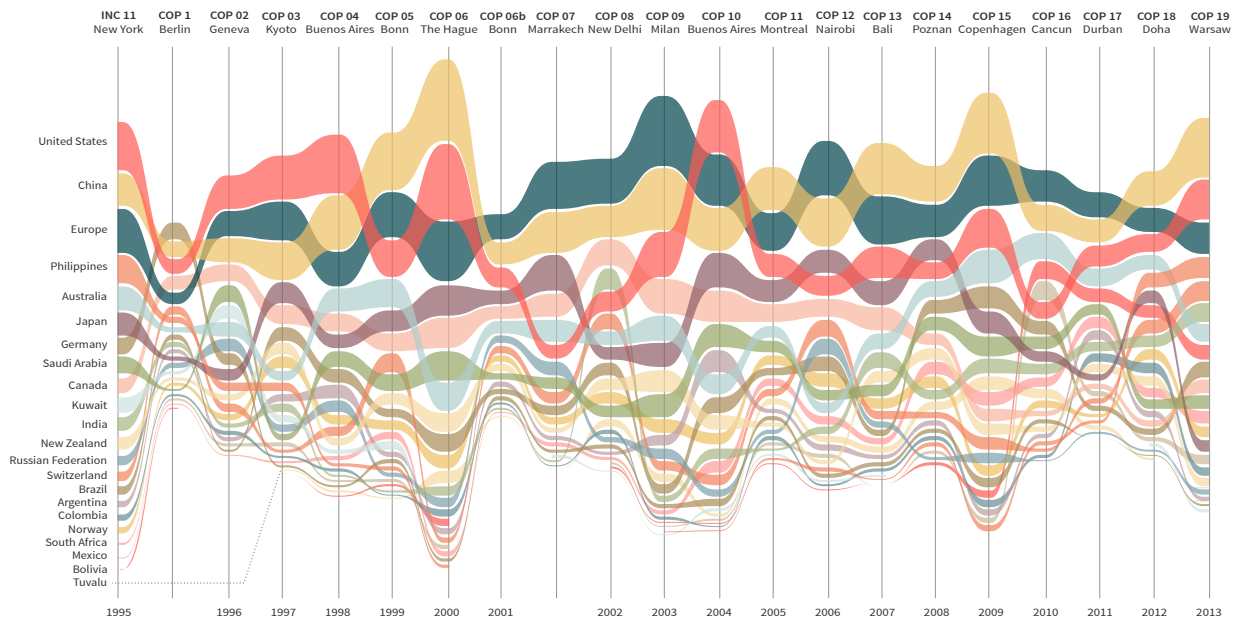


# Absolute And Relative Visibility Of Countries In The UNFCCC Negotiations, 1995-2013



This interactive map offers a chronological view of the participation of countries to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations from 1995 to 2013. The streamgraph enables us to follow the absolute and relative importance of each country as the Conferences of Parties succeed one another, based on the number of paragraphs of the Earth Negotiations Bulletin (volume 12) in which the name of each country appears.

## HOW TO READ THE MAP

The stream graph diagram shows the number of interventions in the negotiations of the 21 most active countries of the UNFCCC debate (as reported in the Earth Negotiation Bulletin). The size of the flow is proportional to the number of paragraphs of the ENB reports in which the name of each of the top 21 countries is mentioned. The data are calculated COP by COP. The flows are ranked by the number of mentions (the highest flow for each COP correspond to the country most active in that COP, the lowest the least active country). For example, the United States is the most visible country in the first meeting and China in the last.

## HOW THE MAP IS BUILT

Our corpus is built from the 594 issues contained in the Volume 12 of the Earth Negotiations Bulletin, containing the reports on the UNFCCC conferences from 1995 in New York to 2013 in Warsaw. From all these issues, we retained only the daily issues related to the COPs (Conference of the Parties). To keep close to the diplomatic dimension of the negotiations, we put aside the issues related to other UNFCCC bodies such as the SBSTA (Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice) and the SBI (Subsidiary Body for Implementation).

Our analysis relies on paragraphs – each paragraph corresponding to a natural thematic unit of the ENB reports – and employed the text analysis platform Cortext (<http://www.cortext.net>) by IFRIS (Institut Francilien Recherche, Innovation, Société).

Each paragraph in the corpus has been labeled according to the countries referred to in the text if they contained at least one occurrence of the name of the country involved. We finally counted in how many paragraphs of the ENB reports country appeared.

