

PARIS, FRANCE (December 2015)

Opening of the COP Plenary, CMP Opening and Joint COP/CMP Plenary

Ms. Bridget Burns, Women's Environmental and Development Organization, USA

Thank you Mr. President,

I speak today on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency, representing thousands of women's rights groups, gender experts, and grassroots women leaders.

Humanity is counting on this COP to deliver a momentous outcome that will help preserve and protect a peaceful and healthy planet.

Yesterday governments stood in solidarity that this COP was an 'act of defiance'. For a true act of defiance let us leave this COP committing to a genuinely transformative and binding agreement which challenges dirty economies, political and military systems, and fund renewable and just futures for all.

At the COP we expect Governments to:

1. Commit to keeping warming under 1.5 degrees in line with the principles of the Convention, namely equity and CBDR
2. Ensure that all climate actions, both adaptation and mitigation, respect human rights, gender equality, the rights of indigenous peoples, intergenerational equity, a just transition and decent work, food security and ensure the integrity and resilience of natural ecosystems.
3. Developed countries must commit their 'fair share' of emissions reductions in INDCs.
4. Governments must commit to wide-ranging ambitious and just actions pre-2020 under Workstream II.
5. Concepts such as 'net-zero' or 'carbon neutrality' or any that encourage off-setting and unsafe technological solutions must be left out of the agreement.
6. The long-term global goal of the agreement must articulate a sustainable pathway for urgently reducing emissions: phasing in 100% safe and sustainable renewable energy systems and wide-ranging structural and lifestyle changes - and phasing out harmful technologies and fossil fuels, in line with the principles of CBDR and equity.
9. Technology development and transfer must be safe for people and the environment, affordable to all and gender responsive.
10. Finally and critically, developed countries must provide clearly defined, new, additional, and predictable gender-responsive public finance, in the form of grants. The goal of \$100 billion per

year must be a floor, not a ceiling, balanced between mitigation and adaptation, and include finance for loss and damage in addition to adaptation funding.

We are counting on your leadership! Thank you.