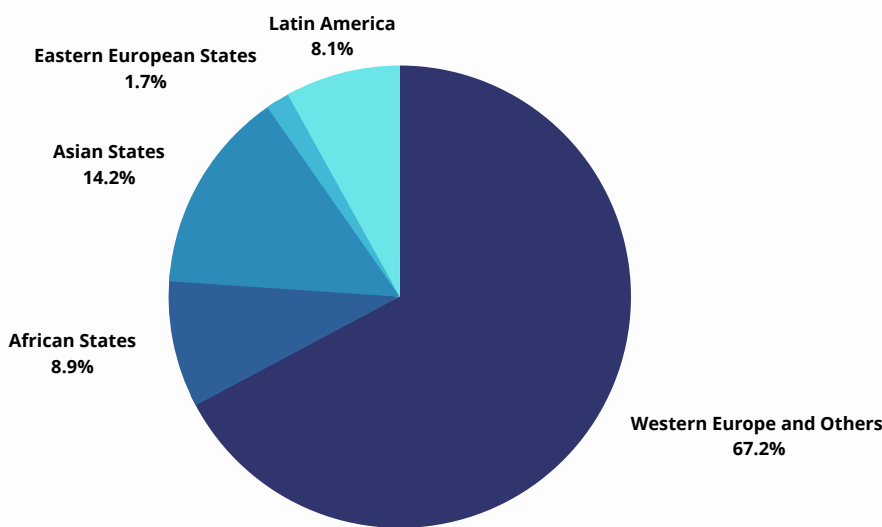


Representation and equitable access

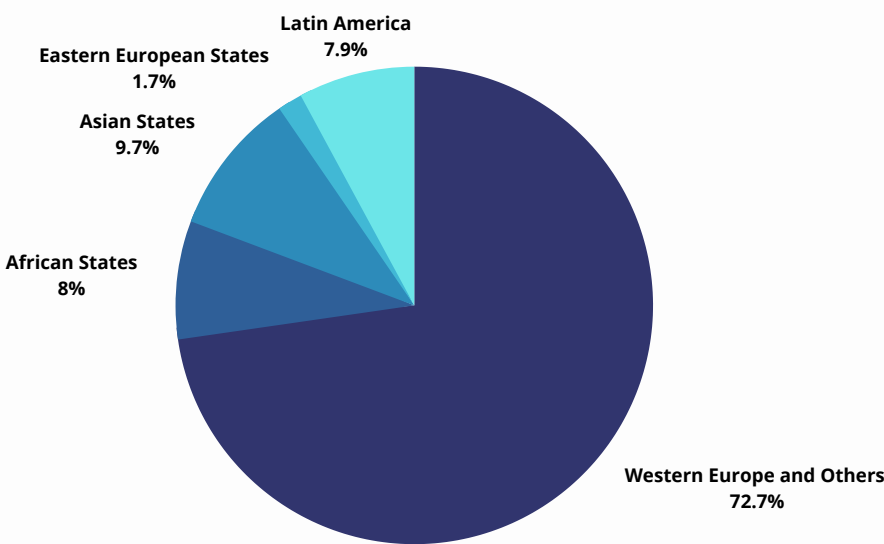
QUANTITY

Admitted Observer organizations by Region

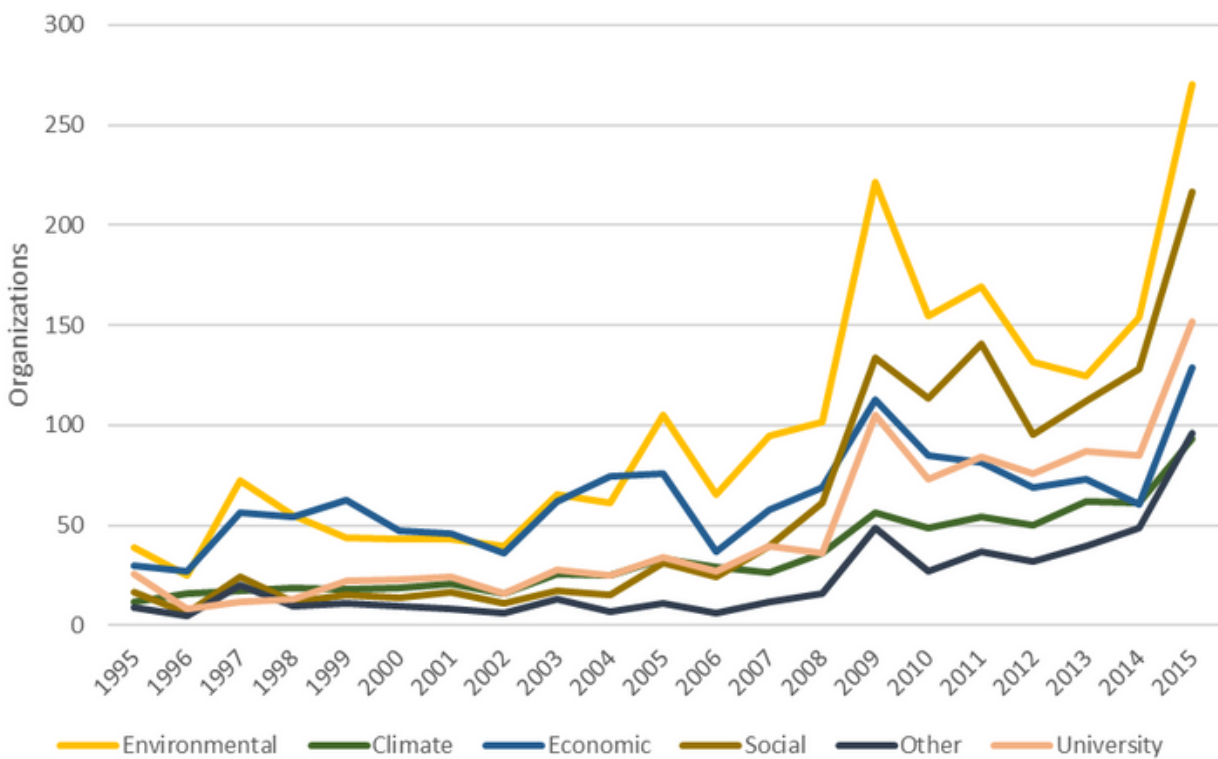


Mandate: The SBI encouraged the COP Presidency to explore ways to increase the participation of observer organizations, including youth organizations and organizations from developing countries
