Thank you Chair, my name is Shradha Shreejaya and I am speaking on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency.

We want to begin by congratulating Parties for the efforts taken thus far on the Gender Action Plan. We want to stress that gender equality is a crucial cross-cutting issue in all thematic areas, boards and bodies of the UNFCCC. We want to remind Parties that a comprehensive, targeted and resourced Plan is a critical outcome for COP23 and that Parties must make explicit financial commitments.

This should also be the guiding principle for accounting financial commitments under SBSTA agenda items 4 and 12. to urgently increase assistance for adaptation initiatives and financing needs for loss and damage. Developed countries must raise ambition and not leverage via the private sector, but meet their public financial commitments to developing countries through mechanisms like fossil fuel extraction levy and civil aviation levy.

On SBSTA agenda item 6 for technology transfer and 11 on article 6 we emphasize the need to break free from fossil fuels, reject end-of-pipe and risky technologies, and move away from the offsetting logic, designing solutions in a way that truly ensures GHG reduction.

Regarding SBSTA agenda item 9 on impact of the implementation of response measures we emphasize the need for a just transition and decent work. We urge you to listen to people, not profit. States are the primary duty bearers and have the responsibility to regulate corporations and other actors that cause human rights violations, the depletion of our natural resources and climate change.

Regarding the Nairobi Work Programme, climate ‘solutions’ must be gender-just, designed to alleviate women’s paid and unpaid workload and empower women via enhanced accessibility to basic services, livelihood security, food sovereignty, and health while ending all forms of violence against women and girls.

Furthermore, the Constituency supports the proposals by the International Indigenous Forum on Climate Change on the objectives of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Platform.

Finally, we ask Parties to ensure a comprehensive participation of civil society organisations, and particularly of women’s organisations and gender experts, throughout this process as well as on national levels.

Thank you!