

The Institutional Arrangement Between an NGO Focal Organization and a UN Body

The Case of Climate Action Network International
and the UNFCCC

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Policy Recommendations

- Two categories:
 1. Relationships between observer organizations and UN bodies
 2. Internal organization of observer network/
partnership

Policy Recommendations – First Category

Relationship Observers – UN Body

Policy Recommendation 1

- *Establish and maintain an expectation for, and a record of, clear and transparent decision making by the UN body with regards to observer engagement.*
- Three sources of engagement rules in the UNFCCC: 1. Parties (COP/SBI), 2. Secretariat, 3. Presiding Officers
- Only 1. is binding and always has a record

Policy Recommendation 2

- *Demand and defend a status of observer interventions and submissions that is as far as possible identical to those of Parties.*
- In UNFCCC: submissions in separate portal, tokenistic interventions in opening and closing plenaries

Policy Recommendation 3

- *Cultivate relationships with Parties which are genuinely interested in effective stakeholder participation (champions).*

Policy Recommendations – Second Category

Internal Organization

Policy Recommendation 4

- *Be mindful of imbalances in participation in internal deliberations, based on geographic location, size, organizational focus and access to material resources; plan specific steps to overcome these barriers.*

Policy Recommendation 5

- *Focal organizations should select a specific, and explicit, mode for consensus in decision making on internal and external documents.*

Policy Recommendation 6

- *If the area of work is complex and if there are sub-areas that are distinct from the remainder of the issue, working groups should be considered to break the overall task in smaller, more manageable sub aspects.*

Policy Recommendation 7

- *For collective decision making, it is important that participants in the decision making or policy formulation process are aware of the anticipated timelines and means in which to contribute to the process.*

Policy Recommendation 8

- *Organizations that engage in internal policy formation and coordination processes as well as advocacy work ... should ... attempt to carry out ... internal deliberation and coordination ... in the virtual setting, while remaining vigilant about the potential negative impacts of this setting.*
- *If the necessary additional resources exist, stand-alone coordination meetings or workshops can be held to overcome the principal disadvantages of both virtual and in-session settings.*

Thank you!

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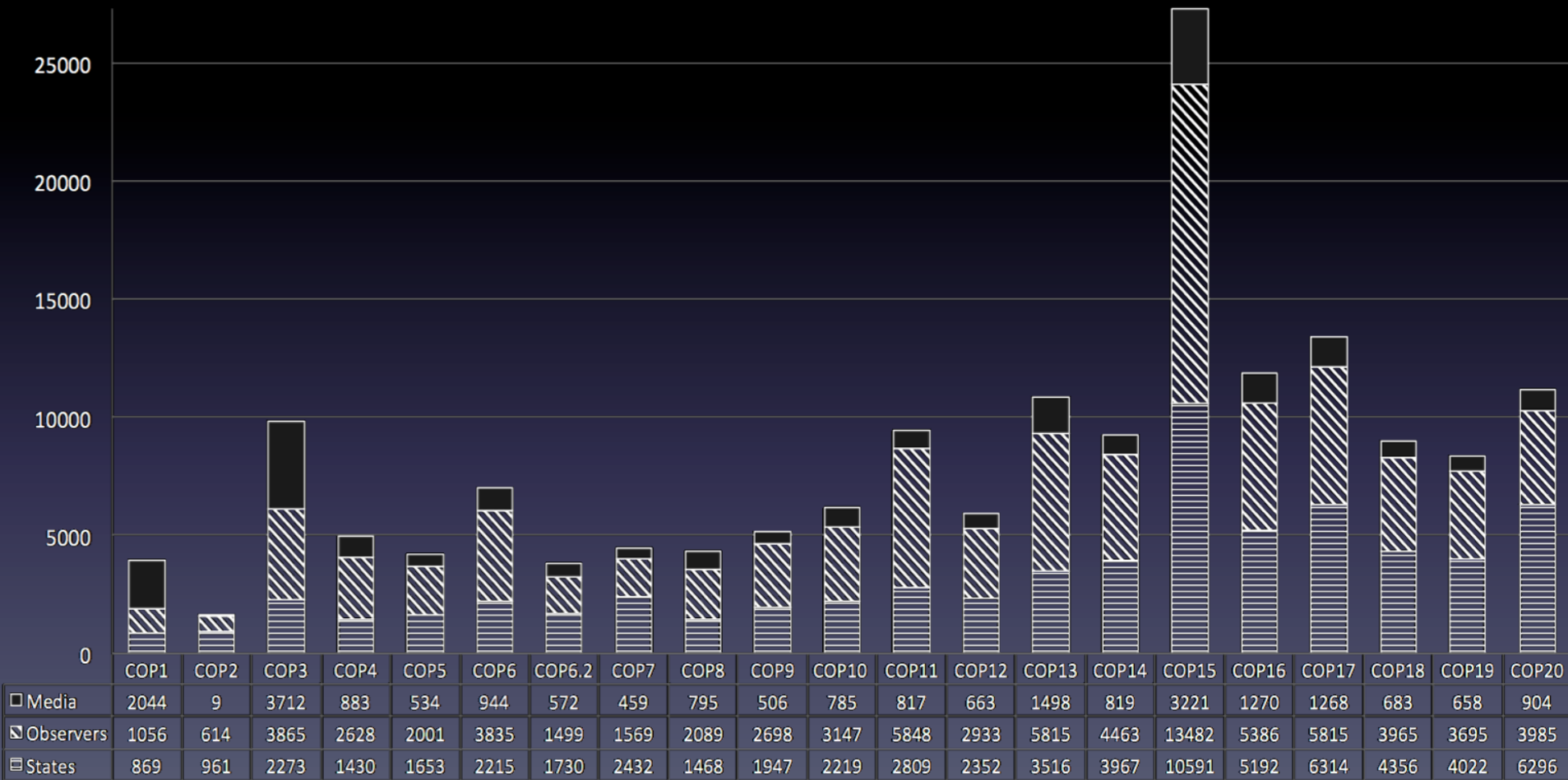
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Brief Background

- UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
 - Negotiations initiated 1990
 - Signed at 1992 Rio Conference
 - Universal Ratification
 - Currently, negotiations for new climate deal (Paris 2015)
 - Very strong observer participation



Observer Participation



UNFCCC constituency system

UNFCCC Constituency	Established	Corresponding Major Group
ENGOs	1990	NGOs
BINGOs	1990	Business and Industry
LGMAs	1995	Local Authorities
IPOs	2001	Indigenous Peoples
RINGOs	2003	Scientific and technological community
TUNGOs	2008	Forest Workers and Trade Unions
Women and Gender	2011	Women
YUNGOs	2011	Youth and Children
Farmers	ongoing	Farmers and Small Landowners
Faith-based Organizations	---	---
Unaffiliated	n/a	n/a

CAN – Climate Action Network

- Active around UNFCCC since 1990
- CAN-International and regional and national nodes
 - Node membership = CAN-I membership
 - “over 900 organizations for over 100 countries”
- International organizations
- CAN secretariat
- CAN board
- Issue-specific working groups
- Funding: CAN-I largely (90+%) from grants, no membership fees; nodes differ

CAN Working Groups

- Mitigation
 - Finance
 - REDD/LULUCF
 - Adaptation and Loss and Damage
 - Equity/Effort Sharing
 - Flexible Mechanisms
 - Technology
 - Agriculture
 - Bunkers
 - Legal
 - MRV
 - NGO Participation
 - Science Review
 - Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda
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- Communications
 - Political Coordination Group