

The background is a dark teal color. It features several decorative borders: a top border with alternating yellow and teal cloud shapes; two horizontal borders with a repeating pattern of yellow and teal leaves on stems; a middle section with scattered yellow and teal teardrop shapes and stylized trees (one yellow palm tree and two teal leafy trees); a bottom border with three wavy lines in yellow, teal, and yellow; and a bottom-most border with a repeating pattern of yellow and teal wheat stalks.

**SOUTH FEMINIST
DISPATCHES
FROM THE 66TH
SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION
ON THE STATUS
OF WOMEN**

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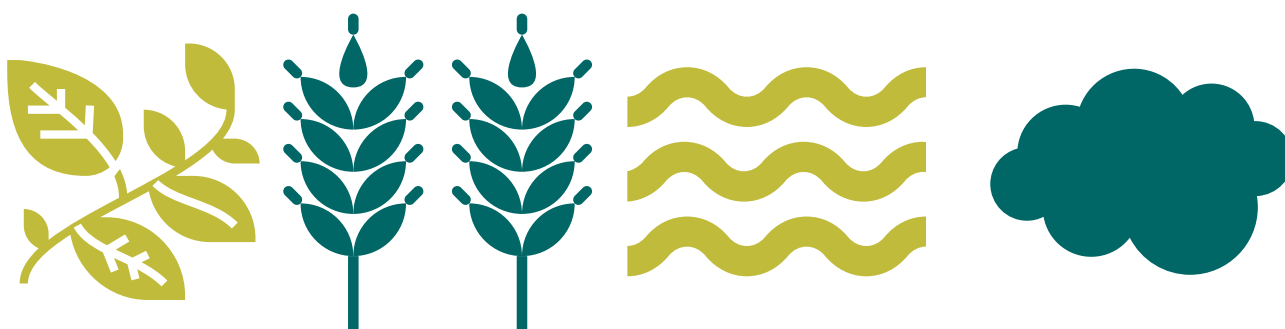
ACRONYMS

BIPOC	Black, Indigenous, and people of colour
COP	Conference of the Parties
COP26	26th United Nations Climate Change Conference
CROP	Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
CSW66	Commission on the Status of Women 66 th session
FemCom	Feminist Community of Care
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
NGO	Non-governmental organization
INGO	International non-governmental organization
PSIDS	Pacific Small Island Developing States
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SOGIESC	Sexual orientation, gender identity, expressions and sex characteristics
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
UN ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WMG	Women's Major Group
WRC	Women's Rights Caucus

I.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND





For the first time in its history, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) set climate change as its primary theme for its sixty-sixth session. The Commission's acknowledgment of the climate crisis is long-awaited fruition of feminist and social movement mobilizations before and during the Beijing+25 review process in 2020, during which the agenda for the multi-year program of work (2021-2024) was set. This also comes after decades of erroneous compartmentalization of viewing climate change as a technical issue to be tackled in other designated platforms, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP).

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Due to the institutionalization of our movements, these thematic classifications shape how we, as feminists, work and strategize. These have contributed to detaching our interconnected struggles, such as dissociating bodily integrity and autonomy from social, economic, ecological, and climate justice.

As feminists, we should work to threaten the status quo and its exclusionary mechanisms, particularly with regard to climate change. This analysis offers reflections from CSW's 66th session from a Global South feminist perspective, a snapshot of feminist organizing and the North-South dynamics in spaces such as these as well as political asks and suggestions for the way forward.

For years, CSW has been the platform for representatives of the UN member states, civil society, feminist groups, and International Non-Government Organizations (INGOs) to follow up on the 1995 [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#)'s critical areas of concern. The priority theme for the 66th session was: "Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes". While addressing "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work" as a review theme. Parallely, CSW66 renewed discussions around civil society participation and the



organization of work through the Methods of Work resolution which reached a conclusion on March 25, 2022¹.

Every year, the Commission's sessions run for two weeks. Depending on the theme, some of its preparatory work starts six to 12 months prior to March when the session takes place. For this session, the UN Secretary-General's report came out on January 04, 2022. The report mentions some of the most pressing issues contributing to and escalating the global climate crisis. For example, the report refers to the altered ecological imprint of the human-induced climate crisis on all species – human pressures will push 1 million species to extinction, bringing the total species loss to a catastrophic 30-50 per cent by 2050. It reiterates the interlinked threat to “the full realization of human rights, in particular the rights to life and dignity, development, a life free from violence and discrimination, an adequate standard of living, the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, water and sanitation, a healthy environment and others, with acute impacts on women and girls.” Moreover, the UN Secretary-General's report also calls for the implementation of gender-responsive climate change and environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programs.

¹ CSW66 session outcomes, including a resolution on “Women, girl child and HIV and AIDS”, and a resolution on “Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts” can be found here: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw66-2022/session-outcomes>

II. FEMINIST ORGANIZING AT CSW66



INGOs and feminist organizations, largely based in the Global North, have set up infrastructure for feminist organizing and participation at CSW and in other multilateral spaces. While there are improvements in some areas, it is necessary to continue creating spaces that address challenges of language differences, time zones, a lack of material support, lack of infrastructures such as stable internet connections, limitations, or any accessibility needs. It is also vital to ensure feminists from the Global South can access and participate in this process.

IMPROVED INTERPRETATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

One of the advantages of multilateral spaces going virtual has been securing interpretation to Spanish, French, and Portuguese within many feminist organizing spaces. Structural challenges such as language barriers negatively impact the participation of non-English speakers. There is still a need to improve accessibility to virtual and in-person feminist organizing spaces, by including more languages and sign language and other identified needs.

NORTH-SOUTH DYNAMICS

There are also the continued issues of exclusion via time zones, especially for those on almost directly opposite time zones to the UN Headquarters, New York in Oceania and Pacific Small Island States.

There has been notable progress in how feminist organizing around the CSW factors in different time zones, sharing notes and recordings around the clock. CSW and other UN advocacy spaces can learn a lot from feminist organizing virtually, and be deliberately inclusive of diverse regions and constituencies who are unable to access these spaces. We have been witnessing how multilateral spaces are inherently inaccessible with itineraries tied to the Northern hemisphere, and the lack of resources allocated to accessibility needs in formal and informal consultations with member states.

