

**AWG-LCA Intervention – Women and Gender Constituency  
Friday 9 December 2011**

Thank you Chair and distinguished delegates.

We come here today, deeply disturbed by the prospect of an empty deal at Durban – in particular, the prospect of delaying a legally binding agreement until 2020. We want an agreement with substance. By not taking meaningful action, you will be failing in the duty that you have to ensure the future of the world's women, men and children.

Women and gender groups are working hard to ensure that climate policy effectively takes gender into account, but it is useless to incorporate a gender-sensitive approach into a framework that will not result in effective action to address climate change.

Madame President, we have been heartened by your work in drawing attention to gender in the lead up to and during these negotiations. We also welcome the Parties' inclusion of gender in the text of UNFCCC documents as an important start. However, we must ensure that this text translates into real change and practical and implementable mitigation and adaptation programmes that respond to the diversity of women and men. This call is echoed by the thousands of women we have consulted from communities throughout Africa and the world. You owe it to women in your communities to listen to them on what they need. Will you be able to look them in the eyes when you return home and tell them you have done them justice in the outcome you negotiated today?

Within a strong global agreement, you must prioritize an effective climate finance mechanism. Gender-sensitive, transparent and equitable climate finance mechanisms are the only paths toward concrete action.

It is of critical urgency that action is taken now to reduce GHG emissions, fill the funds to adapt and mitigate, build capacity and share appropriate technology to respond to and lessen climate change impacts, bearing in mind the different lives of women and men. It is time to stop negotiating away the future of humankind!