

WOMEN & GENDER CONSTITUENCY

WGC Intervention

Closing Session Glasgow Dialogue SB56

June 10 2022

Thank you co-facilitators. My name is Gina Cortés Valderrama, from Colombia, and I speak on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency,

It has been decades of repeating the same mistakes of following a dead-end route on that map drawn on what has been called infinite economic growth, in a world of finite resources. It has been decades framed by the legacy of colonialism giving a free way to the multiple exploitations of our territories, of our bodies in the name of development, in the name of progress through unfair trade, investments, and massive repression. Fossil-fuel industries continue to extract our resources, erase our culture, and bury our identity.

The debt owed by the global North to the global South is beyond measure. Climate debt represents centuries of unequal relations between North and South, between rich and poor, and between exploiters and exploited. Countries that have accumulated wealth on the backs of the poor continue to refuse to foot the bill, both in terms of the actual costs of mitigation, adaptation, and especially loss and damage.

This is by no means a discussion about charity or humanitarian aid. This is by no means another opportunity to profit from the devastation of our communities with loans and investments. We stress the need for a distinct Loss and Damage Finance mechanism as a matter of justice. Setting up and resourcing a Loss and Damage fund is your opportunity to make things right by paying up for centuries of colonial extraction and plunder.

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Climate-induced losses and damages dramatically multiply the social crises in societies that are already struggling with multiple injustices. The impacts of climate disasters particularly threaten women's rights and human rights. Over 80% of people currently displaced by climate-related events are women and girls. Power imbalances, structural inequalities, and the lack of access to resources and opportunities need to be addressed with a gender lens for a transformative and possible present and future.

Urgency, gravity deserves more than just another talk shop. Loss and damage must be on the agenda.

We don't need your loans and investments, we need real accountability and justice.

You need to pay up!

People power! Climate justice!