

PARIS, FRANCE (December 2015)

Opening of the 43rd Session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) Opening Plenary

Ms. Kate Cahoon, GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice

My name is Kate Cahoon and I am speaking on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency.

We would like to take this opportunity to recognise the progress which has been made on the Lima Work Programme on Gender. The first workshop held in June was a step in the right direction, beginning much-needed discussions about gender-responsive policy in relation to mitigation actions and technology transfer and development.

We also acknowledge the significant investment made by several groups of Parties and countries in sharing submissions and participating in what was a very interesting dialogue.

The workshop showcased a strong desire from Parties for enhancing tools and methodologies for gender-responsive climate policies, as well as clear examples of the importance of considering gender in the development of effective mitigation policies and actions. We look forward to conclusions which take forward the key recommendations of the report and also look forward to further efforts to enhance coherence of these recommendations across all areas of the negotiations.

We note that in discussions under the new agreement, the linkages between gender and mitigation and technology are still lacking. We therefore encourage Parties to take the lessons learned under this Work Programme into consideration in their deliberations in the ADP.

Beyond these aspects, in terms of implementation we would also like to stress the importance of not losing sight of the guiding light that provides the direction for shared action on climate change – the longterm goal.

In our key demands, we as the Women and Gender Constituency, emphasise that governments must commit to keep temperature rises under 1.5 degrees Celsius, because we can't – and we won't – accept the loss of life, livelihoods, culture and ecosystems that would result from a 2 degree world, or worse.

Parties must push forward to conclude the 2013 to 2015 Review here in Paris. Women and communities around the world are already facing the significant impacts of climate change and cannot wait for further review. Let us use this opportunity to send a message that the world understands the urgency of this challenge and let us have the courage to make the transformational changes which the science tells us we need.