Abstract

The leader of the climate change regime is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which hosts the international climate change negotiations at the annual Conference of Parties (COP). In addition to official parties which represent nations in the UNFCCC, businesses and environmental groups are also playing a role in the negotiations as observers, which are grouped together in constituencies. This research will look at the two largest and original constituencies, the Business NGOs (BINGOs) and the Environmental NGOs (ENGOs) which represent business and environmental groups respectively. Both constituencies have a focal point for their members with the UNFCCC Secretariat, which for BINGOs is the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the Climate Action Network (CAN) for ENGOs. Specifically, this paper compares the ICC and CAN and finds similarities and differences between their functioning within the UNFCCC in regards to their ability to build coherent policies between their members and how transparent they are in their activities. It was predicted that businesses groups have a harder time working together and are less transparent than the environmental groups which the research indeed confirmed. A series of interviews with various actors in the climate negotiations who had experience with ENGOs and BINGOs were conducted to gather qualitative data for the thesis. The findings of this research are compared with several theories on global governance, particularly on deliberative democracy and democratic polycentrism, with the goal to examine if transnational actors in global governance are a means to ameliorate or mitigate democratic deficits in international institutions by using the UNFCCC as an example. The thesis further extends on these theories given the responses of the interviews and makes conclusions on whether or not the constituencies are functioning in democratic means.