Women and Gender Constituency
Joint Opening Intervention
SBSTA and SBI

Thank you Chair.

I am Cathy, speaking on behalf of WGC - the Women and Gender Constituency.

We take this moment to remind Parties of the Paris principles - respecting human rights, the rights of Indigenous Peoples, gender equality, intergenerational equity, ecosystem integrity, food security and a just transition - which are critical to all climate action. This is of particular importance to all the discussions Parties will have in the next three weeks, particularly when considering Article 6, and the Enhanced Transparency Framework.

What we need is rights-based and people-centered global climate action that delivers a just transition for all. We urge you to deliver upscaled, ambitious, fast-tracked and gender-responsive climate finance to ensure climate frontline countries and communities 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.

Urgent climate action must address the drivers of the crisis. So-called "solutions" by large emitters fail to meet the need of this moment, which is a full-scale transition away from fossil fuel and dirty energy infrastructure, and a commitment to safe, sustainable and regenerative consumption and production models. More often, "solutions" instead only work to further green neocolonialism via offset projects in developing nations. Quite simply, "Net Zero" is "Not Zero", it is instead synonymous with "business as usual" approaches that do little to get us towards the goals of Paris. Furthermore, ambiguous concepts such as "nature-based solutions" are being used as a "catch-all" for many false solutions, including mono-cropping projects, often with no consideration for environmental integrity, ecosystems and communities. We continue to implore countries to work under the framing of ecosystem-based approaches, as defined under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On Article 6, the inclusion of human rights, environmental integrity, gender and social safeguards, including independent grievance redress mechanisms, must be applied to all activities. UNFCCC must provide a strong framework that prohibits the inherent faults of market

instruments as observed previously, especially prohibiting double counting. Article 6.8 on non-market approaches should be prioritised too.

In the upcoming dialogues, on Koronivia joint work, around adaptation and technology, we remind countries of the critical need for a gender-responsive approach to all actions.
- For agriculture, the Koronivia joint work should strengthen gender-responsive planning and budgeting for adaptation in the agricultural sector, as well as facilitate access to sustainable technologies and funding to small farmers;
- Under adaptation, we welcome Parties considerations of how to better integrate gender under the work of the Adaptation Committee.

In relation to the topic of loss and damage,we appreciate the technical paper and welcome its conclusions on how adaptation, development and loss and damage intersect. However, there must be a clear differentiation between public money for compensation and insurance that burdens those at the frontlines of climate change.

Finally, we remind Parties of the intrinsic importance of oceans to our overall planetary health. There must be a continued push to address oceans across the respective bodies and mechanisms of the UNFCCC.

As marked by the way we are having this meeting, we know these times are unprecedented. The global COVID-19 pandemic has fueled even greater disparity between developed and developing countries, and among people and communities, while the climate crisis grows, with commitments from countries - from NDCs to finance - show us far away from reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement.

No matter the modality of these meetings, the reality of our urgent climate crisis, and of deepening inequality, requires bold, ambitious and just action now. Don't just talk Parties, Act.

People Power, Climate Justice.