

**Bonn, Germany (May 2016)**  
**APA Opening Intervention**  
**Ms. Shaila Shahid, Gender and Water Alliance**

Thank you Chair.

I am speaking today on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency. On the final day in Paris, in the very late hours of the plenary hall, the Constituency shared our reality check on what had been achieved and what critical gaps remained to transforming the Paris Agreement into action to combat climate change and protect human rights.

It has been said already by many, but the current commitments on the table for emissions reductions is leading the earth system toward catastrophic climate change and disaster. The world simply cannot afford to wait for more ambition, it is needed now.

Finance, is central to this issue, and developed countries must raise the ambition for finance and a transparent pathway towards 100 billion per year.

In the Paris agreement, we fought for language to ensure that technologies for climate mitigation and adaptation be safe and socially and environmentally sound. Removed from the final outcome, the implementation of the Paris Agreement must learn the lessons of years of mal-development, where technologies which are un-assessed, top down, and high risk only result in exacerbated environmental degradation, increased disaster risks and social and economic inequality.

As civil society, we stood together to demand that rights be central to the ways and means of implementation of this agreement. Under the APA we must create space to turn these words into real commitments for action.

On gender equality in particular, we urge Parties to utilize the platform of the Lima Work Programme on Gender to take forward mandates under the Paris Agreement under adaptation and capacity building- but also critically to ensure that all climate actions are gender-responsive and respect and promote women's full and effective participation in all climate decision-making.