



NGO Constituencies and Informal Groups in the UNFCCC Process

What are constituencies?

In the intergovernmental negotiation process of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) admitted as observers by the Conference of Parties (COP) have historically formed themselves into loose groups with diverse but broadly clustered interests or perspectives. In the early days of the climate change convention process the business and industry organizations and the environmental groups were particularly active and initiated systematic channels of communications with the secretariat and the Parties. This resulted in the acknowledgment of “NGO constituencies”, with their own focal points. A flexible and manageable system evolved, which enhanced the participation of large numbers of observer organizations. As of December 2025, there are over 4,000 admitted NGOs. Without the cooperation of NGO constituency focal points (CFPs), it would not be possible for the secretariat to maintain effective interaction with interested stakeholders.

At the time of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, there were two constituencies: the business and industry NGOs (BINGO) and the environmental NGOs (ENGO). Other constituencies have since been formed and recognized. Firstly, the local government and municipal authorities (LGMA) at COP 1 in 1995, then the indigenous peoples organizations (IPO) at COP 7 in 2001, the research and independent NGOs (RINGO) at COP 9 in 2003, the trade union NGOs (TUNGO) before COP 14/CMP 4 in 2008. Women and Gender and youth NGOs (YOUNGO) became full constituencies shortly before COP 17/CMP 7 in 2011. A request for recognizing Farmers constituency is currently under review while it operates as such on a provisional basis. The CFPs of the nine NGO constituencies facilitate the exchange of information between the secretariat and members of the NGO constituencies.

Together the nine constituencies embrace approximately 92% of admitted organizations, but some organizations such as faith groups and national parliamentarians remain outside these broad groupings, as the NGO constituency system in the UNFCCC process mirrors the nine “Major Groups” identified as stakeholders in the outcome document The future we want (A/RES/66/288), at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) in 2012.

There are no constituencies among admitted intergovernmental organizations.

What are the benefits of being affiliated with an NGO constituency?

Participation in a particular NGO constituency is the choice of an individual or individual organization and is neither official nor binding. It does not preclude direct communication



with the secretariat by any individual observer organization, nor does it imply any sovereignty over the NGO constituency on the part of the focal point organization. However, there are potential benefits in belonging to one of the NGO constituencies – access to the Plenary floor in the form of an intervention, allocation of secondary badges when site access limit is planned by the secretariat, receipt of informal advance information on up-coming sessions from the secretariat, timely information through constituency daily meetings, occasional and very limited invitation to the Ministerial reception by host Governments, access to bilateral meetings with officials of the Convention bodies, invitation by the secretariat to limited-access intersessional meetings, etc.

How do the NGO constituencies interact with the secretariat?

The interaction between the secretariat and the NGO constituencies is through the CFPs who:

- 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.

How can my organization become affiliated with a constituency?

Because NGO constituencies are self-organized groups of admitted organizations, each NGO constituency has its own membership criteria¹. When an NGO applies for admission by the COP as a new observer, it indicates NGO constituency affiliation in the online admission system according to the criteria announced on the UNFCCC website. Once the NGO is formally admitted by the COP and successfully accepted by a Constituency, please send in the Contact Details Form indicating the constituency affiliation. The secretariat will also share the list of new observers with respective NGO constituency focal points for their membership confirmation.

Can one organization affiliate with multiple constituencies?

Constituency affiliation is of voluntary nature based on membership criteria (as per Annex I) and there are no obstacles from the secretariat's side for any admitted NGOs to become

¹ Information about each NGO constituency, including their respective membership and governance information, is available in Annex I.



affiliated with more than one constituency. Affiliation and collaboration within constituencies depends on mutual agreement only between the observer organization and the NGO constituencies in question and not with the secretariat. Subscription to mailing lists maintained by respective CFPs therefore only requires consent from the focal points who maintain those mailing lists. The affiliation to one particular or multiple constituencies is a question of choice of each observer organization.

The web list of admitted observer NGOs shows the NGO constituency of primary affiliation only. While organizations are free to affiliate and work with multiple constituencies, information on such multiple affiliations is not formally maintained by the secretariat

What are informal groups?

Similar to NGO constituencies, informal groups bring together observer organizations with diverse but broadly clustered interests or perspectives that are not adequately addressed by the existing NGO constituencies and facilitate their coordination and engagement in the UNFCCC process.