WHEN VIRTUAL WORK BECOMES UNPAID LABOUR

At the beginning of the pandemic, there was a wishful assumption that virtual convenings allow for more equitable access and participation to feminists and civil society groups as there is no need to grapple with visa and vaccine geo-politics or raise funds to secure active participation in multilateral spaces. However, two years into COVID-19, virtual participation has been misinterpreted as “free labour” provided by activists and experts. Before the pandemic, resources for in-person participation were already limited – this has become non-existent for virtual participation. Many feminist groups and activists in the Global South do not have the organizational capacities to financially support virtual labour and online participation. Working virtually

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invisibilizes all domestic and care work in the background. We have seen activists juggle speaking engagements, child and family care, and national work responsibilities across different time zones for two years successively, without significant financial compensation.

RESURJ engaged with CSW66 virtually, while providing financial support to allies and accomplices advocating and participating in this year's session, including facilitating the collaborative writing process for this feminist analysis. While there are discussions on the need for feminist funding to reflect activist realities, the consequences of virtual work and the concomitant work load and resources required to retain advocacy and activist momentum, are not readily discussed.

LACK OF CONSULTATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS

Participation for CSW66 was set to a hybrid mode, with civil society participating virtually and some members of the official delegation participating in person until the UN Secretary-General approved civil society access to UN premises only three days prior to the official opening of the session. As this decision was made without proper or consistent consultation with civil society and feminist groups, hundreds of civil society groups and activists, particularly from the Global South, were unable to access CSW66 in person. This undermined potential influence on the negotiations.

This directive was in bad faith, resulting in a missed opportunity to influence negotiations for climate justice. Many feminist organizations based in the Global North were able to be onsite, but there was a real absence of civil society representation and feminist activists from the Global South.

Further, the ability for NGOs to be on official delegations and in negotiation rooms was heavily restricted due to strict COVID-19 rules which allowed only three people on the official delegation to participate in person. This also had a very strained impact on negotiators, with stretched negotiation hours held by very small delegations, especially in the second week.

III. MORE THAN WORDS



Based on our experiences at CSW66, language advocacy and familiarity with Agreed Language², remain inaccessible to many feminists from the Global South, especially younger feminists and newcomers to these processes. This is a result of numerous factors.

TECHNOLOGICAL BARRIERS

All meetings for civil society and feminist activists were held virtually. These particularly excluded activists who do not have compatible devices or stable internet connections or money for the internet bandwidth required. Such a technological barrier further isolates grassroots activists from actively participating in multilateral processes.

LANGUAGE CHASMS

As mentioned earlier, co-conveners of feminist organizing spaces have secured simultaneous interpretation for three languages, which is a step forward in enhancing accessibility for more feminists. However, all the Agreed Conclusion drafting, or what is known as markups, were processed and negotiated in English. In order to influence negotiations, non-English speaking feminists from the Global South must translate their proposals to UN versions of English, which either do not exist or are inaccurate.

There is a need to recognize that there are varying local and indigenous or technical interpretations of thematic issues at hand about the causes or consequences of the climate crisis in the Global South that are untranslatable into English. Relying only on Agreed Language to address climate change only serves member states with greater power to profit from our struggles. Concurrently, providing rationales and rigorous arguments for suggested language becomes necessary and difficult, especially when it needs to be ready within a matter of hours.

Holding the line in semantics seems only possible in English – and that too, a UN technical-type-of-English. There is an abiding of legacies of contentious verbatim, with no guarantee that said language suggestions will be accepted by member states representatives. On the contrary, important changes are ruled out from the start because it is assumed that a specific regional bloc will block specific issues from being adopted, or that “new language” will imply more serious commitments. For those who are new to these spaces, these dynamics are not clear to navigate or disrupt.

Therefore, younger feminists and newcomers to CSW from the Global South struggled to make language suggestions due to their unfamiliarity with UN Agreed Language, as well as active filtration from seasonal and more experienced feminists of what can stay on documents.

² Agreed Language is often an important focus in UN advocacy and is the language that was agreed upon in an outcome document. Agreed Language is important as it is language that is previously negotiated and that member states have endorsed, and can therefore be used to hold governments accountable to the commitments that they have made. (source: adapted from [YOUTH DO IT!](#))

“THERE IS A NEED TO RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE VARYING LOCAL AND INDIGENOUS OR TECHNICAL INTERPRETATIONS OF THEMATIC ISSUES AT HAND ABOUT THE CAUSES OR CONSEQUENCES OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH THAT ARE UNTRANSLATABLE INTO ENGLISH. RELYING ONLY ON AGREED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE ONLY SERVES MEMBER STATES WITH GREATER POWER TO PROFIT FROM OUR STRUGGLES.”

WHO-YOU-KNOW

Access to multilateral spaces is often limited to those who are connected to larger networks and UN ECOSOC status. This is tantamount to internal screening steps in feminist organizing spaces, which are put in place for security reasons. However, screening steps can turn into inner movement gatekeeping. This is a complex limitation, as it prevents many activists from accessing such spaces due to a lack of contacts and referrals, even when they could contribute substantially. The frail intergenerational communication in feminist movements on this front is demotivating to younger feminists and newcomers in the space.

IV. RECASTING SOUTH-NORTH CURRENTS



GRASSROOTS DISCONNECT

Member state delegations and feminist activists at CSW work in spaces totally detached from each other. Civil society's influence on negotiations and adopted commitments has become extremely limited due to geopolitical dynamics between regional blocs, inaccessibility to civil society observer status, and the lack of transparency of UN Women facilitation of the process. In a best-case scenario, feminists' and civil society's influence can be expanded through their representation on member states' official delegations. This role guarantees more receptivity to inputs and language suggestions. Otherwise, on-ground feminist movements' struggles and grassroots work and priorities seem very detached from late-night wordsmithing fights in negotiation rooms.



Graphic recording of two Feminist Community of Care (FemCom) sessions on interlinkages on March 01-02, 2022.

GEOPOLITICAL UNDERCURRENTS

During CSW66, member state representatives championing gender equality and INGOs based in the Global North didn't fully harmonize with South feminists' demands for climate justice at CSW66. All listed demands to address loss and damage, to foreground climate finance, to accelerate just transitions and gender transformative frameworks were challenged and resisted by said champions. The majority of member states and regional blocs³ had finalized their positions regarding this year's theme a few months before the start of the session. It was quite difficult for civil society organizations and feminist groups to influence their positions and push for our feminist demands, especially with civil society participation predominantly online.

