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1. There should be a process for non-state actors that are not “official” UN observers to contribute information and ideas. It would serve the global efforts well to create a mechanism for contributions via the website and advertise this widely. Perhaps an “open access” for viewing by parties and observers. We need to connect more people outside of the UN “family.”
2. One of the most immediate changes that will have a positive impact is to change the name of “side events.” Though only “semantics” it is important how these events are portrayed. Consider “Non-State Actor Events” instead. Or “Multi-stakeholder Pavilion.” I will not shame the person by stating their name, but a prominent negotiator recently referred to even ad-hoc committees like the Indigenous People’s Platform as a “side show” to the real dealings. Now that an agreement is signed it is time to change this discourse. It might be good to also change the term “observer” to Accredited Non-State Actor.” Especially if the expectation is that non-state actors do more than merely “observe.” This would not change the status of their involvement in state negotiations where the states prefer to limit non-state actor involvement. However, it might open the door to more fluid dialogue at meetings that in the past were only for country delegates. Moreover, it would send a strong message to non-state actors that they have an active role to play in implementing the Paris Agreement - versus the passive role that “observer” implies.
3. A more formal line of communication between official non-state actors and states could encourage meaningful engages. Perhaps this could be done through a country representative to non-state actors and for now be an online system. That way we don’t further the gaps between those countries with capacity in delegate numbers and those without.
4. It would be super to have a summary of non-state actors present at each meeting that is organized by country. It is very difficult to discern who from each country is present at the COP. it might also be helpful to create space for non-state actors to meet socially - organized by the UNFCCC rather than CAN for example. At such a gathering there could be signs up for countries so that delegates could easily find non-state actors from specific regions.