

Climate Action Group - Starting the Action
Energy Community Secretariat

Capacity building for UNFCCC COP negotiations

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COP 23

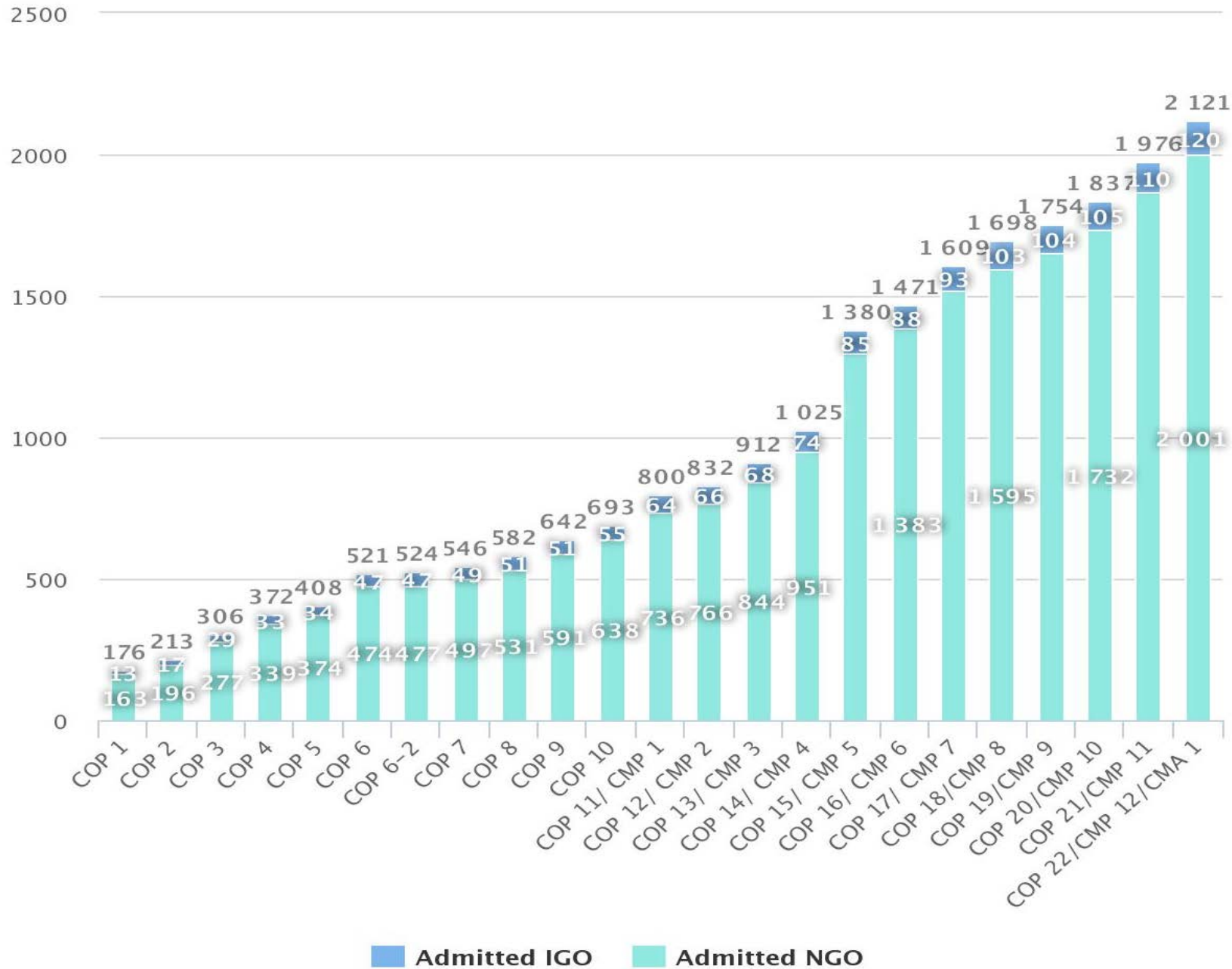
- Will take place 6-17 November 2017 in Bonn, Germany and will be convened under the Presidency of Fiji.
- Countries are meeting to advance the implementation of the Paris Agreement made in December 2015.
- The focus of COP23 will be the continued development of the Paris Agreement's "rulebook."
- Also how the new guidelines will be implemented across a wide range of issues including: transparency, adaptation, emission reductions, climate finance, capacity-building and technology.
- The goal is to complete these guidelines by COP24 in Poland in 2018.

