

SBSTA intervention for closing session - Dec 6th. Aneesa Khan

Thank you,

My name is Aneesa Khan and I represent the youth constituency.

Climate change isn't my future, it is affecting me now. Weak vows, broken promises, low levels of ambition and high levels of passivity have led to the deplorable state of efforts to control climate change today. It is time for things to be done differently. We, the youth, believe its possible.

So yesterday, at the meeting on agenda item 12, it was said – how can we eat a cake that is still baking? Wrong question – who said we want to be force fed that cake? It's baked with false ingredients, it's burnt. This is the second consecutive year that the carbon markets has failed to deliver.

They shift responsibility and burden away from developed nations. You should agree on moratorium on failed carbon trading mechanisms and take up real non-market solutions.

It is uncertain whether markets will actually deliver what they promise. Will the UNFCCC be a place for real solutions or for making profits?

REDD+ lacks effective monitoring and safeguards. Emissions accountability is converted into offsetting and buyouts as opposed to reductions and change. This is yet another false solution.

Interests of nations and transnational corporations are financially involved and invested in land use that demolishes the livelihoods of forest, land-based and indigenous communities.

Acknowledgement of these peoples and proposals for climate smart approaches are insufficient and not enough. It is mandatory that the voices and lives of those working on the ground are at the forefront of a just and equitable approach to land use.

Knowledge and technology will play a key part in future solutions so it is important to ensure we do it right. We need a platform or mechanism for sharing technology and knowledge. It must allow multidirectional sharing but also ensure contributions based on Equity and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities.

Countries and communities need to have access to information and technology in order to find effective solutions for adaptation and mitigation, and existing barriers such as Intellectual Property Rights need to be replaced or refined to ensure this happens.

We demand a fair and just agreement as well as bold and immediate action to halt climate change. We will remain vigilant, and we will not hesitate to raise our voice if you do anything different.

We have said what we have to say, and we're doing what we need to do. It's your turn.

