



Statement of the Grassroots Women's Conference on Climate Change to COP 17

On 24 and 25 November 2011, women from Africa and other world regions gathered in Durban at the Grassroots Women's Conference on Climate Change. Grassroots women raised the following key demands to be considered by Parties at the 17th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

A. Access to funding

- Accountability and transparency in the use of UNFCCC funds must be upheld.
- Information and application processes on available funding should be simplified and publicised in local languages.
- Capacity building on how to access information and application procedures for climate funding should be promoted.
- Distribution of funds at the local level should be transparent, accounted for and monitored.
- Funding should be distributed in a balanced way between rural and urban projects.
- Gender balance must be taken into account in budgeting, monitoring and evaluation of funding, including women, men and other groups such as youth and people with disabilities.

B. Good governance, transparency and access to information

- Projects should be identified in a participatory manner at a local level and not be dictated by governments from the top down.
- Women must be empowered to fight corrupt practices in their communities and to speak out on issues affecting them.
- Resources should be provided to establish a database of women's networks with various capacities that assist women to analyse and respond to climate change information and solutions.

C. Education and capacity building

- Information must be provided in a gender-sensitive way.
- Governments should be responsible for providing clear information on climate change to communities in a way that is effective.
- There needs to be more awareness-raising within communities about women's rights.
- Awareness-raising on climate change should be two way - from governments to the people and from the people to governments.
- Information on climate change should be provided in multiple languages and made accessible through local media to grassroots communities who are not using technology like internet.

- Responses to climate change should consider local indigenous knowledge, and indigenous knowledge should be preserved and passed on to future generations.
- Evidence-based research on climate change impacts should be conducted and made

available to communities.

- Civil society organisations should actively disseminate information on climate change to communities.
- Capacity building and training climate change should be provided to all stakeholders.
- Capacity building must be carried out to help grassroots women monitor and evaluate funded projects and understand the climate change negotiations.
- Climate change should be incorporated into the curricula of private and public schools so that children grow up with knowledge about climate change and sustainable development.

D. Access to productive land and other resources

- False solutions to climate change like GMOs, monoculture plantations and carbon trading must be resisted.
- Women should access, own and control the land and natural resources on it, and have the information to enable this.
- Communities should have stronger land ownership rights.
- Organic agricultural and farming practises should be promoted.
- Alien plants should be removed and indigenous plants should be planted.
- Land should be prioritised for food production and not for biofuels.
- Activities that cause soil erosion and land degradation should be stopped.
- Women should have equal inheritance rights.
- Women must have equal access to basic services like water, sanitation, energy and a clean environment.

E. Participation and Inclusion in policy and processes

- There should be qualitative and quantitative representation of women and other marginalised groups (grassroots, technical, elite) at climate change negotiations.
- Grassroots women of different constituencies must be consulted in climate change discourses before statements and other positions are finalised.
- Indigenous languages should be used to communicate policies and pictures should be used for those who cannot read and write.
- Oppressive processes and laws must be reviewed and reformed.