

I. Introduction and Background

These findings are a result of a collaboration between the United Nations Civil Society unit and undergraduate statistic majors from Elon University. In mid-September, the Civil Society group released a survey with the intention of gauging how well civil society organizations (CSOs) were able to attend and engage in UN high-level meetings and events in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its relevant limitations. Questions ranged from how frequently CSOs were able to attend meetings, how CSOs attended meetings, the quality of these meetings, as well as themes CSOs would like to see discussed in future meetings and events. These questions were asked with the intention of identifying problem areas or common challenges people encountered when trying to engage. By asking for feedback, the Civil Society unit is aiming to ease the impact COVID-19 and public health measures have had upon meaningful engagement both in person and virtual. The survey was closed on October 11th 2021 and garnered over a thousand responses from people of diverse demographics, regions, and concerns. The goal with our analysis is to investigate responses on the basis of these demographics, with particular attention to UN regional groups and organization type. Below, we will go more in depth to the specific methods we utilized for analysis, share the results of our analysis, and conclude with our key findings.

II. Methods

Analysis Plan

In order to address the research goals that we have defined, some key data cleaning and management was needed to be done. The beginning stages of our analysis included seeing the survey that the U.N. Civil Society Unit individuals created and recommended modifications to it prior to its release. Our suggestions involved changing some questions to a Likert Scale format, moving identifying information to the end of the survey and making these optional, as well as creating dropdowns to remove the possibility of mistakes. These adjustments as well as minor typo fixes were made and then the survey was released to the public on September 23, 2021. Our analysis plan consisted of compiling criticisms and feedback from survey responses in order to create summary statistics. We also planned to analyze responses based on world region as well as the type of organization of each respondent belonged to.

Data Management

Following the closing of the survey and our group having received the final survey responses, we got to work on doing some data cleaning and managing. We started by renaming the variables in order to easily recognize them with their question number from the survey. Next, we recoded the Likert scale question so that the responses would be recognized as numeric variables in SAS, on a scale of 1 to 5. When looking at the many “Check All That Apply” questions in the survey, we observed that for each respondent, the selections they chose

were being clumped into one row, which made it difficult to analyze what each person said. In order to separate them into their own separate rows, we needed to recode them. This was done by creating a whole new dataset for each of those questions: 5, 6, 9, 12, and 14. This allowed us to analyze the responses of each of those questions individually by seeing if they chose that option or not.

Next, we needed to recode the open-ended (text response) question, numbers 2 and 4, into a categorization of the responses. This was a lot of manual analysis of each response and choosing where each it belongs in our list of categories we created. In order to analyze responses based on their region in the world, we needed to create regions from country of origin. This was done by using the United Nations designed 5 regions: African States, Asia-Pacific States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States, and Western European and other States and putting each country the respondents said their organization was headquartered at into one. Following this, we subset the data based on these regions and organization type. For certain questions, cross tabulation with UN Affiliation was also done.

After the completion of data management, our group created summaries and visualizations for each question of importance. Our final goal included drawing conclusions from the responses and completing a formal write-up based on these conclusions.

III. Results

Demographics Summary

In total, 1037 people responded to the survey. The respondents came from 124 different countries and the 5 countries with the most responses were: the United States (181), Nigeria (103), India (71), the United Kingdom (56) and Switzerland (48). The age group with the most respondents was 35-44 (23.7%) and the gender with the highest number of respondents was male (49.5%). More specific age and gender demographics of the respondents can be found in tables 1 and 2 below.

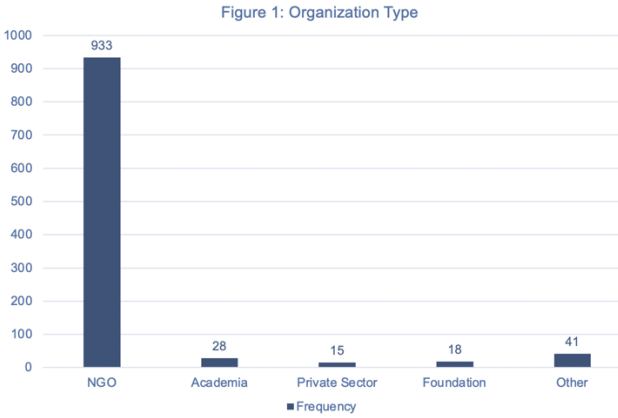
| | Frequency |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Female | 504 |
| Male | 513 |
| Other/Prefer not to Disclose | 18 |

| | Frequency |
|----------|------------|
| 18-24 | 33 |
| 25-34 | 160 |
| 35-44 | 245 |
| 45-54 | 227 |
| 55-64 | 210 |
| 65+ | 156 |
| Under 18 | 2 |

Additionally, when looking at organization affiliation and type, most respondents came from organizations that are “in consultative status with ECOSOC” (table 3) and are Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) (figure 1).

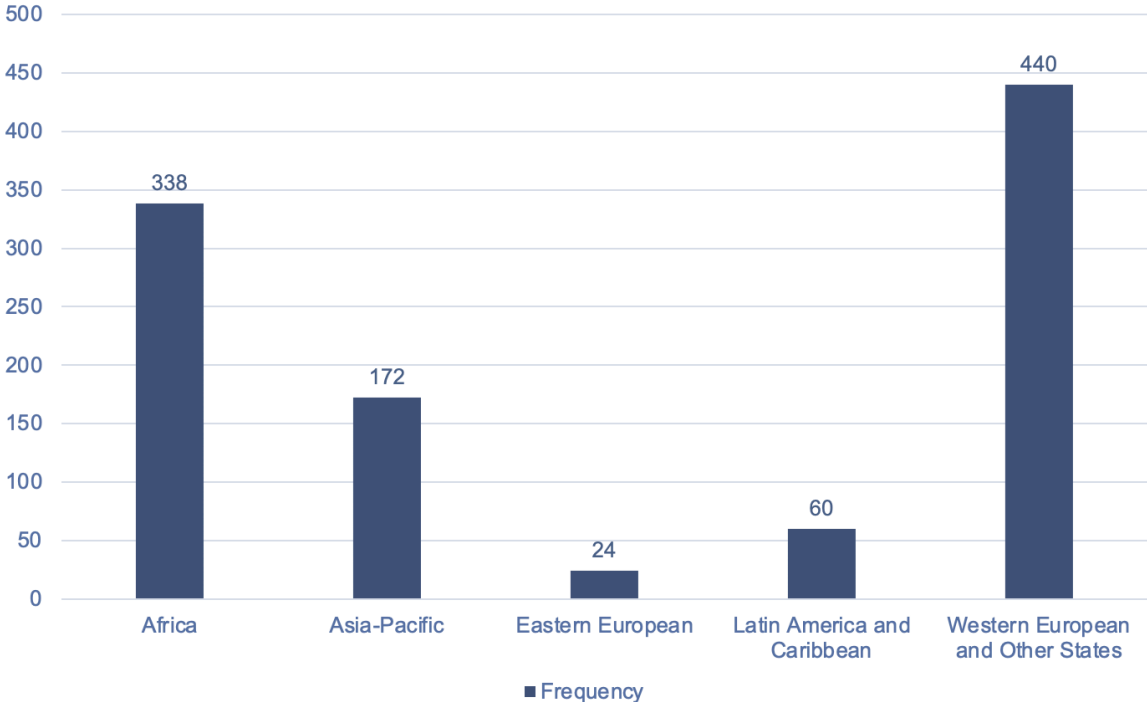
Table 3: Organization Affiliation to the UN

