

The UNFCCC

- International treaty created in 1992 to jointly 'limit average global temperature increases and the resulting climate change' and its impacts.

Carol Franco
Senior Research Associate,
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
and State University, USA



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

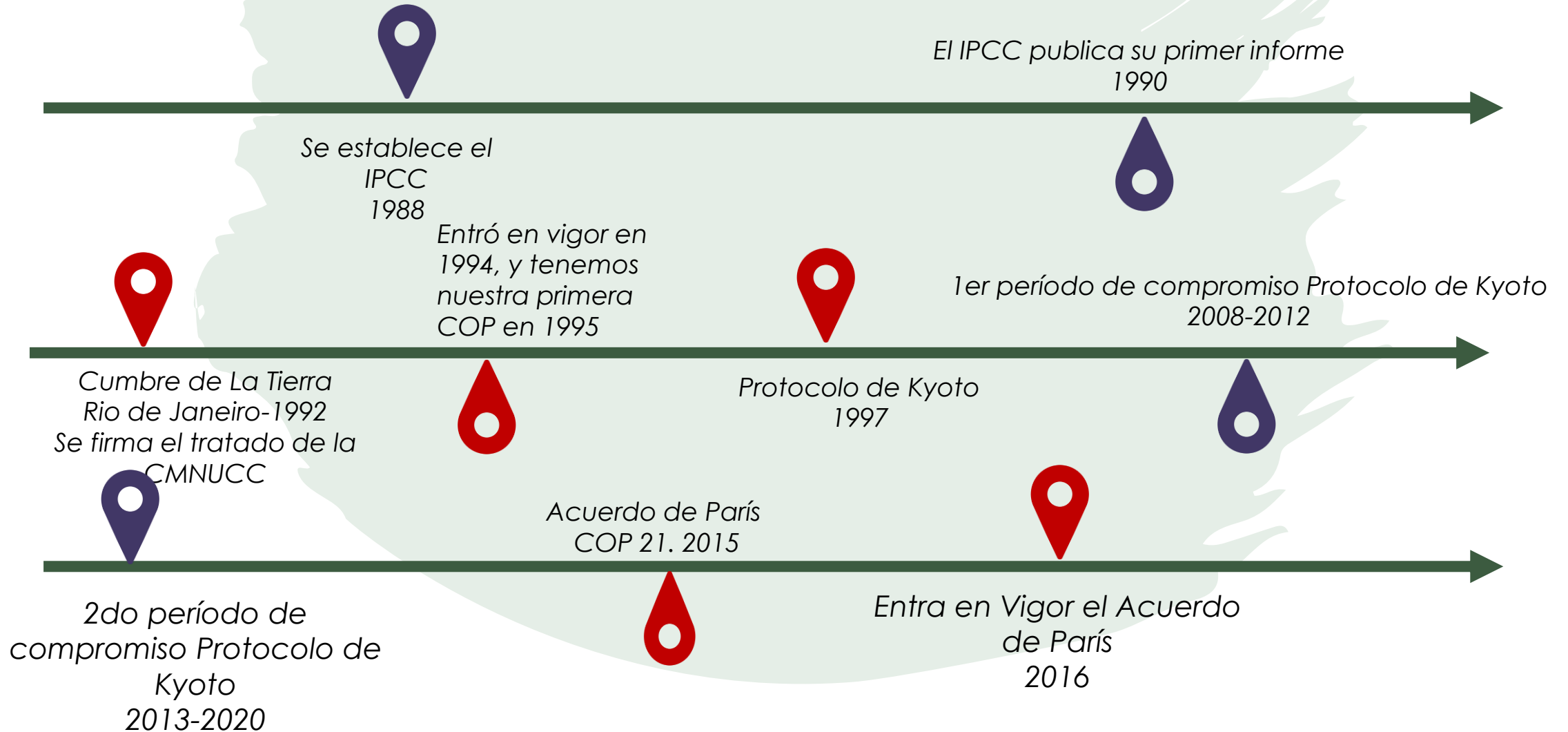




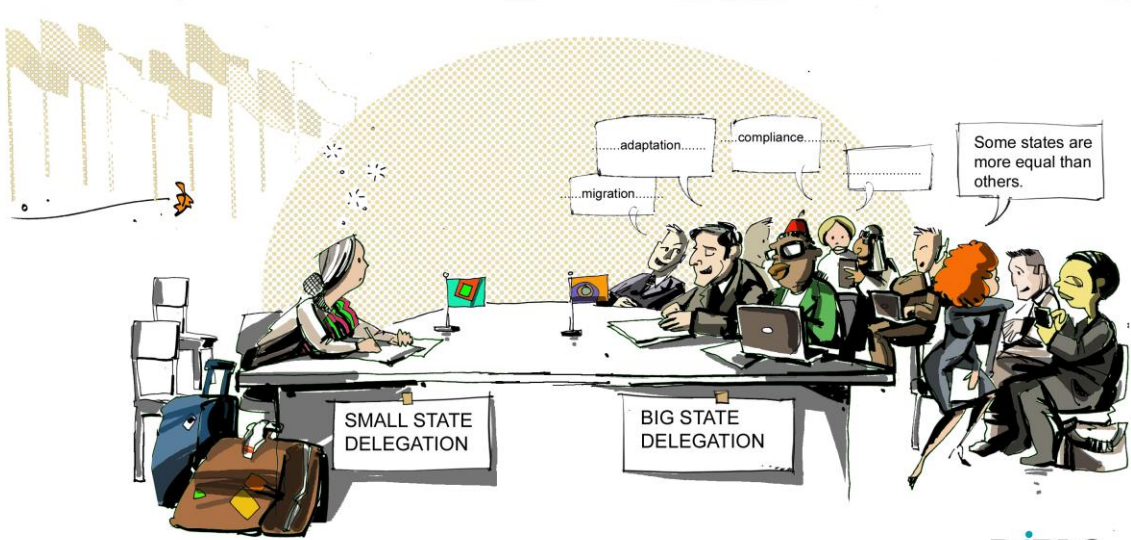
What is the role of the UNFCCC?

