the lack of access to vaccines in most of the Global South jeopardised the participation of civil society members and delegates from these regions. CAN developed network principles for a safe and equitable COP26, and used this to call for a postponement of COP, with a rider that this in no way meant inaction on climate change was acceptable or condoned. It was to call out the responsibility of the COP Presidency to ensure equitable and safe participation of those disproportionately affected by climate change.

CAN facilitated the development of a network strategy for COP26, which centered on:

- Finance for support & means of implementation: Mobilising finance - US\$100 billion commitment and addressing climate impacts
- Addressing Loss and Damage & enhancing adaptation actions
- Raising Ambition and Accountability: Enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), aligning climate and biodiversity ambitions, common time frames, rules for Article 6 which do not undermine the science, or social and environmental integrity of the Paris Agreement, transparency, Global Stocktake, agriculture, Action for Climate Empowerment for ambition and implementation.

An integral part of the work at COP26 was an Escalation Strategy for the issue of Loss & Damage Finance, which has



Photo Credit: CAN International

People's march at COP26 to highlight the inaction of Parties in the negotiations

historically been underrepresented at COPs, and making it a litmus test for success at COP26. Together with its allies and partners, CAN called for the setting up of a Loss and Damage Finance Facility, along with making it a permanent agenda item at COP. Though the finance facility was not part of the formal COP agenda, the growing crescendo over finance for loss and damage, created through the extensive mobilization and escalation efforts of CAN and its allies, it became impossible to ignore, making it a more prominent issue than ever before in the context of a COP. The G77+China, the largest negotiating bloc representing developing countries, of over 5 billion people, in the UNFCCC tabling of a formal resolution calling for the establishment of a Loss and Damage Finance Facility and the Scottish government's pledge of GBP 1 Mn to address loss and damage, and a few more adding their heft and funds to it, were all concrete outcomes of this huge mounting civil society pressure.

CAN together with Constituency allies led the organization of a "People's Plenary" inside the COP. It concluded with a march through the COP venue to join activists on the outside in a rally for Climate

Justice and demanding real action from the COP.

CAN called the outcome of COP26 a betrayal of vulnerable countries and communities. This was off the back of rich nations blocking key issues affecting these countries such as the proposal by the G77 + China to establish a Loss and Damage Finance Facility and addressing climate impacts, delivering climate finance at the scale needed and the loss of language on human rights (including Indigenous People's and LGBTQI+ rights) in sections of the text. There were some important decisions that provided hooks for pushing increased ambition to keep 1.5 alive such as the revisiting of national commitments by the end of 2022 and the doubling of finance for Adaptation. The decision text, for the first time, included the mention of fossil fuels and coal. This is a welcome signal albeit with too little consideration to fair shares, equity and justice. CAN concluded its work at this COP with a firm commitment to continue the escalation on the establishment of a Loss and Damage Finance Facility with the aim to secure this at COP27 in Sharm el Sheikh. ■

Photo Credit: CAN International



### 1.3 Working for Just Transition away from Fossil Fuels and towards Renewable Energy



Photo Credit: Sophie Richmond, Big Shift Global, CAN International

The harm done by fossil fuels was for the first time recognised by a COP during COP26 in Glasgow and was included in the COP26 cover decision

At the core of CAN's work on ending the fossil fuel regime are the just transition for workers and impacted communities; demanding governments and multilateral development banks to divest from the fossil fuel sector; and promoting renewable energy sources.

Work around Just Energy Transition gathered momentum through the work in Indonesia and India with CAN's nodes, CAN Southeast Asia (CANSEA) and CAN South Asia (CANSAs) respectively, where community engagement and their plans on Just Transition were being explored with the support from the German government's International Climate Initiative (IKI). CAN-I has been supporting and convening Nodes and members in Just Transition work through webinars and sharing best practises

- laying the basis for our network agreement to establish a Global Platform on Just Transition for Civil Society and Communities to share knowledge, best practices, policies and strategies on meaningful community and civil society engagement in inclusive Just Transition processes and participate and influence national processes on Just Transition.



