

## Opening Session

Following introductions from participants, the session was opened by **Nathaniel Don Marquez** (ANGOC) and **Mino Ramaroson** (HC) on the context of recent meetings in London, United Kingdom<sup>7</sup> (June 2023) and Dhaka, Bangladesh<sup>8</sup> (October 2023) related to the EGM in the Philippines, and the need to create an effective dialogue on women's leadership in addressing climate change and how grassroots women and community perspectives on land rights could inform new perspectives framed through the idea of the new social contract (NSC). The agenda for the EGM was noted as being action- and solution-oriented to address the role of grassroots women in climate action.

Opening remarks by **Violet Shivutse** (HC) centred on the relationship between women's situations, land rights, and climate change, with the example of women farmers' livelihoods and the daily struggle to "put food on the table." It highlighted the interconnections between land and climate issues, and how the challenge of climate change undermines women's role and also affects women through experiences such as drought, flooding, and disease which produce loss and damage and require solutions. In the context of women's coping, collective and peer learning, and the need to see women as partners rather than simply beneficiaries were highlighted, as was creating knowledge sharing across communities. It also tied together questions of the role of women's leadership, partners, and climate justice.

Opening comments by **Siraj Sait** (UEL) focused on the EGM's agenda and the objective of developing a renegotiated NSC. It discussed the background to the discussions being the UN-Habitat Assembly event on "Developing a New Social Contract" (2023), the East London "Consensus on Gender and Youth Land Rights" (2023), and the Dhaka Declaration on "Mainstreaming land rights in the narrative of climate change" (2023), which highlighted a gap in how to apply prior knowledge and tools for strengthening land rights in the context of climate change. Sait's comments recognized the need for women's leadership, climate justice, and human rights as the three main pillars, with need for tangible actions. The EGM was highlighted as a platform for peer learning, and bringing together new thinking based on experiences, case studies, and evidence from participants and their networks.

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<sup>7</sup> EGM on "Gender Strategy and Youth Participation on land rights", London, UK [Available at: <https://gltn.net/2023/07/25/expert-group-meeting-gender-strategy-and-youth-participation-on-land-rights-15-17-june-2023-london-uk/>]

<sup>8</sup> Regional conference on "Mainstreaming land rights in the narrative of climate change", Dhaka, Bangladesh, [Available at: <https://gltn.net/2023/10/26/mainstreaming-land-rights-in-the-narrative-of-climate-change-views-from-the-ground/>]

The **plenary discussion** focused on UN-Habitat's role in shaping global land rights and climate change debate, the need to recognize different frameworks, strengthen local initiatives, address capacity needs, and actions, including local government as well as need for funding and support to grassroots women.

## Updates on the global development agenda on land rights, climate justice, and gender equality from the perspective of women and girls

This session focused on discussing the trends and challenges in the global land, climate, and development agenda and its significance for grassroots women and girls.

**Clarissa Augustinus'** presentation centered on the background and context of global climate action. It discussed both the relationship between land tenure security and dimensions of the planetary boundaries framework, as well as the role and mandate of different UN



agencies in climate action. Particular attention was paid to developments since the Rio Earth Summit 1992 and the work of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in governing climate action through the Conference of the Parties (COP) process. It discussed the various relevant targets, objectives, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 22 and 23, UNCBD COP15 Decisions 8 and 11, UNCCD Decisions 3 and 27, UNCCD Gender Action Plan, and UNFCCC Decisions 1, 20 and 24, and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGTs). It also addressed the entry points for organizations such as UN-Habitat, GLTN, and CSO partners in engaging with climate action through engagement with governments in national monitoring, reporting, and agenda-setting in these areas.