

Event cards for the facilitators

During the conference, life goes on in the outside world. The facilitators function as a news ticker, and can pass on significant events to the moderators. The moderators announce them to the entire group. These events can be used to introduce added tension to the proceedings, e.g. if:

- a) you have the feeling that the negotiations are progressing too quickly in favour of one of the stakeholders.
- b) not all groups are being heard, and you want to reinforce the position of a particular group.
- c) negotiations have stalled.

The first event card can be deployed as early as the first round of negotiations (but not in the introductory round). In order to intensify the negotiation dynamics even further, a second event card can be deployed in the second round of negotiations.

It is advisable to give the event cards to the moderators at the end of the official round of negotiations. This gives the groups time to discuss how the event affects their position and strategy right away, in the informal round. If an event is declared in the middle of an official round of negotiations, the groups should be given a deliberation period of one minute.

Event card 1: Climate change

Two climate events rock the world:

Europe freezes over: an exceptionally harsh winter all over Central Europe threatens supply lines to certain regions. Icy roads and railways lead to disruptions in road, rail and air travel. Besides the huge problems suffered by people needing to travel, lorries carrying deliveries are delayed, supplies of food and fuel fail to reach shops and petrol stations and construction projects are halted. The companies affected estimate losses running into millions.

Floods in Bolivia: heavy rainfall has caused landslides in the capital La Paz, destroying entire districts. 25,000 people have lost their homes and over 10,000 hectares of grain worth 30 million dollars have been destroyed. Experts report that the number of climate disasters has risen sharply in recent years, and the resulting damage is piling up.

Event card 2: Limited oil reserves

The International Energy Agency IEA has announced in its yearly report, the World Energy Outlook: "The era of cheap oil is over", admitting that previous estimates of available oil reserves were wildly over the mark, and that the amount of available oil and gas is set to recede by 5-8% per year. According to the IEA, the current estimates will lead to an immediate and significant increase in the price of oil. This does not simply mean that petrol will become more expensive. The price of oil affects our entire way of life: 95% of all industrially-produced goods are dependent on oil. Consumers will have to put up with higher prices for all items needed for everyday life.

Event card 3: Mass protests

In Germany, a petition with 52,000 signatures has been submitted to the Federal Government. The petition calls on the government to provide financial support to the Yasuní ITT initiative. Meanwhile, around 43,000 people are demonstrating in Ecuador today before government buildings during the conference which will decide on the fate of Yasuní National Park.

Event card 4: Financial crisis

The international financial crisis is taking a devastating toll on the countries of South America. Many of these countries have built their economies around the export of raw materials to the Global North, in particular the USA. However, as a result of the financial crisis fewer raw materials are being purchased in the USA and other northern countries. The most obvious effect is the plummeting price of oil and metals, but the market for agricultural produce is also contracting. The fall in demand is making itself felt in Ecuador too. The limited market opportunities are causing widespread bankruptcy in industry, as well as rising unemployment.