Distinguished ministers and heads of delegations,

My name is Sabine Bock and I am speaking on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency. I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to share with you our hopes on what could be achieved in Paris. You are here representing nations around the globe, and humanity looks up to you to deliver a momentous outcome that will help preserve and protect our planet.

For us, it is critical that you understand this agreement to be one not just among countries, but an agreement for people everywhere, and for that people must be at the centre of this agreement, both in the text and in the negotiations.

This translates to several keys asks we make to you, to take forward at COP21:

1. Parties must commit to stay below **1.5° C degree of warming, for the protection of people and ecosystems already facing the ravages of climate change.** This is critical to the goals of the Convention, and must be done in a manner which upholds the principles of the Convention, namely equity and CBDR.
2. In the operational language of this new agreement, namely the Purpose section, countries must ensure a truly transformative and effective approach, by supporting the following proposed language *“ensure that all climate change related actions, respect, protect, promote, and fulfil human rights for all, including the rights of indigenous peoples; gender equality and the full and equal participation of women; intergenerational equity; a just transition of the workforce that creates decent work and quality jobs; food security; and the integrity and resilience of natural ecosystems”*
3. **Developed Countries must commit to take the lead** in Paris **to close the emission gap and to exclude harmful strategies and technologies in the INDCs.** The Civil Society Equity review report revealed the clearly inadequate INDCs of developed countries so far, you must do your fair share.
4. Action on climate change cannot wait until 2020. **Parties must commit to wide-ranging ambitious and just actions under WSII.**
5. The long term global goal of the agreement must articulate a sustainable pathway for reducing emissions, phasing in 100% safe and sustainable renewable energy systems and wide ranging structural and lifestyle changes - and phasing out harmful technologies and fossil fuels, in line with principles of equity. We reject concepts such as ‘net-zero’ ‘carbon neutrality’ or any long term goal which encourages off-setting, and unsafe technological solutions.
6. For adaptation, **a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach** must be enshrined in the agreement.
7. Countries must acknowledge the loss of lives, cultures, and ecosystems which will and has already occurred due to climate change. **The new agreement must include a mechanism to address both financial and non-monetized Loss and Damage.**
8. The quality of technologies must be assured and defined. **Technology development and transfer must be safe for people and the environment, affordable to all and gender responsive.** An assessment of technologies in regard to their social and environmental impact must be integrated.
9. **Finally, for countries to urgently combat this issue, Countries must provide clearly defined, new, additional, and predictable gender-responsive public finance,** in the form of grants. The goal of $100 billion per year, must be a floor, not a ceiling, scaled up at least every five years, with a 50:50 balance between mitigation and adaptation, and finance for loss and damage in addition to adaptation funding. Climate finance must prioritise locally driven projects and allow direct access to the most affected at local and community levels, with dedicated funds to support women’s local movements.

Climate Change is threatening our existence. We ask you, as leaders of the world, to commit to an agreement, to decisions and a WS II that provides a **safe, equitable and sustainable future for all of us.**

Thank you!