- To provide a platform for multilateral efforts where 197 Parties to the convention (196 States and 1 regional economic integration organization) address the impacts of climate change on people and ecosystems.

Timeline: UNFCCC Milestones



CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS



DiPLO



How does it work?



- The UNFCCC meets twice a year:
 - May/June: Bonn Intercessional Conference (meetings of SBI, SBSTA)
 - November/December: also known as COP, Conference is host at one of the Parties (meetings of COP, CMP, CMA, SBSTA and SBI)

Acronym	Name	Details
COP	Conference of the Parties	Supreme body of the Convention. It comprises countries that have ratified the UNFCCC. The COP usually meets annually for two weeks in December.
CMP	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (sometimes COP/MOP)	CMP comprises only Parties that have ratified or acceded to the Protocol; it meets as a separate decision-making body at the annual joint meetings of the COP/CMP.
SBs	Subsidiary Bodies	The UNFCCC established two permanent, standing bodies, SBSTA and SBI, that review progress and develop recommendations to further implementation of the Convention and Kyoto Protocol. SBs meet twice a year.
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation	Develops recommendations to assist the COP in assessing implementation of the Convention and Kyoto Protocol.
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for	Serves as the link between the COP

Acronym	Name	Details
AHWG	Ad Hoc Working Groups	Temporary groups in which all participating Parties are members.
AWG-KP	Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex 1 Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (2005-2012)	
AWG-LCA	Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (2007-2012)	
ADP	Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (2011-2015)	
APA	Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (2016-)	
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.	

Acronym	Name	Details
ACE	Action for Climate Empowerment	
AILAC	The Independent Association of Latin America and the Caribbean	
ALBA	the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of our America	
ANNEX I	Developed countries	
ANNEX II	OECD Member Countries	
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States. An ad hoc coalition of low-lying and island countries.	
CB	Capacity Building	
CBDR-RC	Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities	
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism	
CfRN	Coalition for Rainforest Nations	

Acronym	Name	Details
CTCN	Climate Technology Centre and Network	
EIG	Environmental Integrity Group	
EIT	Economies in Transition	
GCF	Green Climate Fund	
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization	
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on climate change	
KJWA	Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture	
LMDC	Like Minded Developing Countries Group	
LULUCF	Land use, land-use change, and forestry	
LDCs	Least Developed Countries	
L&D	Loss and Damage	

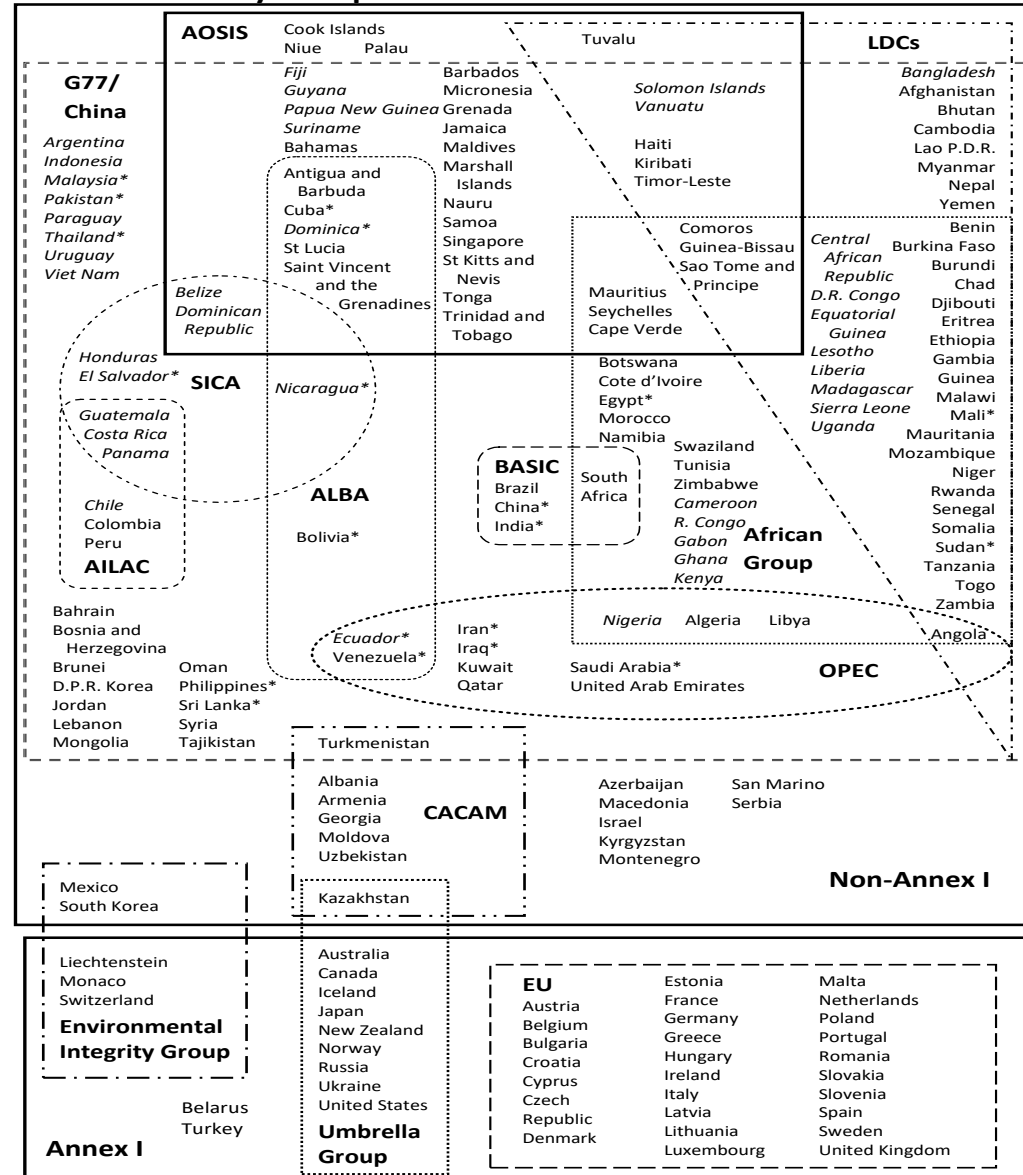
Acronym	Name	Details
MRV	Measurable, reportable and verifiable	
NAPs	National Adaptation Plans	
NC	National Communications	
NAMAs	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions	
OECD	Organization for Cooperation and Development	
PAMs	Policies and Measures	
Parties	Countries + EU	
PCCB	Paris Committee on Capacity Building	
SICA	Central America Integration System	
EU	European Union	