FCCC/SBI/2021/16, paragraph 114(b)(ii)

Regional breakdowns by participants' nationality at COP26



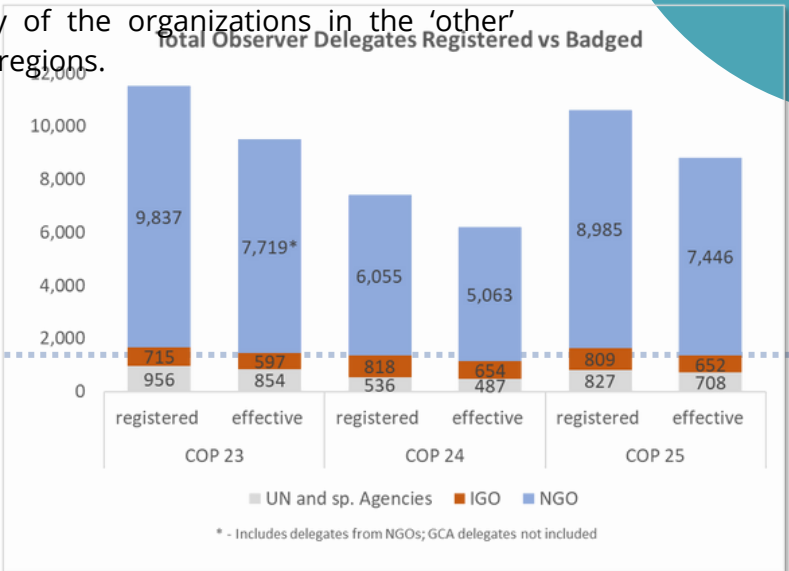
Mandate: The SBI also requested the secretariat to explore ways to encourage broad participation of observer organizations, in particular of those from developing countries and of youth organizations, including through remote participation.
FCCC/SBI/2021/16, paragraph 114(d)(ii)