Unlike NGO constituencies, informal groups do not represent one of nine “Major Groups” but are mentioned as ‘other stakeholders’ in the Rio+20 outcome document. They provide an additional mechanism for collaboration among observer organizations. Recognition by the secretariat as Informal Group does not confer NGO constituency status or alter the rights and responsibilities of admitted observer organizations under the UNFCCC process. Observer organizations may participate in one or more informal groups, in addition to participating in an NGO constituency.

Why might an organization participate in an informal group?

Informal groups provide a platform for observer organizations with diverse but broadly clustered interests or perspectives that are not adequately addressed through existing NGO constituencies to exchange information, coordinate activities and strengthen their engagement in the UNFCCC process. They can also facilitate communication among their members and support coordinated participation in meetings and other activities.

How do informal groups interact with the secretariat?

The secretariat supports recognized informal groups in a number of ways. These include:

- publication of the group's name and focal point contact information on the UNFCCC website;
- announcement of the group's daily coordination meeting in the official Daily Programme during UNFCCC sessions, upon request, so that its members can find the coordination meeting room in an easy and timely manner;



- allocation of a share of tickets for plenary meetings expected to reach capacity; and
- an opportunity to deliver a statement (normally two minutes) during the High-Level Segment at sessions of the Conference of the Parties, alongside NGO constituencies, intergovernmental organizations and other recognized informal groups.

How can an informal group be recognized?

Organizations requesting recognition should provide the information set out in **Annex II**. The secretariat will review the information provided and may request additional information or clarification, where necessary.

Recognition as an informal group does not constitute recognition as an NGO constituency. Any change to the existing NGO constituency framework would require guidance from Parties, as it would have wider implications for plenary time management, logistical arrangements for meetings of constituted bodies, and the financial and budgetary implications to the secretariat.



Annex I: NGO Constituency Information

Please see below information on each NGO constituency, including its description, role, governance, membership and engagement, and contact details. The information presented for each constituency has been provided by the respective NGO Constituency Focal Points.

Table of Contents

1.	Business and Industry NGOs (BINGO)	6
2.	Environmental NGOs.....	8
a.	Climate Action Network (ENGO-CAN).....	8
b.	Demand Climate Justice (ENGO-DCJ).....	10
3.	Farmers.....	12
4.	Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPO)	13
5.	Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA).....	15
6.	Research and Independent Non-Governmental Organizations (RINGO).....	16
7.	Trade Union NGOs (TUNGO).....	17
8.	Women and Gender Constituency (WGC).....	18
9.	Children and Youth NGOs (YOUNGO).....	19



1. Business and Industry NGOs (BINGO)

i) Description

The Business and Industry Constituency (BINGO) represents businesses of all sizes, sectors and geographies in the UNFCCC negotiation process. The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) - as the institutional representative of 45 millions companies across 170 countries - has served as the Focal Point for the BINGO Constituency since the early 90s, coordinating business participation in the process and working with its global network and a wide range of partners to ensure that climate policy frameworks are implemented in a way that works for and with business, and through policies that recognise their defining role in tackling climate change.

BINGO is committed to the objectives of the Paris Agreement of limiting global warming to 1.5°C and increasing climate resilience, and contributes to advancing these objectives through initiatives such as ICC global campaign “[What if we saw the climate challenge differently?](#)”, which highlights the role of business in turning climate challenges into opportunities for innovation, investment and growth, and the enabling policy environments needed to scale these efforts.

ii) Role

Providing a platform for the private sector to engage in technical and political aspects of the UNFCCC negotiations, contribute technical expertise and real economy insights, and facilitate exchanges with governments and other civil society groups on opportunities and challenges related to the implementation of the Convention and its Paris Agreement.

iii) Governance

BINGO is coordinated by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), which serves as the constituency Secretariat and Focal Point. ICC works with members across sectors and regions, facilitating exchange across industries and value chains, to develop common business positions on overarching policy priorities and key UNFCCC discussions relevant to the global business community. On more technical issues, ICC works with informal expert groups that bring together business practitioners and specialists to develop targeted inputs and submissions on topics such as climate finance, industrial decarbonisation, adaptation, carbon pricing, agriculture, and trade and climate. These governance arrangements enable the constituency to combine broad business representation with specialised expertise in relevant areas in support of the UNFCCC process.