CAN coordinates the Platform of Action on Renewable Energy (PoA), which was set up in 2021 to prioritise enhancement, knowledge and support on solar, wind and geothermal energy while also focussing on advancement of infrastructural needs such as electricity storage, renewable hydrogen technologies, grid development and support where possible and off-grid structures where necessary. The PoA has over 100 active CSOs as part of it. It is further developing collaborations with the likes of Global Solar Council, Global Wind Energy Council, International Geothermal Association, Global Gas and Oil Network, Fossil Fuel

Non-proliferation Treaty, United Nations bodies e.g., the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) leadership, Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), among others.

CAN helps to coordinate the Big Shift campaign, which calls on all of the world's biggest public development banks to shift all their money out of dirty fossil fuels and into sustainable, renewable energy to provide energy access for all. Throughout 2021 the campaign has kept up the pressure on shifting finance away from fossil fuels, including key advances on shifting international public finance out of fossil fuels. ■

#### 1.4 Increasing National Ambition

The corollary for CAN's work at the multilateral bodies such as UNFCCC on enhancing climate finance and climate ambition is the work with nodes and allies on enhancing national ambition.

CAN called on all major emitters to ramp up their mitigation ambition to achieve 50% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030. CAN initiated a discussion paper on Equity and Fair Shares, a key resource to further advance the understanding of the CAN Network members on the intersections between climate change mitigation, ambition and climate justice. This approach is based on the principle that though we have the money and the technologies for rapid decarbonisation, it needs to be done in a fair manner. That is, not only benefits and promises but also unavoidable pain and disruption must be shared amongst the people of this world in a way that is widely accepted as being fair enough. CAN Canada and CAN France were amongst

the ones who had used an equity and Fair shares approach to analyse their NDCs.

Simultaneously, the #WorldWeWant impacts campaign has been driving us to re-frame our understanding of transformative national climate plans through a values-driven narrative that centres people, planet and community. Several nodes are developing their own localised versions: CAN Europe, CAN Zimbabwe, Southern African CAN, CAN Latin America, CAN South East Asia, CAN Eastern Europe Caucasus and Central Asia, CAN Arab World, New Zealand CAN and CAN France.

CAN also worked with allies and node members on a report on gaps in climate ambition policies of the G20 countries. Nodes also engaged in assessment and analysis of countries 2021 NDCs, including a targeted response to the particularly weak Brazilian NDC. ■

## 2. Building Meaningful Relationships

### Our Power lies in our Relationships

CAN's commitment to a renewed approach in 2019 came with the recognition that if policies are not shaped by the people they are for, they cannot deliver the transformational change that is responsive to the lived realities of people. In CAN, it is the Nodes who are the intermediaries between local, national and regional on the one hand and global on the other. For us to unlock this full potential of the network and work with the full force of our

membership from the various levels—local, national and regional, with their respective strengths in a bottom-up approach, the network needs to become more node-driven and invest into strengthening this intermediary and convening role of nodes. Thus the guiding force for realising the renewed approach is to enhance equitable representation and build meaningful relationships in the following ways:



**2.1 Starting our Decoloniality journey:** The extractive colonial architecture holds sway over the social, economic and political structures of the world. We firmly believe that to be able to achieve transformational change, we must look within to dismantle power structures and privilege within the network to help embed and strengthen bottom-up principles in the way we work. We started our journey towards decoloniality through training conducted in four modules for the CAN Secretariat staff, international members of CAN as well as CAN node representatives. The modules constituted an engaging digital programme that introduced participants to concepts of decolonisation, power, privilege, and provided tailored strategies for participants and their organisation to become agents for climate justice.



**2.2 Taking the lead from frontline communities:** Through the collaboration with nodes and their engagement with communities, CAN's World We Want campaign on climate impacts has enabled us to increasingly center and take a lead from frontline communities in our demands.



**2.3 Commitment to being a good ally:** We stand in solidarity and partnership with climate justice activists who have been fighting for decades against the climate emergency, and we strive to join them to amplify our collective power for a just, peaceful, and life-sustaining planet. Working in good allyship is critical to us, and CAN is committed to being a good ally. This includes our UNFCCC co-constituencies, and we hope to further deepen our collaboration, building on collective successes such as demanding a safe and equitable COP26 or co-organizing a People's Plenary.