UNFCCC Negotiating Groups

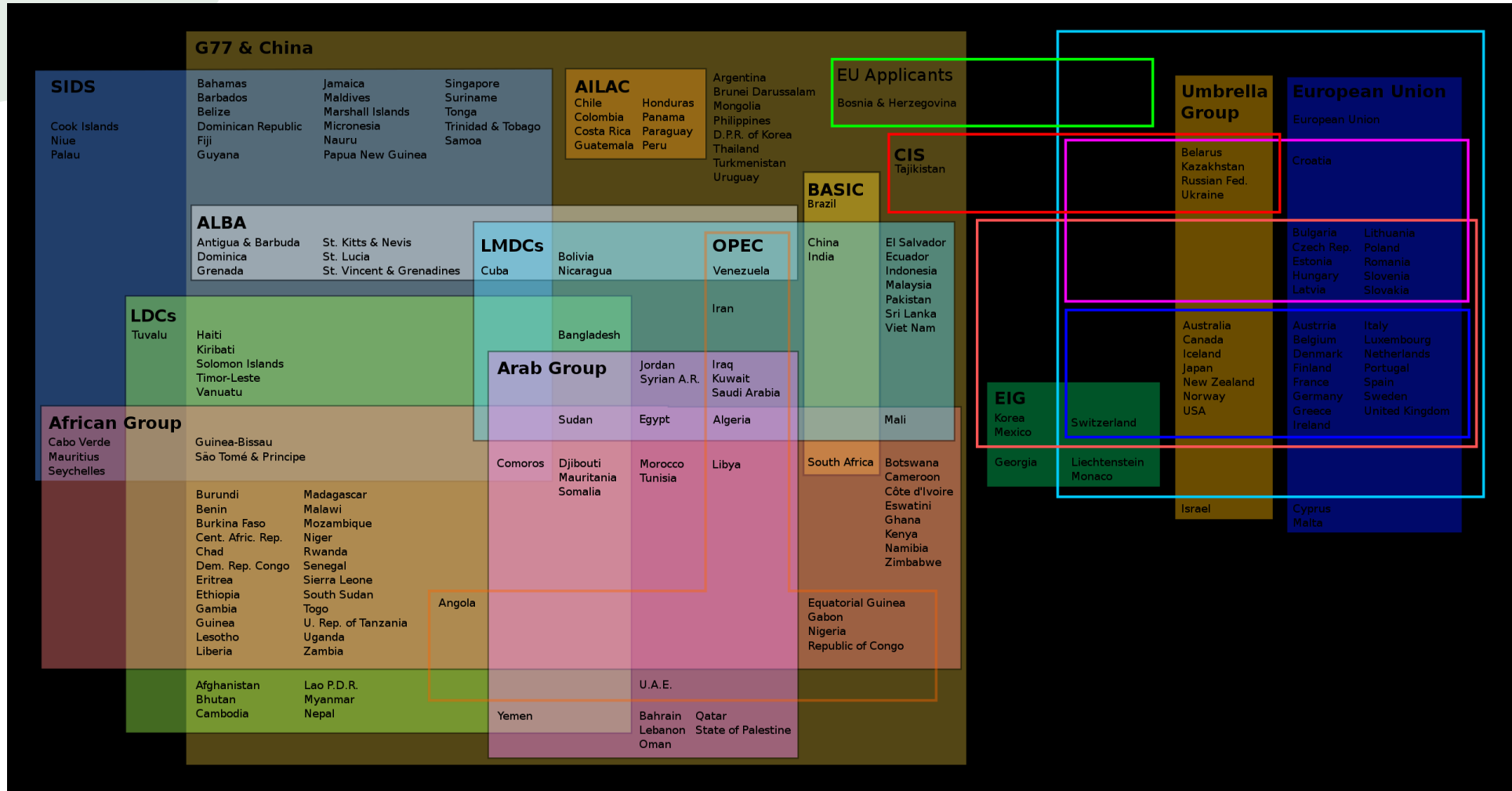
- G-77 and China
 - AOSIS
 - LDCs
 - African Group
 - The Arab Group
 - AILAC
 - LMDC
 - ALBA
 - SICA
 - BASIC
- European Union
- Umbrella Group
- Environmental Integrity Group



UNFCCC Country Groups



* Asterisked countries are also members of the Like Minded Developing Countries
Countries in italics form part of the Coalition of Rainforest Nations





Climate Negotiations

SKILLS AND TRAINING





Why is it so difficult to reach consensus and approve decisions?