³ Member states are organized into regional/geographical groups and negotiate in informal political blocs (A Primer on: Language Advocacy at the Commission on the Status of Women, Equality Rights Alliance)

The same small group of industrialised countries that are regular outliers at UNFCCC COPs were also the outliers this time at CSW66, in a space where they are generally viewed as progressive on gender and women's rights. This did not only affect the negotiations on climate-related text, but also other areas usually contested by anti-feminist, right-wing and conservative elements, including the religious far-right. This time, feminist human rights groups could not rely on state allies. It became evident that there was pushback on many areas of climate text and as the Chair and member states began applying familiar slow-down tactics, some feminist groups were not prepared to deal with their usually responsive governments acting in bad faith on gender and climate justice.

Further, many South feminists did not feel adequate solidarity from North-based feminist groups. In fact, it was the opposite – there was a lack of solidarity when South feminists were most in need of it on issues of importance such as loss and damage, climate finance, climate displacement and migration and more at this precedent-setting CSW66. This has implications for all other climate and environment-related multilateral tracks this year as well as at COP27 and beyond.

LANGUAGE FISSURES

An unending rigidity of CSW advocacy is the habitual over-reliance, both from feminists and member states, on Agreed Language as a base for negotiations. While it is an important tool to hold member states accountable to the language they have already endorsed and commitments already made, we note with concern the limitations Agreed Language poses when our adherence is prescriptive rather than reflexive. Especially for issues such as climate change and gender equality, where there is insufficient Agreed Language to correspond to the escalating climate crises we experience outside of UN sites. This resulted in a watered down and rushed Agreed Outcome on March 25, 2022.

Nowhere more than on climate justice and in particular, issues of mitigation, climate and finance and loss and damage, was it easier to see divides between majority South and minority North⁴ member states negotiating at CSW66. The issue was not only about where climate change-related text landed in the CSW66 Agreed Conclusions, but how negotiations on climate change only took place at the end of the two weeks! There was bare minimum language and strange last-minute removals that, for example, left only two operational paragraphs on loss and damage but no preambular paragraph.

⁴ Another way to refer to Global South and Global North regions.

V. ALTERNATIVES OF THE ALTERNATIVE



FEMNET organized a three-day hybrid convening (CSW Africa) to articulate what meaningful engagement can look like, especially for African feminists who have been systematically and systemically excluded from CSW participation over the years, even before COVID-19. Prior to the pandemic, on the first day of feminist organizing sessions, co-conveners would count the number of feminists who could not obtain US visas on the grounds of not owning bank accounts or if they were based in countries the United States listed as state sponsors of terrorism! Between 14-17 March, 2022, a diverse crowd of African feminists gathered in person and virtually around grassroots analyses on climate change, set regional priorities, and recited poems. The conversation continued virtually throughout the two weeks of CSW66 via #AfricaDisruptCSW66.

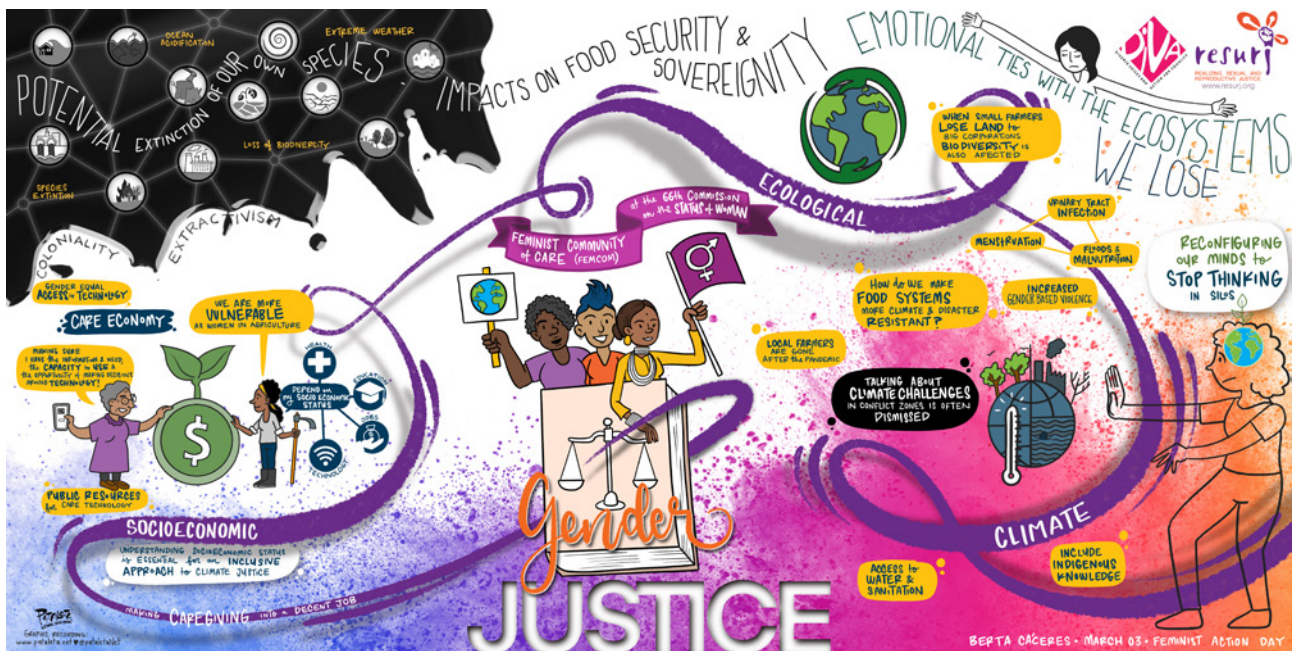
Feminists in the Pacific region came together in an online campaign running around the clock in English, Spanish and Portuguese. This #CSW66Pacific campaign mobilised for months through a Pacific Feminist Community of Practice while working with Pacific governments (Capital and UN Missions), the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP), civil society and academic institutions, the Pacific Technical Working Group, the Women's Rights Caucus (WRC), and the Women's Major Group (WMG) on various sets of joint and simultaneous work around 22 Pacific states and territories, and connecting to wider social movements.

DIVA for Equality asked women leaders from informal settlements and rural and maritime areas to directly share their feminist demands on loss and damage, taxes, fossil fuels, protecting global commons of lands and oceans, environmentalism coloniality, and sexual and gender-based violence. They collated constituency and movement positions, translating them into simple, plain-language visuals. The campaign ran throughout the CSW session from late 2021 via #CSW66Pacific.