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

Since COP1, there is a widening diversity of NGOs participating in COPs. Environmental NGOs and organizations with business-related organizations tended to dominate the civil society presence early in the history of the UNFCCC. Starting around the time of the Bali COP in 2007, a wider range of organizations focused on different issues started to attend and steadily grew in numbers leading to the Paris COP.

NGOs and businesses that participated in COPs based on the primary aim in their mission statement. The economic category is entirely non-profit trade associations, or business-oriented organizations, such as Chambers of Commerce as the criteria set by Parties include non-profit/tax-exempt status. The social category includes NGOs with a mission devoted to social equity issues, such as Indigenous Peoples' rights, women's rights, or global justice. Development organizations are also included in the social category. Many of the organizations in the 'other' category relate to cities or regions.



EQUITY

How can the UNFCCC serve as a safe place for people to raise their voices in diverse ways?

- Providing tailored substantive inputs to Parties
- Facilitating inputs from geographically diverse sources and from a wide range of expertise and perspectives to ensure reflection of stakeholder voices in the final outcomes of the COP
- Putting pressure on Governments to work towards more ambitious outcomes
- Having bilateral meetings with Parties
- Networking with other observers and non-Party stakeholders
- Showcasing climate action at pavilion events
- Showcasing climate action at UNFCCC official side events
- Hosting and attending side events and exhibits in order to highlight key issues, influence, exchange information and knowledge

QUALITY

Side event applications and confirmed side events per COP/CMP/CMA

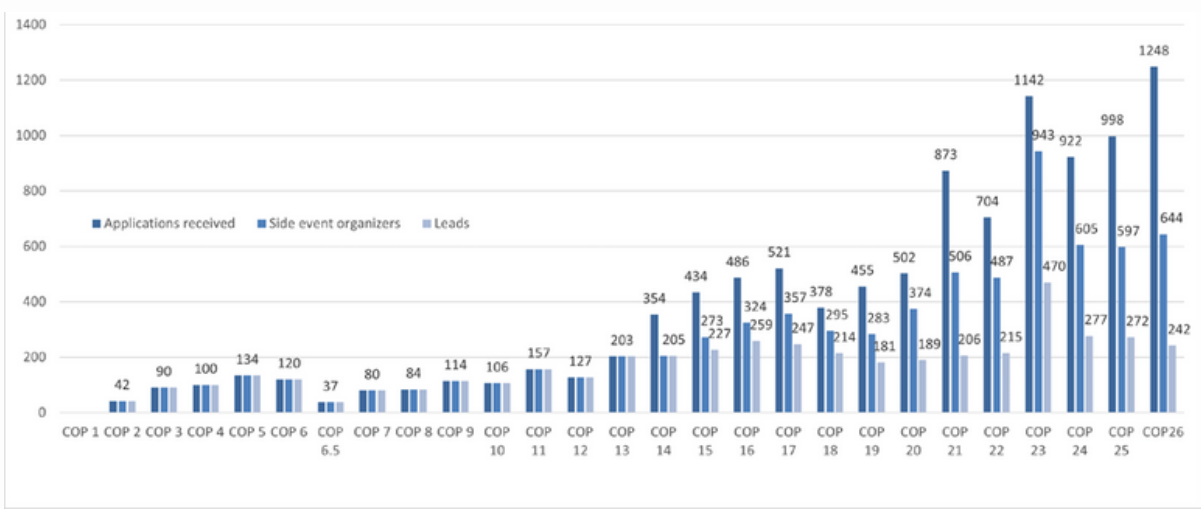
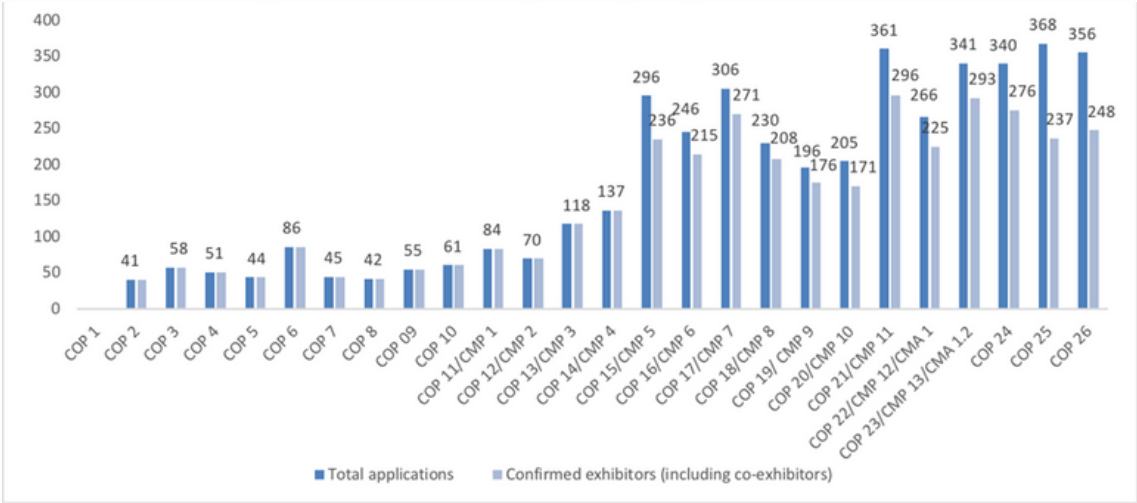