iv) Membership and engagement

The BINGO Constituency is open to all business representatives interested in following and contributing to the UNFCCC process. Businesses of all sizes and sectors, business associations, chambers of commerce and other private sector representatives are welcome to participate in coordination meetings, broader discussions and exchanges with peers. Participation in technical meetings and expert groups is generally guided by participants' expertise and interest in contributing to the Constituency's work on specific topics. This



open structure enables businesses from different sectors, regions and sizes to bring their perspectives to the UNFCCC process and engage collectively on issues of shared interest. ICC also facilitates business participation in UNFCCC technical meetings and dialogues throughout the year.

As part of BINGO, businesses benefit from regular updates on key developments in the negotiations and information on opportunities for business engagement across the UNFCCC process. During major meetings, including COPs, ICC convenes the group through in-person and online daily Business Briefings, providing a space to exchange on negotiation developments, share perspectives and connect with other business representatives. The Constituency also benefits from an in-person platform at COPs through the ICC Pavilion, which provides a space for BINGO participants to meet, exchange experiences and engage with other businesses and key stakeholders.

v) Contacts

Sandra Hanni sandra.hanni@iccwbo.org, Sophie Talarico sophie.talarico@iccwbo.org,
Emma Segre emma.segre@iccwbo.org



2. Environmental NGOs

a. Climate Action Network (ENGO-CAN)

i) Description

Climate Action Network (CAN) is a global network of non-governmental, not for profit organisations with over 2500 members across more than 140 countries, driving collective and sustainable action to fight the climate crisis and achieve climate justice.

CAN is a bottom-up network, convened through 25 Regional and National Nodes, International Organisations and the International Secretariat (CAN-I). CAN acts as intermediary, connecting and building its work from local to national, regional and global through sustained organising and convening its members, developing joint strategies, positions and demands that drive the network collectively to deliver impact. At global level, CAN convenes and coordinates its members in preparation for our participation at UNFCCC sessions and also during the UN climate talks. We do the same for our participation in other international fora. We collaborate and work with allies in the wider movement for climate justice in building alignment.

ii) Role

CAN provides a platform for civil society organizations to align, collaborate and coordinate to address the climate crisis through an intersectional global struggle to realize climate justice at the international, regional, and national level that results in just, equitable and ambitious climate action.

Within the UNFCCC process, CAN provides a platform for its members and works with other aligned civil society organisations working on the issue of climate justice and human rights to come together, align behind shared demands and positions and make their voices heard within the UNFCCC process. In particular, CAN actively ensures representation from the global south and brings the voice and demands of people from the ground and climate frontlines, to influence global policy, and who otherwise would not have access to these spaces. CAN was established during the time that the UNFCCC was set up and has been building its political and technical expertise since the very beginnings of the UN climate talks. As a recognized observer, CAN contributes to the democratic proceedings of the UNFCCC process through following negotiations, directly engaging with Parties, conducting extensive media work to connect the negotiations with the “outside” world, as well as advocacy actions.

iii) Governance

CAN is a member-driven network that seeks the largest possible cooperation amongst its members, in a transparent, inclusive and democratic manner, that allows all members to contribute to the decision-making processes.

The Global General Assembly is the network’s highest decision-making body. Strategic and political coordination is provided by two Coordination Bodies (the Policy Coordination Group and the Action Coordination Group) that include representation from the network’s



nodes and international members, while thematic working groups support policy development and technical work across priority areas. Together, these structures enable CAN to coordinate engagement across its global membership while ensuring regional representation in decision-making through democratic consensus-building processes.

iv) Membership and engagement

CAN has a formal membership process. Applicants must meet eligibility criteria set out in the CAN Charter, and be in alignment with as well as commit to its vision, mission and Code of Conduct.

Membership in CAN is open to all non governmental, not for profit and grassroots/ community-based organizations that operate independently of government or industry interests. Eligible members must be actively engaged in advancing ambitious climate initiatives, sustainable development, and climate justice. For a successful application organizations must not receive direct financial support from industrial sectors, especially fossil fuel or nuclear energy corporations.