Negotiation

- It is back-and forth communication to try to reach an agreement with another 'Party' (s)
- A give-and take decision making process
- It happens when both Parties have common/shared interests, but also opposed ones



Negotiation

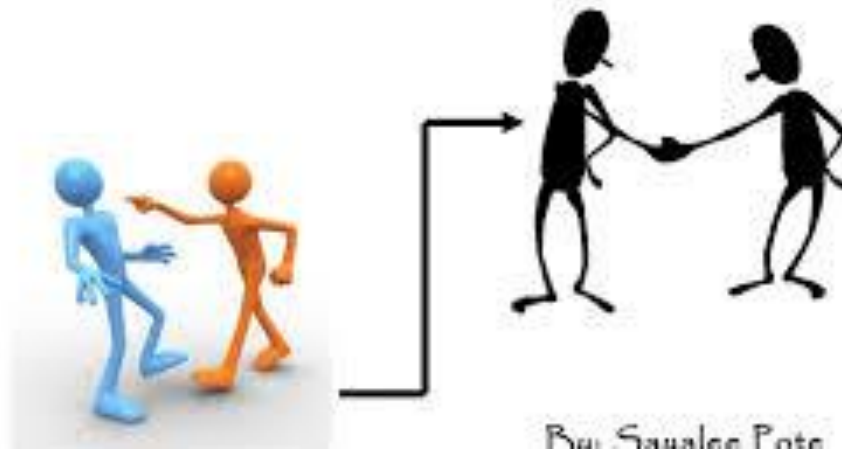
- Facilitates agreement
- Is an evolving communication process, where the people involved moved from opposition to consensus while effectively managing conflict in order to reach agreement



The negotiation began with each side holding tight to their original positions.

What happens when negotiations get tricky??

CONFLICT RESOLUTION



The importance of Conflict Resolution and Negotiation Skills



Purpose of Negotiation



To reach consensus



To reach new agreements



To resolve disagreements



To prevent conflicts from happening or escalating



To change behavior



To compromise

Climate for the Negotiations



Friendly



Conversational



Problem solving



Interactive



Participatory



Respectful



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Effective negotiator skills



**“Just to go easy on the table,
what is the offer you prefer?”**

- Willingness to prepare
- Ability to listen
- Vision of what is to be achieved
- Confidence
- Ability to disagree when necessary
- Ability to move on when issue is stuck
- Ability to communicate
- Persuasion skills
- Open mindedness
- Tolerance to criticism

Effective negotiator skills



“Maybe you should reconsider those place cards.”

- Ability to see other party's point of view
- Empathy
- Always respectful and courteous
- Ability to be a team player
- Best use of body language
- Patience
- Ability to read people
- Aware of cultural differences
- Understands 'it is not personal'
- Distinguishes between the person and the party's position
- Sense of humor

