

HIGH LEVEL Statement

My name is Fatima Ahmed - and I speak with you today on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency. But first and foremost I speak to you as a woman from Sudan, a country full of beauty and history, a people with vast hopes and dreams whose lives matter, a country at war, a people facing genocide, women and girls facing deplorable sexual violence - and unacceptable levels of humanitarian crisis.

There is no climate justice in a militarized world. The destruction in our country is taking lives, eradicating culture, causing generational damage and causing untold environmental degradation and toxic pollution.

This is not our vision, our beautiful and possible vision of a feminist fossil fuel free future, a vision of a world centered on care.

Every year we come to this COP at the intersection of multiple forms of crisis. Facing conflict and famine - accelerated by environmental degradation and instability, facing fossil fuel driven militarism - speaking up and out to the world demanding justice, to dominant global powers who are indifferent to our suffering but who should and must heed our leadership, decision makers who continually fail to act in the face of indiscriminate violence but instead fuel these wars to maintain their power and privilege.

With COP28 in the MENA region I stand here to affirm and uplift MENA women and girls who provide exceptional leadership to protect our environment and fight climate change. We are here demanding the delivery of gender-responsive climate finance, of ambition and real commitment to a just transition, of education and capacity strengthening and real investment in the climate solutions led by women in our region. Our voices will only get louder from here.

With everything we do hear, we join in solidarity with our partners here to demand that we cease all fires now, we demand an end to fossil fuels, with just transition, fast fair, fully funded. Feminist and forever.