

Thank you, Mr. President.

Honourable President, Distinguished Ministers, delegates and colleagues,

I am Usha Nair from the All India Women's Conference speaking on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency.

The Women and Gender Constituency wants a climate agreement based on human rights and gender equality. One that preserves and protects the rights of the disadvantaged and climate-impacted groups including women, indigenous peoples, persons with special needs and populations in the most vulnerable countries and communities. No one should be left behind.

Most of the world's farmers are women; most of the world's health care givers are women; most of the world's teachers are women. Water programs do not work without women. Unless women are included as equal partners in The Paris Agreement, the Agreement cannot succeed.

We do not accept the failure to include gender equality in the texts. We urge the Parties to recognise gender equality, women's empowerment and human rights as essential elements, cutting across all aspects of negotiations.

The Women and Gender Constituency wants the agreement to focus on real solutions - not false solutions like nuclear energy, fracking, geo-engineering and mega dams. We are concerned at increased corporate involvement in climate action that encourages profit motives and moves away from social commitment and compassionate involvement. We urge increased focus on public-citizen participation for more democratised actions on climate change. We also call for sufficient finance, appropriate technology and adequate provision for loss and damage.

We are frustrated with the slow pace of negotiations here in Lima. Millions already face the fury of climate change. Immediate action needs to be taken for the sake of the Earth and future generations.

We appreciate the support extended to our cause by some Parties. We call upon all Parties: **support gender equality and climate justice!**

Thank you!