

WOMEN & GENDER CONSTITUENCY

WGC Opening Intervention Joint Opening Plenary - SB56

June 6 2022

My name is Anne Songole from Kenya, and I speak on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency - and communities and people(s), particularly in Africa, whose representation is important in such conferences.

The urgency to act is inescapable. Less than thirty months is the time science gives us to turn the course of this climate crisis. The crisis is rooted in a colonial and extractivist system that has led to regression and disproportionate vulnerabilities at a massive scale- in the global south, including Africa - the region we will gather together later this year to act on this urgency. This legacy hides behind the false mantra of economic growth that is instead leading us to the permanent and irreversible destruction of our territories, our traditions, our identity.

Parties must center their discussions towards creating a just transition - and economic and social models that are participatory, equal and ecologically sustainable. We need to take real action to phase out fossil fuels - this involves dismantling extractive industries that continue to wreak havoc on ecosystems and sponsor the murder of environmental, climate justice and other social movement leaders.

Specifically, at SB56, Parties should work towards conclusions on climate justice issues, including: finance for loss and damage through a Loss and Damage Finance Facility, and closing the critical emissions gap and delivering on climate finance - responding to the call that global North countries pay their climate debt and urgently deliver on governments' fair share of climate action. As you work to define the new collective commitment, we must not forget the failure to deliver on the original commitment of 100billion per year by 2020 - your words on paper mean nothing without implementation.

Parties will also review progress on the gender action plan - where there is huge opportunity to shift from words to implementation, (that is only) if Parties meaningfully commit to actions, support and leadership on advancing gender-responsive climate policy. The discussions must be connected to the dialogues under the Global Stocktake - where gender must be more than just a cross-cutting issue.

WOMEN & GENDER CONSTITUENCY

Finally, as we engage with the COP27 Presidency, we reaffirm our demands that the COP be an open, inclusive, participatory and accessible space, grounded in the principles of human rights and strong civic participation.

A rapid, systemic, and structural transformation is required today more than ever.

People power, climate justice.