

Lobbying and having fun

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Defining Non-Governmental Organisations

How do you describe an NGO? One survey found 48 different terms and acronyms. Here is a sample:

BINGOs	Big International NGOs	IPOs	Indigenous Peoples Organizations
BONGOs	Business Organized NGOs	GROs	Grassroots Organizations
CBOs	Community Based Organizations	GSCOs	Global Social Change Organizations
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations	NPOs	Nonprofit Organizations
ENGOs	Environmental NGOs	Vos	Voluntary Organizations
GONGOs	Government Organized NGOs	NGI	
MONGO			

In short, there is **no agreed terminology** for describing the NGO sector.

In some ways, it is easier to describe what NGOs are *not*, rather than what they are. It is generally agreed that NGOs are not:

- part of government, or
- organized primarily for private profit.

NGOs, civil society, or major groups?

“Major Groups” is a term that was introduced in Agenda 21, agreed by governments at the Rio Earth Summit. It describes nine sectors of society identified as having a significant role in sustainable development:

The **major groups** have two overarching functions – a **service function** and a **representative function**;

- Women
- Children and youth
- Indigenous peoples
- NGOs
- Local authorities
- Workers and trade unions
- Business and industry
- The scientific and technical community
- Farmers

Organizing Partners

- **Organizing Partners** for each **Major Group** each have their own policy meeting which is where statements are agreed upon, speakers are nominated.
- The OP function is **not a political one**, but is to service the constituency of the major group, help set up meetings, liaise with the UN secretariat etc
- The OPs chair the **morning information meeting**, where the entire major group community, all civil society present at a UN meeting, can come to be informed of what takes place during the, the state of negotiations, report back from plenaries etc



Attending UN meetings

- I will cover
 - Why attend the UN meeting
 - Preparing for UN meetings
 - How meetings operate: meet the actors and learn the jargon
 - Successful lobbying techniques



Stakeholders in Intergovernmental Processes

4 important functions for stakeholders:

- Setting agendas
- Negotiating outcomes
- Conferring legitimacy
- Implementing solutions



Why attend UN meetings?

1. To influence the text that will be negotiated;
2. To build and cultivate alliances for future work;
3. To show case studies of successes that your organization has achieved;
4. To learn about how intergovernmental negotiations work;
5. To raise funds for your work

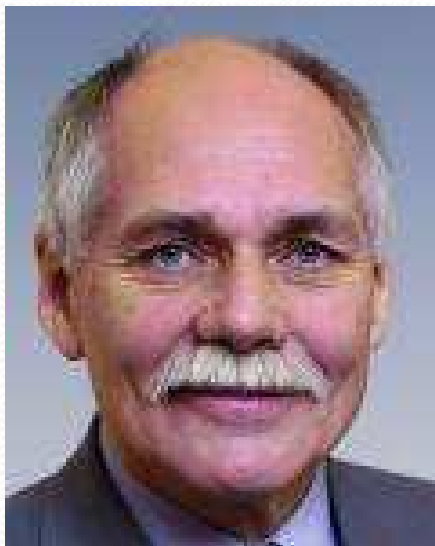
Preparing for the meeting

- National level
 - Have you met with your government?
 - With departments?
 - Environment
 - Economic affairs
 - Development
 - Head of state or government
 - Have you initiated a debate in your parliament?
 - Have you met with other national level stakeholders?
 - Have you met with the national press?
 - Set up a rapid response mechanism in the capital in case you need it
 - Try to get stakeholders on delegation

Checklist to take with you

- **Laptop** with wireless connection to the internet – and the right conversion plug to recharge;
- **Memory stick**;
- **Mobile telephone** – better to get one or just a SIM card in the country you come to as it will be cheaper to run;
- At a UN Centre (e.g. New York, Geneva, Nairobi, or Rome) then take with you the **telephone and addresses of the Missions of the key countries**;
- **Business cards** – if you hire a mobile put the details on the back of the card, people are unlikely to telephone you if the number is not local;
- **Your publications**;
- **Digital camera** to take photos of key delegates;

Know your delegates



PHOTOBOOK OF NEGOTIATORS

for



The photos in this booklet have been taken from IISD
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Negotiations Bulletin (unless specified otherwise).