| | Frequency |
|--|------------|
| Associated with the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC) | 123 |
| In consultative status with ECOSOC | 707 |
| Not affiliated with the UN | 202 |
| Other | 121 |



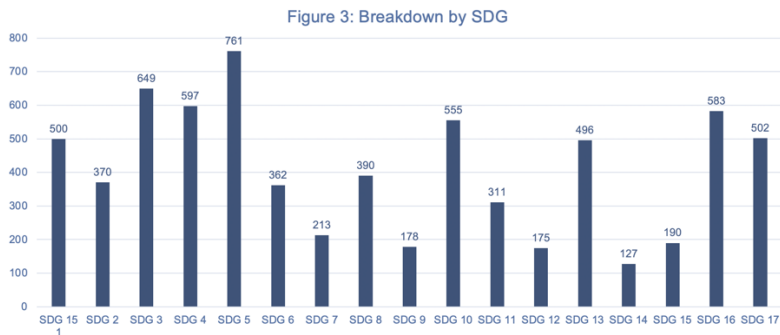
When separating by regions, Western Europe and other states had the larger number of respondents (440) followed by Africa with 338 responses (figure 2).

Figure 2: Respondents by Region



Finally, when asked which Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) their organizations worked on, respondents most frequently chose Gender Equality (SDG 5), Good Health and Well-being

(SDG 3), and Quality Education (SDG 4). This was a “check all that apply” question so respondents could choose more than one of the goals. All responses are outlined in figure 3.



- SDG 1:** No Poverty
- SDG 2:** Zero Hunger
- SDG 3:** Good Health and Well-Being
- SDG 4:** Quality Education
- SDG 5:** Gender Equality
- SDG 6:** Clean Water and Sanitation
- SDG 7:** Affordable and Clean Energy
- SDG 8:** Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG 9:** Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- SDG 10:** Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 11:** Sustainable Cities and Communities
- SDG 12:** Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG 13:** Climate Action
- SDG 14:** Life Below Water
- SDG 15:** Life on Land
- SDG 16:** Peace, Justice and Strong Institution
- SDG 17:** Partnerships for the Goals.

Summary of Participation Related Questions

Most of the questions on the survey inquired about meeting participation in some form. For the purpose of this report the participation questions have been split into three categories:

- Frequency of participation (questions 1-4, 6)
- Type and manner of participation (questions 5, 7)
- Ways to make participation more meaningful (question 8)

Frequency of Participation

The first group of questions asked about the frequency of participation. Also included in this block of questions is one regarding challenges that inhibited participation.

There were two questions that asked whether or not participation has increased, decreased, or stayed the same during COVID-19. The first question (Q1) more broadly asked if “opportunities for civil society participation in high-level UN meetings and events has increased, decreased or stayed the same since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic?” (figure 4). The second question (Q2) was a little more specific and asked how (if at all) the respondent’s organization’s participation has changed (figure 5). For Q1, 58.8% of respondents reported they believed participation decreased (41.2% reported it increased or stayed the same). For Q2, 46.4% of

respondents said they thought participation decreased and 54% said they believed it stayed the same or increased.

Figure 4: Q1 Responses

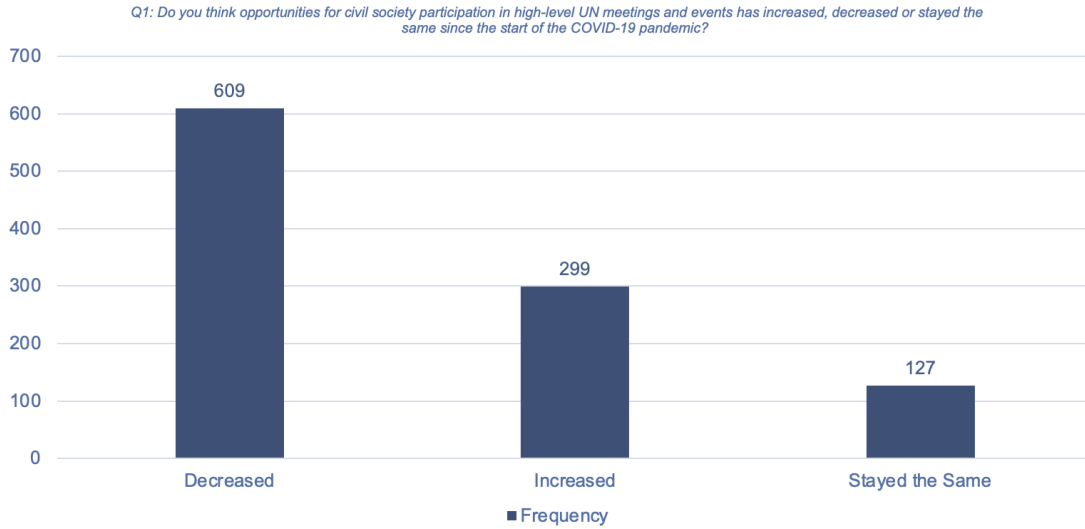
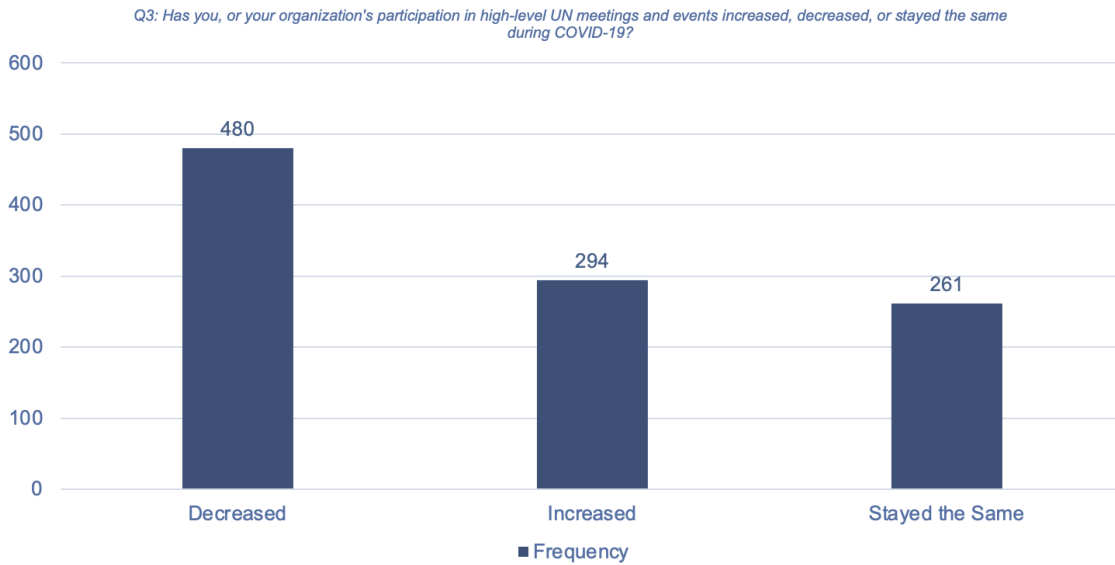


