

# WOMEN GENDER CONSTITUENCY

Rt Hon. Alok Sharma MP,  
COP President Designate  
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Sent per E-Mail to: [Incoming-Presidency@unfccc.int](mailto:Incoming-Presidency@unfccc.int)

Dear Excellency Mr. Alok Sharma,

We are writing today on behalf of the UNFCCC Women and Gender Constituency. We have appreciated your communication provided on 15 July 2021 and your invitation for written inputs from any Parties or observer constituencies on the notification. We would like to take this opportunity to provide our views and demands for the upcoming July Ministerials.

We do understand your objective to have a focused and frank exchange on the specific themes outlined in the Annex of your communication. Based on the overall communication and questions you have raised we would like to emphasize three key issues particularly important to the members and the network of gender and feminist advocates of our Constituency:

## **Close collaboration with the 9 UNFCCC key Constituencies**

We appreciate all efforts for exchange with Constituency Focal Points by the COP26 presidency team and for delivering on an inclusive COP26 and we feel this recognition and the importance of these Constituencies, could be better reflected in the letter. As observers do include a wide range of groups, we hope to be clearly referenced as the nine key Constituencies in your future communication, explicitly mentioning: business and industry NGOs (BINGO), Environmental NGOs (ENGO), Farmers, Indigenous Peoples organizations (IPO), Local government and municipal authorities (LGMA), Research and independent NGOs (RINGO), Trade union NGOs (TUNGO), Women and Gender (WGC), and Youth NGOs (YOUNGO). We would also hope to be included in your work to drive progress across all outstanding issues so that we arrive in Glasgow fully prepared.

## **Human rights, Indigenous Peoples' rights and gender equality as guiding principles embracing all themes that will be discussed**

The Paris Agreement Preamble mandates a rights-based approach, including human rights, the rights of Indigenous Peoples' and gender equality, in regard to climate action. These guiding principles are the normative foundation embracing all themes that will be discussed during the Ministerial. In particular, countries need to ensure gender-responsive and participatory NDC processes as requested in the Paris Agreement implementation guidelines. Moreover, it means to consider human rights, Indigenous Peoples' rights and gender equality as a cross-cutting element not only in regards to NDCs but also for Article 6. The inclusion of strong rights-based, environmental and social safeguards and gender equality supporting implementation mandates need to be applied to all activities. Last

but not least all climate finance mobilised and invested, including in particular in energy, transportation, agriculture and rural as well as urban poor livelihoods, must be designed and implemented in an equitable and socially just and gender-responsive way while focused on limiting the average temperature increase to 1.5°C. Mobilising finance is not only a matter of quantity but also a matter of quality of finance provision to re-establish mutual trust and provide true leadership.

**Effectively address loss and damage by providing adequate and new and additional financing**

The world cannot expect poor people and poor countries suffering already from significant loss and damage to shoulder sole responsibility for addressing it by being asked to pay insurance premiums for a problem they did not create. Addressing loss and damage from climate change is an independent pillar of the Paris Agreement (Article 8) requiring commensurate urgent collective action. COP25 failed to establish loss and damage as a permanent agenda item under the SBs. This failure should not be used as a pretext to silo or postpone addressing loss and damage, as it has significant cross-cutting relevance/importance with other processes, e.g. financial support or capacity building, into which it should be mainstreamed. COP26, following on the failed attention the topic by its predecessor, must accelerate and enhance the work on loss and damage, taking into account the needs of the most affected, including climate migrants. Financing for loss and damage needs to be new and additional to existing financing commitments and its provision scaled up according to common but differentiated responsibilities, historical responsibilities and respective capabilities and be channeled to the communities most affected, including women, girls, trans and intersex people, persons with disabilities, elderly, in all their socio-cultural diversities.

The Santiago Network as part of the Warsaw Mechanism allows Parties to discuss their challenges and needs in addressing loss and damage. This could also include a reconsideration of innovative sources of finance to build a financing facility or fund to specifically address loss and damage (e.g.: fossil fuel extraction levy, bunkers levy, financial transaction tax, aviation levy) that can generate significant finance independent of government budgets. Moreover, while comprehensive debt cancellation should be the priority, at a bare minimum immediate debt relief, in the form of an interest-free moratorium on debt payments, to all developing countries (irrespective of ODA eligibility) who face climate emergencies should be applied.

We hope that our views enrich your discussions during the meeting and support guidance during the next 100 days ahead and at COP26 itself in Glasgow.

Sincerely,

Bridget Burns and Ndivile Mokoena

the Co-focal points on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency