**Women’s Leadership on Climate Change Justice and the Grassroots Perspective**

COP 16 Side Event

Saturday 4 December 2010 - 20:15-21:45 - Jaguar Room, Cancunmesse, Cancun, Mexico

**Co-organizers:**

The Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice www.mrfcj.org

The Green Belt Movement www.greenbeltmovement.org

Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative www.realizingrights.org

The Nobel Women’s Initiative www.nobelwomensinitiative.org

The Climate Wise Women www.climatewisewomen.org

**Moderator:**

Lorena Aguilar, Senior Gender Advisor for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

**Panel Speakers:**

* Mary Robinson, President of The Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice, founder and President of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative, and formerly President of Ireland (1990-97) and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997-2002).
* Constance Okollet, Chairperson of Osukuru United Women’s Network, Uganda and founding member of Climate Wise Women
* Francesca de Gasparis, Director of the Green Belt Movement – Europe

A video recorded endorsement of the event was provided by Wangari Maathai, Green Belt Movement founder and Nobel Peace Laureate.

**Respondents:**

* Ursula Rakova, Executive Director of Tulele Peisa: Sailing the Waves on Our Own, Carteret Islands, Papua New Guinea
* Natalia Greene, Political Program Coordinator of Fundacion Pachamama, Ecuador
* Peter Ndunda, Geographical Information System (GIS) Specialist with Green Belt Movement, Kenya.

At this COP 16 side event, panellists, respondents and the audience discussed strategies for women's participation in decision-making on climate change. They explored issues including impacts, adaptation, mitigation and emissions levels, lessons from the grassroots on REDD+, climate justice, local solutions, ensuring funds reach local communities, protecting indigenous rights, educational tools for awareness-raising, the responsibilities of taking leadership, and the need to recognise women's rights.

Additional information can be found in other documents on this site and on the co-organizers' websites.