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## Meeting Success: Understanding Effective Negotiations on Global Environmental Problems

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# Evaluating the Efficacy of International Megaconferences

Kellie Greene and Kathryn Mahon

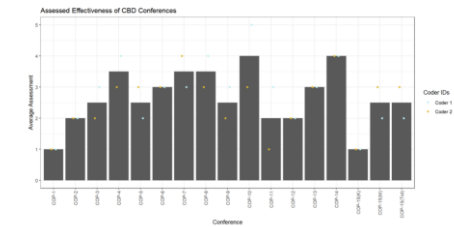
## GOAL

- Evaluate the meetings of the Conference of Parties (COPs)
- Focused on every Convention on Biology Diversity
- Actively coding the Chemical Conventions
- Achieve high levels of intercoder reliability for progress made at the negotiations of major international organizations

## ANALYSIS



## RESULTS



- 41.2% agreement
- Agreement on 7 COPs
- Disagreement of just one point on 8 COPs
- Disagreement of two or more points on 2 COPs

## METHOD

SCORE	EXPLANATION
0	Utter failure. These meetings not only did not push governance forward but pushed the opposite direction. Governance decisions were undermined and political rivalries became more intense.
1	No accomplishments. The meeting occurred with no accomplishments. Nothing moved forward. Everyone presented their positions but there was minimal consensus reached on even minor issues.
2	Minor accomplishments. Large pressing issues did not see much forward movement, but some minor issues were agreed to. None of these changed the fundamental governance approach of the project.
3	Major agreements. While many large issues remain outstanding, the meeting did achieve at least one major agreement and changed the governance approach in a significant manner. (One is not a firm number in terms of major accomplishments, but that major issues are outstanding while some major accomplishments were achieved).
4	Substantive Agreement. There was movement on multiple major issues. The governance approach was transformed as a result of the agreements. Even if agreement wasn't achieved on ALL major issues of contention, there was progress on most of them.
5	Expansive accomplishment. The governance agreement was significantly transformed. Major issues of contention all saw transformative changes. A major new agreement was made possible by the meeting.

*The code book was agreed upon and calibrated after discussion and assessment of climate change negotiations*

- Read and analyzed each article separately
- Had no communication with each other regarding our coding
- Immediately after reading each convention, we utilized our code book to individually score each one

- The Kendall's coefficient of concordance is .691
- Coder 2 appeared to have been more conservative in their coding
- While being more conservative in her coding, coder 2 and coder 1 reached many agreements on their codes

## CONCLUSION

- Our interpretation of our coder reliability is that we reached moderate agreement
- Therefore, have assessed the effectiveness of the CBD Conferences in a comparable manner
- We disagreed by two points on COP 10, a conference that saw monumental changes to its structure
- Our disagreement reflects experts in the field's scholarship
- We are now analyzing chemical conventions