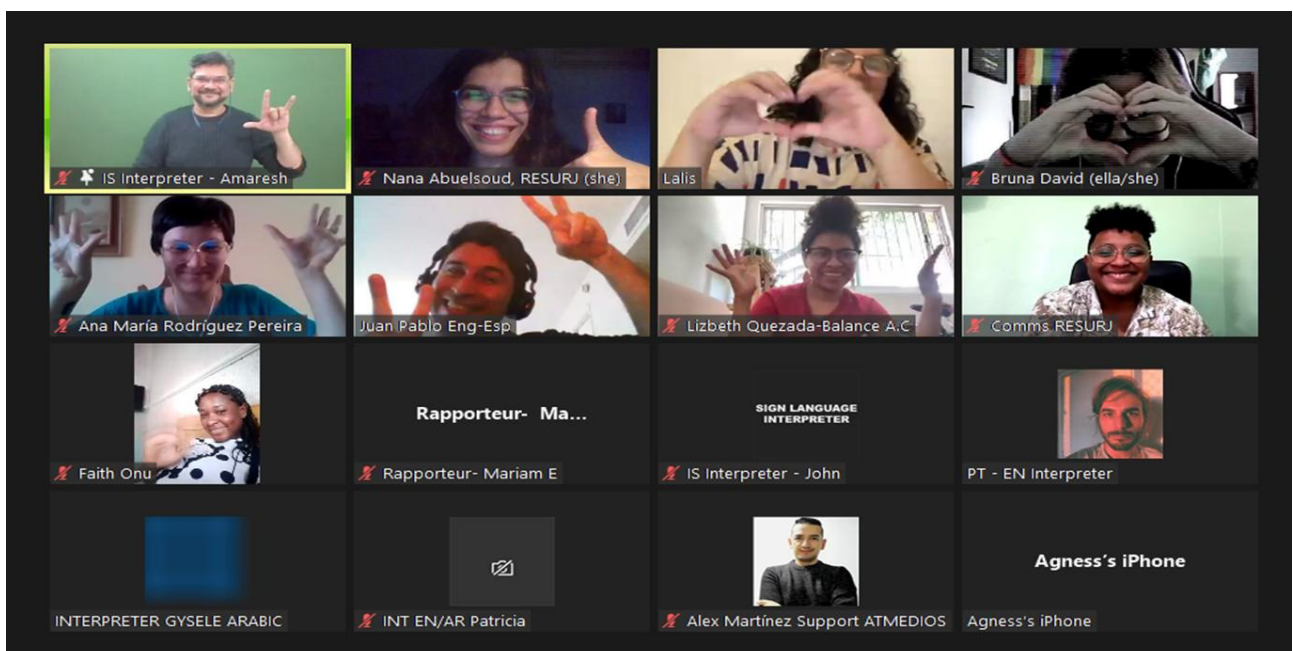
RESURJ and DIVA for Equality came together to hold space through Feminist Community of Care (FemCom) for younger feminists and newcomers to CSW as has been our feminist tradition since 2016. This space used to take place on the margins of CSW in New York, where we gather to practice collective care, reflect together, and break bread. As more feminist networks managed to connect virtually and more broadly with younger feminists across the world, we decided to test our habitual FemCom online. Around 30 younger, South-based feminists and newcomers to CSW joined us from 25 countries in eight sessions held over two time zones from February to April 2022.

During our collective reflections, it was clear what areas we have developed more profoundly over the years as feminists at global and national levels, and on what other thematic issues – such as climate and ecological justice – our knowledge was at a surface level. We revisited our political alignments as South-based feminist activists and groups and analysed them as against member states on sexual and reproductive rights.

In our South collective reflections at FemCom, it also became evident that many of us have no way to get in touch with our country's official delegations, or even know who the representatives are. This is another aspect of how inaccessible CSW advocacy is to many of us; starting with the non-transparent selection of civil society representatives on country delegations and the Expert Working Group, or how selected representatives reflect local feminist and civic priorities in multilateral spaces.



Graphic recording of two FemCom sessions on interlinkages on March 01-02, 2022.



Closing session of FemCom on April 06, 2022.

VI. REFLECTIONS ON THE AGREED CONCLUSIONS⁵



⁵ The listed paragraphs and/or exact phrasing in the Agreed Conclusion is not an exhaustive list of all the wins and losses during the 66th session. These are pointers to some of the discussions we had at the Feminist Community of Care (FemCom).

All climate-related paragraphs were the last to be negotiated and were done chaotically and incoherently, despite being the priority theme. Also rushed were the paragraphs related to diversity language, sexual orientation and gender identity expression (SOGIE) and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. There are always areas of negotiation that are targeted by the more regressive member states, but the ways in which climate-related text at CSW66 was treated reflected realpolitik and a visible, prevailing North-South divide on climate mitigation trajectories, climate finance and loss and damage that were markedly obvious at COP26 just months before.

South states were cognizant this would be an issue at CSW66 with the priority theme, but it is likely that they did not anticipate the level of pushback and pre-negotiated, hard lines that were already in place when states arrived at CSW66. With regional language deals made much earlier in 2021, there was a lot that was not open for any negotiation. While social movements and delegations from climate-vulnerable states worked very hard for development on certain issues related to gender and climate justice, it was made clear early on that many red lines would not be touched. Further, on issues of loss and damage, the baseline of the Paris Agreement was spoken of as the red line but even that was at times pushed back. There was, as usual, no accountability in the text for historical emissions, coloniality and imperialism as root causes of gender and climate injustice.

We do not acknowledge how the manner in which climate has been addressed in multilateral spaces and at national policy levels has contributed to the alienation of the crises we are living through. Some of the terminologies used in climate negotiations come across as expert lingo. The definition of climate justice in paragraph 24 of the Agreed Conclusions “taking action to address climate change” creates confusion by equating climate action with climate justice⁶. This comparison and homologation is not only incorrect but also leads to errors. There are actions that can help reduce the emission of greenhouse gases but they are not necessarily sustainable – either because they are outrightly dangerous, based on extractivist logic, do not have support and social consensus or because they simply do not adapt to the local development visions of the communities where they are developed and applied. For example, alternatives such as nuclear mining, nuclear power, lithium mining and mass production of electric cars are economies that seek to drastically reduce emissions, but at the cost of the massive destruction of ecosystems and are guided by extractive logic.

