

Women's Major Group

Women's Major Group's Intervention to

High Level Political Forum 2021

"Coming together to help Small Island Developing States to get on a path to realise the SDGs" Session

Friday 9th July 2021, 9:00AM - 11:00AM EDT

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Small island developing states are at the frontlines of the impacts of climate change, from rising sea levels to stronger hurricanes and natural disasters, yet SIDS contributed least to our changing climate. To realize the SDGs, SIDS need climate justice now! This means that the biggest historical polluters must step up with increased climate financing and debt relief. Equity, fair shares and historical responsibilities should inform governments' approach to climate action based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

We need transformative and systemic solutions to the climate crisis, NOT false solutions like Net Zero. To achieve SDGs 13, 14 & 15, governments must first protect Indigenous Peoples' and community land rights in SIDS. Maintaining and restoring Indigenous and community land rights is the first step in supporting rights-based land management that promotes biodiversity, including through forest ecosystem restoration, and safeguards food sovereignty and livelihoods, all while sequestering carbon.

Gender transformative and locally-led approaches to adaptation, climate finance, and to addressing loss and damage are needed, as women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate disasters and bear the care responsibilities to mitigate its effects. Grassroots and Indigenous women's expertise must guide all climate efforts. Gender considerations must be embedded into national policies, strategies, and planning for climate change and disaster risk reduction, again under the leadership of local feminist groups.

With the economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, SIDS face financial constraints. Debt service costs in developing countries have risen steadily and now absorb close to 30% in SIDS. We need direct channels of finance for gender-just

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climate solutions focusing on grassroots and indigenous women and girls, as well as an increase in gender-targeted ODA to address climate impacts. Gender just climate action must be embedded into all COVID-19 recovery packages.

We need to increase all efforts to support SIDS in adaptation, protect Indigenous Peoples and communal land rights, and focus on systemic solutions!