COP23 Participation



- COPs are not small affairs! More than 20,000 expected this year.
- All Countries party to the Convention are represented at COP.
- To date, more than 830 “non-party” organizations have applied for side events to showcase climate action.
- These include, among others, local governments, business and industry interests, environmental groups, research institutions, and other issue groups focused on everything from gender to youth to indigenous peoples.

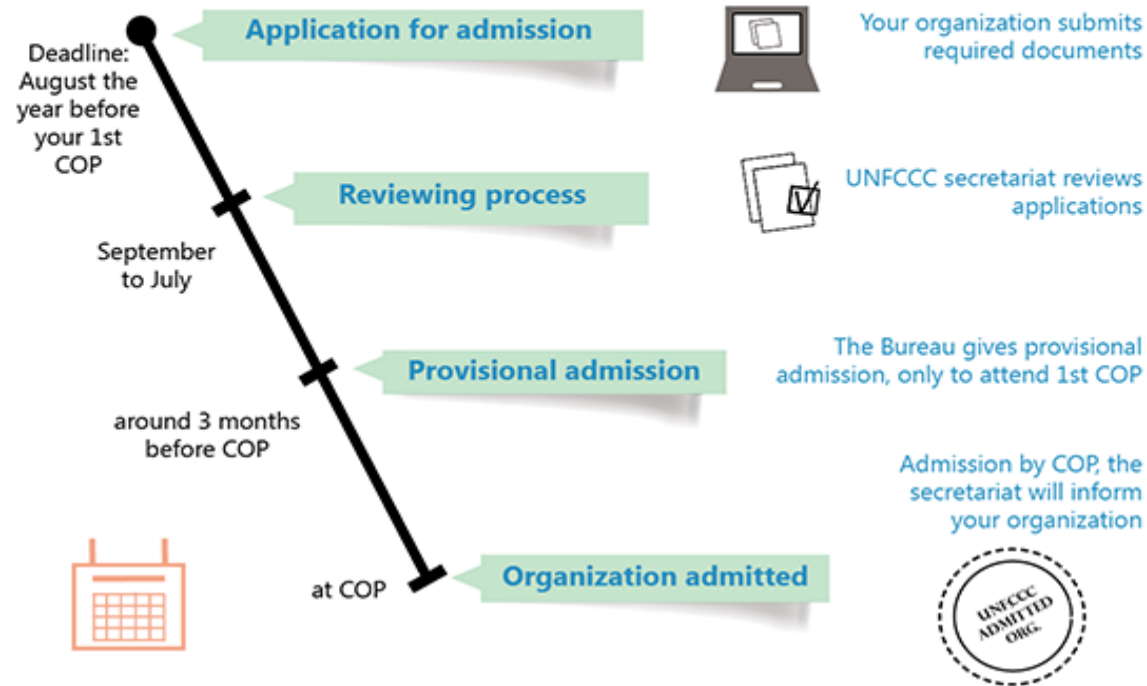
Cummulative admission of observer organizations



