

PARIS, FRANCE (December 2015)
Closing of the 43rd Session of the SBI
Ms. Alina Saba, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)

Mr. chair and delegates,
I'm speaking for the Women and Gender Constituency

Over the last few days we've heard a lot from governments, mostly rich governments, claiming that the world has changed. I can tell you about the changing world since this body has been monitoring the commitments you've made. In that changing world glaciers are melting, landslides increasing, traditional food disappearing, communities are losing their livelihoods, women's workload increasing, women are forced to migrate into insecure and exploitative work, poverty is deepening.

This week, torrential rain in Chennai, India brought the whole city to a standstill. Hundreds of people died, thousands of people were relocated. Are those made homeless this week in Chennai expected to believe that the world has changed so much that they are now in a position to cut their emissions, in a position to provide finance, in a position to shoulder the burden of an unfair economic system that has allowed a few countries and people to monopolise the world's resources, wealth and carbon?

Will we tell those women we have to abandon the 1.5c target because we are allowing governments to set their own targets, and abandoning differentiation? The disastrous state we are in is not because we failed to develop language, or failed to identify obligations. It's a failure of implementation and a failure of accountability. It's a failure to act in solidarity and instead a deliberate choice to value profit at all costs.

All efforts here will be useless if we do not have a gender responsive, binding, agreement and a strong monitoring and implementation mechanism which guarantees that emitting countries meet their obligations to end their harmful emissions, provide reparations and leave us space to develop.

Thank you.