Similarly, there are parts in the blue and green economy that may be actions that reduce emissions but can also cause adverse ecological or social

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⁶ Climate action is the umbrella term used to refer to all mitigation and adaptation actions to deal with the consequences of the climate crisis, while climate justice puts communities and people at the centre.

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impacts. This could be due to the absence of uncoerced and informed consent by Indigenous and local communities, and other consensus processes and dialogue with populations on the imposition of development models. The [case of the hydroelectric plant on the Gualcarque River](#) and the murder of Berta Cáceres stand as a sobering example of this. It is vital to highlight this because it is precisely in the Global South where proposals that fit the definition of climate action are most common – projects that do not seek real climate justice nor promote a just transition for all people and ecosystems.

This is why we call on feminists to recognize climate justice as a frame of work, not an idyllic concept. Climate justice must be envisioned through a definition that materialises the minimum requirements for a decent life that must be met for all people in the world: water security, energy security, housing security, food security and sovereignty, mobility security, resilient infrastructure, climate emergency management with an intersectional gender perspective, climate education, access to healthy ecosystems, and accountability spaces on compliance with these at local levels.

CSW66 Agreed Conclusions articulate that violence against women and girls is rooted in historical and structural injustice and inequalities and that power relations are deeply unfair and unequal. While at least two paragraphs mention many manifestations and consequences of injustice, the preambular paragraph skims over this important issue, does not really connect these with systems of oppression such as capitalism and colonialism, and even puts the term 'climate justice' within parentheses in the text.

It was an important and long-awaited breakthrough to have the first text inclusion of journalists and media workers in CSW Agreed Conclusions and a call to take action to create a "safe and enabling environment". However, the exact constituency is not specified, nor is there a specific focus in the Agreed Conclusions on the challenges for environmental and climate change media, especially for women media workers. This comes in the wake of the [deadliest](#) global year on record for journalists and media workers in 2021. The number of media workers jailed hit a new global record of 293 (up from a revised total of 280 in 2020), with 40 of the 293 being women. At least 24 media workers were killed because of their coverage in 2021 while 18 others died in circumstances too difficult to determine whether they were specific targets. While this CSW66 Agreed Conclusion language is welcome, it is also frustrating that language on women environmental human rights defenders which were in early drafts, was vigorously attacked in the room by certain member states, and in the end, was not included in the final outcome document.

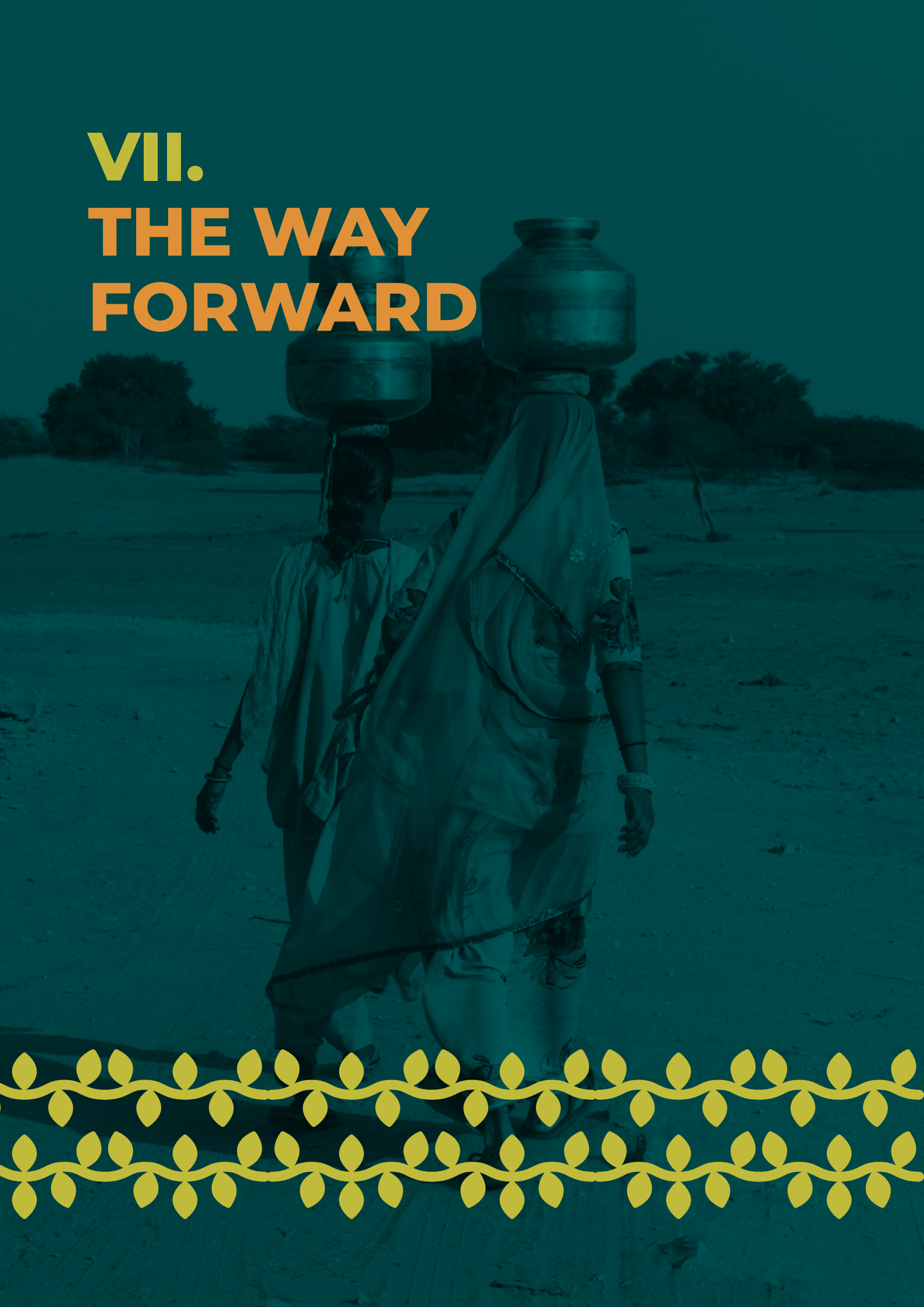
Sexual and reproductive health services made it to the final document, with references to universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, menstrual health and hygiene management. However, the operational listing of sexual and reproductive health services is missing. Comprehensive sexual

and reproductive health services and supplies must be integrated within public health services to include: information on sexuality and psychosocial support, contraceptives including emergency contraception, post-exposure prophylaxis, male and female condoms, microbicides, and person-controlled technologies and vaccines; safe abortion information, supplies, services, and post-abortion care, assisted reproductive technologies, hormonal therapies, and gender-transition medical interventions; prevention, counselling, confidential and voluntary testing, treatment, care and support of HIV, as well as other sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy care (including antenatal and postnatal care, skilled birth attendance, referral systems and emergency obstetric care); and prevention, treatment, and care of reproductive cancers.

