

WOMEN & GENDER CONSTITUENCY

**WGC Joint Opening Plenary Intervention (2 minutes -Final version)
30 November 2023.**

My name is Shirine Jurdi and I speak on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency representing feminists from across the world including from the MENA region, **whose voices MUST be centered here.**

Feminists and gender advocates gathered here and hundreds of others who could not attend this COP because of structural challenges **demand COP28 to be the COP to phase out fossil fuels** - we will not accept “unabated” or “fossil emissions” language.

COP28 should and must commit to scale up the quantity and quality of climate finance, by recognizing the core role of public finance provision under the principles of equity and CBDR-RC. It must also enhance and simplify access for women, girls, marginalized and excluded groups, as well as impacted communities through doubling adaptation finance and delivering **grant-based** finance to the scale and with the speed required.

As parties set to agree on the first ever GST decision, we remind you that we are watching. We expect nothing less than a GST decision which provides strong guidance on updated NDCs which are gender transformative, that recognize and commit to invest in **human rights-centered, needs-based, gender-just and community-led climate solutions** while recognizing the vital role of data and calls for investment in the production and use of gender disaggregated data.

With COP28 in the MENA region we want to affirm and uplift MENA women and girls who provide exceptional leadership to protect our environment and fight climate change. As mentioned in the launch of our MENA Feminist demands by Ayskha Najib- ***“Our bodies and lands should no longer be the sacrifice zones of the fossil fuel industry. It is our leadership, our expertise, and our liberation that will uproot systems of oppressions to protect people and the planet! Our voices will only get louder from here!”***

Ceasefire Now! End Fossil Fuels! Fast Fair Feminist Forever!