



GERMANY, BONN

May 09, 2018

Talanoa Dialogue Closing

Bula Vinaka and Thank you your Excellencies! My name is Maria Nailevu, from DIVA for Equality from Fiji and I am speaking on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency.

On Sunday, I was pleased to join the Talanoa Dialogue to share my story. I shared the critical work we are doing in Fiji to recognize and affirm women and community's direct contribution to development. With little and no resources, women are already moving work on agriculture, waste management, oceans and many more. I shared how at a community level- we are creating safe and empowering spaces that encourage direct voices and honor diverse knowledge from faith based, youth, indigenous, traditional and others. We provide community education on issues that affect us everyday - gender equality and human rights, sustainable practices and finding practical means of empowering communities in taking leading role within social, economic, ecological and climate actions.

Members of the WGC shared our vision for a people centered energy, gender responsive transition from fossil fuel to safe, affordable and renewable energy. A vision where people, men and women, starting with those most affected by climate impacts, have acquired excellent technical skills are locally producing efficient, decentralized, affordable and safe energy systems, such as solar water heaters, solar heating systems, solar food dryers and improved stoves via sustainable cooperative models.

And of course, I shared our reality. As a diverse woman in a frontline community to climate change, disasters are becoming more frequent and aggressive. Everything in the science and our daily experience tells us we are so late as current commitments lead us to a 3 degree+ rise scenario. And where are developed countries with their financial commitments they have agreed to, let alone what is really necessary to combat this challenge?

We need to radically shift from negotiations to actions.-solutions are there with the people- invest in women-led and feminist solutions, include direct and diverse voices that truly matters in the process alongside technical solutions.

We call on Parties to urgently lay out the political process for ensuring the Talanoa Dialogue, including clear activities at the next session in Bangkok leading to real enhancement of ambition, via support and stepped up NDCs, in the context of equity and justice.

Thank you MR CHAIR!