# Observer organizations

#### **Observer organizations and non-Party stakeholders**

The term "Non-Party stakeholders (NPS)" was first introduced in the COP 21 decision that adopted the Paris Agreement. It includes "civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, cities and other subnational authorities, local communities and indigenous peoples" i.e., those whose actions are needed to deliver the goals established but who do not have legal obligations arising from the treaty.

Of the NPS, those who have observer status in the UNFCCC are:

UN organizations (do not require admission per Article 7, paragraph 6 of the UNFCCC):

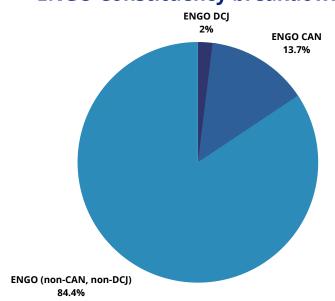
- Intergovernmental organizations
- (IGOs, require admission by the COP)
- Non-governmental organizations

#### The roles of NGO Constituencies are:

- Provide a conduit for the exchange of official information between their constituents and the secretariat;
- Assist the secretariat in ensuring effective participation appropriate to an intergovernmental meeting:
- Coordinate observer interaction at sessions including convening constituency meetings, organizing meetings with officials, providing names for the speakers' list and representation at official functions;
- Provide logistical support to their constituents during sessions;
- Assist the secretariat in realizing representative observer participation at workshops and other limited-access meetings.

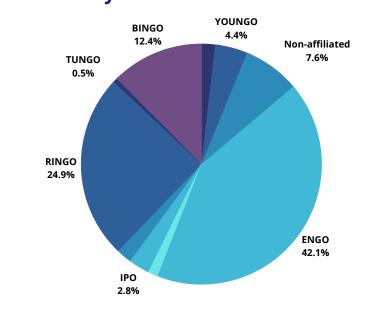
Furthermore, Parties recognized the roles of Constituencies in the cover decision of the COP 26 Glasgow Climate Pact for the first time (paragraph 67).

#### **ENGO Constituency breakdown**



### CONSTITUENCIES

#### **Constituency affiliation of admitted NGOs**



**Admitted Observer organizations by Region** 

Latin America

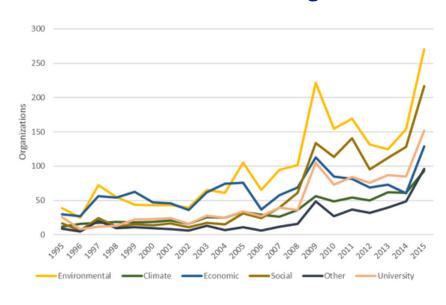
**Eastern European States** 

**Asian States** 

**African States** 

Faith Based organizations
Parliamentarians
Education and Comms
NGOs
Disability caucus (tbc)

#### **Further breakdowns of organizations**



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

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**Western Europe and Others** 

NGOs "admitted as observers by the Conference of Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC process have formed themselves into loose groups with diverse but broadly clustered interests or perspectives." The list of all the NGO Constituencies is available on the UNFCCC webpage.

The nine NGO Constituencies mirror the nine Major Groups defined in the UN SDG process (Future We Want – Outcome document, paragraph 43). Each Constituency has its own governance structure and its Focal Point(s).

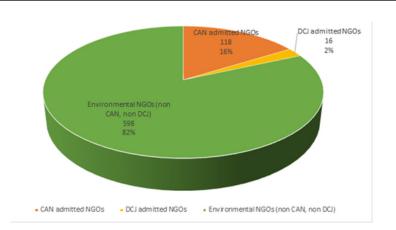
In addition to the nine Constituencies, the secretariat recognized additional 'informal NGO groups'. Informal groups are groups that are not defined as Major Groups in the aforementioned Outcome document but the secretariat recognizes them as groups of observer organizations admitted by the COP active in contributing to the UNFCCC process with particular thematic thrusts that are not visibly or adequately covered by the work of the existing nine Constituencies. They receive certain support from the secretariat during the sessions. Faith-Based Organizations, Parliamentarians, Education and Communications NGOs have been recognized in 2014 and a disability caucus is currently forming.

The largest Constituency, ENGO, has been represented by two networks within – Climate Action Network (CAN) and Demand Climate Justice (DCJ). However, the majority of ENGO members are not covered by the two networks as shown in Chart 7. 8. and 9 on ENGO constituency breakdown. When the secretariat has enough capacity, the distribution of tickets for the limited-access meetings (one of the functions of Constituency Focal Points) is managed by the secretariat, but otherwise the opportunities are given to the two networks who coordinate the active members.

Although Constituencies initially started as loose groups of "NGOs admitted as observers by the COP to the UNFCCC process", they are increasingly engaging the individuals without affiliation or the organizations without UNFCCC admission status. While this strengthens the quality of their inputs because a wider scope of voices is reflected, it also renders the substantive meaning of COP admission obsolete as the inputs to the UNFCCC process are reflecting the views of individuals or organizations that the COP has never admitted.

As the number of organizations increases, the coordination of Constituency members has also been difficult for CFPs, particularly when thousands of participants who have never engaged in the intersessional coordination join COPs and expect the CFPs to cater to their logistical needs for facilitation to attend the limited-access meeting.

Participation at COP26 of environmental admitted NGOs



#### **PARTICIPATION**



transparent engagement across all segments of

stakeholders has become very difficult due to

the sheer number of observers as shown in

Chart 1. As the scale of participation increases

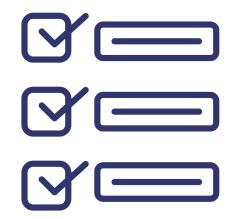
and the diversity of stakeholder grows, the sliver

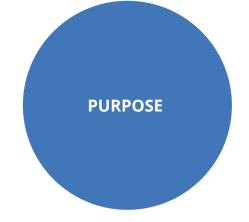
of the engagement opportunities (speaking slots, side event slots, registration quota, meeting space, access to negotiation meeting rooms, etc.)

gets smaller, causing frustrations among observers and increasing the burden on the resources to organize a COP annually that is "operational 24/7" with tens of thousands of participants, particularly in developing countries.

What does inclusive, meaningful and participation engagement of observers mean?

What are the criteria for inclusive, meaningful and quality participation?





Should coordination of observers happen based on the purpose rather than their affiliation in the process?

Conference badges are divided by types of participants and not by the types of purposes of their activities. Some Party badge holders may mainly work in the negotiation meeting rooms while other Party badge holders may only work in pavilion halls. Same for observers – some observers may only need to access pavilion and climate action event areas, while other observers who are only following the negotiations may not be able to receive enough quota because those who only need to access pavilion halls compete for the quota allocation.





### **COP26 Side Events and Exhibits Survey**



## Focus groups guiding principles

- No final decisions will be made during the focus groups. The focus groups will act as a space
  to share opinions and experiences as well as co-shaping solutions that will be collected at the
  end of Phase 2, also incorporating inputs from written submissions.
- Keep an open mind. Take a step back before responding, rather than reacting automatically
  or defensively. Balance advocacy (making a statement) with inquiry (seeking clarifications and
  understanding).
- 3. Focus on deep listening. Try to build on other colleagues' ideas in the conversation.
- 4. **You don't have to agree.** Listen with the expectation of learning; that is, assume that the speaker has something new and of value to contribute to your comprehension and then stretch your mind to find out what that is.
- 5. **Communicate your reasoning process.** Every participant will naturally bring their assumptions to the conversation, but it's important to talk about your assumptions and how you arrived at what you believe. Seek out the data on which assumptions are based, your own and others. Bring tacit (hidden) assumptions to the surface.