

WOMEN & GENDER CONSTITUENCY

WGC Joint Opening Plenary Intervention (2 minutes -Final version)

18 June 2023.

On behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency, I, Muna Alhammadi, call on Parties to respect, promote, and fulfill human and women's rights, in all climate actions.

COP28 must deliver an ambitious, just, gender-responsive and human rights-based GST outcome for people and the planet. GST is the only accountability framework for ratcheting up the ambition of the Paris Agreement. The WGC expects real commitments and guidance to close the implementation gap and related finance gap to ensure a funded, fair, and fast fossil fuel phase-out.

Human rights, Indigenous rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gender equality cannot be realized without real, scaled-up funding for mitigation, adaptation, and paying up for loss and damage. Parties with climate finance obligations must ensure adequate, predictable, new and additional grant-based climate finance to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. This is not charity, but a matter of justice and equity!

Parties are not living up to their responsibility to fulfill women's human rights by failing to reach an agreement on agriculture, just transition, and by watering down any language on gender justice. Women's roles, demands, responsibilities, needs, perspectives and interests must be taken into account when designing and implementing agricultural work and 'just transition' programs, otherwise they risk leaving half of us behind.

We must remember that the climate crisis has exacerbated sexual and gender-based violence and structural violence due to inaction in addressing the root causes of this climate catastrophe.

We stand in solidarity with women, girls, marginalized and excluded groups who are subject to sexual harassment and intersecting forms of discrimination while participating in this multilateral process. The commitment Parties have re-emphasised in AIM on safe and secure spaces, protecting participants from sexual harassment and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, must now be followed by action targeting prevention, reporting and prosecuting perpetrators.

There is no climate justice without human rights!
