

GERMANY, BONN
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COP23 Women and Gender Constituency Statement - High level plenary*

The COP23 Presidency, Delegates and Observers, friends - I am Noelene Nabulivou from Fiji, a Pacific climate frontline state now affected every moment of every day by issues of ecological damage, disasters and climate change. I speak on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency and in co-responsibility with all Indigenous and climate frontline peoples struggling to survive and change this path of ecocide.

We celebrate a decade of work toward this first UNFCCC Gender Action Plan. Member States, social movements and civil society have finally achieved a GAP to support and enhance implementation of gender-related decisions and mandates in UNFCCC processes. Developed countries must now provide serious public financing for gender-responsive low-carbon and climate-resilient development. There is truly no climate justice without gender, social, economic and ecological justice.

This of course includes justice for Indigenous peoples and local communities. We reaffirm that the platform decided in this COP requires governments to respect, promote and consider respective obligations on the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. This is not enough. States must recognize and implement the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In 2016 we are horrified to find the most-ever violations against ecological and climate defenders including women human rights defenders (WHRD). So we will resist and act till no more human rights activists are harmed and killed. Not one more.

We also will not stand for false solutions, from carbon capture and geoengineering, to inclusion of land and ocean resources in global carbon markets. All may be in the canoe, but it seems some are still drilling holes. There is no space for offsetting in a just transition to a 1.5C scenario.

Climate frontline people are tired of hearing there are no resources to address climate change. We remind on corporate capture of many economies, illegal and illicit funds moving resources away from the people, and a lack of intergovernmental commitment and national regulation so that transnational corporations still run rampant over human rights and destroy the web of life. We call for all countries to move urgently to end coal based economies and make safe, just transitions to low carbon economies.

Let us push each other to move funds away from an elite owned military industrial complex adding more pain to people already experiencing loss and damage. Fund what must be funded as historical responsibility. Time is so short to act, but we are strong and connected.

We will never give up on this beautiful planet. We defend these Commons.

Thank you.

(*Check on delivery)

Statement delivered by

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