

Thank you Chair,

My name is Angelique Kipulu and I'm reading this statement on behalf of Trade Unions and Women and Gender groups.

Chair, the response to the adverse effects of climate change must be understood not only as a matter of importance for countries, but also for specific groups within those countries, given existing social and gender differences in vulnerability. The work programme on loss and damage must therefore place specific attention on poor working families, with a specific focus on women.

An ambitious loss and damage work programme must help developing countries start or strengthen their social protection systems, as a means for ensuring people are empowered when they face the risks posed by climate change. Health insurance, maternity and children protection, unemployment benefits, pensions for the aged and the disabled, are all key in responding to people's vulnerability.

The programme must better integrate gender-differentiated vulnerabilities through sound need assessments which will help prioritising poor and vulnerable countries and people, including women. It should also better assess gender-differentiated vulnerability and adaptation needs, and create immediate and urgent actions involving communities and in particular, vulnerable women.

The involvement of working people, women and marginalised communities in defining their needs is crucial, at all levels, and in all vulnerable countries across the globe.

There is a need for better guidance on the means by which women and workers' vulnerability could be better addressed in the accounting processes as well as on the evolving architecture on the Loss and damage programme.

Our groups are prepared to provide advisory assistance to the UNFCCC and related bodies towards integrating gender and worker-responsive concerns into the ongoing development of the loss and damage work programme.