



BONN, GERMANY (November 2017)
Opening intervention for the APA
Ms. Vera Zhou

Thank you Chair.

My name is Vera Zhou and I am speaking on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency.

The Paris Agreement suggested a vision of climate action promoting gender equality, human rights, the rights of indigenous peoples, just transition and food security. We now need to make sure this vision drives all aspects of the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The Implementation Guidelines must guide Parties towards this fair, inclusive and gender-equitable transition.

NDCs must ensure public participation, access to information, consultation and consent. This includes consultation with gender experts and women's civil society groups when developing domestic strategies and plans. We demand all countries, and in particular developed countries, to fully mainstream gender into their NDCs. Gender justice is not only relevant for developing countries!

The current NDCs are far from adequate, and do not reflect the urgent need to break free from fossil fuels. We MUST keep warming under 1.5. For all people, for Pacific peoples, this is non-negotiable. The Facilitative Dialogue must be a moment for enhancing ambition and delivering on finance.

In relation to the MPGs for the transparency framework, the review and report on response measures must systematically take into account social impacts. This must be ensured by including gender safeguards and audits, involving gender experts and civil society groups as well as providing gender disaggregated data and gender differentiated analysis as part of the reporting.

Finally, we also want to express our deep concern about the fact that APA round table discussion was closed to observers, which is contradictory to ensuring a transparent and inclusive process.

People are creating the just world we want to see, we are acting even when others won't. We saw this over the weekend in the streets in Bonn. From the thousands at the climate march demanding to end coal to the Pacific Climate Warriors and local German communities at Ende Gelände. This is how you meet the promise of Parties and we stand with all those at the frontlines of the fight against climate change.

Thank you!