

My name is Sabine Bock from Women in Europe for a Common Future and I speak on behalf of the women and gender constituency.

Distinguished delegates:

We object to attempts to set reference levels so high that, far from reducing their emissions, countries would actually be able to increase their emissions from LULUCF related activities considerably.

We are strongly concerned that the currently used forest definition for LULUCF includes large-scale monoculture tree plantations that have devastating impacts on women's livelihoods and communities in general. That is why we insist that the definition of "forests" be revised so as to exclude monoculture tree plantations. Moreover, it should be ensured that forest degradation is fully taken into account in any scheme to conserve forests. We reject any incentive scheme that favors the carbon value of ecosystems more than other values. This will lead to serious negative impacts on the other socio-economic, cultural, spiritual and ecological values of forests, which are of essential importance to women.

We strongly object to the proposed continuation of CDM credits for monoculture tree plantations. We also object to proposals to include forest, cropland and grazing land management, soil carbon and other 'land use' in the CDM. This would support monoculture tree and crop plantations. Financial support to climate change mitigation should not be used to support dangerous, environmentally and/or socially harmful projects like industrial biochar, genetically modified trees and crops, industrial bio-energy, nuclear energy, large-scale hydro-electric dams, clean coal and geo-engineering.

We urge governments to establish reference levels that will lead to real emission reductions, to insist on a definition of biologically diverse forests and to decide on financial support for mitigation activities, that exclude polluting industries.

Thank you!