Effective Negotiation

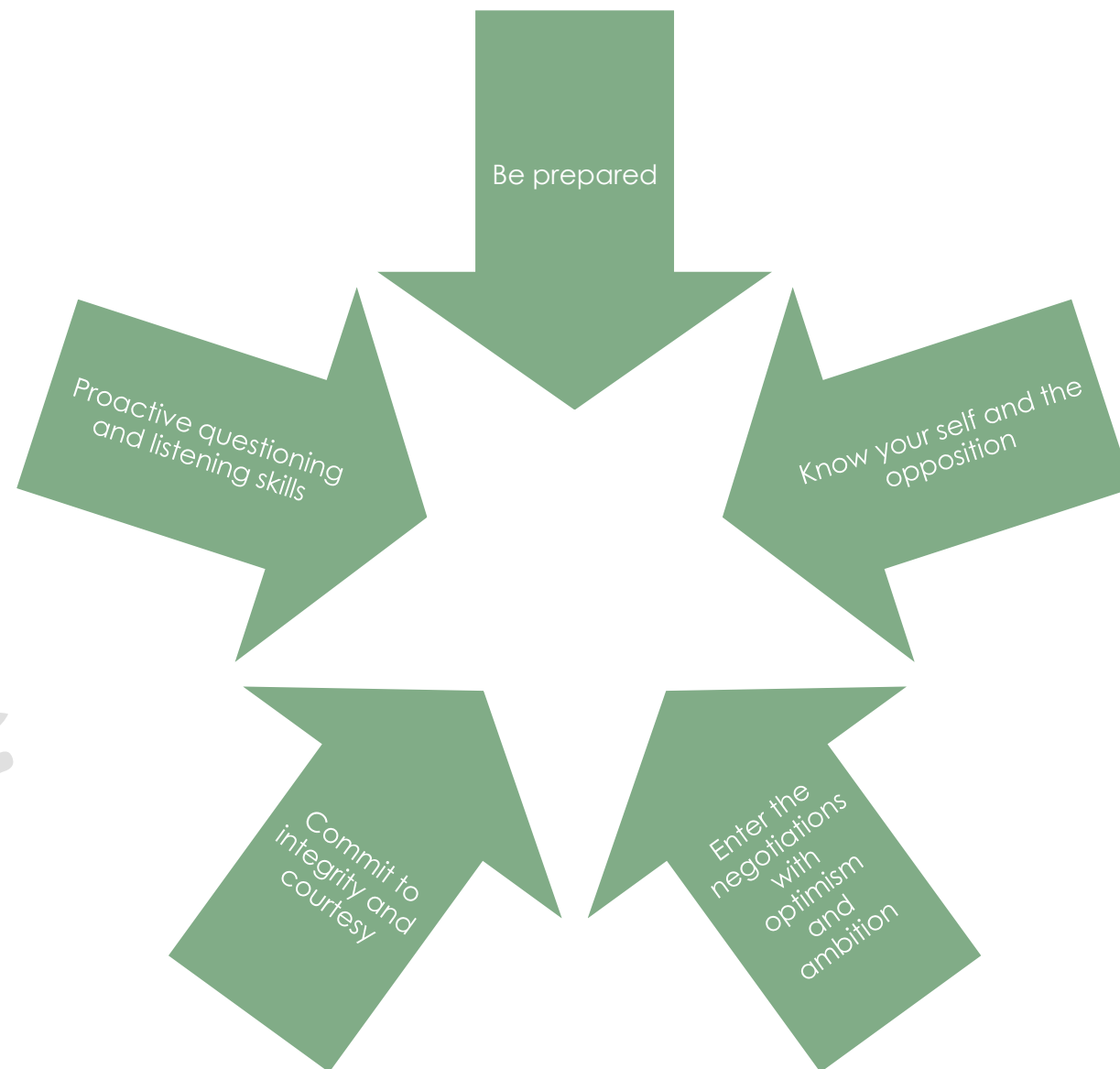


**90% of the real negotiation happens
before or outside the negotiation table**

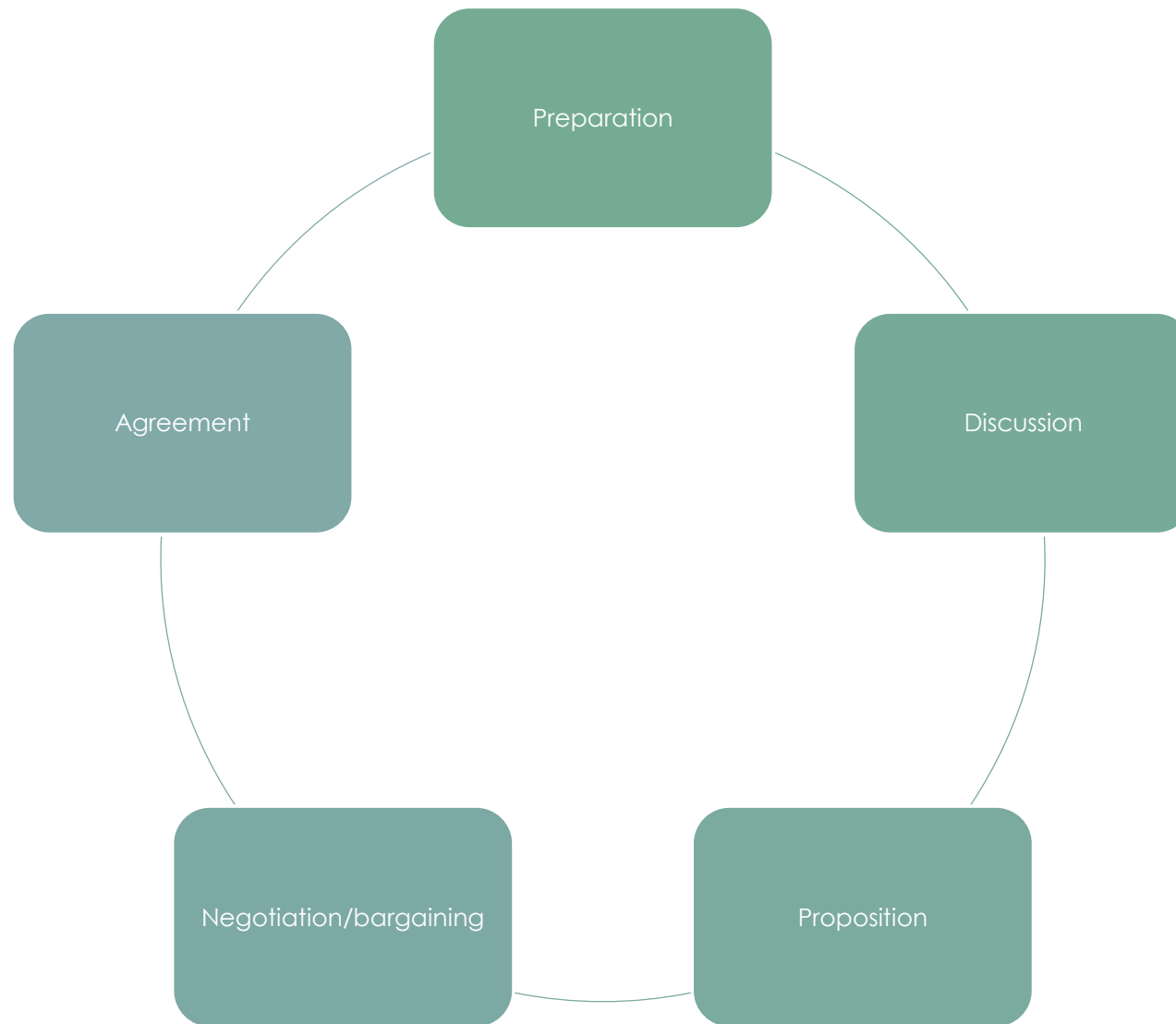


90% is attitude and 10% skill

***As a
negotiator
you should...***

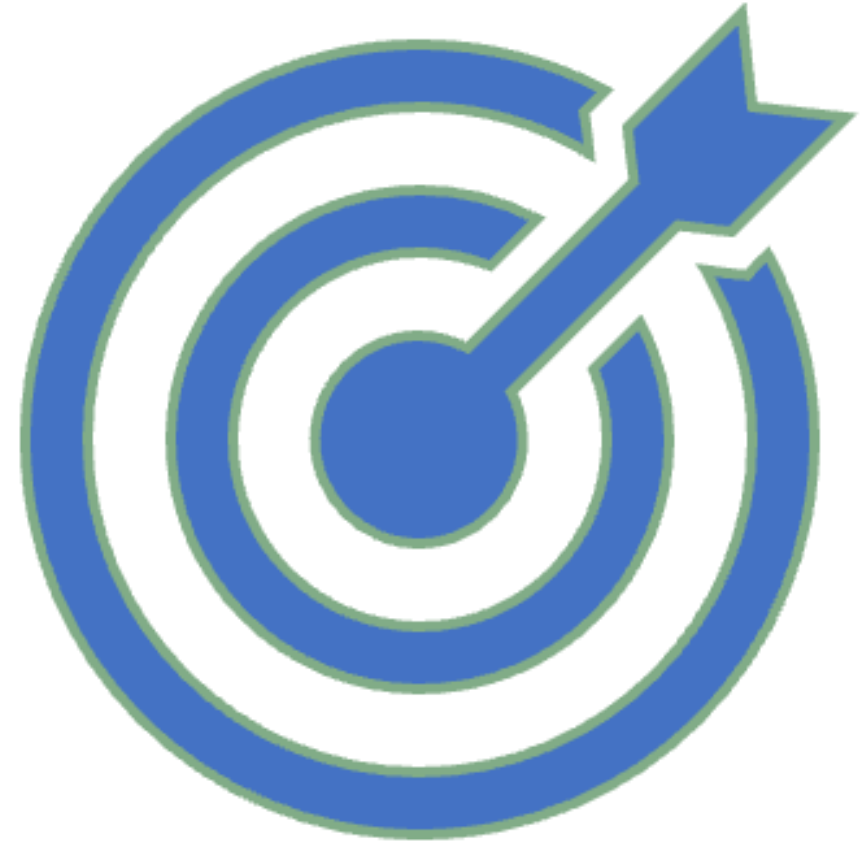


The Negotiation Process



Prior to the Negotiation

- Set clear goals and objectives
 - what we want: best possible outcome
 - what we can live with
 - what we will communicate
 - what we will keep from others
 - what we are willing to give up



Identify your B.A.T.N.A.



Best Alternative To Negotiated Agreement, most attractive option if negotiations fail



BATNAs tell you the low end of your limit
Helps you identify when no agreement is better than a bad one



BATNAs allow you to identify when you can accept and when you need to reject/walk away from a proposal or agreement.

If it is better than your BATNA = accept
If it is worse than you BATNA = reject

Best Alternative to a Negotiated Agreement (BATNA)

[*'best dl-'tar-nə-tiv tə, 'ā ni-'gō-shē-,ā-tid ə-'grē-mənt*]

A fallback option if a negotiated agreement cannot be reached.



Points to Remember



1) Separate the people from the issue: It is not personal



2) Focus on interests and not positions



3) Identify and approach potential partners/allies



4) Develop/create options for mutual gain



5) The primary objective is not just to have a deal, but to achieve our goal through a deal or agreement



6) Make sure to know which terms/conclusions/solutions are must haves or deal breakers



7) Finally: always remember that sometimes a 'no deal' is the appropriate outcome

***The UNFCCC
negotiations:
what you need
to know before
attending the
COP***



What to do when you arrive to the venue...

- Make sure to bring a printed copy of the acknowledgement letter that you received from the UNFCCC.
- Bring your passport.
- Get in line to have your picture taken for your ID (make sure not to loose it).
- Check the monitors to find out where and when are the plenary sessions (in case there was any changes).
- Take time to walk around and learn your surroundings (where are the different rooms).
- Pick up your welcome gift (travel smart card).



Be prepared for...

- Early and long days
- Late and long nights
- A lot of walking, so bring comfortable shoes and clothing
- Odd negotiation times
- Changes in weather (temperature changes)
- Negotiations run until Saturday (Sunday is the only day to rest and even on Sundays there are events that you may need/want to attend)
- Prep Meetings: week before the COP formally starts
- Please keep in mind that you will most likely be able to really follow and negotiate just ONE agenda item.



