

MEDIA ADVISORY

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8 November, 2016: ACTION **“Invest in Climate Justice - Not War!”**

WHAT

On Tuesday, November 8 2016 the Women and Gender Constituency of the UNFCCC will host an interactive ACTION at COP22 to highlight the impact of militarism on climate change and the importance of redirecting military spending to sustainable and equitable development. Military emissions are a driver of climate change yet states are often omit them from emissions reporting. To meet the climate finance gap and implement the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals, the action will involve activists visually illustrating the value of dismantling military spending and investing in gender equality, environment, equitable development and climate justice policies. Civil society will also demand that military emissions are included in commitments to dramatically reduce GHG emissions. **We demand a strong political commitment to invest in climate justice not in war!**

WHO

Climate justice and gender equality advocates of all ages from around the world: Africa, Asia, South and Central America, Middle East, North America, Europe, Pacific island states, Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand.

WHEN

Tuesday, November 8
1:15 PM

WHERE

Blue Zone; In front of Restaurant 1

WHY

Militarism is both a driver and a consequence of climate change. Developed countries 'Roadmap for 100 billion' is woefully inadequate to meet the challenges of climate mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage. Just over 10 billion USD have been committed to the Green Climate Fund. Yet, according to the Stockholm

International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), in 2015 there was a global military expenditure of \$1.6 trillion. This money would go a long way in addressing the serious issues of climate change and its disproportionate impact on women, particularly in frontline communities in the economic South and North. It would also reverse some of the direct and indirect effects of fossil fuel and other extractivist fuelled conflict and wars.

Climate change poses a threat to security and peace. As temperatures rise and resources become scarce, social inequality and violent conflicts increase. Simultaneously, the military is among the largest contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions. The US military for example is the world's largest institutional consumer of crude oil, using more than 100 billion barrels of oil a year. If the US military were a country it would rank 34th in the world in average daily oil use, coming in just behind Iraq and just ahead of Sweden. The US argued for the exemption of military emissions from the Kyoto protocol for security reasons though failed to ratify it. Many of the world's wars are fought to protect corporate interests in fossil fuels so the issue of extraterritorial obligations of states is also an issue of climate justice.

The Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) calls for the delegates to stop fueling militarisation of the world and propping up fossil fuel polluters and to reallocate military spending to invest in climate justice, gender equality and peacebuilding. Heidi Meinzolt, from Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) says, "If the international community wants peace, it needs to invest more in gender equality and social justice policies".

The WGC calls for increased, adequate financing for the Green Climate Fund for mitigation and adaptation. COP22 is the time for countries to stop enabling corporate and elite fuelled conflicts and wars, to stop delegating state duty of care and financial commitments to the private sector, raise ambition and meet financial commitments to developing countries and frontline communities, including women and girls.

ABOUT

The Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) is one of the nine stakeholder groups of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Established in 2009, the WGC now consists of 15 women's and environmental civil society organizations, who are working to ensure that women's voices and their rights are embedded in all processes and results of the UNFCCC framework, for a sustainable and just future, so that gender equality and women's human rights are central to the ongoing discussions. As the WGC represents the voices of hundreds and thousands of people across the globe, members of the Constituency are present at each UNFCCC meeting and intersessional alongside the UNFCCC Secretariat,

governments, civil society observers and other stakeholders to ensure that women's rights and gender justice are core elements of the UNFCCC. In this action the constituency is joined by other stakeholders committed to advancing women's human rights, peace and climate justice.

<http://womengenderclimate.org>

MORE RESOURCES

Women and Gender constituency [key demands at COP22](#)

WILPF's interactive toolkit (www.peacewomen.org/wps-financing): the toolkit shows that instead of funding war, the UN and member states should invest in gender-responsive budgeting, transparency in defence budgets, National Action Plans on Women, Peace, and Security, and civil society-inclusive UN funds. WILPF research affirms the pressing need for resources to help strengthen women, peace and security financing. A presentation will be given on Tuesday 8th in the Women and Gender Constituency exhibition space in the Green Zone at 2.30 pm.