Prepared by



http://www.stakeholderforum.org/fileadmin/files/Photobook_Rio+20web.pdf

Preparing for the meeting

- Read all relevant papers
- Are your policy aims **feasible**?
- Are you moving beyond the **possible range of outcomes** to put down markers for future campaigns?
- What are your top **four or five issues**? Concentrate on these.
- What do you want to achieve?
- Create a table

Before the meeting

Government	Name of delegate	For	Against	Not yet declared	Still to be contacted

NGO top 10 1997

Situation by the end of Johannesburg

1. Reduce CO₂ by 20% by 2000
 - 1997 x 2002 x
2. Legally binding agreement on PoPs (convention adopted 2001)
 - 1997 y 2002 y
3. Set up protected areas and forest follow up mechanism
 - 1997 y 2001 y
4. Negotiate a global agreement on freshwater
 - 1997 x 2002 x
5. A convention on land mines
 - 1997 x 2002 y
6. Intergovernmental panel on finance and GEF
 - 1997 x/y 2002 y
7. MEAs should not be bound by WTO
 - 1997x 2002 x
8. Establish a sub commission of CSD to address CSRA
 - 1997 x 2002 x
9. Indigenous Peoples establish perm forum
 - 1997 x 2002 y
10. NGO Access UNGASS based on CSD rules
 - 1997 y 2002 y

What participation and influence mechanisms should NGOs employ ?

- At the UN event a coalition should:
 - ✓ have a photo booklet of key negotiators and UN staff so they are easy to find www.iisd.ca
 - ✓ Designate point contacts for all key people eg G77, EU, US, key countries, Bureau members, UN officials,
 - ✓ There should be floor managers in each negotiation room
 - ✓ Use coffee bar diplomacy, receptions
 - ✓ Use any informal possibilities drinks/dinner/dancing
 - ✓ If you are spending more than 20% of your time with other stakeholders you are not doing your job.

What levers of influence do they have in the negotiation stages?

- Much less as the process moves to end game
- Offer to support smaller states eg FIELD helped AOSIS in the climate change negotiations
- Use stakeholders on delegations
- Focus on **governments with single decisions** eg Norway, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Austria, Canada, US
- Work with strong G77 countries eg South Africa, China, India Pakistan, Egypt, Brazil, Indonesia and chair of G77
- EU???????
- UN Agencies and Programmes
- Be there until 4am to offer text changes



Other ways to influence

- Side events relevant to the summit themes
- **Outreach** the daily stakeholder newsletter
- Press conferences
- Speaking in the plenary
- Stakeholder dialogues with delegates in plenary
- Access to the **outcome document** as it is being developed
- Allowed written comments to the outcome document



Where we are now

- Over 260 pages
- Inside that is a 50 page new consolidated text
- SF has taken the new paras out and created a stand alone document for people to use
- We don't know how governments will proceed yet
 - Look at the new text and see if your issue has been impacted
 - Check back at Agenda 21 and JPoI



Who is able to speak

- Getting access to the floor as an **Major Group** (working through Major Group groupings)
- Have 200 copies of your intervention – give copies to the UN staff for the interpreters and to distribute
- Short and to the point
- Only sit in the relevant major Group seat

Bureau

- All meetings have **Bureaus** to oversee the running of the meetings. The Rio+20 Bureau is made up of **ten members**, two from each of the different regional blocks.
- The Bureau has two co-chairs
- The Bureau members will share chairing the sessions of the negotiations and probably the ad hoc meetings as well.
- It is very important to create a relationship with these people particularly the one from your region.