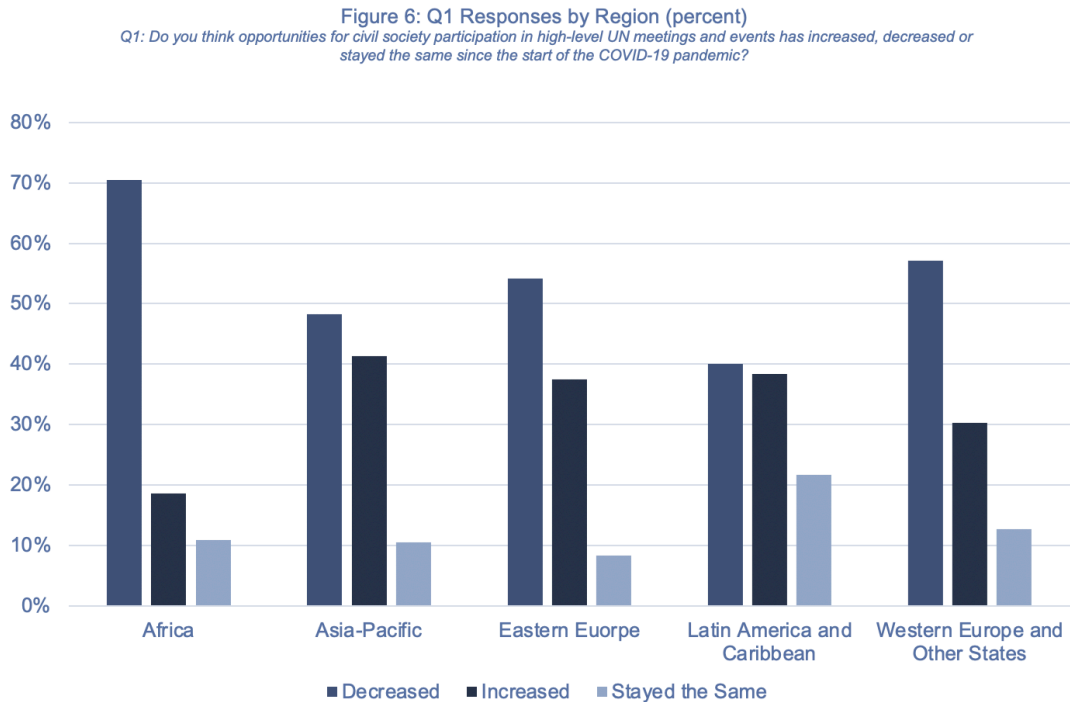
Figure 5: Q3 Responses



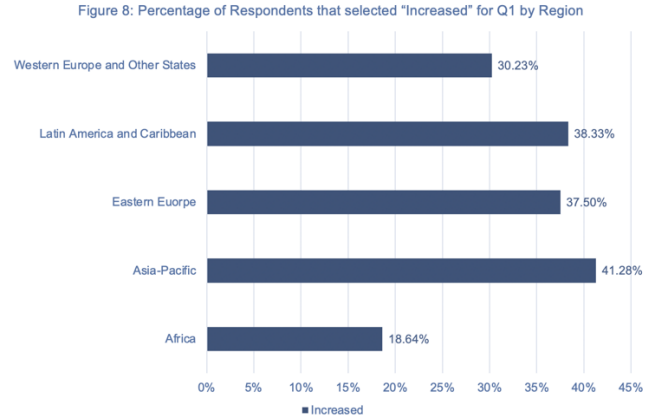
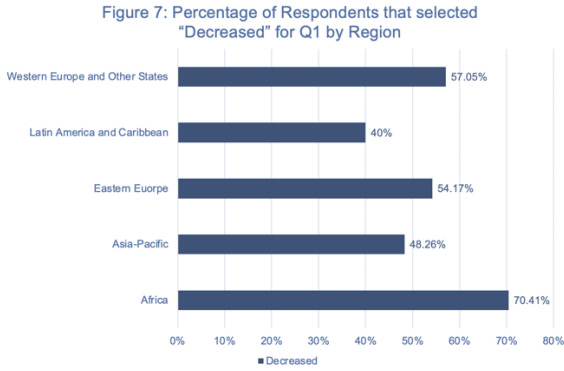
To gain deeper insight from these questions, the responses were broken down by region and organization type.

Region for Question 1

When looking at the results to Question 1 by region, each region had “decreased” as the highest chosen response (figure 6).



Specifically focusing on which regions reported that participation increased versus decreased; the highest percentage of respondents from Africa chose that participation decreased and the highest percentage of respondents from Asia-Pacific chose that participation increased (figure 7 and 8).