# 2



**2.4 Enhancing inclusivity and access in CAN:** In order to further operationalize our Renewed Approach, we started reviewing CAN's existing platforms and practises to enhance meaningful participation and representation. Southern Nodes for example decided to create a Southern Node Caucus to strengthen and drive Southern leadership in CAN. In addition, CAN-I has also undertaken steps to further increase the diversity and representation of the Political Coordination Group, the primary structure providing political and policy steer to the network. The PCG has better gender and geographic representation and greater participation of CAN node representatives in 2021 than before. ■

## 3. Supporting Node Leadership

Nodes are the nerve centre of the network. On the one hand they are the conveners and connection with the local, national and regional levels and on the other, they bring the insights, learnings, perspectives and experiences from these levels to the international level. A node driven approach has necessitated support to nodes that can broadly be categorised along three aspects-

### 3.1 Institutional strengthening of nodes:

- **Node Development Fund (NDF)** or the internal regrating mechanism to shift funds to under-resourced nodes to provide crucial infrastructure and human resources support. In 2021, the NDF entered its third round where 13 nodes were supported. Despite the grants being miniscule, they are highly impactful, creating opportunities to strengthen membership engagement, strategy development, institutional development and enhancing capacity for Nodes to play the critical intermediary role between national/regional and global.
- **Individual node support:** Collective development of a Node Best Practice Guide, which is to also support individual requests CAN-I receives from Nodes to support for membership engagement, strategy development, governance, institutional development etc.

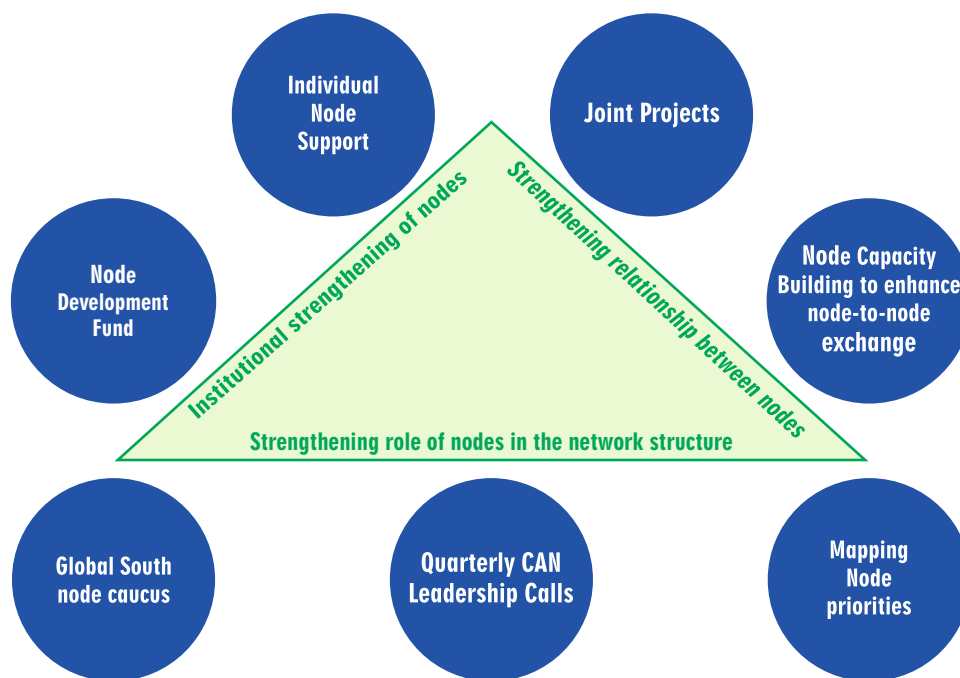
### 3.2 Further Node support & Node-node relationship building:

- **Node capacity building & providing opportunities to enhance Node-to-Node exchange:** Providing trainings to nodes on Governance, Financial management, and inductions for new Node Coordinators helped encourage exchange and sharing of experiences within the network, enhancing network cohesion.
- **Joint Projects** as opportunities for additional financial support to nodes besides collaboration and sharing of knowledge. The two cases in point is the Just Transition project in which CANSEA, CANSA and CAN-I collaborate as part of a larger consortium, and a project on national ambition between International CAN member Care, several Nodes and CAN-I.