Rio+20 Bureau

WEOG members

- Mr. Paolo Soprano **Italy** and Mr. Keith H. Christie **Canada**
- Africa
 - H.E. Mr. Charles Thembani Ntwaagae **Botswana** and H.E. Mr. Maged A. Abdelaziz **Egypt**
- Asia
 - H.E. Mr. Sook Kim **Korea** (Co-Chair) and Mr. Munawar Saeed Bhatt **Pakistan**
- Latin America and the Caribbean
 - H.E. Dr. John W. Ashe **Antigua and Barbuda** (co-chair) and Ms. Ana Bianchi **Argentina**
 - *Eastern Europe Group*
 - Prof. Bedřich Moldan **Czech Republic** and Ms. Tania Valerie Raguž **Croatia**
 - Member(Ex-Officio)
 - Mrs. Maria Teresa Mesquita Pessoa, **Brazil**



Secretariat

- The Secretariat is the permanent body that supports the work of the convention between meetings and does the logistical and secretariat work for the event and during it. The Secretariat will have a role that includes:
 - Preparing the background papers
 - Producing or updating a website for the meeting
 - Analyzing the national reports
 - Producing promotional material for the meeting
 - Producing negotiating text arising from the discussions
 - Making available all official documents

Normal process

- Preparatory Meetings

Committee of the Whole

- 2 working groups - are subsidiary bodies of the COW. At any one time, usually no more than two will be meeting

- **Informal's** - subsidiary body of the working groups and are set up when there is a set of critical issues that needs to be addressed

- **Contact groups**

- **Friends of the Chair**

- We have one official prepcom left

Key people in the secretariat

- The Major Groups focal point:
 - **Chantal Line Carpentier, Ph.D**
- The Rio+20 Director: **Nikhil Seth**
- The “fixer”
- The person in charge of the text section you are interested in
- Other key people
 - Secretary General of the Conference **Mr. Sha Zukang**
 - Executive Coordinators – **Elizabeth Thompson, Brice Lalonde**
 - High Level advisory group – **Maurice Strong, Ashok Khosla**



The world of brackets

- Alternative brackets
- Contentious brackets
- Suspicious brackets
- Tactical or trading brackets
- Uncertain brackets
- Waiting brackets
- Weary brackets



Brackets

- Who put the bracket in?
- When you know who put it forward, ask why.
- The ‘why’ may not be clear to other delegations and you can play an important role in highlighting the ‘why’ in your lobbying.



Depending on why?

- If it was because they are waiting for instructions from the capital, then phone your colleagues in the capital and get them to raise the issue with relevant civil servants or ministers. This only works if you are completely on top of the negotiations and can act immediately.
- If it involves trading brackets with somewhere else in the text, then you need to be able to work with the stakeholders who are trying to lobby on that section.



Depending on why 2?

- If it is because of exhaustion brackets, then make some text suggestions. This can be a very opportunistic time as officials are tired and looking for a way through the darkness – or even to go home for the night!
- If there are suspicious brackets, then it is important to work out why and try to help build trust.

Strength of terms

Term	definition	Just the term - no action identified	Does it say who should do it?	Does it have timelines?	Does it have a monitoring mechanism?
Calls for	Asking governments to do something				



What do they mean?

Considers

- We are not serious about this

Encourages

- We hope someone is going to do something sometime

Facilitates

- We really need someone to help us here

Regulates

- We really are serious this time

Stresses

- We really do think this is important and hope someone will listen

What are the conditions needed for a coalition to succeed ?

- Know Your Own Goals
- Know the Decision-making Process in Your Country
- Know When To Work at What Level
- Know the Decision-making Context
- Know the Tools at Your Disposal
- Know When To Make Your Position
- Know the Government Officials
- Know the Key UN Officials
- Know Your Allies
- Know Your Adversaries
- Know Your Limits
- Know Your Brackets and Terms

Books to read

