

WOMEN & GENDER CONSTITUENCY

LONG VERSION

Joint Opening Intervention COP26, SBSTA and SBI

For the ones alive who are not here, and for the ones who have been murdered for protecting our land.

Thank you Chair, my name is Babitha PS, from Kerala, India and today I represent the Women and Gender Constituency. I bring the voice of children and youth and our experience of working in the area of sustainability, menstruation and education (through Green Army and Sustainable Menstruation Kerala Collective) to this COP.

As feminists, gender equality and women's rights advocates from around the world—led by and accountable to the demands of frontlines, Indigenous and grassroots leaders—the Women and Gender Constituency come to COP26 with a clear demand for climate justice.

I speak today in the reality of a world of ever-increasing climate impacts and disasters, where a global pandemic has worked to deepen gross inequities between and within countries and to further exacerbate inequalities and drive millions into greater poverty and instability, especially in the Global South.

While the science is clear on the devastating impacts of failing to keep warming below 1.5 degrees, countries current emissions reductions targets are woefully inadequate to meet the promises of Paris—nor are we close to the US\$100 billion per year in climate finance promised from Copenhagen. At the same time, in 2020 and 2021 a record number of environmental human rights defenders working to protect the environment and marginalized people's rights were murdered—losing their lives while trying to preserve the planet, other species and ourselves.

Our demands are clear:

- Parties must fulfill the promises of Paris. This demands enhanced ambition in countries NDCs to keep 1.5 within reach, but also the full recognition of human rights, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and gender equality in all

climate action. Human rights are not an add on to ambition, they are a driver of ambition and effective climate policy, and they must be strongly safeguarded, including in the rules for mechanisms under Article 6.

- Parties must raise the quantity and quality of climate finance overall to achieve, at minimum, the US\$100 billion per year goal, ensuring finance is gender-responsive, and that the proportion of grants-based funding for adaptation is significantly increased, with new, additional funds for loss and damage, as a matter of climate, social and gender justice.
- Finally, Parties must advance the Gender Action Plan at COP26, including reviewing progress and gaps in implementation of gender-responsive climate action.

We call on Parties to get to work. We have no time for hollow speeches and promises. It's time to reject false solutions that only uphold business as usual, and invest in truly regenerative, gender-just, climate compatible societies. People power, climate justice.