

MARRAKECH, MOROCCO (November 2016)
COP Opening Intervention – COP22
Ms. Hawa Nibi Amenga-Etego

Thank you Chair. My name is Hawa Nibi Amenga-Etego and I am speaking on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency.

While the agreement in Paris may represent a starting point for collective action– the terms are still unclear, the ambition is too low, and the rights of peoples, the ecosystem and the planet have not been secured. People, namely indigenous peoples and local communities, and **women in particular** are both “at the frontlines of crisis and the frontlines of change.”

In the short months since Paris, when the agreement was adopted, Parties have not shown their willingness to meet the objectives set out in the agreement:

1. While the Preamble of the PA mentions the need to respect human rights, **gender equality** and the rights of indigenous peoples, many environmental defenders have lost their lives fighting to keep the promise of a sustainable world for example Berta Caceres.
2. The UNEP emissions Gap report, released last week shows that the current Parties commitments will lead to a temperature increase of 2.9 to 3.4°C this century. We must address this lack of ambition, and as COP 22 is supposed to be the “COP of action”, Parties must urgently and dramatically increase their ambition to cut GHG emissions, in line with the CBDR principle.
3. While celebrating the PA as a success for climate action, the second commitment of the Kyoto Protocol has still not been ratified. If countries are serious about fighting climate change, they should do it now, and stop postponing their action. Emphasized, should be the obligation upon Parties to **ensure that gender equality** is considered in all areas of implementation.
4. Since Paris parties have used WTO and other trade rules to prevent countries taking required action and shifting to renewable energies. A striking example of this is the WTO ruling against India’s domestic solar programme, a decision that disproportionately affects women. We are also deeply concerned about the continued pursuit of trade and investment agreements that prevent countries from effectively regulating dirty multi-national corporations and delivery energy democracy.
5. We are deeply concerned about the willingness to allow multi-national corporations, particularly those who have funded efforts to prevent climate action and pursued profits at the expense of people and planet, to influence these negotiations. We caution against public private partnerships and other forms of collaboration with industry that frustrate efforts to transform economies and ensure that the right to development is advanced.