

WOMEN GENDER CONSTITUENCY

Women and Gender Constituency

Intervention
High Level Segment

Madrid, Spain, Dec 10, 2019

Thank you President, my name is Gina Cortes from Colombia and I am speaking on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency. We come this evening with great concerns and much disappointment about this space.

Feminists from all over the world raise their voices to put an end to structural violence, armed violence and also extractivist violence that put at risk the cultural and ecosystemic integrity of each of our territories. Cycles of violence that come from a patriarchal and colonial structure that have made participation and forceful action against climate change invisible.

In Chile it has become so visible - The social and environmental crisis are intrinsically linked! Today I speak for those who are not present at this, the so known Latin-American COP, for those killed, for those who are here and for those who will come.

The lack of progress under the gender agenda item, where previously we have witnessed strong political will and constructive engagement from all Parties - has been incredibly frustrating to witness.

We are not here to let governments trade-off between rights and resources, and we expect that governments will uphold their human rights commitments and gender equality and not rollback: not in the GAP, not in Loss and Damage nor in Article 6! Nowhere! We are urging Parties for real leadership now and to work in a model of common will towards an effective outcome that addresses the climate crisis for real. We remind Parties that there are thousands of women environmental rights defenders, indigenous women, and activists who face constant threats and risks to their lives to protect the environment, their land, and their resources and are relying on governments to fulfil their human rights obligations.

Thank you president!