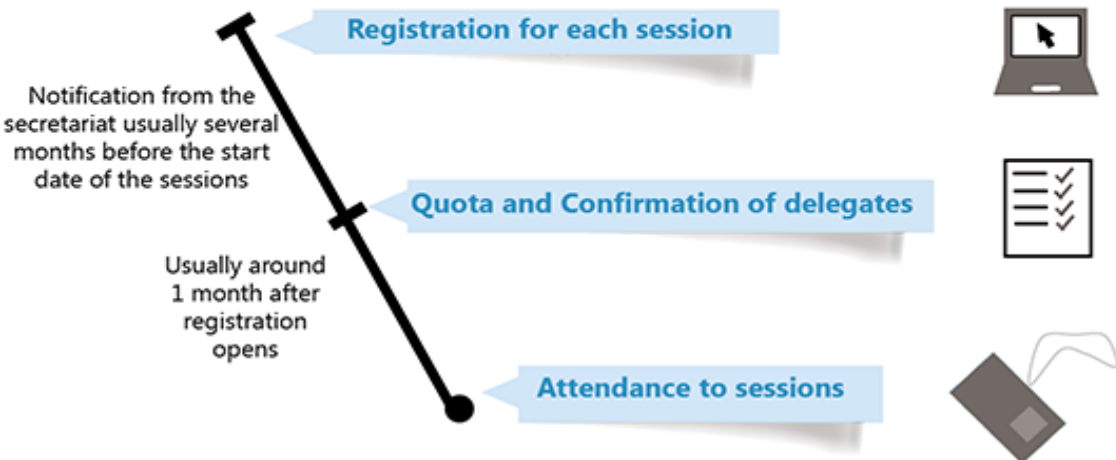
Source: UNFCCC

Becoming a UNFCCC observer and attending sessions

HOW IT WORKS



Once your organization is admitted (or provisionally admitted):



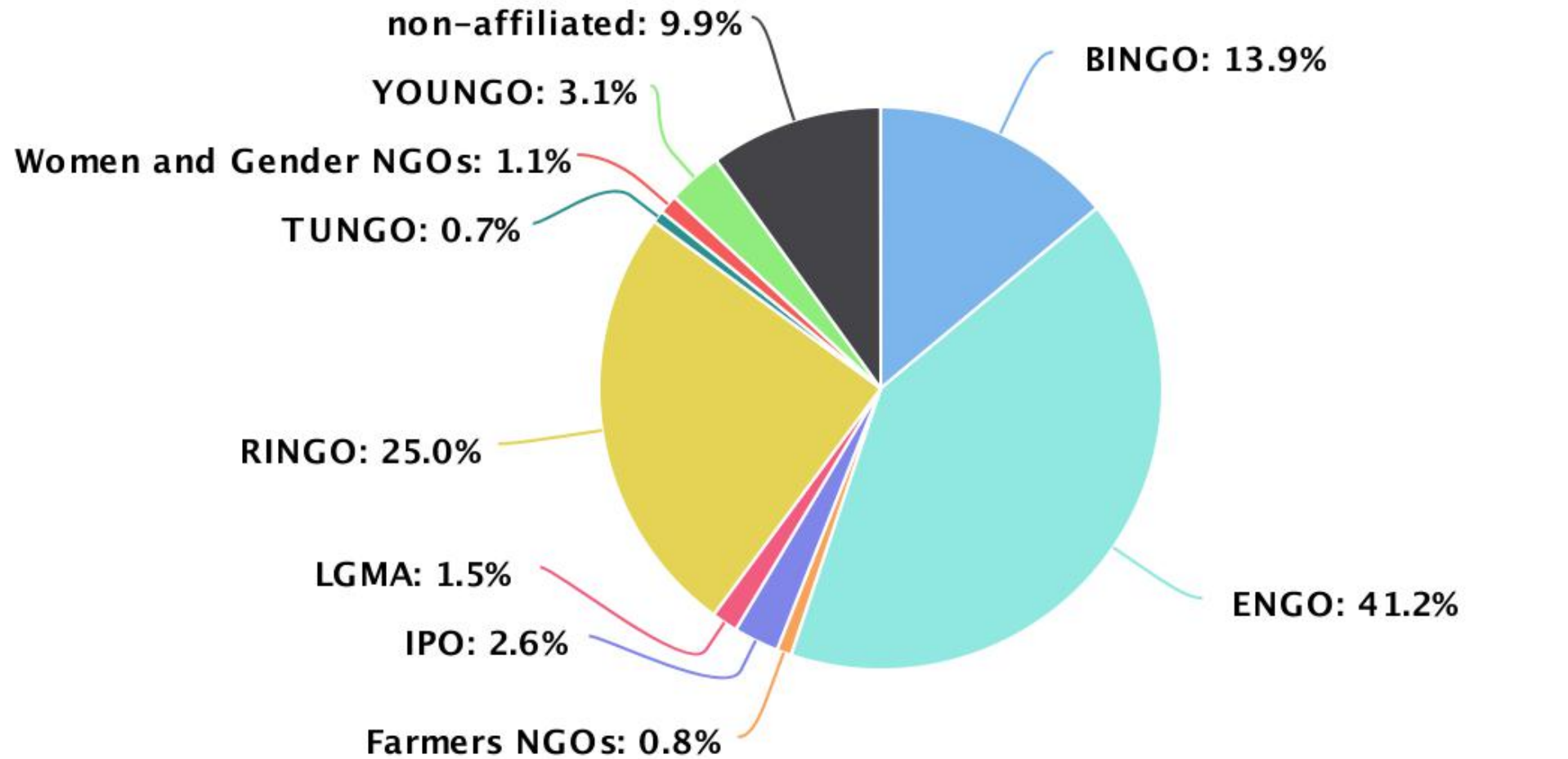
- The Paris Agreement recognized the overwhelming number of interests and potential contributions that observer organizations present. The hordes are not going away!!!
- A formal application process exists for entities that wish to acquire official observer status. (Deadline is Aug. 1 the year **before** the desired COP).
- Observer status increases an organization's visibility in the global climate dialogue, strengthens the influence of its policy and technical experts, and their access to negotiators (e.g. SBSTA).
- Status also allows IGOs/NGOs to host technical and information sessions in main COP venues and nominate official delegations to COP/SBSTA.

