

**Intervention GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice
AWG-LCA 12 Opening Plenary, 2010/10/04, Tianjin, China**

Thank you Chair, distinguished delegates,
my name is Gotelind Alber from Germany and I am speaking on behalf of GenderCC
- Women for Climate Justice.

I would like to raise the issue of mitigation and low-carbon development from a gender and women's perspective. During negotiations, adverse effects of response measures received much attention. However, I would like to highlight the beneficial effects, if response is geared towards sustainable low carbon development, and includes equity and justice considerations. Vice versa, "high-carbon development" does not necessarily mean wellbeing for the majority of the people. It is not by accident that some of the most carbon intensive societies suffer from a burdensome social divide.

Benefits of "no-regrets" low-carbon interventions (and there are many of them available) include reduced local pollutants, improved human health, and lower energy bills.

A majority of the world's women need, and want to see

- Urban development towards compact and liveable cities, and expansion of public transport, rather than further growth of car transport;
- Major improvements in energy efficiency, rather than continue to waste energy;
- Renewable energies, rather than mitigation options involving additional risks.

We know this from polls in many countries. Therefore, if you pursue an ambitious low carbon, low risk strategy, women all over the world will be your allies.

What are the implications for the negotiations?

Such a strategy requires large investments in infrastructure, public transport, decent energy-efficient housing and other services, rather than investments in individual projects only.

It requires, among others, careful planning, inclusive and effective participation of the people, gender-sensitive policies, pro-poor financing schemes, and fighting corruption, and thus institutional innovation at all levels - which must go along with additional funds.