

# WOMEN GENDER CONSTITUENCY

## Women and Gender Constituency

Intervention

COP/CMP/CMA Closing Plenary

Madrid, Spain, Dec 15, 2019

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

First, we take the opportunity to welcome what we see as one of the strongest outcomes of this COP, the adoption of the Gender Action Plan. We thank Parties for pushing for a strong outcome on this.

However, at this COP we saw unprecedented resistance of Parties against acknowledging the interconnections of human rights with every aspect of the negotiations. We heard a resounding call from countries in support of human rights in Article 6 just this morning, which we applaud as we cannot allow any decision on Article 6 to go forward that would infringe on rights and ultimately not advance the goals of the Convention. We expect Parties to continue this call going forward!

Everytime you undermine human rights you undermine gender equality. Everytime an environmental defender is threatened, raped, disappeared, or murdered, the violator is you. Your commitments to patriarchy, capitalism, militarism, colonialism, racism, and ecocide are the only ones you have made and which you support with real finance.

Until these systems of oppression are dismantled, which lock out peaceful protesters and communities, including indigenous peoples and women, from real participation and decision-making, until the root causes of this climate catastrophe are reckoned with, we will be here. You will hear our voices raised in solidarity, you will see our bodies in the halls and on the streets and on the frontlines. You took the COP away from the people of Chile and Latin America, but you cannot silence us. You cannot silence the people. You cannot silence women, nor indigenous peoples, nor migrants, nor workers, nor peasants, nor lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, non-binary, gender-nonconforming, queer, intersex, and two-spirit people. You cannot silence people of color, nor people living with disabilities, nor the elders, and not the youth. You cannot silence our rallying cry for justice. People power - climate justice!