The agenda and schedule of meetings

UNFCCC Negotiator App

- The App provides the most up-to-date information about meetings and the agenda.
- There are TV screens all around the venue showing any changes and meetings rooms.
- Please keep in mind that the agenda/schedule of meetings for each day is only published at 12:00 AM of that day.



What is a point of order?

- During Plenary or at informal meetings a Party can raise a 'Point of Order'
 - Usually it is in regards to a procedural matter (e.g. the manner in which the meeting is conducted)
 - Cannot be in regards to a substantive matter
 - As soon as this happens, the Chair or person conducting the meeting needs to stop and give the floor to the Party raising its flag.
 - Then, a decision needs to be made on how to proceed.



The different meetings: Formal Meetings



• Plenary

- Open to all
- Organization of seating is alphabetical
- Four seats per Party: two at the table and two behind
- Interpretations is available

• Open Plenary

- Agenda is adopted
- Draft of the Rules of Procedure is adopted
- Procedural matters are dealt with
- Statements by Parties: Starting by negotiating groups and followed by individual Parties
- Creation of Contact Groups to further discussed in smaller groups certain topics that would likely lead to a COP decision

• Closing Plenary

- Decisions and/or conclusions are agreed
- Reporting of the outcomes from the CG and Informals

The different meetings: informal meetings

Informal Consultations

- To further discussed an agenda item that it is not clear when could lead to a decision
- Usually results in a ‘conclusion’ before reaching eventually a decision
- Similar setting as a contact group: two co-chairs or co-facilitators to help facilitate de discussion

Informal Informals

- To even further discussed an agenda item that reached a deadlock
- Usually Parties meet without co-chairs and try to reach a compromise
- Usually happen at odd times: very late at night

The different meetings



7-8 ...AILAC....Room 1
8-9... AOSIS/AGN....Room Lima
9-10... G77+China... Room Bonn
12-1... CfRN...Room Paris
1-2 ...LDC Group ...Room 2
2-3... G77+ China... Room NY
6-7 ...AOSIS...Room Chile

Coordination Meetings

- Open to members of the Group that is meeting
- Held daily during COP and SBs
- Opportunity to catch up/report on other agenda items and consult on group position

Bilaterals

- Closed meeting of a Party delegation or Group with another Party or Group.
 - To clarify positions and interests,
 - To establish areas of agreement, or
 - To discuss ideas on how to break a negotiating deadlock, for example.