For details on CAN's membership application process, please visit CAN's website.

v) Contacts

Website: www.climatenetwork.org

Contacts: Jana Merkelbach, jmerkelbach@climatenetwork.org and Pooja Dave, pdave@climatenetwork.org



b. Demand Climate Justice (ENGO-DCJ)

i) Description

The Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice (DCJ) is a global network of over 200 grassroots, national, regional and international human rights and climate justice organisations fighting together for climate justice and systems change. We are a global network grounded in the realities, challenges and struggles of the Global South and ensuring these voices are heard front and center in the global arenas. Unlike other climate organisations and networks, our positions come from and reflect the realities of the peoples and communities who are most impacted by the climate crisis, and we aim to influence the global narratives and bring substantial change to global climate policies that have a direct impact on the Global South. The Global South movement has fought very hard and for a very long time to decolonise the climate movement, and DCJ is a central leader in that. Together, we have reframed climate action to climate justice – with justice being at the forefront of a decarbonised and sustainable planet for everyone, not just privileged communities.

ii) Role

DCJ provides a critical platform for the peoples and communities who are least responsible yet at the frontline of the ongoing climate crisis and are most impacted by it to present their positions, lived experiences, and demands in the global climate policy spaces and the climate negotiations. DCJ is also a campaign vehicle for the groups from the global south to collectively campaign and advocate for their rights and demands both within and outside the UNFCCC.

iii) Governance

DCJ is a membership driven network with a largely Global South leadership and representation. The governance structure includes a Coordinating Committee, which is the network's political body, and the General Assembly, where the broader membership collectively participates in decision-making and representation. DCJ also has a Secretariat that coordinates the overall working of the network and acts as the focal point for ENGO DCJ constituency within UNFCCC. The constituency functions both within and beyond the UNFCCC process as part of a wider climate justice movement, with governance arrangements designed to ensure that grassroots and Global South perspectives remain central to its work.

iv) Membership and engagement

Membership requires alignment with the constituency's political principles and is supported by references from existing members. Once admitted, members participate collectively in decision-making, including nominations for representation. DCJ also actively supports organizations and movements, especially from the Global South, that cannot formally participate in the UNFCCC process due to legal or political constraints. DCJ also has dedicated working groups coordinated by its members on key thematic areas and issues at the intersection of climate justice and other social justice issues. In addition, DCJ has



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Secrétariat sur les changements climatiques

regional coordination hubs in Latin America and the Caribbean, US and the Global North, and is in the process of reconstituting the Asia Pacific and the Africa hubs.

v) Contacts

Website: <https://demandclimatejustice.org>

Rachitaa Gupta, rachitaa.dcj@gmail.com; Victor Menotti, victormenotti@gmail.com



3. Farmers

i) Description

The Farmers' Constituency represents farmers in all their diversity producing food and other agricultural goods, delivering ecosystem services, including healthy soils and water resources whilst making a key contribution to the worldwide climate effort. It welcomes crop and livestock farmers, horticultural growers, pastoralists, ranchers, foresters and aquaculturists; women, youth, and indigenous farmers, farmer organisations and co-operatives, family farmers and businesses, farm workers, landowners, and tenants; as well as agricultural and other NGOs supporting farmers on the ground.

ii) Role

The Constituency provides the platform for observer organisations working to ensure that farmers' voices are heard in the UNFCCC process and that farmers' knowledge and priorities are integrated into relevant decisions, so that the potential of the sector for adaptation and mitigation is realised whilst minimizing and addressing loss and damage in agriculture.

iii) Governance

The Farmers Constituency operates through a consensus-based governance model without formal committees or governing bodies. Participating organizations engage on an equal basis, with each organization having an equal voice in decision-making. This flexible structure reflects the constituency's collaborative approach while enabling participation from a diverse range of farming organizations.

iv) Membership and engagement

The constituency welcomes participation by farmers' organizations and agricultural NGOs. Coordination meetings and mailing lists are open, and the constituency places particular emphasis on supporting farmers participation by organizations from the Global South and those that may face barriers to engagement in the UNFCCC process.

v) Contacts

Ceris Jones, ceris.jones@cranfield.ac.uk and Vittoria Altese, vittoria.altese@wfo-oma.org



4. Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPO)

i) Description

The Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPO) Constituency is the constituency recognized by the UNFCCC for Indigenous Peoples and their organizations. Within the UNFCCC process, Indigenous Peoples coordinate their collective engagement through the Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC), ALSO known as Indigenous Peoples Caucus.