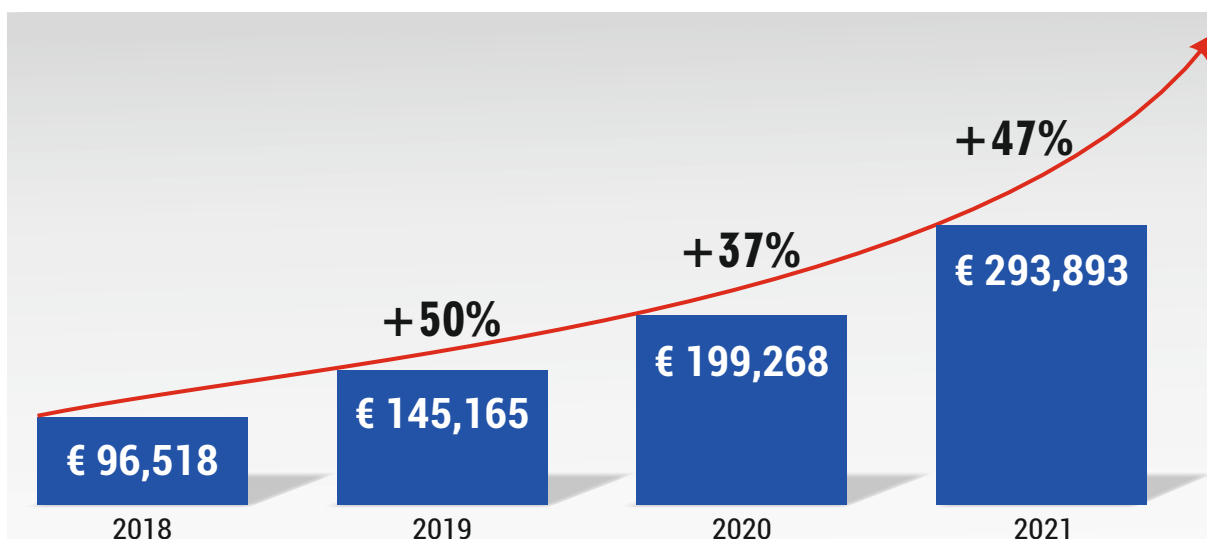
### 3.3 Strengthening the role of nodes within the network structures:

- **Quarterly CAN Leadership Calls** were established in 2021, bringing together Node Coordinators, the CAN-I board and CAN-I staff, as a means to enhance network cohesion and collective strategic steering.

- Continuous Mapping of node priorities**, as a critical base to develop global strategies from a deep understanding of the different national/regional context of Nodes, and providing opportunities to identify synergies across nodes and build collaboration.
- Global South node caucus**: In September 2021, CAN's Southern nodes established the Southern Nodes Caucus to ensure that the leadership and participation of the Global South is felt in the Network and in the work we do. The group convened during COP and decided on steps for how they can enhance Southern representation in CAN's decision-making and strategic work, for example by strengthening representation in the co-chairing of CAN's Working Groups.