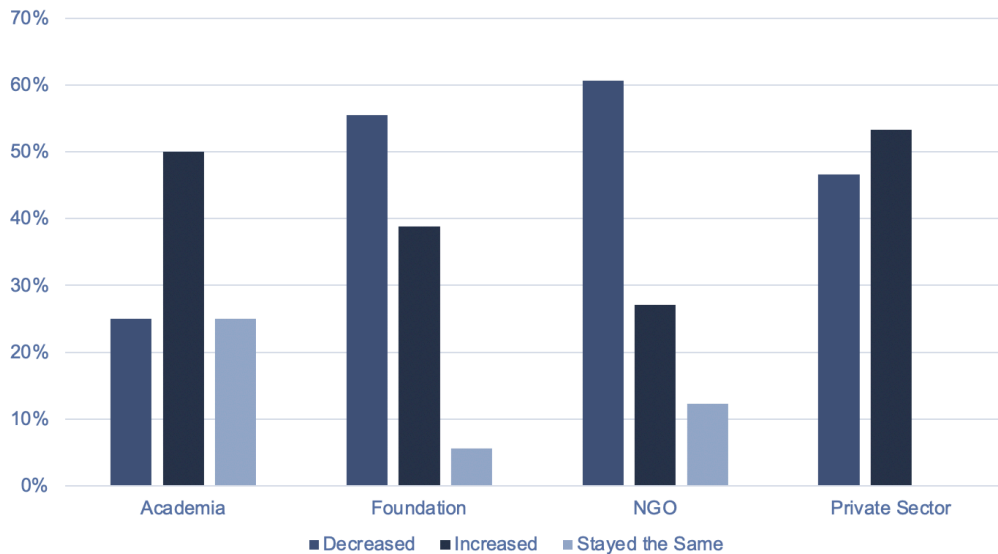


Organization Type for Question 1

When looking at the results to Question 1 by organization type, respondents that identified as Academia and Private Sector chose increased at the highest frequency and respondents that identified as Foundations and NGOs chose decreased at the highest frequency (figure 9).

Figure 9: Q1 Responses by Organization Type (percent)

Q1: Do you think opportunities for civil society participation in high-level UN meetings and events has increased, decreased or stayed the same since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic?



Looking closer at the breakdown at how the different types of organizations responded, the highest percentage of respondents from NGOs chose that they believed participation overall had decreased and the highest percentage of respondents from the Private Sector chose that they believed participation overall has increased (Figures 10 and 11).

Figure 10: Percentage of Respondents that selected "Decreased" for Q1 by Organization Type

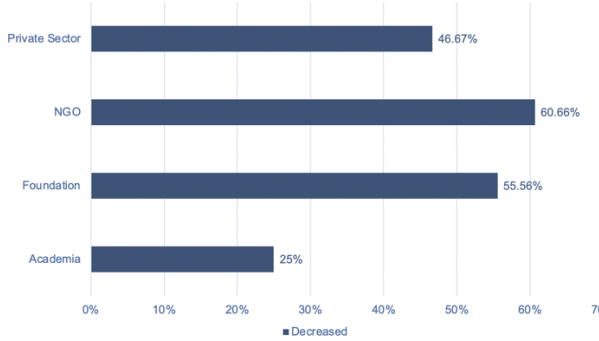
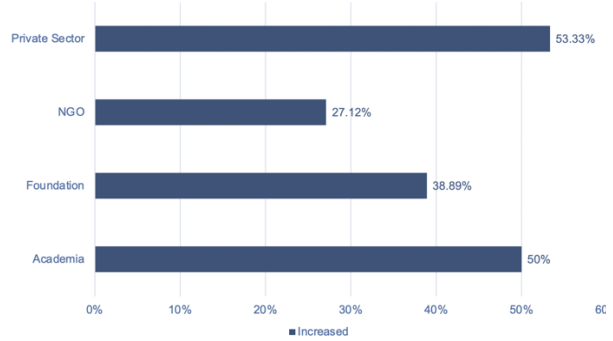


Figure 11: Percentage of Respondents that selected "Increased" for Q1 by Organization Type

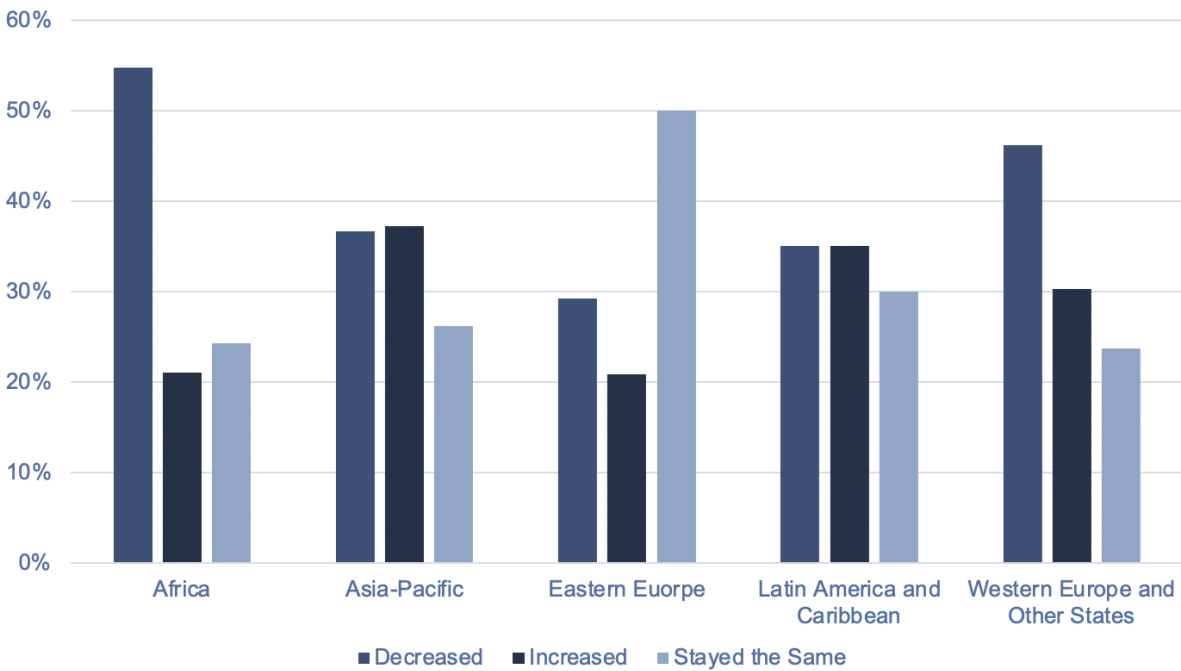


Region for Question 3

When looking at the results to Question 3 by region, only Africa and Western Europe and Other States had selected decreased at the highest percentage. Respondents from Eastern Europe reported that participation stayed the same and respondents from Asia-Pacific reported that participation increased (figure 12). For clarification, question 3 asked specifically if the respondent believed that their organizations participation increased or decreased whereas question 1 asked in general if respondents believed overall participation increased or decreased across the UN.

