

MINUTES
SARTUC Women's Committee
Kathmandu
13 December 2023

The meeting was held on 13 December 2023, Wednesday 4 PM (GMT + 5:45) onwards. Mr. Laxman Bahadur Basnet, General Secretary, SARTUC presided the meeting and the following participants were in attendance.

1. Ms. Mousumi Nishat Shimul- Women's Committee Member- Bangladesh
2. Ms. Sushila Ghimire- Women's Committee Member- Nepal
3. Ms. Dur e Shawar- Women's Committee Member- Pakistan
4. Ms. Chandrani Panditha- Women's Committee Member- Sri Lanka
5. Mr. Laxman Bahadur Basnet- General Secretary- SARTUC
6. Mr. Mahendra Sharma- Advisor- SARTUC
7. Ms. Sonia George- Chair Technical Committee for Programs- SARTUC
8. Ms. Nishi Kapahi- Gender Coordinator- SAGP/ SARTUC
9. Ms. Sweanta Lama- Executive Officer- SARTUC
10. Mr. Kishor Bikram Shah- Program Officer- SARTUC

Mr. Laxman Bahadur Basnet- General Secretary- SARTUC

- Welcomed and acknowledged the members of the women's committee who have been selected by the respective countries
- Deputy General Secretary, Women Secretary and Technical Committee Chair would also be invited in the meeting.
- Since a member from India is remaining- a seat would remain open until India sends the name for the women's committee
- The members of the women committee will work together and will continue the meetings through zoom platform till resources permit for physical meeting.

Ms. Dur e Shawar- Women's Committee Member- Pakistan

- Lets discuss among each other and select the Chair and the Vice Chair

Ms. Sushila Ghimire- Women's Committee Member- Nepal

- Since two members are not present in the meeting today, should we wait for them to decide the Chair and the Vice Chair

Ms. Dur e Shawar- Women's Committee Member- Pakistan

- Since majority of the women's committee members are present here, we should select the Chair and the Vice chair now as it would lead to a lot of waste of resources and time if we do not form the women's committee today.

Ms. Mousumi Nishat Shimul- Women's Committee Member- Bangladesh

- We should choose a person who can lead us best and we should take the decision now.
- The chair should be decided on the basis of the consensus.

Mr. Mahendra Sharma- Advisor- SARTUC

- Decision making should be done by the committee not the advisor

Mr. Laxman Bahadur Basnet- General Secretary- SARTUC

- The selected Chair of the women's committee should have convincing skills in the international platforms and should be able to convince organizations like UN Women, ILO, ITUC-AP, FnV through proposals to set a program.
- The ToR says that the chair and the vice chair should be decided by the women's committee.
- We have another youth committee as well, it's not about the person but the country.

Ms. Chandrani Panditha- Women's Committee Member- Sri Lanka

- The one who could represent us in the international platforms should be the chair.

Ms. Sushila Ghimire- Women's Committee Member- Nepal

- I agree, the Chair and the Vice chair should be decided who has leadership qualities.

Ms. Mousumi Nishat Shimul- Women's Committee Member- Bangladesh

- I do not think I can be the chair now as I'm still learning but I want to be the vice chair as I think I am capable enough to support the chair and I believe the youth need to come forward and the opportunity needs to be given to the youth.

Mr. Laxman Bahadur Basnet- General Secretary- SARTUC

- What can be done is the position for the chair and the vice chair can be rotated yearly which would give everyone the opportunity.

Ms. Sonia George- Chair Technical Committee for Programs- SARTUC

- The position of the Chair and the vice chair should have some sustainability

Ms. Dur e Shawar- Women's Committee Member- Pakistan

- One year would be just for the momentum as you need to get some sustainable funding for programs to strengthen the women's movement so at least two years should be there for the chair and the vice chair

Ms. Sushila Ghimire- Women's Committee Member- Nepal

- I can do anything if I get the opportunity: this is committee formation, there would be no language problem.
- I would like to be the vice chair in the next term.

Ms. Mousumi Nishat Shimul- Women's Committee Member- Bangladesh

- I am the youth here; I should be pushed forward. I am already working for an NGO that works for the development of trade unionist and worker rights.
- Next term Shushila Ghimire would be the vice chair.
- It needs to decide now so that once the term is over there would be no vacant position.
- It's mutually consented among the women's committee member.
- When the next nomination comes, they can join us.
- Two more people would be in the committee sister Fathimath from Maldives and one from India after the name has been sent.

