

## **Intervention on Behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency**

**Delivered at the Opening Plenary of UNFCCC - COP 20**

**By Carmen Capriles, Reaccion Climatica, Bolivia &  
The EWA Project of WECF and WEDO**

**1 December 2014, Lima, Peru**

Many thanks to you Mr. President, honorable dignitaries and colleagues,

On behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency, we appreciate the opportunity to recognize the progress made under this Convention in gender and in turn demand greater ambition in what will become the Paris Agreement, which should be based in the recognition of human rights and especially women's rights, which must be wise, intelligent, sensitive and profoundly humane in order to protect the planet.

It has been proven that climate change intensifies inequalities.

In regions like ours here in Latin America, where women are distinguished by their triple work days; as heads of the household, as mothers and as fundamental players in the economy, it is important to recognize that their livelihoods are being affected either by the lack or excess of water, by increasing agricultural pests, and by the difficulty of producing their traditional products, all of which is compounded by poor access to resources and land, lack of education, and decision-making.

This reality has caused placed women on the frontline of climate action; taking steps daily, implementing local solutions that make a big difference, being the guardians of the seeds. On a daily basis, they propose solutions and take action while time is running out in the corridors of the negotiations. This fact should be recognized within the funding mechanisms for implementation where we must fully recognize the urgent need for tangible support, without which the prospects for survival worsen.

The complexity of the problem requires us to take more drastic measures that invite us to recognize the need to include women as fundamental to achieving real solutions that address root problems and to not support false solutions such as dirty energy projects including nuclear power, hydraulic fracturing, and mega dams that threaten our ecosystems and our cultures and that become elements of a vicious cycle of ecological and social destruction.

In conclusion, my generation is witnessing the melting of our Andean glaciers, but we are not nor will we be silent witnesses, we are here to make an urgent call to governments to take drastic measures, make ambitious commitments and implement real solutions. Full and equal participation, human rights, and gender equality are essential to achieving progress based on actual commitments.

Thank you very much