

Emilia Reyes of Equidad de Genero and member of the GGCA Advocacy addressing the UNFCCC Intersessional in Panama City, Panama:

Thank you Chair.

My name is Emilia Reyes. I am from Mexico working with Equidad de Genero and I speak on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency.

As we collectively strive for a fair and balanced agreed outcome at COP17 in Durban it is of utmost importance that we focus on who will be the most impacted by the decisions Parties make there. We do want effective operationalization of the Adaptation Committee, the Technology and the Finance Mechanisms. We do strive for decisions on capacity building, the review, mitigation, legal options and a shared vision.

But. For. Whom?

Of the utmost importance is to ensure that all these decisions will keep the women and men of the world safe.

Ultimately the climate crisis puts women and men and girls' and boys' daily lives at stake and it is them, all of humanity, that has to surmount this crisis. Parties! To develop a clear path through these negotiations, we must focus on the people and make decisions that serve and involve both women and men, girls and boys, equitably, within the design of institutions, in the decision making processes and in the implementation of actions at all levels, especially in communities.

Climate change serves to amplify the many inequalities of this world and yet, without addressing these inequalities we can not solve the climate crisis. It is especially critical that, in the way toward Durban, Parties ensure that they are making decisions that lessen inequalities between women and men; these decisions should build on the provisions of the Cancun Agreement to ensure *gender equality and the effective participation of women on all aspects of climate change*. Both women and men will make a difference with their joint efforts.

Parties, as we leave Panama please keep in mind that women and men around the world are looking at you and at this multilateral process to make decisions that will ultimately impact our survival on this Earth. When you come to Durban keep this in mind so that the decisions you make will be in favor of the wellbeing and the safety of livelihoods of all of the people on this planet.