

WOMEN & GENDER CONSTITUENCY

Second Dialogue under the United Arab Emirates Just Transition Work Programme 2024

Women & Gender Constituency Final Intervention

The Women and Gender Constituency would like to stress again the fact that, among the different conversations that we have had, we keep on missing a key piece that is at the very core of the need for the transitions that we envision.

We need to move away from growth-based economic models that push us beyond planetary boundaries. We have surpassed six out of nine planetary boundaries so far. Let us move forward by considering among the array of efforts such policies that target sufficiency and prioritise life. Otherwise, let's be frank, energy demand will just keep on rising in parallel with the extraction of critical minerals to fulfil that thirst.

In light of this, and speaking about international cooperation, The Women & Gender Constituency supports the Civil Society Recommendations for the UNSG's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals, outlining 7 key principles to guide technology transfer and strongly urges governments to adopt all recommendations that have now been published from the CETM panel.

Now, we talk about how we pay for the transition and how we pay for climate action. We need to be bold and talk about the money spent on fossil fuels, about the money spent on war.

Last year, military spending reached USD 2.4 trillion. The money is there. We must redirect this money and finance sectors that enhance human and environmental well-being rather than causing destruction and death.

We talk about people-centred transitions. People cannot thrive when they are experiencing genocide, when they are experiencing ethnic cleansing, when they are living through war. As a basic first step to achieving people-centric just transitions, we need international cooperation to end wars and genocide. Parties must end fossil fuel subsidies and redirect military spending towards spending that produces good outcomes for people and planet.

Our aim when financing the just transition must not be to change communities to fit the needs of the finance system but rather to change the finance system to meet the needs of people. Market and investor interests cannot be prioritized above life and over the well-being and survival of people.

Finally, we want to talk about procedural justice, which is a key pillar of just transition - not a “nice thing to do” but something essential and unavoidable if we are to meet what is considered to be the criteria for a just transition. As the Women and Gender Constituency, we have continuously highlighted that procedural justice and proper participation of civil society in the Just Transition Work Programme remain sorely lacking. Alongside our constituency colleagues in ENGO, YOUNGO and TUNGO, we have been calling for institutional arrangements in the work programme to guarantee proper participation of the observer constituency groups in the JTWP. The establishment of an advisory body is how we envisage this should work, and these arrangements remain a priority issue for feminists and for civil society.

[ENDS]