Further, CSW66 Agreed Conclusions stress the need for disaggregated data, but focuses only on sex, age, and disability as variables while overlooking many others including SOGIESC, indigeneity, etc. One of the main challenges in addressing the climate crisis from an intersectional feminist perspective is the absence of disaggregated data that does not count for the conditions of greater vulnerability women live through. Paragraph 56 spells out the scarcity of disaggregated data and aspires to grasp the status of women and girls in the context of climate mitigation and adaptation. The paragraph excludes trans and queer identities as identity aspects that get systematically marginalized and disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis. Such exclusionary approaches promote the categorization of analysis that makes populations in conditions of vulnerability invisible, further perpetuating the full non-recognition of their identity. It also points to the limitation of generating institutional capacities for data collection and its analysis and the scarcity of attention on problems derived from the climate crisis in marginalised communities.

For this reason, we demand the disaggregation of data, including other variables in addition to the ones adopted. Thus promoting a truly inclusive analysis that makes it possible to know and address the lived realities of women in their diversity with information relevant to their needs and the challenges they face.

VII. THE WAY FORWARD



CSW66 does not exist in a vacuum and we carry our learnings and political asks from this process to upcoming processes around climate change, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, gender equality, sustainable development, etc.

Our political asks for the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in November 2022, are as follows:

In order to advance towards an effective inclusion of feminist civil society and an approach from an intersectional gender perspective in the face of the next COP27, it is necessary to guarantee the following.

1. PARTICIPATION QUOTAS IN IPCC ANALYSIS AND REPORTS AS CONTRIBUTORS AND AUTHORS, INCLUDING LEAD AUTHORS

That it be guaranteed that at least half of the people who participate in the drafting of the reports are women and at least 40% are women from the Global South, who face the worst consequences of the climate crisis. There must also be more consistent, additional box-type contributions from CSOs and NGOs, especially from the Majority South. This requires active development, support and accompaniment programmes for authors who are structurally and historically marginalized on the basis of gender, race, class, caste, indigeneity, disability, etc., toward structural and policy changes within the IPCC regime, in all areas and at all stages of the report-writing processes.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF SPACES FOR REAL DIALOGUE AND ADVOCACY WITH NATIONAL DELEGATIONS

It is necessary that member state delegations hold dialogues with feminist organizations of local, national and regional civil society. And that it is done in such a way that full and effective participation is guaranteed. The virtual Vienna cafe that was held during CSW66 between a number of member state representatives and a selected number of feminist advocates had no precedent during COVID-19, and while it is a step forward, it still remains inaccessible to younger South feminists. In order to ensure climate justice and a rapid, just transition, the full and effective participation of women is needed, especially those from regions most affected by the crisis.

3. APPOINTMENT OF GENDER FOCAL POINTS BEFORE COP27

Currently, over 90 countries have taken up the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan recommendation that countries appoint a 'National focal point on Gender and Climate Change'. However, many countries and even entire regions such as the Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are yet to appoint gender focal points. 2022 is an opportune time to build political will and resources so that more countries join this list, helping to maintain momentum on

national, regional and global work for gender, ecological and climate justice, and for the announcement of a substantive meeting of these national focal points in the vicinity of COP27, as part of the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and Climate Change, hosted jointly by North and South states.

It is also urgent that the person who occupies this position receives relevant training and has the support of both the state and civil society groups – currently, their appointment is left to the wills of governments in power. Therefore, it is necessary that the appointment has the support of local feminist organizations and that the person appointed be the one who leads spaces for dialogue and coordination to advance all areas of gender and climate justice and overall governmental cross-ministerial action in this area.

4. NAMING MARCH 03 AS AN ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FEMINIST CLIMATE ACTION

We invite feminist organizations and activists from the Global South to annually lead and urge global recognition of March 03 as the International Day for Feminist Climate Action, in commemoration of the life and leadership of Berta Cáceres as a Woman Environmental Human Rights Defender (WEHRD), and her murder for her crucial work.

Berta Cáceres was a [defender](#) of the rights of Indigenous peoples, an environmental leader and a member of the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras. She was murdered in her home in Honduras in the early hours of the night between March 02 and 03, 2016, as an act to neutralize the Lenca people's [resistance](#) to the Agua Zarca hydroelectric project, illegally imposed on the sacred Gualcarque river.

Her death evidences the imminent and constant risk for the defenders of territory, particularly Indigenous peoples and women throughout the world who resist maldevelopment projects that are imposed on the self-determination of the peoples, protection of natural resources and participative ecological development by communities and populations facing historical discrimination and exclusion.

For this reason, in her memory, we call to dedicate March 03 to be a global day of action for the effective inclusion of all women in climate action and the recognition of the living planet, of protection of [Sumak Kawayay](#) (or buen vivre) and life as the centre as an essential ecofeminist principle for true sustainable development, which prioritises socio-economic, ecological and climate justice, and gender equality.

The day calls for global action for the intersection of SDG13 and SDG5, from the intersectional perspective of gender justice and women's human rights. Promoting discussion and visibility of inequalities, violence, gaps and fundamental contributions made by women in all their diversity, but particularly women who live in the Majority South and those who directly face the harshest consequences of climate and ecological crisis.

**"WHILE WE HAVE
CAPITALISM, THIS
PLANET WILL NOT BE
SAVED. CAPITALISM IS
CONTRARY TO LIFE,
TO THE ENVIRONMENT,
TO HUMAN BEINGS,
TO WOMEN - TO ALL
FORMS OF LIFE."**

BERTA CÁCERES, 1971 - 2016

CO-AUTHORS

Ana María Rodríguez Pereira

Guided by the ethical commitment to human rights and sustainable human development, Ana presently works as a specialist in issues related to environmental and climate justice, sustainability and gender equality. She brings 10 years of working experience on a diversity of projects and research on chemistry, technological development, ecological sustainability and climate action in the public and private sectors, civil society institutions, and international cooperation organizations.

