



## **Press Release: Women's Groups Demand XXX**

**04 December, 2018**

**Katowice, Poland**

Climate change is one of the most daunting global challenges of our time. As changing temperatures, weather patterns, and ecological systems threaten communities all over the world, the effects will be felt differently between the global North and South, various social classes, and between men and women. Just as any disaster can exacerbate existing social differences, climate change can be expected to worsen the distinction between men, women, and gender-nonconforming individuals in terms of opportunity, safety, and general wellbeing. In addition to the looming threat posed by climate change, gender distinctions in relation to environmental issues can already be observed.

The Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) is one of the stakeholder groups of the ([UNFCCC](#)). Established in 2009, the WGC consists of women's and environmental civil society organizations, who are working to ensure that women's voices and their rights are embedded in all processes and results of the UNFCCC framework, for a sustainable [and] just future, so that gender equality and women's human rights are central to the ongoing discussions. As the WGC represents the voices of millions of women and LGBTQI+ persons, members of the Constituency are here to present our great expectations and demands from this COP.

"We want to see full reflection of the vision of the Paris Agreement — that of rights-based, participative, and gender-responsive climate action that contributes to promote a just transition and food sovereignty for food security that respects the right of indigenous and local communities' and is in affirmation of their traditional knowledge", Ndivile, GenderCC-South Africa, shares as her expectation from the COP24 negotiations.

Most members of the Constituency have shared their concerns around the joint work of Koronivia road map, stating it should foster rights-based, transformative and gender-responsive approach, acknowledge that large-scale ecosystem restoration and balanced diets are an essential element of effective 1.5C pathways. The key demand goes further to demand that agriculture should be excluded from multilateral and bilateral free-trade and investment agreements which tends to favour large scale producers and marginalize or even destroy small-scale producers. Involvement of corporate actors with clearly conflicting commercial interest in the work of SBSTA & SBI will fatally undermine the integrity, effectiveness and legitimacy of UNFCCC's work in the field of agriculture.

“2018 has been a disastrous year especially in South and South east Asia bearing the brunt of unpredictable monsoons, cyclonic storms and natural disasters, destroying properties, livelihoods and lives of the people who continue struggling to recover from these losses. With 2018 also being the 5th year of Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage related to Climate Change, the Polish Presidency must aspire to go beyond a celebratory event and guide States at COP24 to develop a coordinated approach together with other international frameworks on (forced) migration and displacement,” says Shradha from Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, a membership network based in Thailand.

As people movements and civil societies look in anticipation of the outcomes of the current negotiation at COP24 to address the urgency of the recent IPCC report and the lack of ambition to keep the global temperature below 1.5 degree, the Constituency is also urging member States to operationalize the Gender Action Plan keeping in mind these realities.

### **ABOUT THE WOMEN AND GENDER CONSTITUENCY (WGC)**

The Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) is one of the nine stakeholder groups of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Established in 2009, the WGC now consists of 27 women’s and environmental civil society organizations, who are working to ensure that women’s voices and their rights are embedded in all processes and results of the UNFCCC framework, for a sustainable [and] just future, so that gender equality and women’s human rights are central to the ongoing discussions. As the WGC represents the voices of hundreds and thousands of people across the globe, members of the Constituency are present at each UNFCCC meeting and intersessional alongside the UNFCCC Secretariat, governments, civil society observers and other stakeholders to ensure that women’s rights and gender justice are core elements of the UNFCCC. In this action the constituency is joined by other stakeholders committed to advancing women’s human rights, peace and climate justice.

<http://womensgenderclimate.org>

### **FURTHER RESOURCES**

Women and Gender Constituency Key Demands for COP24

[http://womensgenderclimate.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/COP24-WGC-Demands\\_Finalitedesign.pdf](http://womensgenderclimate.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/COP24-WGC-Demands_Finalitedesign.pdf)

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