Delegation size and equity in climate negotiations: An exploration of key issues

Achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement will require fast and far-reaching changes, including transformative governance within the international climate negotiations. Processes and interactions within the negotiations have been historically perceived as inequitable, as low-income countries' interests were undermined by the small size of their delegations. Since COP21 in Paris, however, the delegation size of poorer countries has significantly increased. Following the Paris Agreement, the average delegation size of low-income and lower middle-income countries, mostly from sub-Saharan Africa, has risen considerably compared with other country income groupings and regions. While the drivers behind this increase are yet unclear, the trend could contribute to greater equity in the negotiations through better representation and visibility of issues shared by these countries, for instance those related to high climate vulnerability and low readiness. However, delegation size is only one factor in negotiation success, which is related to a variety of factors both internal and external to the negotiations themselves. Further analysis on the causes of the shifts observed in this paper is required, to understand their possible consequences, and better determine whether they can successfully contribute to greater climate equity in the context of the necessary transformative climate governance.

General information
Publication status: Accepted/In press
Corresponding author: Ackom, E. K.
Number of pages: 5
Publication date: 2019
Peer-reviewed: Yes

Publication information
Journal: Carbon Management
ISSN (Print): 1758-3004
Ratings:
BFI (2019): BFI-level 1
Web of Science (2019): Indexed yes
Original language: English
Keywords: Climate negotiations, Conference of the Parties, delegation size, equity
DOI:
10.1080/17583004.2019.1630243
Source: FindIt
Source-ID: 2450517733
Research output: Contribution to journal › Journal article – Annual report year: 2019 › Research › peer-review