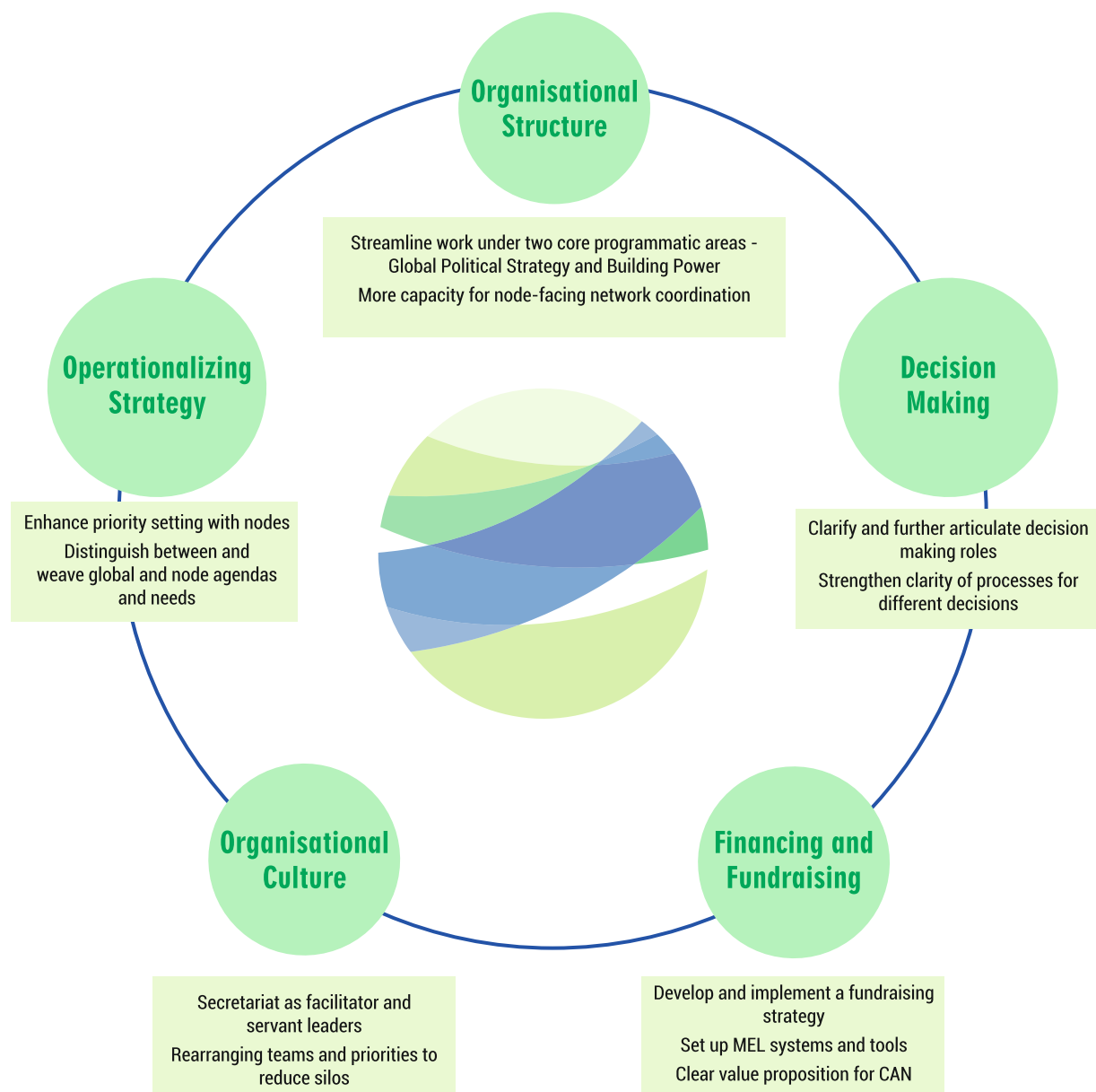
CAN's commitment to becoming more node-driven is also reflected in its finances through a continuously increased budgetary share for node activities, as this graph demonstrates:



*There is a year-on-year increase in allocation of funds to nodes largely attributable to the Node Development Fund (NDF).*