Ms. Dur e Shavar- Women's Committee Member- Pakistan

- So, my name has been proposed for the chair, are we all agreeing on the forum.
- For the vice chair we have two names on rotation, first is for Bangladesh and second is for Nepal
- Thank you all for your time and bringing all of us together in the forum, I really appreciate you can write recommendations for the technical committee for the way forward
- The purpose is to bring together the commonalities and it is not a wish based but a need based
- Along with these things I look forward for an active participation specially from Nepal.
- We need to work on how we can increase the visibility of the women's committee, what common issues we can work on, and we can also decide on the ToRs.
- We would request SARTUC's advisor to be the advisor for the women's committee too and we would also need a technical person to support us throughout, I would like to request sister Sonia, the technical program chair to support us as well

Ms. Mousumi Nishat Shimul- Women's Committee Member- Bangladesh

- Thank you for giving me the first year, I can ensure you that I am a quick learner and confident, teach Thank you for giving me the first year. I am not about to say that I am so experienced and knowledgeable, but I can assure you that I'm a quick learner and confident. Teach me how, and I'll do my best. Thank you for giving me the push that I asked for. It is much appreciated that you chose a youth as a vice chair.

Ms. Sushila Ghimire- Women's Committee Member- Nepal

- Thank you for everything. Thank you for giving me this opportunity, we need to work together despite the position.

Ms. Chandrani Panditha- Women's Committee Member- Sri Lanka

- All the new chair and vice chair, we need to focus on our collective work, we need to achieve our goal and work.

Ms. Nishi Kapahi- Gender Coordinator- SARTUC

- congratulations to the new committee
- I have been coordinating the gender platform, we have been working on it for the last three and half years, earlier (brother) Laxman ji was the patron from the beginning, he was the chair of the platform he suggested that if we can incorporate a lot of gender work in SARTUC.
- It is a good idea to see that this platform has been institutionalized. It is a big achievement to have SARTUC's name in the platform
- Our aim is to attain gender equality and to ensure that there is equal opportunity for all.
- We need to ensure that women get more visibility and rights and when you all go back to your respective countries, we need to ensure that there are more women with us, and we need to integrate and incorporate men in our mission as well
- We do have some programs lined up and we can share the programs in the group. I would also like to share that we are extremely lucky to have Sonia in the group because of her experience and knowledge.
- We as the women's committee must be trained first for the leadership, communication and rights, sensitized approach to things and more understanding on society discrimination
- It would be good for the new committee to meet virtually to develop programs and activities
- We need to make an elected forum, when the remaining committee members come, they can join us for now let start an effective forum.
- We have the exposure of the zoom now, and if we can just meet and do module of some sessions.

Ms. Sonia George- Chair Technical Committee for Programs- SARTUC

- Congratulations to the women committee and to the office bearers.
- It's a dream come true for the formation of the women committee and now we should really equip ourselves and from that capacity on how we can bring more women together from our community and our regions.
- Through online meetings we can discuss on what programs we can do and develop various programs
- We should bring more women's issues in the central leadership positions, we need to bring specific programs and bring more people, let's be more visible and be more vibrant.

Mr. Mahendra Sharma- Advisor- SARTUC

- I congratulate the new committee and hope that the other two remaining country get integrated soon,
- We have to make the committee functional; I wish that this committee would be functional and whatever services I can provide I would be ready.

Mr. Laxman Bahadur Basnet- General Secretary- SARTUC

- Thank you so much everyone and congratulations to the new committee.
- It is a great opportunity to have the committee and we do not distinguish between the countries here, and I hope we'll be visible, and it would be shown from two months later, on world social forum

Decisions

- Ms. Dur e Shawar has been elected as the Chair for the SARTUC Women's Committee. (for the first two years)
- Ms. Mousumi Nishat Shimul has been elected as the Vice Chair for the SARTUC Women's Committee for the first two years
- Ms. Sushila Ghimire has been elected as the Vice Chair for the SARTUC Women's Committee for the second term of two years
- Once India sends a name for the women's committee, she would be the member of the committee
- Regular zoom meeting would be done for updates on the work done and new programs discussions

SARTUC's Women Committee

SN	Country	Committee Member Names	Designation
1	Pakistan	Dur e Shawar	Chair
2	Bangladesh	Mousumi Nishat Shimul	Vice Chair
3	Afghanistan		Member
4	India		Member
5	Maldives	Fathimath Zimna	Member
6	Nepal	Sushila Ghimire	Member
7	Sri Lanka	Chandrani Panditha	Member