Figure 12: Q3 Responses by Region (percent)

Q3: Has you, or your organization's participation in high-level UN meetings and events increased, decreased, or stayed the same during COVID-19?



Specifically focusing on which regions reported that participation increased versus decreased; the highest percentage of respondents from Africa chose that participation decreased and the

highest percentage of respondents from Asia-Pacific chose that participation increased (figure 13 and 14).

Figure 13: Percentage of Respondents that selected "Decreased" for Q3 by Region

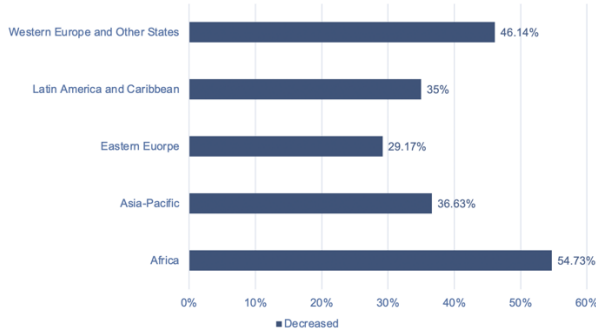
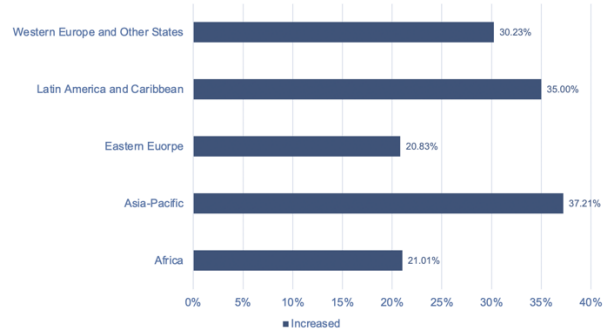


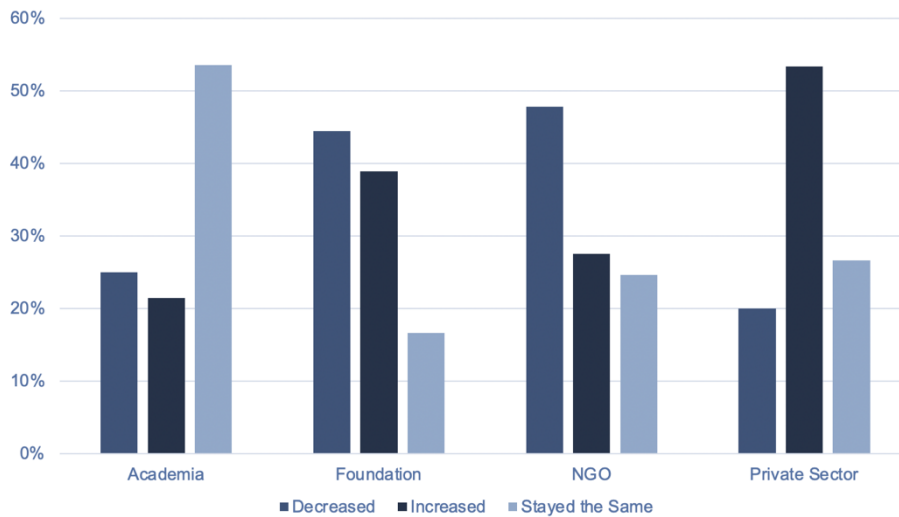
Figure 14: Percentage of Respondents that selected "Increased" for Q3 by Region



Organization Type for Question 3

When looking at the results to Question 3 by organization type, respondents that identified as Academia and Private Sector chose stayed the same at the highest frequency, respondents that identified as Foundations and NGOs chose increased at the highest frequency, and respondents that identified as Private Sector chose decreased at the highest frequency (figure 15).

Figure 15: Q3 Responses by Organization Type (percent)
Q3: Has you, or your organization's participation in high-level UN meetings and events increased, decreased, or stayed the same during COVID-19?



Looking closer at the breakdown at how the different types of organizations responded, the highest percentage of respondents from Private Sector chose that they believed participation overall had decreased and the highest percentage of respondents from NGOs chose that they believed participation overall has increased (figures 16 and 17).

Figure 16: Percentage of Respondents that selected "Decreased" for Q3 by Organization Type

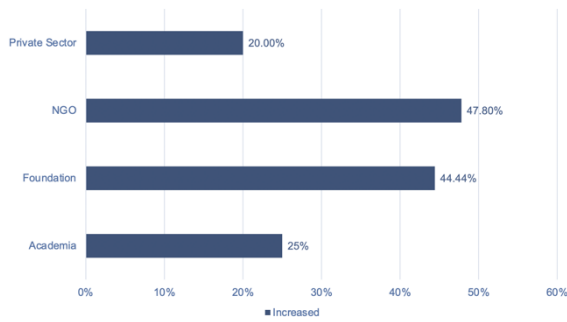
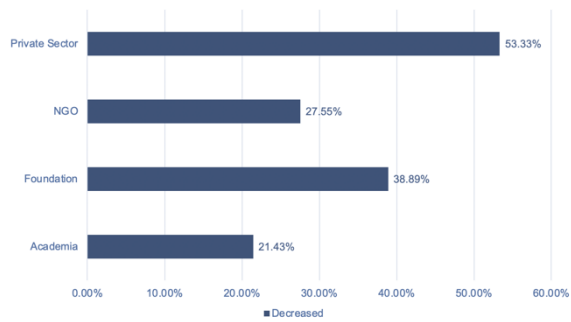


Figure 17: Percentage of Respondents that selected "Increased" for Q3 by Organization Type

