

Thank you very much Mr President, and Honorable ladies and gentlemen,

My name Isatis Cintron-Rodriguez I come to you as a scientist, climate engagement specialist, and activist but most importantly as an islander. I grew up in Puerto Rico, a country that has no representation here and yet will be among the most impacted by the outcome of this COP26. Leaving no island behind should be our guiding star and climate action thermometer.

On behalf of ECOS we welcome the opportunity to address you and recognize the effort put towards hosting this COP amid a global pandemic. While we welcome the adoption of a Glasgow Work Programme on Action for Climate Empowerment, the effort to mainstream ACE across the convention and the decision to develop an action plan, we regret the lack of progress on both ensuring financial support - such as establishing an ACE Marketplace - and monitoring mechanism for ensuring effective ACE implementation. We are disappointed that the language on rights-based approach has been removed from the ACE decision. Education and participation are human rights and the very basis of legitimate governance.

Currently, 3 out of 4 frontline climate activists are killed in Latin America. We must act here so we can save lives both from the impacts of climate change and the delegated responsibility to protect our home. Defending our planet shouldn't be a death sentence. A good ACE agenda is gender responsive, intergenerational, promotes human rights, indigenous knowledge and integrates frontline communities. It is our only chance to achieve our climate targets. Whether we are talking about Article 6, Loss & Damage, Adaptation or Climate Finance we must inform, provide access to information and meaningful avenues of participation to ensure the well-being and human rights of people and communities are protected.

Nothing about us, without us. In order to act at the scale and pace necessary we need a whole-of-world approach. Everyone must be at the table. Thank you.