Indigenous Peoples are right holders and distinct Peoples under international law. The IPO Constituency advocate for the recognition, respect and implementation of their individual and collective rights, as affirmed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), including the rights to self-determination and free, prior and informed consent.

The Constituency brings together Indigenous representatives from the seven UN socio-cultural regions: Africa, the Arctic, Asia, Central and South America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and the Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia, North America, and the Pacific. It promotes the effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and the recognition of their knowledge system, governance institutions and leadership in climate policies and actions.

ii) Role

The Indigenous Peoples Caucus coordinates Indigenous Peoples and their organizations, participating in the UNFCCC process. It facilitates the development of collective positions and advocacy priorities, engagement in climate negotiations, dialogue with Parties and UNFCCC bodies, and the participation of Indigenous representatives in relevant meetings and processes. The Caucus also organizes coordination meetings, side events and other activities, and provides a culturally safe space for information-sharing, collective deliberations and decision-making.

The IPO Constituency Focal Points serve as the liaison between the Constituency and the UNFCCC secretariat and facilitate the exchange of official information.

iii) Governance

The IIPFCC is organized around the seven UN socio-cultural regions, which are represented within its coordination structure. Its leadership includes regional representatives, rotating Co-Chairs and Focal Points.

Decisions are made collectively through the Indigenous People Caucus, in accordance with Indigenous Peoples' governance system and agreed processes. The participation of Indigenous women, youth, and elders strengthens the diversity and intergenerational nature of the Caucus.



iv) Membership and engagement

Participation in the Indigenous Peoples Caucus is grounded in Indigenous self-identification as Indigenous. The Caucus does not have a formal membership system and facilitate broad participation in accordance with Indigenous Peoples' own governance and coordination processes.

v) Contacts

The current IPO Constituency Focal Points are:

- Eileen Mairena Cunningham, eileen.mairena@gmail.com and Tiana Jakicevich, tianajakicevich@gmail.com
- General contact: ipofocalpoints@gmail.com



5. Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA)

i) Description

The Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency is the voice of towns, cities, regions and all types of local and other subnational governments at the UNFCCC process since 1995.

ii) Role

The LGMA provides a unified global voice for subnational governments in international climate policy and negotiation spaces, ensuring local and other subnational governments are visible, credible, mobilized and influential in UNFCCC-related global climate processes, on behalf of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments. The Constituency takes a collective impact approach towards advocacy and diplomacy, aligning messages and actions across diverse local and regional government networks, platforms, alliances and organizations to amplify influence year-round and at key global moments. They help to shift global narratives from fragmented local action to a coherent global movement, highlighting how subnational governments are already leading on climate action, sustainability, and resilience. The Constituency works collaboratively with COP Presidencies and other entities, ensure that the Constituency plays a meaningful role in each COP, and combine coordinated closed-door diplomacy with public legitimacy and momentum, using strategic communications to raise visibility, shape political narratives, build support, and sustain pressure beyond formal policy moments.

iii) Governance

LGMA is coordinated by a Steering Committee comprising representatives of international local government networks, with the co-chair position rotating every six months. Expert-led working groups support the Constituency's policy and advocacy work and are periodically reviewed to reflect emerging priorities. These governance arrangements enable LGMA to coordinate positions and engagement across its diverse membership. More information and the Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee can be found here: <https://www.cities-and-regions.org/about-the-lgma/lgma-governance/>. More information about the Working Groups can be found here: <https://www.cities-and-regions.org/working-groups/>

iv) Membership and engagement

LGMA welcomes broad participation and works closely with both accredited and non-accredited organizations. Working groups provide opportunities for members to contribute to policy development and representation in UNFCCC processes.

v) Contacts

Ariel Dekovic, Head of Global Communications and Engagement, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, lgma@iclei.org



6. Research and Independent Non-Governmental Organizations (RINGO)

i) Description

The RINGO constituency was formed to represent officially admitted observer organizations of the UNFCCC negotiations process that are engaged in research, teaching, and other knowledge, practice, or theory-based activities relating to any aspect of climate change. RINGO also promotes effective research-based outreach and capacity building relating to climate change for all stakeholders and supports access to and transparency of the international climate negotiation process.