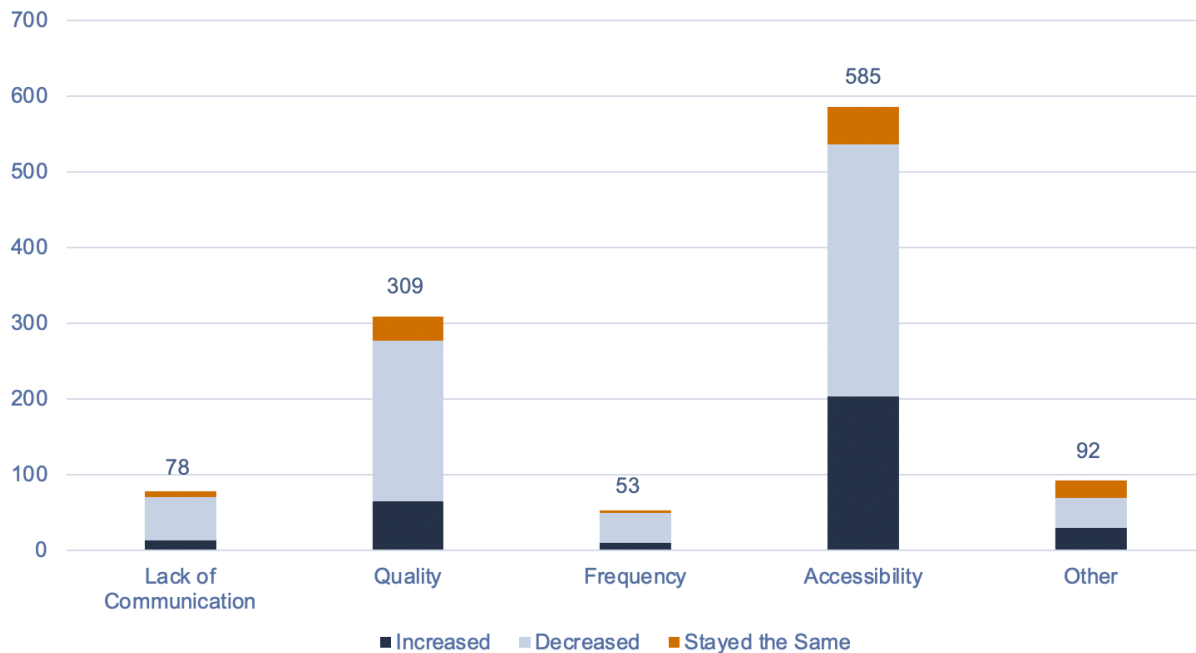


Additionally, there was a follow-up question where the respondents were asked to explain their answer to these questions. This allows us more insight into why and how people feel participation shifted. In both cases, respondents were asked to elaborate on why they selected either "increased", "decreased", or "stayed the same" in the previous question. As mentioned in the methods section, for text response questions the team created groupings based on the responses and created code to place each response into the appropriate category.

For Question 2 (follow up to Question 1), the main themes identified within the responses were: lack of communication/contact, quality of engagement, frequency of meetings, accessibility to meetings and other (figure 18). Accessibility of meetings and quality of engagement were the two most frequently mentioned reasons.

Figure 18: Reasoning Given for Response to Q1

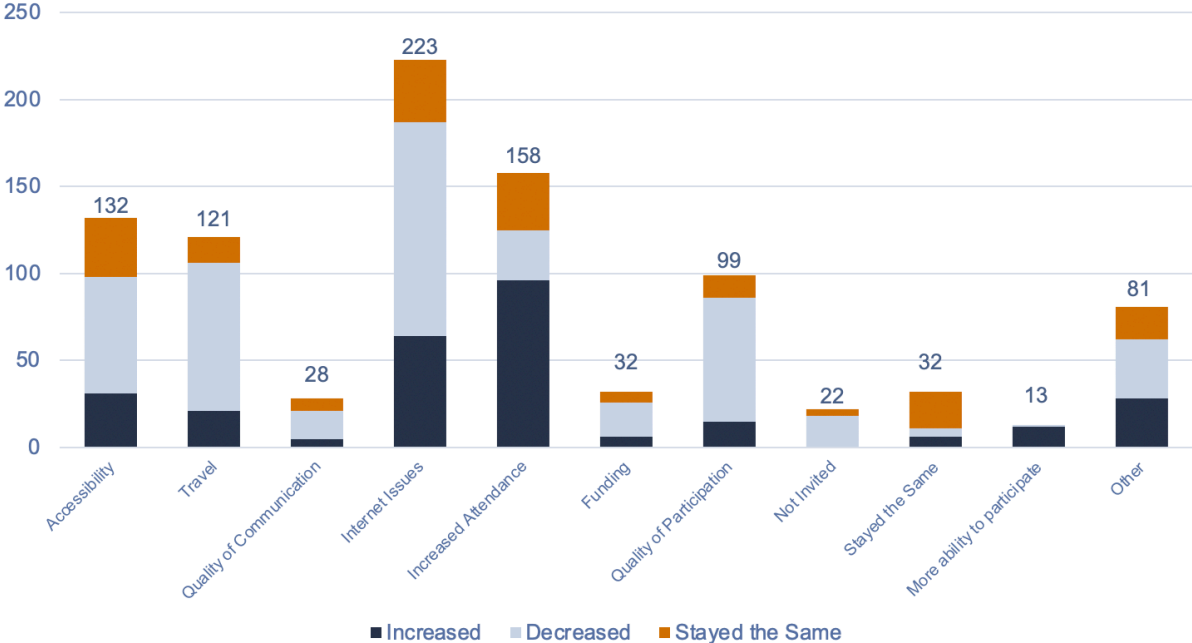
Q1: Do you think opportunities for civil society participation in high-level UN meetings and events has increased, decreased or stayed the same since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic?



For Question 4 (follow up to Question 3), the main themes identified within the responses were: accessibility to meetings, travel concerns, quality of communication from the UN, internet issues, increased attendance due to virtual access, funding issues, concerns over quality of participation, not invited to meetings, groups were already attending virtually therefore there was no change, more people were able to participate, and other (figure 19). Internet issues and increased attendance were the two most frequently mentioned themes identified in responses.

Figure 19: Reasoning Given for Response to Q3

Q3: Has you, or your organization's participation in high-level UN meetings and events increased, decreased, or stayed the same during COVID-19?



