

WOMEN GENDER CONSTITUENCY

Women and Gender Constituency

Joint Opening Intervention
COP, CMP, CMA, SBSTA and SBI

Madrid, Spain, Dec 02, 2019

Thank you Chair, my name is Antonia Zambra, from Chile, and I speak on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency. We come today in solidarity with feministas who are with allies, hosting the Cumbre de los Pueblos and the Cumbre Social por la Acción Climática.

Women and feminists have been on the frontlines of the protests in Chile, as they are on the frontlines of the climate justice movement. The unclear circumstances around the death of Macarena Valdés, a woman environmental defender, emphasizes the important need for the Chilean government to sign and ratify the Escazú's Agreement. We are calling on Chile to end the economic, political and sexual violence towards women, girls and gender non-conforming people. We must protect the right to freedom of assembly.

The social revolution in Chile mirrors the demands and mobilizations of social, economic and ecological justice and feminist movements around the world – reverberating loudly demands for human rights, bodily autonomy, access to water, food, education and universal healthcare, dignified and decent work, and to a peaceful, healthy, safe, and sustainable environment.

We are challenging the very conditions which we know are fundamental drivers of the climate crisis – systems that prioritize profit over people and elites over majority, that privatize critical public goods, and uphold a model of resource extraction, environmental exploitation and militarization.

The pillars of 'market-driven development' are being torn down as the reality of growing global social inequality and injustice, and a relentlessly progressing climate emergency are at our doorsteps.

We need urgent climate action that ensures a rights-based and people-centered global framework that works towards a just transition for all. We urge you to deliver upscaled, ambitious, fast-tracked and gender-transformative finance to ensure climate frontline communities, the poorest countries and people are able to better respond and adapt to the urgent and slow-onset realities of the climate crisis, as well as to address irrevocable loss and damage. We need you to urgently integrate ocean issues into all respective bodies and mechanisms under UNFCCC.

Today Chile has a historical opportunity to change this unjust reality. That is why I strongly encourage the Government of Chile and other countries to make your decisions keeping social, gender and environmental justice at the center. Here in Madrid we will continue to hold you accountable for this climate emergency and remind you that Feminists want system change!