Events at the COP

Workshops and Mandated Events

- Usually open to all
- Purpose is NOT to negotiate
- It is to provide a space to share lessons learned, experiences, learn about opportunities, brainstorm and clarify issues ...

Side Events

- Hundreds of side events
- Open to all
- Along side of the negotiations
- Organized by Parties and Observers
- Provide the opportunity to share/learn about the work being done and network

A normal day at the COP

SBSTA

10.00–11.30	Informal consultations on the greenhouse gas data interface (Parties and Observer States only)	Rheinaue
10.45–11.30	Informal consultations on the development and transfer of technologies (Parties and Observer States only)	Saal Bonn
11.30–13.00	Informal consultations on common metrics to calculate the CO ₂ equivalence of greenhouse gases (Parties and Observer States only)	Planck
11.30–12.15	Contact group on methodological guidance for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (Open to Parties and observers)	Saal Maritim
16.30–17.15	Informal consultations on scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation of climate change (Parties and Observer States only)	Saal Bonn
17.15–18.00	Informal consultations on materiality standard under the clean development mechanism (Parties and Observer States only)	Haber

The drafting of the text takes a lot of time and patience

- “Agreed Language”
 - Some of the text used in previous decisions is often reused to draft new decisions in order to ensure that a key concept or issue continues to be highlighted or to avoid getting stuck on language/deadlock.
- Getting rid of the brackets [.....]

Draft decision -/CP.25

Enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 36/CP.7, 1/CP.16, 23/CP.18, 18/CP.20, 1/CP.21, 21/CP.22 and 3/CP.23, the Paris Agreement and the Katowice climate package,

Acknowledging the continuing need for gender mainstreaming through all relevant targets and goals in activities under the Convention as an important contribution to increasing their effectiveness, fairness and sustainability,

Also acknowledging the important role of the Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan in advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment in the UNFCCC process, demonstrated by the review by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation,

Noting with appreciation the contributions received from Parties and observers in support of the gender mainstreaming work undertaken to date,

Recognizing with concern that climate change impacts on women and men can often differ owing to historical and current gender inequalities and multidimensional factors and can be more pronounced in developing countries and for local communities and indigenous peoples,

[*Recalling* that Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights as well as gender equality]

[*Recognizing* that climate change is common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on the gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity as well as development in light of their respective national circumstances and socio-economic capabilities]

[*Taking into account* the imperative of a just transition of the workforce when implementing the gender action plan,]

1. *Welcomes* the report on the implementation of the Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan,² and *recognizes* the action taken by Parties, UNFCCC constituted bodies, the secretariat and observers to implement them;

Outcomes of the Negotiations

• Decisions

- Adopted by the COP, CMP and CMA
- Designed to move forward the implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.
- Usually start with a preamble, that provides the context and continue with the operative text.
- A number is assigned to each decision, along with the COP, CMP, or CMA session at which it was made.

• Conclusions

- SBs agree on the outcomes of the negotiations on their agenda items.
- Conclusions contain recommendations to the COP
- Their legal authority is limited.

• Non-Papers

- Informal documents
- Proposed by a Party, group or the co-chairs
- The goal is to help overcome a deadlock



***Who can
register to
participate?***

- Government representatives
- NGOs
- Academia
- Private sector: Businesses and industries
- Media
- United Nations and related organizations and agencies



***Who can
register to
participate?***

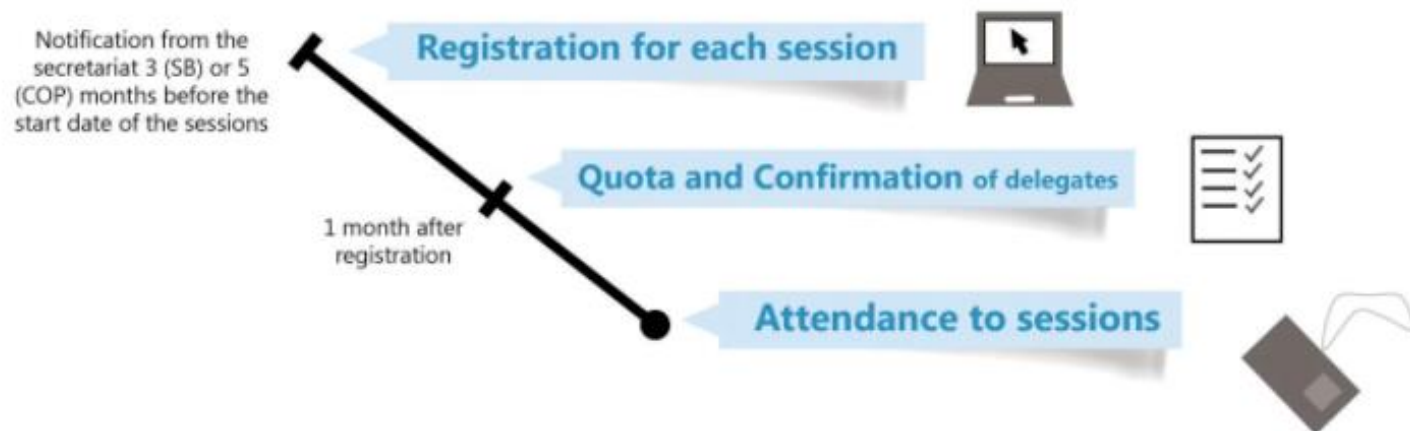
- Parties to the Convention:
 - Country Government Officials
- Observer organizations:
 - NGOs
 - Academia
 - Private sector: Businesses and industries
 - Media
 - United Nations and related organizations and agencies