Another question that allowed a little more insight into the frequency of participation was question 6 which asked “What have been the challenge(s) faced when participating in virtual high-level UN meetings / events during COVID-19?”. This was a “check all that apply” question and respondents most frequently selected time difference and accessibility (internet access, wifi consistency) (table 4). The initial options to choose from were “accessibility”, “discomfort with technology”, “language issues”, “time difference”, and “other”. In order to get as much information as possible from the responses, the “other” responses were then analyzed and coded similarly to the open-ended questions. During this process, the other categories that were identified were quality of engagement, communication from the UN, online/Zoom fatigue and none.

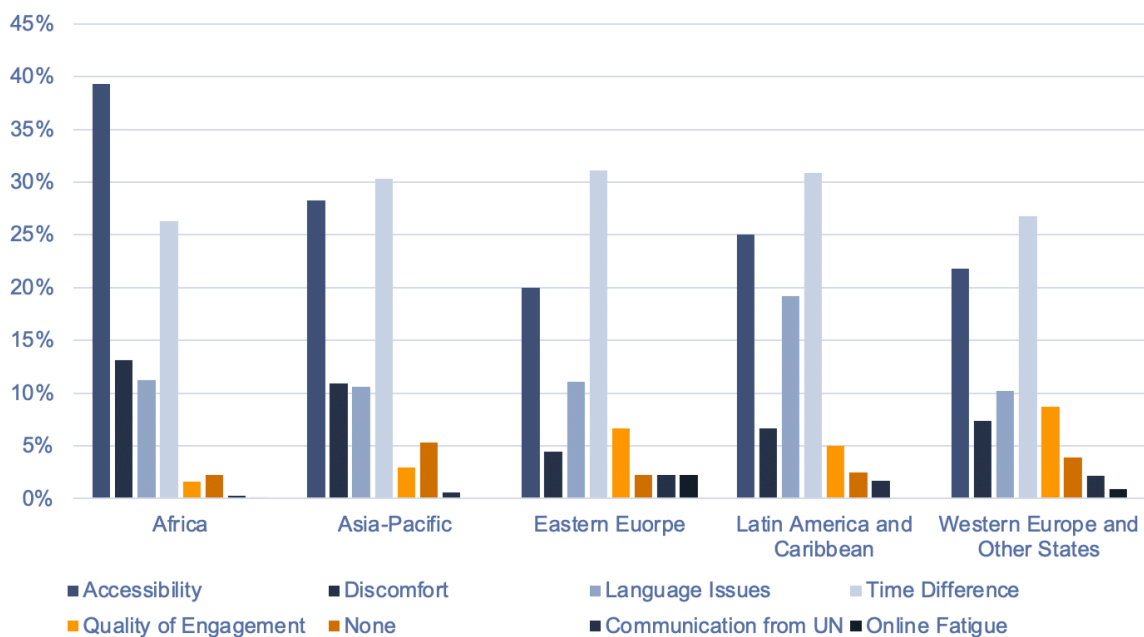
| Table 4: Q6 Responses | |
|---|------------------|
| <i>Q6: What have been the challenge(s) faced when participating in virtual high-level UN meetings / events during COVID-19?</i> | |
| | Frequency |
| Accessibility (internet access, wifi consistency) | 614 |
| Discomfort with technology (unsure how to use Zoom, Teams, etc.) | 209 |
| Language issues (translation not available, poor captioning, etc) | 239 |
| Time Difference | 592 |
| Quality of Engagement | 115 |
| None | 75 |
| Communication from UN | 28 |
| Online/ Zoom Fatigue | 11 |

To further understand this question, the responses were also looked at by region, organization type and additionally, by age.

Region for Question 6

When sorting by region, it is interesting to note that for all regions, accessibility and time difference were reported most often as the challenges (figure 20).

Figure 20: Q6 Responses by Region (percent)
 Q6: What have been the challenge(s) faced when participating in virtual high-level UN meetings / events during COVID-19?



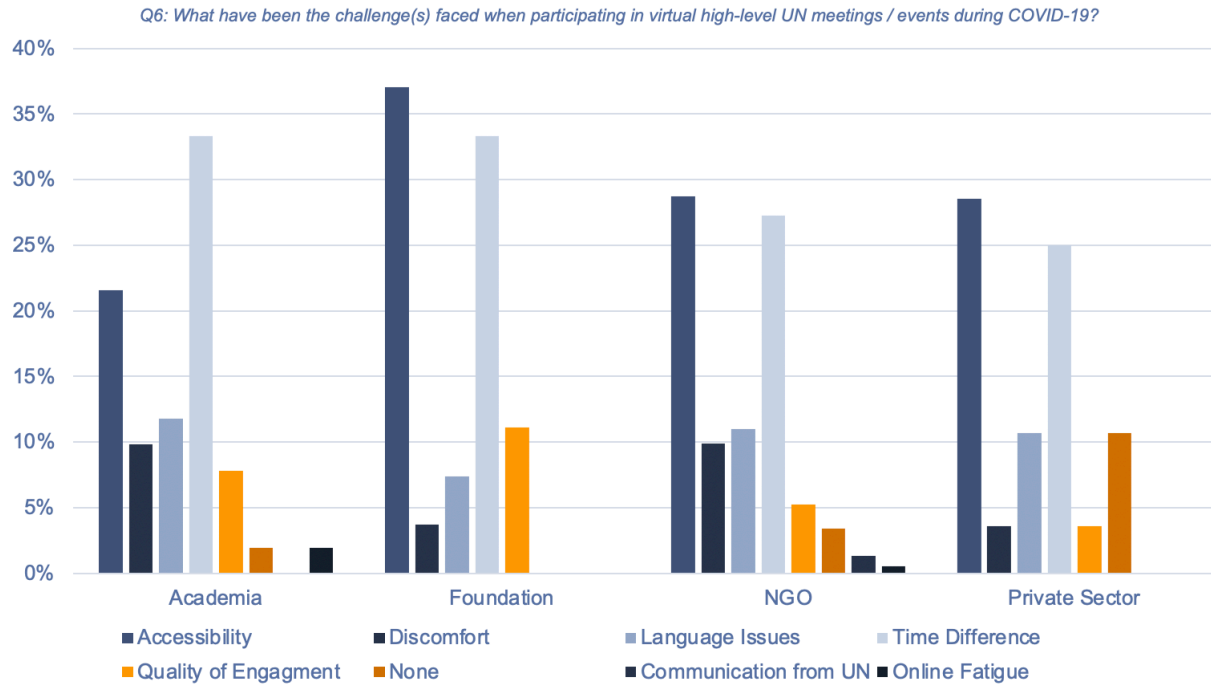
It is also useful know which challenges were reported at the highest percentage for each region. This is shown in figure 19 but also more clearly reported below (table 5).

| | Challenge reported at the highest percentage | Percentage |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------|
| Africa | Accessibility | 39.29% |
| Asia-Pacific | Time Difference | 30.29% |
| Eastern Europe | Time Difference | 31.11% |
| Latin America and Caribbean | Time Difference | 30.82% |
| Western Europe and Other States | Time Difference | 26.75% |

Organization Type for Question 6

When sorting by organization type, every organization type except Academia chose accessibility as the greatest challenge. Academia, however, most often selected that time difference was the greatest challenge (figure 21).

