

Thank you Chair,

Distinguished delegates and colleagues,

I speak to you today on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency.

Dear colleagues, while we left Cancun with confidence in the process and high regards for the strong support that Parties showed towards gender equality and women's rights, our work has only just begun. As parties recognized the importance of including women and gender equality to achieve effective action on climate change and to realize human rights for all, we now need to define how these issues could become a reality. It is now time to start implementing the many decisions that were made in Cancun, ensuring that those commitments to women's rights and gender equality are not just words in a document.

It is therefore, heartening to see, for example, how in the submissions and the synthesis report for the Adaptation Committee several Parties, have shown support for not only gender balance on the committee, through decision 36/CP.7, which relates to improving the participation of women in the representation of Parties in bodies established under the UNFCCC, but also have recognized the need for gender equality awareness within the committee and linkages with gender-focused civil society organizations. The examples demonstrate how Parties have overwhelmingly recognized that a component for the success of this committee is the integration of gender concerns in its procedures, modalities and linkages. The operationalization of a gender sensitive Adaptation Committee is dependent on financial support and could be one of the great successes of Durban.

Dear colleagues, to ensure that progress in Durban will further the ability of men and women, boys and girls, in adapting to and mitigating climate change, Parties must urgently begin their work towards the success in Durban now.