

Anklamer Str. 38
D-10115 Berlin
Fon 030-21982175
minu@gendercc.net
Mobil +0172 162 0010
www.gendercc.net



Greetings! My name is Minu Hemmati. I am speaking on behalf of *GenderCC - Women For Climate Justice*. We are the global network of women's organisations, activists and civil society groups, and gender experts from all world regions working for women's rights, gender justice and climate justice.

We thank you for the opportunity to address your important gathering.

Women's voices have been largely absent in the political process on climate change. Gender aspects of climate change, mitigation and adaptation have received very little attention, although some progress has been made recently. We hope that this will gain momentum, and substance.

Climate change is impacting the lives and livelihoods of billions of people and the existence of millions of species and threatening billions more. We need to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions dramatically, while at the same time raising the quality of life for the majority of the world's people. Fortunately, these are not contradictory but complementary aspirations.

For climate related policies to actually work, we must stop promoting false solutions that allow the rich to avoid the major changes they need to make, that help corporations to increase their profits, and that have negative knock-on effects on the world's poor and the planet's ecosystem.

We need a just transition to a low-carbon society that protects people's rights, jobs and well-being. The right to survive is not negotiable; and neither should the rights to development and to maintain a level of development be negotiable. Natural resources must be conserved for the common good, not privatized and unsustainably exploited. Local communities' sovereignty over land, energy, forests and water must be upheld and reclaimed.

The change we envision is fundamental. In order to achieve women's rights, gender justice and climate justice, we need to overcome the existing systems of power, politics, and economics.

The challenges of climate change and gender injustice resemble each other - they require whole system change: not just gender mainstreaming but transforming gender relations and societal structures. Not just technical amendments to reduce emissions, but real mitigation through awareness and change of unsustainable life-styles and the current ideology and practice of unlimited economic growth. Not the perpetuation of the current division of resources and labour but a responsible, cooperative approach to achieving sustainable and equitable societies.

We believe that linking women's rights, gender justice and climate justice is key to achieving these fundamental changes. It is a question of justice and equity as much as a matter of quality and effectiveness of decisions.

This is the time for real leadership and real action - action now. We cannot wait!
Will you work with us and meet the challenge?