

WOMEN & GENDER CONSTITUENCY

Intervention Stocktaking Plenary

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

Thank you Chair, I am Regina Banks, from the US speaking on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency.

Last week has shown that Observer access to consultations is critical to ensure that the Human Rights principles adopted in the Paris Agreement as well as the 1.5°C target are kept alive. Human rights are not an add on to ambition. They drive ambition and effective climate policy and must be strongly safeguarded, across all climate actions - specifically under Article 6. Moreover, all rules established for Article 6 must not undermine the Paris Agreement. No decision remains better than a bad decision.

While we discuss where finance will come from and when it will be delivered, every single day lives across the world are being devastated with women on the frontlines facing the worst impacts of the COVID and climate crisis, crises that have exacerbated and deepened existing inequalities for women and marginalized communities. It's been 6 years- too long, and we need climate finance to address loss and damage, and adaptation right now.

Finally, we as a Constituency reject the global rallying cry to sustain "business as usual" through offsetting loopholes. Private corporations undermine global climate action by marketing false solutions, unproven techno-fixes, risky technologies, negative emissions technologies and offsetting mechanisms. As such, we ask you to note the stark contrast between large delegations from private corporations and shrinking space for civil society at COP26.

To keep people safe, we need immediate large and sustained cuts to carbon emissions. Feminists are rising to tell countries that greenwashing, offsets, carbon markets, and net zero delusions will not cut it. We have real, transformative, gender-just solutions that demand investment, support and replication in communities around the world.

Leaders must show *genuine* commitment under the UNFCCC framework and not pledges and declarations in a long list of weak promises. We urge you to allow for access and interventions of observers into consultations of the COP26 cover decision. You need to keep your Paris promise and commit to a rights-based approach for all climate action in that decision. It is time to show true and just leadership now:

People power, climate justice.

Thank you