

Thank you chair.

My name is Rachel Harris of the Women's Environment and Development Organization and I am speaking on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency. Esteemed colleagues and friends, the LCA decisions coming out of COP16 and COP17 include gender equality language throughout every single pillar of the Bali Action Plan. The themes of human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment must not be lost or pushed aside but instead continue to be enhanced and central as we move forward toward a future agreement.

Equity must be at the heart of the climate regime. Currently, the costs and benefits of climate change mitigation and adaptation policies are not equitably distributed, neither between countries, nor between the rich and the poor, nor between generations, nor between women and men. False solutions to climate change, such as industrial bio-energy, nuclear energy and forest carbon offsets harm women disproportionately, affecting their health, livelihoods and access to resources, while they receive far less economic and other benefits than men. We need to transform how we think about mitigation and adaptation to make the responses to climate change equitable, socially just and environmentally sound.

Colleagues, mitigating and adapting to climate change is about ensuring environmental integrity and sustainable livelihoods for all people now and in future generations. Over the next two weeks of LCA negotiations Parties must be ambitious but must also make good on commitments already made; Women will suffer disproportionately when high emitting countries refuse to take the lead in emissions reductions and provide needed funding.

Esteemed negotiators, you have made tremendous progress on gender issues since Rio in 1992. Don't stop now. We urge you to make a strong closing statement that reaffirms the importance of gender-responsive climate change policies and programming.