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Elements in Organizational Response to Climate Change

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WHO TELLS YOUR STORY?

*Women and Indigenous Peoples
Advocacy at the UNFCCC*

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Who Tells Your Story?

Women and Indigenous Peoples Advocacy at the UNFCCC

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Abstract: Thousands of civil society organizations (CSOs) attend the Conferences of the Parties (COPs) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) every year. Through their advocacy work, CSOs define and redefine what “climate change” is really about. This Element focuses on climate advocacy for women and Indigenous peoples (IPs), two prominent climate justice frames at the UNFCCC. Which CSOs advocate for women and IPs? How and why do CSOs adopt gender and Indigenous framing? Bridging the literature on framing strategy and organizational ecology, it presents two mechanisms by which CSOs adopt climate justice frames: self-representation and surrogate-representation. This Element demonstrates that, while gender advocacy is developed primarily by women’s CSOs, IPs advocacy is developed by a variety of CSOs beyond IPs organizations. It suggests that these different patterns of frame development may have long-term consequences for how we think about climate change in relation to gender and IPs.

Keywords: CSO, climate justice, UNFCCC, transnational advocacy, organizational ecology

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