

PARIS, FRANCE (December 1, 2015)

Opening of the 43rd Session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) Opening Plenary

Ms. Kalyani Raj from All India Women's Conference

“Given that civil society has been largely excluded from the current work in spin off groups in ADP, we are particularly keen to turn our attention to SBSTA and ensuring that we continue to make solid progress on scientific, technological and methodological matters here in Paris.

In line with the key demands of the Women and Gender Constituency for COP21, we would like to emphasize firstly that technology development and transfer must be safe for people and the environment, affordable to all and gender responsive. Our experience on the ground tells us that we shouldn't lose sight of the need for small-scale technologies that can be used at local level.

Secondly, we welcome the fact that work is about to commence on the Warsaw L&D, but we would emphasize the need not only to address financial loss and damage, but also non-monetized loss and damage, which is often faced by women.

Thirdly, given that discussions on market and non-market mechanisms will be continued here in Paris, we want to stress our criticism of market mechanisms, particularly in relation to the land sector. Profit driven funds and markets consistently fail to create long term sustainable benefit for people, and often harm local communities and specifically women and their livelihoods.

Fourth under the Nairobi Work Programme, it is important to assess progress made on integrating gender into the activities to be undertaken prior to SBSTA 45. Women play an integral role in adaptation planning and actions, particularly when it comes to ecosystems, human settlements, water resources and health.

Finally, on agriculture, the workshop report on Early Warning Systems and Contingency Plans has rich information but fails to capture the differences in roles of women and men in agriculture or the differential impacts of disasters on men and women. In my country India, where 60-70% of the agricultural production is performed by women, their extensive knowledge must also be explicitly recognized in the development of Early Warning Systems to ensure their success. Capacity building to women on the use of communications and other tools should be a priority.

We call upon SBSTA to consider these issues in their conclusions and to consider critical issues relating to women and gender equality.”