Exhibit applications and confirmed exhibitors (incl. co-exhibitors) at COP/CMP/CMA per year

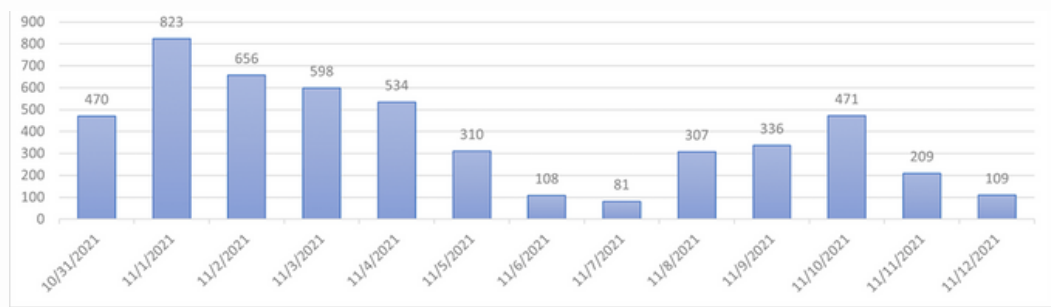


As the number of observers increases, so does the demand for holding side events and exhibits. Since COP 21, the number of side event applications per COP has not dropped below 700.

At COP 26, the secretariat received a record number of 1,248 side event applications for 240 side event slots. Given the limited number of side event slots, the secretariat has been encouraging merging side event applications. At COP 26, the average number of applications per joint application was 2.9. The selection of 242 side events facilitated the participation of 644 observer organizations and Parties in total. However, hundreds of observer applications had to be declined due to sheer number of applications.

At the same time, the observers who were selected against the odds have been reporting that the need to hold joint side events with several partners hinders effective engagement as it limits the opportunities for individual organizations to contribute.

Virtual exhibits: total daily visits on the COP26 Platform during the Conference



Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, COP 26 exhibits were fully virtual. On average, a virtual exhibit received 39.4 visits. Exhibitors complained about the lack of networking opportunities brought by virtual exhibits as opposed to physical ones.

COP26 Side Events and Exhibits Survey

Party submissions on Col
Observers submissions on Col

Guidelines for the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations at the meetings of the bodies of the UNFCCC

Should the rules of engagement for different stakeholders in the UNFCCC? And how could they be applied?

