An Introduction to
Climate Action Network-International
Who is CAN

• Founded in 1989
• CAN is a worldwide network of over 700 NGOs from over 95 countries
What CAN Does

Promotes government and individual action to limit human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels.
CAN’s Mission

To support and empower civil society organizations to influence the design and development of an effective global strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure its implementation at international, national and local levels in the promotion of equity and sustainable development.
CAN’s Vision

A world striving actively towards and achieving the protection of the global climate in a manner, which promotes equity and social justice between peoples, sustainable development of all communities, and protection of the global environment.
How CAN Works

Through information exchange and the coordinated development of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) strategy on international, regional, and national climate issues.
Who Is CAN

- CAN is organized geographically through its regional and country “nodes”

  Australia       Latin America
  Brazil          Mexico
  Canada          North Africa (Maghreb)
  China           Pacific Islands
  Eastern Africa  South Asia
  Eastern Europe  Southeast Asia
  Europe          Southern Africa
  France          West Africa
  Japan
Policy work

Carefully build their statement according to the country/institute/person being approached. Aims at changing position of certain countries, in a cooperative manner (not necessary though).

- Develop common policy positions, informed by science
- Develop integrated strategies for UNFCCC and other processes (G8, MEM, ASEAN...)
- Information share internally (mailing lists, conference calls, meetings...)
- Lobby negotiators! (directly, write their position paper, suggest text, conduct meetings and workshops, give interventions, ECO, fossil of the day, letters to ministers, etc.)
The BINGOs are at odds with the TUNGOs and the RINGOs over the NAMAs and the NAPAs. RFUK is concerned about what REDD is going to do to PAM. But at least the SIDS are keen on LULUCF
Who is CAN

- Organized as working groups around various policy areas, like those in the UNFCCC:

  Adaptation  Legal Matters
  Bunkers  MRV
  Capacity Building  Mitigation
  Finance  REDD+
  Flexible Mechanisms  Shared Vision
  LULUCF  Technology
CAN Activities at UNFCCC Sessions

- ECO
CAN Activities at UNFCCC Sessions

• Participation in UN formal meetings
  – Interventions
  – Sharing session notes from meetings with other CAN members
CAN Activities at UNFCCC Sessions

• CAN Daily Meeting
  • Political Coordination Group
    • Capacity Building Sessions
  • Strategy Sessions
CAN Activities at UNFCCC Sessions

- Government Meetings
CAN Activities at UNFCCC Sessions

• Side Events
• Fossil of the Day
• Press Conferences
Role of Youth

General Objectives:

- Move beyond politics
- Countries need to move beyond their country interest
- Be strong, creative, daring and confrontational
- Call for strongest ambition (350ppme, 1.5C)
survival is not negotiable
CAN work outside UNFCCC

- G8+5
- G8
- G20
- Gleneagles
- UN CSD
- UN General Assembly
- UN Security Council
- G8
- APEC
- US: MEF
- APP
- APEC
- OPEC
- UN CSD
- UN General Assembly
- UN Security Council
- IPCC
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Barriers to Success

- Misperceptions of costs & benefits
- Financial/economic crisis
- Power of fossil fuel industry
- Country disagreements
- Lack of public awareness of science
- Fragmentation of civil society
- Dysfunctional politics in the US
Civil Society -- a Powerful Force for Change
Breaking the Sisyphus paradigm

Reduce the slope of the hill (risk vs. cost framing)

Make the boulder smaller (low-carbon development)

Increase the number of people pushing
Leadership Development Program

• Participation in the UNFCCC: LDP Fellows
Node Development Program

• Support for regional networks
Building Global Strategies

• Sharing information and lessons across regions
CAN Activities Between Sessions

• Working Group Conference Calls
• Listserves to share information and develop policy and strategy
• Global strategic planning meetings
• National plans
Contact Information

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