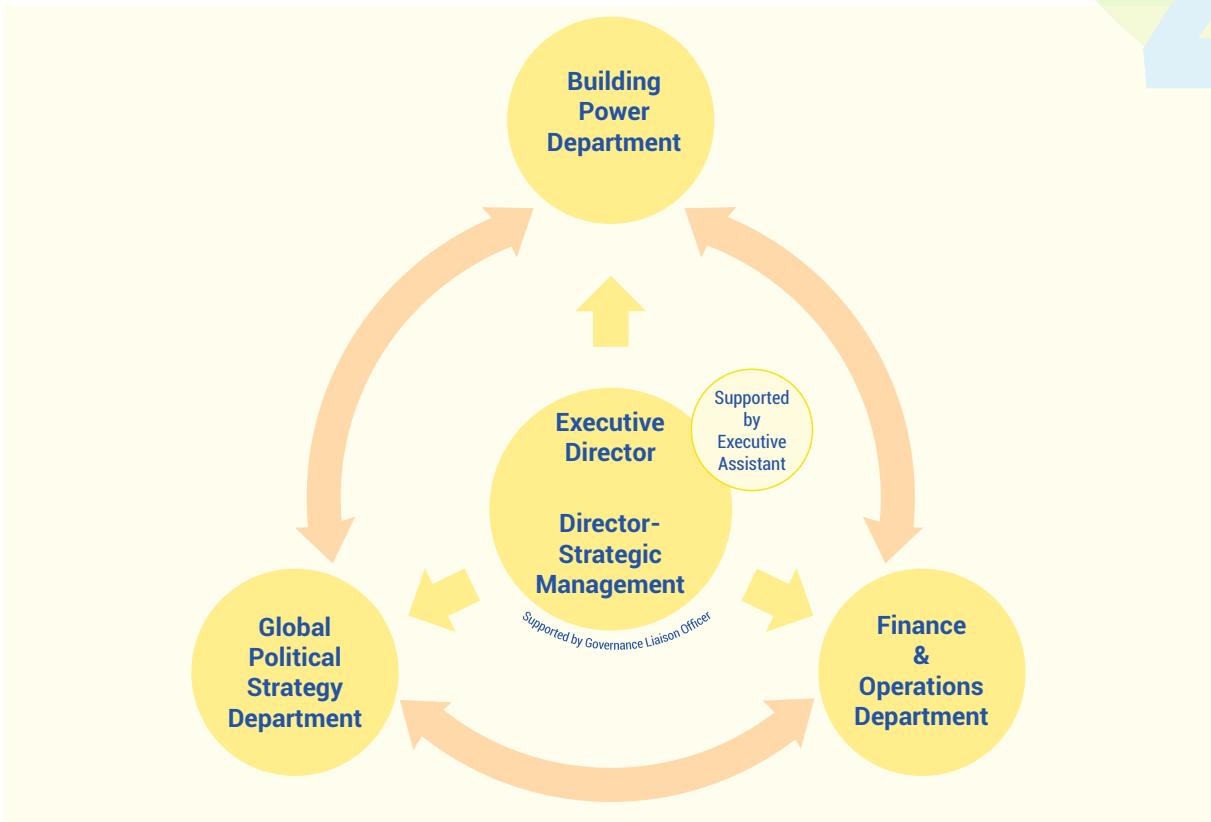
## 4. Building a Secretariat that is Fit for Purpose

CAN International Secretariat set out on a path to become fit for purpose in line with the new strategy and a renewed bottom-up node driven approach. CAN-I engaged an external organisation to conduct an organisation review and recommend what improvements and changes the Secretariat needed to make in order to enhance the effectiveness and long-term sustainability of the network. What emerged was a set of five major recommendations along with some cross-cutting ones that speak to the changes that the network was undergoing to become effective and impactful.





Though the organizational review was only concluded in 2022, we are taking the opportunity in this report to introduce to you our new structure and new Executive Team:



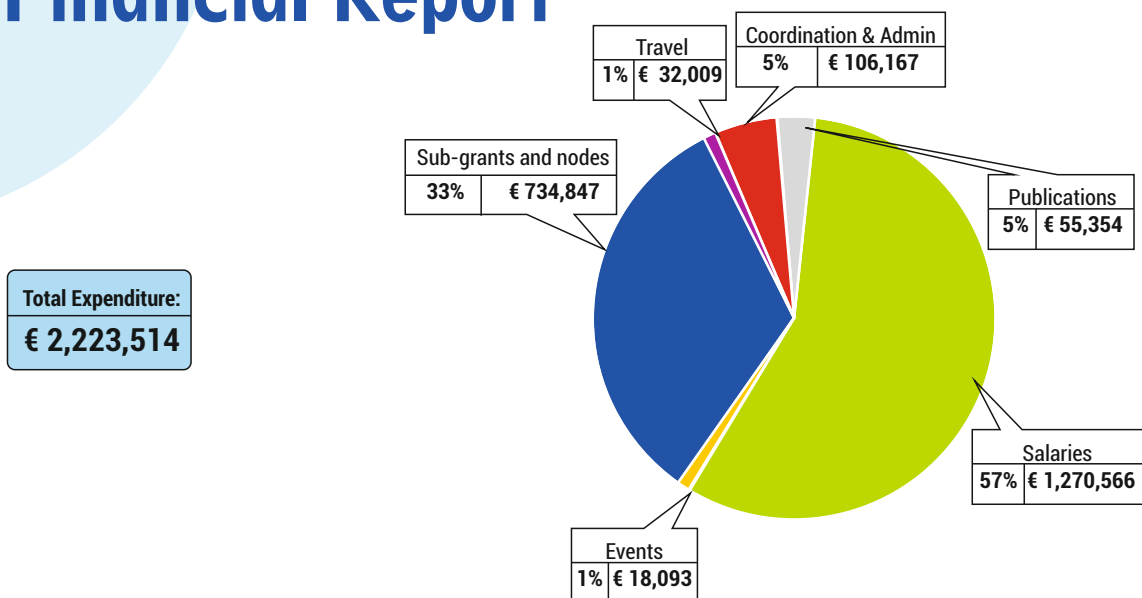
The new Executive Team of CAN-I, which provides the strategic steering to the CAN-I Secretariat:



Photo Credit: Manon Koningstein, CAN International

**L to R: Muhammed Lamin Saidykhan, Head of Building Power; Jana Merkelbach, Director, Strategic Management; Tasneem Essop, Executive Director; Nkatya Kafuli, Head of Finance and Operations and Harjeet Singh, Head of Global Political Strategy**

# Financial Report



## Our supporters

We have been supported by a dedicated set of institutional funders, all of whom made our work possible. We thank them for their continued belief in us, our values and ways of working. Funders who supported our work during 2019-2021

- AirClim ■ Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) ■ Climate Works
- Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) ■ International Climate Initiative (IKI) ■ Oak Foundation
- Brot fuer die Welt (BfdW) ■ Climate Emergency Collaboration Group (CECG)
- European Climate Foundation (ECF) KR Foundation ■ IKEA Foundation
- KR Foundation ■ Open Society Foundations (OSF)