ii) Role

RINGO facilitates participation of members in the UNFCCC process through engagement at COPs, SBs, Constituted Body, Work Programme and other meetings. The RINGO constituency was created with the understanding that it would not, as a constituency, advocate for any particular outcomes within the negotiations. RINGO does ask parties to ground their discussions and decisions in sound science, encompassing various disciplinary approaches. Individual RINGO members represent a wide range of views on many subjects and can advocate in their individual capacities. The RINGO constituency welcomes the diverse views, expertise, and experience of its members.

iii) Governance

RINGO is coordinated through a Steering Committee and thematic working groups that bring together researchers and research organizations with shared interests. As a non-advocacy constituency, RINGO does not develop common negotiating positions on behalf of its members. Instead, its governance focuses on facilitating scientific exchange, coordination and engagement in UNFCCC meetings and work programmes. RINGO by-laws can be found on the RINGO website: <https://ringos.net/ringo-bylaws/>.

iv) Membership and engagement

RINGO operates as an open constituency for organizations that identify with its objectives. Coordination meetings welcome both RINGO and non-RINGO participants. The constituency supports participation by RINGO members in constituted bodies and work programmes through open application processes and thematic working groups.

v) Contacts

- Washington University in St. Louis - Ms. Beth Martin E-mail: beth@ringofocalpoint.org
- National University of Singapore - Ms. Melissa Low E-mail: melissa@ringofocalpoint.org



7. Trade Union NGOs (TUNGO)

i) Description

Trade Union NGO (TUNGO) is the observer grouping representing workers and trade unions and is coordinated by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). The ITUC is the global voice of the world's working people. Its mission is the promotion and defence of workers' rights and interests. A labour focused Just Transition must secure the future and livelihoods of workers and their communities during the transition to a low-carbon economy, effectively limiting global temperature rises to 1.5 °C. Any institutional arrangement on Just Transition must focus on workers, the world of work, and trade unions, and be explicitly based on and incorporate the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work or Labour Rights, and the ILO Guidelines on Just Transition. Workers and their representatives are not passive bystanders in climate action, but crucial agents of change. The ITUC represents 191 million workers in 169 countries and territories and has 340 national affiliates. More information can be found here: <https://www.ituc-csi.org/climate>.

ii) Role

TUNGO provides a platform for the coordination of positions and the participation of workers and trade unions at the UNFCCC negotiations.

iii) Governance

TUNGO is coordinated by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), working closely with constituency focal points and co-focal points to coordinate its activities and policy engagement. Its governance arrangements are designed to represent the interests of workers and trade unions within the UNFCCC process while facilitating coordination among affiliated organizations.

iv) Membership and engagement

TUNGO primarily comprises organizations representing workers and trade unions. Organizations demonstrating that they represent workers are welcome to participate in coordination meetings and mailing lists, even if they are not affiliated with the ITUC. The constituency maintains criteria regarding eligibility for participation.

v) Contacts

The focal point for TUNGO is Bert De Wel (Bert.DeWel@ituc-csi.org), the co-focal points are Patrick Rondeau (prondeau@ftq.qc.ca) and Rhoda Boateng (rhoda.boateng@ituc-africa.org).



8. Women and Gender Constituency (WGC)

i) Description

The Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) is one of the nine stakeholder groups of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC](#)). Established in 2009, the WGC now consists of 64 accredited women's and environmental civil society organizations and over 1600 gender and feminist and gender equality advocates, who are collectively working to ensure that women's voices and their rights are embedded in all processes and outcomes of the UNFCCC.

ii) Role

Our goal is to formalize the voice of women's rights and gender equality civil society organizations present and regularly active in UNFCCC processes, and to develop, streamline and advance common positions. The Constituency aims to bring together as many NGO observers accredited to the UNFCCC as possible, as well as those not yet accredited organizations but working at local, national, regional and global levels to advance gender just climate action. The Constituency works to ensure that human rights and gender equality are firmly anchored in all climate actions under the UNFCCC and to challenge the extractive, exploitative and patriarchal economic model which has resulted in the climate crisis.

iii) Governance

The WGC is coordinated by a Facilitative Committee elected for two-year terms, which oversees the day-to-day work of the constituency. The overall decision making power lies on WGC organizational membership. To strengthen regional representation, the constituency has established regional caucuses, including African, Middle East and North African (MENA), and Caribbean and Latin American feminist caucuses., WGC has thematic working groups across all major negotiation agendas to support policy proposal development and coordination of members engagement in the negotiations. Governance and leadership information is publicly available through the constituency.