Faith Ebere Onuh

Faith was raised in Abuja, Nigeria by a single mother and started her volunteering at 14 with the youth network on HIV and AIDS (NYNETHA) as a counsellor tester. At age 16 she started volunteering at the Institute of Human Virology (IHVN) to support and mentor adolescents and young persons living with HIV. She founded Young Persons Network for Sustainable Lifestyle and Health Initiative (YOUNPEN4SLAH) in 2015.

Lizbeth Quezada

Liz is a young feminist who contributes to creating a context in which adolescents and young people can make their own life decisions regarding their sexuality. She coordinates the Program for Adolescents, Autonomy and Sexuality at Balance Promotion for Development and Youth. Liz loves riding bikes and discovering new places and landscapes.

Nana Abuelsoud

Nana Abuelsoud is the Programs and Advocacy Coordinator at RESURJ. She is a feminist researcher based in Cairo with a focus on generating evidence for policy recommendations on access to sexual and reproductive health services in Egypt, and is motivated by her interest in knowledge production and feminist movement building. Previously, she worked as a sexual and reproductive rights researcher at the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR) between 2019 and 2021. Nana is a sexual and reproductive health coach at the Geneva Foundation for Medical Research and Education, and a fellow of the Transformative Research Arab-Families Working Group.

Noelene Nabulivo

Noelene Nabulivou works with Diverse Voices and Action (DIVA) for Equality in Fiji as Political Adviser and Management Collective member. Noelene is also an associate of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), and a co-convenor of Pacific Feminist SRHR Coalition, and Pacific Partnerships on Gender, Climate Change and Sustainable Development. Noelene is a feminist lesbian activist, frontline community organizer, praxis-based researcher and analyst, teacher, facilitator, and advocate in local, regional and global spaces. Over the past 30 years, Noelene has used South feminist political economy and interlinkage approaches to work with others on sexual rights, gender justice, human rights, and social, economic, and ecological/climate justice. She has a double degree in international relations, and peace studies, and a diploma in community arts. She lives in Suva, Fiji.

ANNEXE

CSW66 Pacific Demands for Gender, Socio-economic, Ecological and Climate Justice, for All

ON THE 1.5-DEGREE TRAJECTORY AND '1.5 TO STAY ALIVE'

On specific calls from climate frontline Peoples, including in the Pacific, the most urgent is the retention of a 1.5-degree of global warming guardrail trajectory. Anything over 1.5 degrees of warming has been confirmed by scientists in the IPCC reports and countless studies to condemn the majority of coastal and atoll people to the complete physical loss of land linked to their socio-cultural existence. This will also trigger massive socio-economic, ecological and existential loss and damage. As the Permanent Representative of Fiji to the UN said just after COP26, “1.5 is the last possible compromise that the Pacific can offer the world...Beyond that, you are asking their leaders to sign away the right to exist as countries on our shared planet.”

The call is for genuine civilisational level shifts on all the areas below, and much more.

ON LOSS AND DAMAGE

1. Calling urgently for coherent and precedence-setting language in all multilateral agreements, unequivocally acknowledging that loss and damage is the third pillar of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change with mitigation and adaptation, with over 140 countries at COP26 already calling for a Loss and Damage facility;
2. From COP27, a clear governance structure for the financing of a facility to address loss and damage, through the full rights-compliant operationalization of the Santiago Network. The network must be allocated sufficient resources to engage on strategies and support for gender-just and rights-based solutions and mechanisms for effective remedies at scale, reflecting diverse views and centering future generations and to address loss and damage at national level;
3. Acknowledgement that IPCC reports show clearly that we need a strong, socially engaged science of loss and damage that assesses climate-induced violations of human rights, and additionally assesses what people in various geographic and cultural contexts value, and to

what extent loss and damage from climate change and environmental degradation puts all of those aspects of life, at urgent risk;

4. Acknowledgement that loss and damage are already happening, and that we need the strongest resourced local and global response.

MITIGATION THROUGH DECARBONISATION, NOT CARBON TRADE

On mitigation, the urgent call is for decarbonisation rather than any carbon trading. We must urgently move beyond market failure reasoning and ‘net zero’ fairy tales using technology and capacities that do not even exist, and instead focus on fundamental changes in existing sociotechnical systems such as energy democracy, mobility, food and water sovereignty and security, and industrial production, and building just, adaptive, ecologically sound development alternatives. In building development alternatives and transfer of technologies, those most affected by climate injustice and least responsible for historical emissions must be centred in decision making. This requires explicit commitment and work toward decoloniality and Free, Prior and Informed Consent, of indigenous and local communities.

CLIMATE FINANCE AND RESOURCES FOR GENDER AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

The Paris Agreement confirms that developed countries should take the lead in mobilizing climate finance “from a wide variety of sources, instruments and channels” in a “progression beyond previous efforts”. A new climate finance goal will be agreed upon before 2025, as mandated by Parties to COP21. Meanwhile, the current \$100b per year from 2020 - 2025 by industrialized, polluting countries is nowhere near fulfilment! Climate finance must be devolved immediately and directly to those most affected, including specific funds to local, autonomous women’s and feminist movements rather than with INGOs and civil society in major industrial, carbon polluter countries. There is a need for equivalency in coverage of adaptation and mitigation needs, and to ensure that by COP27 we are putting in place a Loss and Damage Facility, that is aggressively and consistently resourced, political supported and able to respond urgently to permanent loss and massive damage now experienced, and will increase in coming decades and centuries to climate frontline individuals, communities and societies around the world.

As well as maximum available resources and differentiated urgent access to SIDS, PSIDS, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, Glacier States, Africa, all Majority South and Black, Indigenous, and people of colour (BIPOC) and poor communities in the industrialized states through the Green Climate Fund, Generation Equality Forum and other instruments, there are many valuable climate finance initiatives proposed by climate-vulnerable countries such as reduction of and taxes on air travel, on shipping

and other transaction taxes that could quickly raise billions for fast-action finance to address climate change and economic and ecological damage. Whatever the finance mechanism, the abysmal levels of Official Development Assistance and philanthropic funds to gender and climate frontline struggles (one per cent of one per cent), especially to feminist and grassroots-led groups in the Majority South, is now well-documented. There is a need for continued advocacy for climate assistance to be in the form of grants, as well as pushback against the prevalent international financial institutions and private sector debt-ridden loans.