Other examples of Participation

Beyond attending formal COP events open to non-party stakeholders, organizations will often:

- Organize Side Events and/or hold Workshops
- Hold formal or informal bilateral meetings with government delegates and others
- Lead and attend other constituency meetings
- Track policy developments of the official UNFCCC working group meetings
- Develop and distribute policy position papers/talking points to target audiences
- Press conferences for milestone achievements and announcements
- Social media updates / blogs
- Host an information booth at the COP

Constituency affiliation of admitted non-governmental organizations (as of December 2016)



Intersessionals and Subsidiary Bodies

- Intersessionals are the negotiations that take place during the year prior to the COP.
- They lay the groundwork for the COPs, negotiating complex details and usually building draft text in advance of COP.
- These sessions are where certain policies or measures are negotiated/considered for inclusion in drafts of final documents.



Two permanent subsidiary bodies are at the core of this work:

- The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) give advice to the COP.
- Each has a specific mandate and is composed of experts from party governments.
- They are an important opportunity/point in the negotiation process for non-party stakeholders to have their voices heard.

Questions and Considerations for this Group

- What does this group want to achieve by participating in the UNFCCC climate negotiation process?
 - Seat at the table and/or a leadership role (e.g. regional, technical, etc.)?
 - Highlight national and subnational progress and commitments to climate action?
 - Attract new climate-smart investment from both the public and private sector?
 - Demonstration of innovative, climate-smart projects/NAMAs?
 - Promote existing policy and technical expertise, while building new GHG capacity?
 - Strengthen collaboration among members and/or build new ideas for cooperation?
- The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) is an official IGO; Central Asia, Caucasus, Albania and Moldova (CACAM) is a Party Grouping under the UNFCCC
- All of the above can be accomplished by individual countries, but a chorus of voices is always louder than the soloist.

Thank You!

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