



WGC Submission for the SB - Joint plenary to hear closing statements

Thank you Chair.

I am Pratima, speaking on behalf of WGC - the Women and Gender Constituency.

This year has again reached record heights of carbon dioxide levels despite the short lived decline in emissions during the pandemic. This is a true moment of reckoning for us to genuinely stock-take, commit and implement climate action that reverses business as usual, keeps warming under 1.5 degrees and ensures a true and sustainable transformation of economies and societies. This can only be achieved in a feminist, and inclusive way - respecting human rights, the rights of Indigenous Peoples, gender equality, intergenerational equity, ecosystem integrity, food security and a just transition.

This year, as the world continues to reel from the increasing devastating impacts of the climate and pandemic crisis, which are disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable women in the Global South, States must provide scaled up finance and meaningful support for adaptation and loss and damage.

We urge Parties to stop funding and promoting false climate solutions such as market mechanisms that are environmentally unsustainable and deadly for environmental rights defenders and ethnic minorities. We call for prioritizing non-market approaches of Article 6.8 and recognise the progress made during the past three weeks in this regard. All decisions on Article 6 must ensure strong safeguards for human and Indigenous Peoples rights as well as gender equality, meaningful participation processes, and an independent redress mechanism. These elements are building the red line for any decision on Art. 6.

It is critical for Parties to agree on Common Time Frames in line with the 5 year cycle of the Paris Agreement to reflect the highest ambitions as we are fast running out of time to avert an ecological collapse.

We welcome the constructive exchange on AIM, ACE and PCCB, inviting inputs from observers that prove the value and effectiveness of inclusive and transparent processes to lead the way for strong decisions at COP26.

We are deeply concerned that - in spite of continuous efforts made by both the Secretariat and Co-Chairs of the SBs to ensure inclusive participation as well as by ourselves - we find many important voices, in particular of grassroots-activists, including women who are at the frontlines of resisting the structural drivers of the climate crisis, as well as communities hardest hit by climate change not being equally represented the past weeks in this virtual format. We cannot accept an approach for COP26 being “as-inclusive-as possible” when these voices are excluded. And, more importantly, the knowledge and experience of Indigenous Peoples, particularly grassroots and Indigenous women, to shape and advance equitable and feminist solutions.

Our communities in the Global South are battling between life and death while Parties fail to prioritise actions protecting human rights, gender justice and the environment. People power! Climate Justice!