

Intervention Olga Djanaeva, ALGA, Kyrgyzstan

My name is Olga Djanaeva, Rural women's association ALGA from Kyrgyzstan. It's a great privilege for me to speak in the Opening of the Regional Consultations today!

Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous country; glaciers are the main source of water here. Melting glaciers due to Climate change and multiple environmental degradation lead to the scarcity of water for agriculture and farming. Unfavorable differences in the night and day temperatures together with draught are causing big risks as well. There are 92 uranium tailing storages in the country which are very vulnerable to natural disasters and it's a great danger not only for Kyrgyzstan but for the whole Central Asian region.

More than 60% of the population lives in rural area. Women in rural communities are very much dependent of water and energy resources to sustain their livelihoods, families and food security. Pollution of air and water resources, loss of biodiversity, land degradation and loss of pastures – this environmental crisis exacerbates economic and social vulnerability of rural women.

Rural women are experiencing the impact of climate change and environmental degradation in their daily lives, as glaciers no longer provide the needed water, and toxic pesticides and plastic waste are polluting our soils, food and groundwater sources. In Kyrgyzstan there is evidence that women, especially rural women are most likely to be affected by flash flooding and landslides as they spent much more time in the exposed residential and subsistence production area. Climate related disasters have impacted women in many areas including agricultural production, food security, water management and public health. The level of impact and coping strategies depend heavily on women's socio-economic status, socio-cultural norms, access to resources, poverty as well as gender.

ALGA is a part of the global eco-feminist movements and a co-lead of the Generation Equality Forum's Action Coalition on Feminist Climate Justice, jointly with WEDO, WECF and other members of the Women and Gender groups participate in the climate and environment negotiations.

Grassroots women's movements contribute substantial analysis on how to dismantle the root causes of climate and environment injustices. We call for immediate fossil fuel phase-out, holding polluters accountable for their historical and ongoing responsibility. We promote energy democracy and a just and equitable transition towards Renewable Energy and Agro-ecology initiatives, with women's leadership.

We hope the Stockholm+50 Decisions will reiterate the importance of development and implementation of gender responsive environmental policies to ensure women's human rights and gender equality are promoted, and strong support, including financial, for grassroots women's organizations is taken part in the environmental governance.

Women across all the regions are determined to strengthen our solidarity marching towards a just and equitable transition from global environment and climate crises. We call on governments to uphold grassroots women's voices and demands.