TRANSFORMATION OF GLOBAL MACROECONOMIC, TRADE AND FINANCIAL SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT THE 1.5 TRAJECTORY AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

Overall, the world must make urgent transformations to global macroeconomics together, including shifting trillions of USD in global financial flows channelled by the private sector. There must be an immediate focus on the recuperation of the development state, with public sector finance delivered bilaterally and multilaterally with development finance institutions taking the lead through support for climate-vulnerable and frontline peoples. This also includes the oversight and reduction of excessive military-industrial expenditures and redress of loss and damage, debt justice for developing countries especially for Small Island Developing States/Pacific Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developed countries, Africa, and the Majority South. Prioritizing grants over loans in climate finance ensures debt cancellation and relief in the aftermath of climate disaster. It also combats illicit financial flows – especially corporate tax abuse and tax avoidance – while making gender and human rights, care economy, social floor, social protection and infrastructure, and trade, monetary and fiscal policies that are consistent with addressing the climate, biodiversity and ecological emergencies in ways that are human-rights and people-centred, gender-transformative, inclusive and equitable.

ENDING THE FOSSIL FUEL ERA, INCLUDING UNFAIR SUBSIDIES

The move toward the end of the fossil fuel era must be just and equitable, but it cannot anymore be a transition that is gradual over many decades. The rapid shifts required are confirmed by the latest IPCC reports and point to the biospheric level consequences of slow shifts, and also to the emissions lag – the effects of carbon emissions now will only be felt in decades to come and the alarming future consequences are both intergenerational and urgent/immediate in terms of response time.

Additionally, it is clear that for every promise and delivery, there are counter-investments in fossil-fuel-based technology. Blackrock and Vanguard, the two giant investment asset managers globally, are still actively ploughing tens of billions of dollars into new coal projects and hundreds of billions of dollars into major oil and gas companies, and they are not alone. In early 2022, over 30 asset managers have \$82 billion in companies developing new coal projects and \$468 billion in 12 major oil and gas companies. As feminist climate activists, it is our role to actively sanction and regulate private sector actors engaged in ecocidal behaviour, and the states and international financial institutions enabling them.

ADVANCE SEXUAL AND GENDER JUSTICE AND WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

There are inequities, gaps and obstacles to universal human rights, gender justice and women's human rights. In all sectors and contexts, climate justice work must be explicitly at the core. This must include bodily autonomy and integrity, and the right to decision-making over one's sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and one's sexual orientation, gender identity, expressions and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). It must also include work to end all forms of gender-based violence including violence against women and girls, femme and gender non-binary and gender-expansive people, and LGBTQI+ people. In many countries, there are residual colonial-era laws and policies that still criminalize LGBTQI+ people, and the removal of these archaic laws is an imperative for climate and ecological justice.

DEFENSE OF THE COMMONS (AIR, WATERWAYS, OCEANS, SOIL, FOOD SYSTEMS, ETC)

We need to now reconfigure ecological conservation away from "30% by 2030" type initiatives, though popular with states and INGOs, toward 100% Defense of the Commons. "30 by 30" exposes some fault lines over biodiversity protection: by whom, in what ways, and where political attention and funding are directed. There is a danger that conservation imperatives will be carried out in ways that further disenfranchise and enable land grabs by states and corporate interests from local and Indigenous people. Further, the ability of local communities to access food, water, shelter and other provisions may become even more difficult and lead to further land and ocean grabs and enclosures.

South feminist activists point out that Indigenous people make up over 375-550 million in 70 countries – which is around 5% of the world's population protecting over 80% of the world's richest biodiversity. Indigenous People are also paying disproportionately for this role, with more environmental defenders being killed and persecuted globally every year. We call for the particularly heightened defense of Women Environmental Defenders

including specific recognition and protection mechanisms for WEHRDs. This language was unfortunately not taken forward into the CSW66 Agreed Outcomes. And we continue to struggle for its recognition, implementation and protection.

We call the attention of the newly established UN Special Rapporteur to the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change. We call on Dr Ian Frye to initiate an urgent audit of the gender justice and human rights concerns in his purview, including and in particular the situation of WEHRDs, for the strongest and gender-transformative outcomes of this work.

RIGHT TO A CLEAN, SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

The Commission on the Status of Women recognizes that the unjust and inequitable impact of climate change, unsustainable management and use of natural resources, the pollution of air, land and water, the unsound management of chemicals and waste and the resulting loss of biodiversity, and the decline in all ecosystems and the earth's ecosphere as a whole, interfere with the enjoyment of the right to a clean, safe, healthy and sustainable environment. It recognizes that environmental damage has system-wide negative implications, for the effective enjoyment of all human rights and the living planet, with consequences for all and especially felt most acutely by those segments of the population that are already marginalised and vulnerable including indigenous women, older women, widows, women with disabilities, LGBTQI+ women and gender non-binary people, girl children and others.

SOLIDARIOUS ACTION

Feminists organizing around CSW and other multilateral spaces should be careful never to overcompensate in allyship with official state representatives, and to remain consistent and principled in our feminist engagement and responsibility to our autonomous constituencies. Session after session and trade-offs depoliticize our lives and struggles, and grant another day for hetero-patriarchal-capitalism to thrive over our bodies and all territories.

While we target states on historical emissions and their responsibility for redress, as well as common but differentiated responsibility for loss and damage, feminists in the Global North must check themselves on advocacy priorities that heavily benefit their own industrialised countries, and orient responses to those of the economic South. This is not only or mainly about accompaniment politics, but about deliberately and consistently passing along platforms, leadership, finance and working as a movement to transform experiences of privilege and oppression in gender, climate and ecological

justice. The research tells us this is not happening yet, within and beyond feminist movements.

This year, feminists in Africa and the Pacific shared their demands for climate justice very clearly and loudly at CSW66 and beyond. Pushback came from some states and even within movements, in subtle and explicit ways. There is sometimes confusion in prioritized and solidarious responses, and often deliberate gatekeeping and exclusion. Let us sit with each other more regularly and strategically on these issues, do deep listening, work on specific South and North differential response as well as advance transnational movement work in solidarious action and through shared feminist care, decisionmaking, leadership and resources.

As we localise and build national and regional accountability on the Agreed Outcomes of CSW66 on gender, socio-economic, ecological and climate justice, it is now time to strategize for COP27 and other multilateral processes in 2022 and toward future CSW sessions including CSW67, in new feminist ways.

