

## *Carmen Capriles (Women Major Group)*

My name is Carmen Capriles, I come from Bolivia and I am part of the WMG. In 1962 a woman a scientist an ecologist challenged, at the time a 300 thousand million dollars pesticide industry, with a book called Silent Spring, already speaking about chemical pollution, Rachel Carson mother of the environmental movement, was one of many concerned citizens that after a decade of mobilization, research and outreach helped the world realize that it was time to start considering environment problems, and that is how in June 1972 the world gather in Stockholm to make a change, to take the first step to care for the planet from multilateralism by giving birth to the United Nation Environment Program.

50 years have passed, 50 years where we have witnessed the environment get slashed, burned, wasted and destroyed and environmental problems increase little by little while becoming planetary crises without doing enough, prioritizing profit over the planet. And punishing those who oppose extractivism or challenging governments or companies, only in 2020, over 300 environmental and human rights defenders have been killed in a year were facing a pandemic. When did being an activist become a crime?

Also today after 50 years, we need to recognize the contributions and legacy of the women that have taken action to care for the environment, to face climate change, to attend biodiversity and wildlife, to promote regeneration and offering solutions and actions and at the same time we have to recognize that environmental negative impacts have a gender dimension, for example we can talk about how mercury from ASGM is affecting indigenous women and probably a whole new generations, how pesticides are being found in breastfeeding milk, how hormone disrupting molecules are found on everyday women items, or glyphosate in women's sanitary napkins and tampons, the data is there so we should do something.

How is it possible that we still apply double standards? that highly hazardous pesticides that have proved to be cancerogenic which are banned in many countries are still dumped on global south countries? How is it possible that we continue to use mercury that pollutes the rivers of my country? How is it possible that we are not able to break free from fossil fuels? Why are we still subsidizing fossils in developing countries? Why haven't we stopped fossil fuel proliferation? Why do we still allow huge forests to be burned in the name of agroindustry? Why haven't we just started a transition to a cleaner way of living? We have to Stop the same!

Today we do not see environmental governance as an utopia, we see it as the next step to achieve a true global society that cares not only about thriving or profit but also about human rights and nature, where the right to develop does not undermine the right to a healthy environment and that understand that our planet has boundaries that should be respected in order to prevent global ecocide.

The time for action is NOW, we hope this June, in Stockholm again, we, a new generation of concern women, of concerned citizens, can make history, hoping to achieve strong political will from our governments in order to take the needed action toward a planet based agenda to face the three main planetary crises that we are facing; climate change, biodiversity loss and chemical pollution.

Let's make history again, let's put the environment first and let's generate inspiration to the next generations, let's create momentum to tackle inequalities, let's inspire people to act and to defend nature without fear, and above all let's commit as civil society, as governments, as private sector to take meaningful actions to guarantee a healthy planet, to care for our wildlife and value of biodiversity, to face out of hazardous substances, to care and guarantee health for ourselves, for the actual and for the next seven generations in order to maintain the balance that this planet needs to sustain life,

And to conclude our road forward should be based on memory, legacy and environmental justice!

Thank you!!