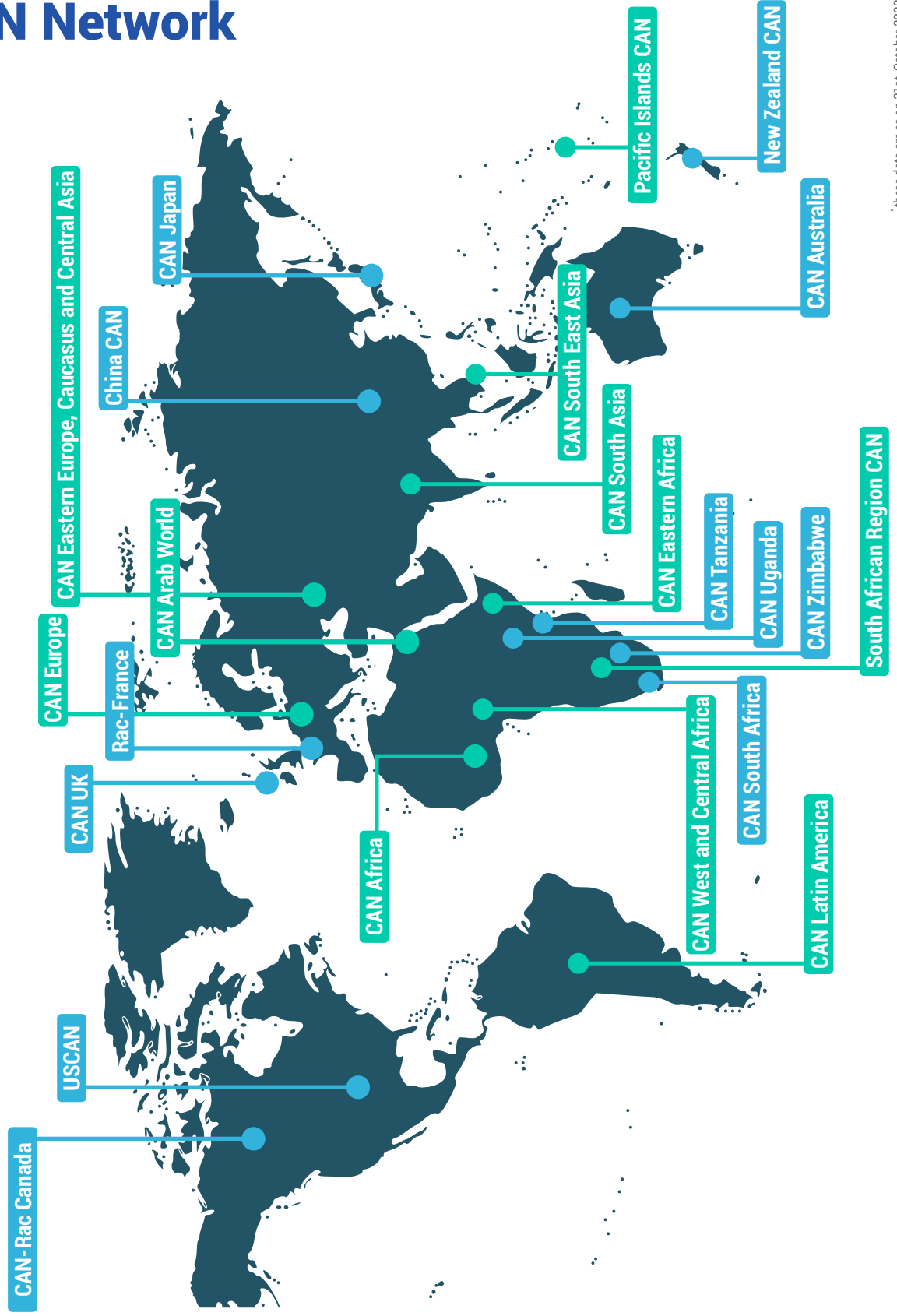
We would also like to thank individual supporters who have been supporting us via the website 'donate' button. Their contribution reflects their faith in us which we acknowledge and deeply appreciate.

## CAN-I BOARD 2021

Name	Gender	Position
Mariana Paoli	Female	Secretary
Christian Holz	Non binary	Treasurer/ Audit Committee Lead
Jean Su	Female	Co-chair
Isaac Kabongo	Male	Node Development Committee Lead
Mandy Jean Woods	Female	Co-chair
Essia Guezzi	Female	Member
Md Shamsuddoha	Male	Governance Committee Lead
Kossivi Adessou	Male	HR Committee Lead
Anaid Velasco	Female	Legal Committee Lead

# The CAN Network

CAN's network is organized in regional nodes and national nodes around the world



1975 MEMBERS\*

23 REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NODES\*

147 COUNTRIES\*

\*these data are as on 31st October 2022



## Become a Member

All non-governmental organisations working on climate issues are eligible to join the CAN Network.

Those organisations based in regions or countries where there is a CAN regional or national node are encouraged to contact the relevant node.

Please visit the CAN website for more information:

<https://climatenetwork.org/overview/members>

## Stay Informed

Subscribe to receive monthly updates on the latest on the climate movement including the content from across the network, upcoming climate change events, news articles and opinion pieces on climate, straight to your inbox.

### Follow us online



[climatenetwork.org](https://climatenetwork.org)



[@CANIntl](https://twitter.com/CANIntl)



[facebook.com/CANInternational](https://facebook.com/CANInternational)



[caninternational](https://youtube.com/caninternational)



[youtube.com/user/caninternational](https://youtube.com/user/caninternational)