

Preface

Addressing climate change through mitigation policies is a highly tedious endeavor, not only because of the scientific and technical complexity of climate issues involved but also because of the limited sets of acceptable procedures in reaching decisions. Negotiations, as the chosen approach in global climate decision making, touch on various conflict cleavages that need to be managed to enable the achievement of legitimate, effective, and sustainable agreements. As conflicts may pertain to objects, relationships, and values (ideologies), negotiators require an integrated outlook in managing decision-making processes.

The main purpose of this research project is to provide theoretical and practical insights for effective decision making in situations that involve various types of conflict cleavages. Embedding historical analysis, negotiation analysis, political scientific analysis, and game theoretical analysis in an integrated analytical framework allows a comprehensive perspective on various dilemmas and self-enforcing dynamics that inhibit decision making. The conceptualization of stumbling blocks as typologies of complexity, which are responsible for the intractability of global decision making to address climate change, is beneficial in finding practical tools to cope with the complexities of negotiations.

The value of looking at the past is rediscovered by relating path dependence to the context of the climate change negotiations. The results of past consensus building through knowledge diplomacy are most likely to determine not only the behavior of actors when negotiating; these also limit the possible sets of negotiation outcomes. The analysis of the negotiation process becomes inevitable when the intractability of decision making is not only attributed to the complexity of environmental issues but also to the complexity of negotiations. When achieving an outcome depends not only on the technical feasibility of solutions but also on its political acceptability, negotiation moves to the limelight of analysis.

The conceptualization of strategic facilitation which provides actors additional resources to cope with stumbling blocks highlights the value of leadership, chair-

manship, and the role of threshold states in facilitating decision making as the global climate change negotiation process unfolds. Furthermore, as the simulation games have identified, flexibility mechanisms can be adopted by negotiating actors to manage the complex bargaining table.

Leipzig, Germany
May 5, 2014

Ariel Macaspac Hernández

Strategic Facilitation of Complex Decision-Making
How Process and Context Matter in Global Climate
Change Negotiations

Hernández, A.M.

2014, XVII, 266 p. 39 illus., 1 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-06196-2