iv) Membership and engagement

WGC has a formal membership process for admitted organizations that agree to the constituency's advocacy principles. In addition, a broader Advocacy Network enables participation by activists, researchers and organizations that are not accredited to the UNFCCC. Regional caucuses, thematic working groups and the Advocacy Network provide multiple avenues for engagement and representation.

v) Contacts

- Mwanahamisi Singano | mwanahamisi@wedo.org
- Pat Bohland | Bohland@life-online.de



9. Children and Youth NGOs (YOUNGO)

i) Description

YOUNGO is the official children and youth constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). YOUNGO is a vibrant, global network of children and youth activists (up to 35 years) as well as child and youth NGOs, who contribute to shaping the intergovernmental climate change policies and strive to empower children and youth to formally bring their voices to the UNFCCC processes. In 2009, the UNFCCC Secretariat extended provisional constituency status to admitted youth NGOs, which was confirmed in 2011. YOUNGO's vision is to empower children and youth to take action and works to enhance their skills and capacity to drive the necessary and ambitious climate actions and policies at all levels towards a lovable climate just future.

ii) Role

YOUNGO representatives make official statements, provide technical and policy inputs to negotiations and engage with decision-makers at the UN climate change conferences, and promote child and youth participation in climate change projects at local and national levels. YOUNGO consists of thematic WGs focusing on policy work, and operational teams working on organising conferences each year on the local, regional and global level (known as LCOYs, RCOYs, and COY), along with capacity building and other mechanisms of engagement for young people around the world, including through projects coordinated by the 200+ admitted member NGOs. During UNFCCC sessions, YOUNGO provides a platform for young people to mobilise and organise their advocacy collectively. Each year, YOUNGO produces the Global Youth Statement, which compiles insights, expectations and policy proposals from children and youth organisations, as well as individuals and institutions across the globe.

iii) Governance

YOUNGO is governed through six interconnected bodies: the Council, Focal Points, Working Groups, Operational Teams, Global Coordination Team and the Conference Coordination Team. The Council serves as the constituency's principal strategic decision-making body, while Working Groups lead technical and policy work across negotiation topics. Together, these bodies support the constituency's governance, coordination and engagement throughout the year.

iv) Membership and engagement

Membership is open to individuals aged 35 years and under, youth-led organizations and admitted observer organizations affiliated with the constituency. Participants may engage through a Network Membership or through more active constituency roles that involve internal decision-making, representation opportunities and coordination responsibilities.

v) Contacts

- Focal Point, Megi Marku (megimarku.climate@gmail.com)



Annex II: Requesting Recognition of NGO Informal Group

Information required to request recognition of an informal group

Organizations requesting recognition of an informal group should provide the following information to cool@unfccc.int:

1. Profile of the group

- a. Name of the group and acronym (if applicable).
- b. Name of the focal point organization(s) and the contact details of the focal point person(s).
 - i. Focal point organizations should be admitted observer organizations.
 - ii. Where appropriate, groups may designate co-focal points.
- c. List of member organizations, indicating:
 - i. organizations active in the UNFCCC process or climate change matters;
 - of which are admitted observer organizations;
 - of which are not admitted or are in the process of admission; and
 - ii. organizations not yet active in the UNFCCC process but representing the interests of the relevant community and undertaking capacity-building on climate change issues.
 - iii.

2. **Governance:** Provide a governance document (such as Terms of Reference) describing:

- a. principles of membership;
- b. the process for becoming a member;
- c. the nomination or selection of focal point organizations;
- d. decision-making arrangements;
- e. mechanisms for information sharing; and
- f. arrangements for coordinating substantive engagement in the UNFCCC process, including, where applicable, the nomination of representatives to participate in meetings or other activities.

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3. **Engagement in the UNFCCC process:** Provide examples of the group's substantive engagement in the UNFCCC process, such as:

- a. submissions to calls for submissions by UNFCCC negotiating bodies;
- b. presentations at UNFCCC meetings or workshops;
- c. organization of side events or exhibits at UNFCCC sessions; and
- d. other relevant contributions to the work of the Convention process.
