

BONN, GERMANY (November 2017)
Intervention for Presidency's Open Dialogue with NGO Constituencies and Parties
Ms. Lisa Göldner

My name is Lisa Göldner and I am working with GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice. I am representing the Women and Gender Constituency.

The Women and Gender Constituency is always happy about opportunities to highlight the vital role of civil society and especially of rights-based organisations for the success of the UNFCCC process and for the successful implementation of climate action on all levels.

As a feminist I can not stress enough the importance and the added value of the full and equal participation of women and other marginalized peoples in political processes like this. We need the diversity of people, the diversity of knowledge, the diversity of perspectives to solve the climate crisis and to achieve climate justice.

Having said that we see the need for political will, but also for the necessary funding to foster the engagement of marginalized groups such as women, youth, indigenous peoples and workers in this process; groups that usually have less resources, less access to justice and a muted voice in relation to decision-making.

In this respect, looking at the Gender Action Plan that is currently negotiated here at COP23 we want to urge Parties to provide targeted funds to ensure the full and equal participation of women, and especially of indigenous, grassroots and young women in all aspects of this process.

In this process, we believe more opportunities can be provided for civil society to bring their unique perspectives on climate solutions. The Women and Gender Constituency has been showcasing gender-just solutions – technical and non-technical, and truly transformational solutions. These are sustainable solutions, focused on agroecology, seed saving, developing deep community consultation and consent and creating resilience. They turn the system upside down, they ensure a just transition, they transform oppressive and unjust gender norms and roles and empower women. They can be scaled up but more importantly, they can be replicated. These are the transformative solutions that we need to put at the center of our discussions. We need those solutions at the center of this process and showcased in expert meetings and expert groups. We need to listen to those people that are already developing and implementing truly transformative solutions that lead us to a more just, more equal world while supporting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Finally, we want to state our support for the concerns raised in this room by other Constituencies on the involvement of actors whose interests are contradictory to the objectives of the Convention. We think it is critically important to have a frank discussion on how to ensure that rights-holders in this process are heard and given the legitimate space for engagement that is required of a transparent process.

I think I can sum up my intervention with one short sentence: Parties, listen to people, not to profit.

Thank you!