Becoming a UNFCCC observer and attending sessions

HOW IT WORKS

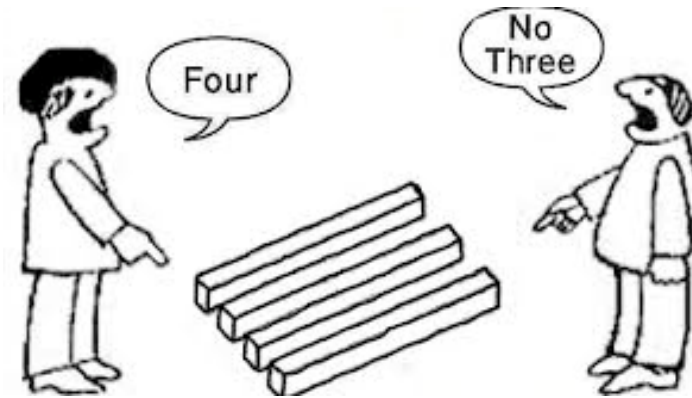


Once your organization is admitted (or provisionally admitted):

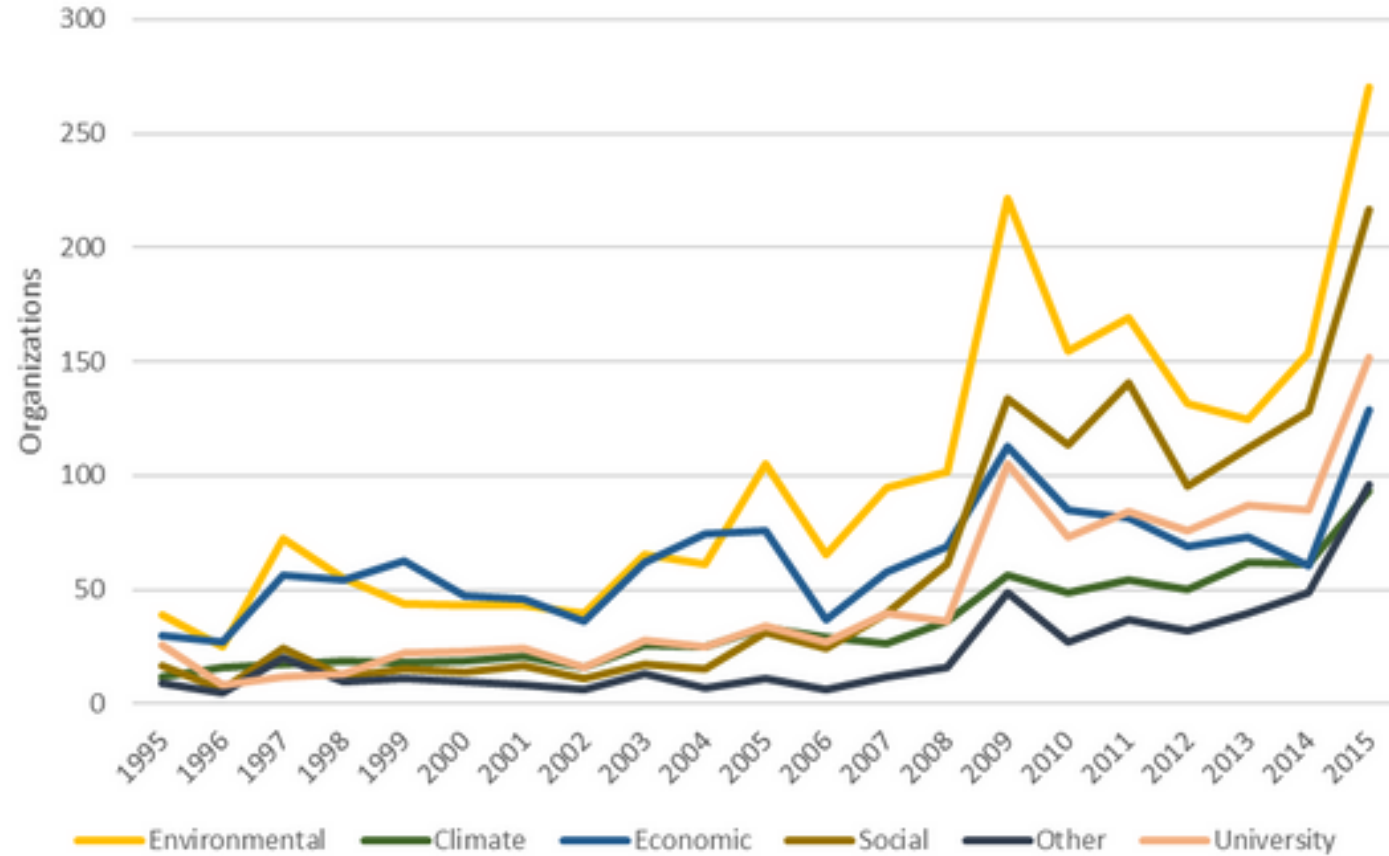


*But, what does it mean
to be an observer
organization??*

- We are now able to:
 - Register delegates, students and faculty, to attend the COP
 - Participate in 'open sessions'
 - Showcase our work through side events, booth, panels, etc.
 - Make technical submissions, based on our expertise, to guide policy



Breakdown of Observer Organizations



Source: Allan, J. I. (2021). *New Climate Activism: NGO Authority and Participation in Climate Change Governance*. University of Toronto Press.

As things get busy....



