How Can Your UNA Engage in More Effective Advocacy Work
Goals of the session

• Learn to identify the stages of UN negotiations and time your advocacy efforts accordingly.
• Better understand the dynamics of the UN negotiations and the positions states and state coalitions take.
• Learn about the possible mechanisms of influencing state positions in UN negotiations.
• Learn to identify the skills and resources needed for “insider” and “outsider” advocacy actions regarding UN processes.
(Overlapping) stages of negotiation processes

1) Agenda-setting
2) Negotiations
3) Implementation

➔ The earlier the stage, the better are your changes to integrate new ideas and new actors
➔ Study the timing of the processes.
Positions that states can take

• Lead state/state coalitions
• Supportive states
• Swing states
• Veto states
• In international negotiations states are the main actors, but not the only ones! Bureau, Major Groups, Media, civil society outside of the MG system...
How do I justify my participation?

• Can I influence the text that will be negotiated?
• Can I build and cultivate alliances for future work or raise funds for future work?
• Can I present case studies of successes or lessons learnt from non-successful cases?
• Is my purpose to go there to learn about how intergovernmental negotiations work?
Transnational advocacy networks

• Advocacy on behalf of principled causes, sets of values and ideas, vulnerable constituencies or environments.

• There are other networks with possibly contradicting interests, more coherent positions or more resources.

➔ Identify the right entry points and assess your skills and resources realistically

➔ Is your main focus national or international?

➔ Will you work best as ”an insider” or as ”an outsider”? 
“Insider” skills

• International negotiations have their own jargon: study the terminology, the strength of verbs, significant and commonly used adverbs etc.

• Get involved in the world of brackets; find out, who put it in and why? What can your network do to change positions or to make someone to refrain from supporting?
"Outsider" skills

- Ability to mobilize masses or appeal to target group through symbolic actions
- Charisma, ability to attract media (popularize complex issues)
”To do” – list for UN meetings

- To participate effectively you have to start in time:
  - Organize several meeting in capitals with key governments before the conference (during preparatory phases)
  - Brief the media, place early stories in the media
  - Meet with key parliamentarians before leaving – initiate a debate in parliament
  - Set up a rapid response mechanism in the capital in case you need it (name a contact person in the NGOs at home)
  - Try to get NGOs on delegation and allowed to attend pre-inter-departmental meetings before the event

Source: adapted from Stakeholder Forum
Mechanisms of influence

- Information politics
- Symbolic politics
- Leverage politics
- Accountability politics