Intervention by Maira Zahur, GenderCC  
on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency  
SBSTA dialogue on the development in research activities relevant to the needs  
of the Convention, June 3rd, 2010

Chair, thank you for this opportunity to address the floor.

My name is Maira Zahur and I’m from Pakistan. I represent the Women and Gender Constituency.

As a constituency, we recognize the importance of research and documentation as a basis of any UNFCCC process. We strongly feel that the development of any mechanism must be informed by the realities on the ground in timely and coherent manner.

We welcome this initiative of UNFCCC to bringing the research stakeholders together for the identification of gaps at present and probable needs in the future.

There is much evidence, pointing out that the process of adaptation and mitigation are build upon the social, political and economic conditions of the communities. These conditions, in turn, affect the allocation of resources among different groups of people. These allocations are informed by who we are (our identities), how we live (our roles and responsibilities in different social groups) and how we structure and maintain our societies (our vision). We, as a gender constituency, believe that the analyses of our diverse lived experience, including the disparities that we encounter everyday in our societies and the just alternatives for such inequity and inequality have informed the process in the past and it must remain at the core of any climate change solution in the future as well.

We therefore recommend the following:

Firstly, the conduct of a systematic review of the existing research on gender issues in relation to the convention;

Secondly, the mandatory inclusion of sex disaggregated data in any research within the UNFCCC process as well as in any external research that feeds into the UNFCCC process;

Thirdly, that apart from the much needed quantitative data, contextualized qualitative analyses of the gender vulnerabilities and women’s leadership potentials be undertaken; and

Lastly, that adequate special fund be earmarked for mainstreaming gender issues into any research within the UNFCCC process.

Thank you.