

[Thank you, Madam Chair.]

The Women and Gender Constituency, would like to underscore the importance of forward movement during this week's negotiations. We are more than halfway through the year and welcome parties' will to see more progress toward discussions on the substance of the outcome agreement.

The LCA continues to be crucial to these climate negotiations because it incorporates the building blocks of the Bali Action Plan and provides entry points to address the social and human impacts of climate change.

The Constituency is appreciative of the strength and variation of the gender considerations throughout the current LCA text, and call for efforts to ensure its continued inclusion. This will be critical in looking ahead to implementation efforts, which we recognize as an important stage in the fulfillment of any climate agreement. In this Text, we see that language supporting gender considerations remains in shared vision, adaptation, capacity building and REDD. Such language is vital to an equitable agreement and related implementation and must be sustained in the progression toward Cancun.

Finance and technology transfer are no less important. We urge Parties to create, consider mechanisms that ensure gender equality in those areas. Gender equality is a prerequisite to sustainable development; it is therefore not a diversion, but an integral and inextricable component to efficacy, efficiency and long-term cooperative action.

However, we equally recognize that social language in the negotiations means little, if delegates, diminish their efforts and backpedal on their commitment to negotiate an agreement that sets fair, ambitious, scientifically-based and urgent mitigation and financing targets. In these negotiations, the tenet of common but differentiated responsibilities remains. Historical emissions and carbon debt exist; developed countries must step up and take action.

At the same time, all countries must be realistic and look for sustainable alternatives, particularly options that simultaneously mitigate climate change, aid in adaptation and promote resiliency among their most vulnerable people. Language in the LCA must promote implementation of these alternatives and provide for the necessary technology and finance to do so, targeting women as leaders in these efforts – as we indeed already are.

Thank you.