

## Women and Gender Intervention in the COP 18 Opening Plenary

Thank you for giving us the floor, chair.

My name is Ulrike Röhr, representing LIFE – Education, Environment, Equality, speaking on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency.

We all know that a huge increase of ambition is needed to avoid further climate change.

Ambition in:

- Closing the gigatonne gap
- Closing the gap between words and action
- And in closing the gender gap

These three gaps are closely linked. In order to make progress we have to consider synergies between them.

Technological improvements are not sufficient. Closing the gigatonne gap will require far-reaching societal changes, in particular in high-emitting countries, including changes in gender relations.

Recent research shows that integrating women in climate change decision making is vital for creating the necessary changes for reducing anthropogenic greenhouse gases. In nations where women have higher political status, all else equal, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are lower. These findings suggest that efforts to improve women's political status around the world - clearly worthy on its own merit - may work synergistically with efforts to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and avert dramatic global climate change. We conclude that more women in climate change decision making fosters implementation of ambitious policies and measures and thereby helps to reduce emissions.

Distinguished delegates, it is ten years since the COP adopted a decision promoting gender balance in the UNFCCC/KP bodies (Decision 36/CP.7) at COP7 in Marrakech. There has been some, but not enough progress on that. Therefore, we urge parties to revisit and strengthen this decision here in Doha.

By the way: Tomorrow is the Gender Day here at COP18 – this is great!

But shouldn't every day be gender day?

Doha, November 27, 2012