## FINDINGS

The diagram shows a remarkable stability. Most countries tend to maintain their relative rank throughout the 19 COPs. The 10 most active countries are represented by a rather stable, small group, which includes the United States, China, Europe, Australia, and Japan. The three leaders of the negotiations – China, the United States, and Europe – are ubiquitous and heading the negotiations. China, often speaking in the name of the G77 developing countries, never ranks beyond third position whereas Europe's position varies between the first and fifth, and the United States between the first and seventh ranks. It can also be observed that countries tend to be more active when they host the negotiations: Germany is first in Berlin 1995, Japan is fourth in Kyoto 1997; India is fourth in New Delhi 2002; Canada is fifth in Montreal 2005.

Several exceptions should, however, be outlined. First, the Philippines and Bolivia, two countries from the southern hemisphere, have taken on very active roles, perhaps disproportionate with their size. Bolivia – very discreet during the first 15 COPs – has stood out from COP16 (Cancun) onwards, and has been one of the leading voices around “loss and damages.” Bolivia often comments on issues related to the historical responsibility of developed countries and their compliance with their commitments to reduce GHGs emissions.

The Philippines' trajectory is also interesting: quite conspicuous in the early negotiations (fourth rank at the INC11 in New York and sixth rank at the COP1 in Berlin), the country steps aside during the next conferences to stand out again in Doha (COP18) and Warsaw (COP19). If the Philippines mainly speaks out on equity and “common but differentiated responsibilities” – principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development – and on funding and adaptation funds, Doha and Warsaw conferences have witnessed many references to the two “unprecedented” typhoons that devastated the Philippines (Bopha/Haiyan) at that very time.

The visibility of some countries increases in a punctuated fashion at very specific COPs.

Mexico, for example, shows a rather low profile during most negotiations, but ranks 5 during COP16 (Cancun), organised in Mexico. Tuvalu's trajectory bears mentioning as well: from the Kyoto conference onwards, this small Pacific island has ranked among the 21 most visible member countries. Yet, Tuvalu also reached rank 13 in Poznan (COP14), rank 19 in Copenhagen (COP15), and rank 12 in Cancun (COP16). During these conferences, Tuvalu mainly addressed the issue of a successor to the Kyoto Protocol – the island even supports its own protocol proposition.

We can also testify to the withdrawal of Canada from climate negotiations. Canada ranks among the six more visible countries until COP13 in Bali. It then withdraws from the ranks of top participating countries at the Poznan conference in 2008. By way of explanation, in 2006 a new conservative Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, was elected to lead Canada and in 2011 the country withdrew from the Kyoto Protocol and actively initiated unconventional oil drillings in the Athabasca region of Alberta. Germany is also less visible after COP1 organized in Berlin. The reason might be the increasing importance of the European Union as a representative of its Member States during the negotiations.

For a more extensive description of the construction of this map and a more detailed discussion of its findings see Venturini et al., 2014.

## **REFERENCES**

Venturini, T., Baya Laffite, N., Cointet, J.-P., Gray, I., Zabban, V., & De Pryck, K. (2014). Three maps and three misunderstandings: A digital mapping of climate diplomacy. *Big Data & Society*, 1(2). doi:10.1177/2053951714543804

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**Best** Newest Oldest**Catherine Richards**

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Love this project. Great work. Beautiful and well designed. I did notice a few bugs and simply pointing out to help you improve. The lines near the bottom are really hard to select. In fact I was unable to select a line corresponding line to Tavalu. Also, when I did select the line for the Philippines the country name did not correspondingly appear in bold (screen shot attached)

Also, it would be great if when you hover over the country name the corresponding line is highlighted.

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**DATA TIME-STAMP**

EMAPS Paris Sprint, 6-10 January 2014

**DATA SOURCE**

Earth Negotiations Bulletin, Volume 12 (<http://www.iisd.ca/vol12/>)

**DATA FILES**

Aggregated data ([https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1\\_sPIg4zS\\_xo3iuUAL9jodyadVTIVc3khk\\_QkTskQdNY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_sPIg4zS_xo3iuUAL9jodyadVTIVc3khk_QkTskQdNY/edit?usp=sharing))

**TOOLS**

Cortext (<http://www.cortext.net>)

## RELATED NARRATIVES

Mitigation and adaptation in the UNFCCC debates

## RELATED MAPS

Countries issues contingency matrix, 1995-2013

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### DISCLAIMER

*The maps in this atlas are not perfect. Far from it. Yet readers should be patient for they know that two difficulties complicated our efforts. First, our object – the debates about climate adaptation – are among the thorniest issues of collective life. Second, the digital methods that we employed are still highly experimental. Though sketchy and tentative, we hope that our maps will still be useful for the actors in the climate change debate. To report errors or request information, write to us at [info@climaps.eu](mailto:info@climaps.eu) ([info@climaps.eu](mailto:info@climaps.eu))*

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