Figure 21: Q6 Responses by Organization Type (percent)

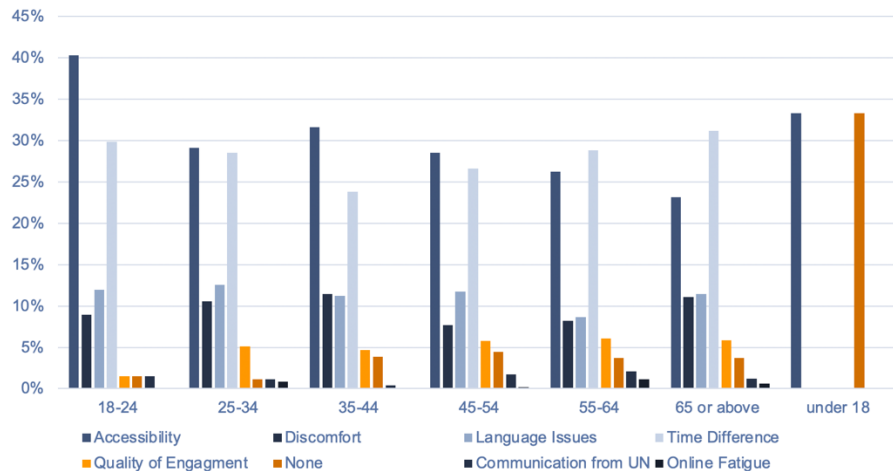


Age for Question 6

When sorting by age group, ages 18-54 selected accessibility was the greatest challenge at the highest frequency. Ages 55-65+ most often selected time difference and respondents under 18 selected accessibility and quality of engagement at the same rate (figure 22).

Figure 22: Q6 Responses by Age Group (percent)

Q6: What have been the challenge(s) faced when participating in virtual high-level UN meetings / events during COVID-19?



Type and Manner of Participation

For this group, there are two questions. One asked about the preferred meeting format (Question 7) and the other asked respondents to indicate how their organizations participated during COVID-19 (Question 5). Similarly, to the other questions, these were analyzed first as a whole, and then by region and organization type.

Question 5: Please indicate how you participated in high-level UN meetings and events during COVID-19 (check all that apply)

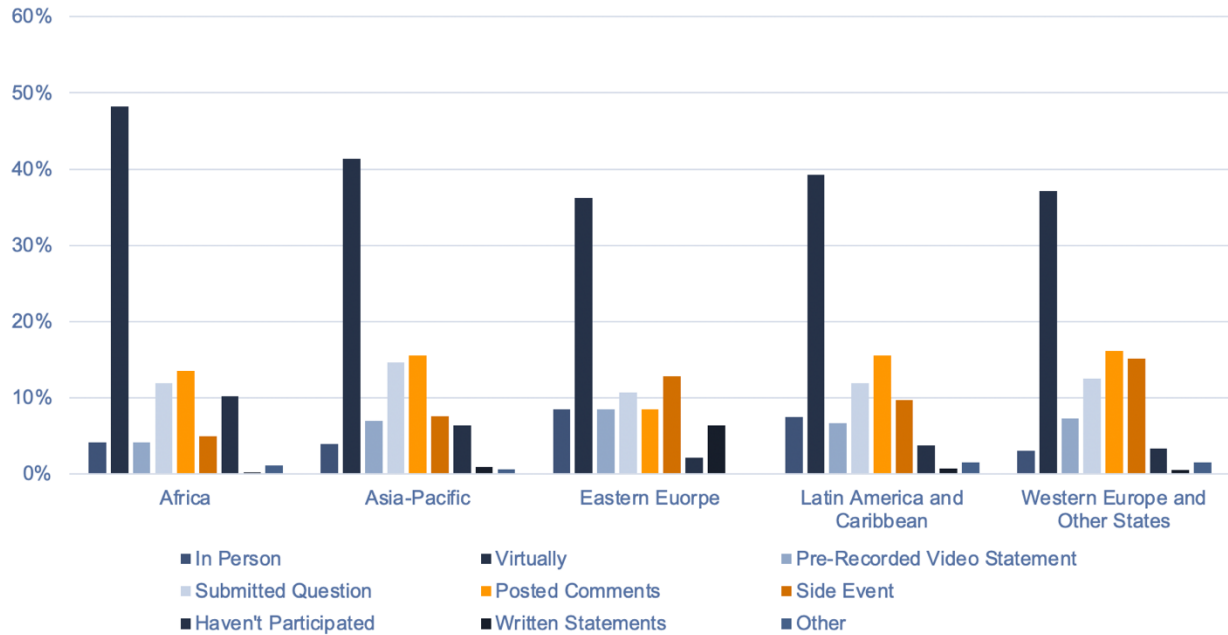
As was the case with other questions, when there was an “other” response option given, the other responses were further analyzed and additional categories were created where they were necessary. For this question, the only additional category identified was “written statements submitted”. The most respondents responded that they participated by attending virtually “through UN webcast or other online platforms” (table 6).

| Table 6: Responses to Q5 | |
|--|------------------|
| <i>Q5: Please indicate how you participated in high-level UN meetings and events during COVID-19</i> | |
| | Frequency |
| Participated In-Person | 82 |
| Attended virtually through UN webcast or other online platforms | 876 |
| Submitted a pre-recorded video statement to be presented at a high-level meeting / event | 137 |
| Submitted a question or comment in advance for inclusion in a program of a high level meeting / event | 270 |
| Posted comments virtually in real-time at an online platform / on social media | 326 |
| Organized a side event in parallel with a high-level meeting / event | 234 |
| Haven't participated | 120 |
| Written statements submitted | 13 |
| Other | 26 |

Region for Question 5

When looking at these responses by region, the breakdown of responses is fairly similar throughout all the regions (figure 23). Each region selected virtually at the highest percentage.

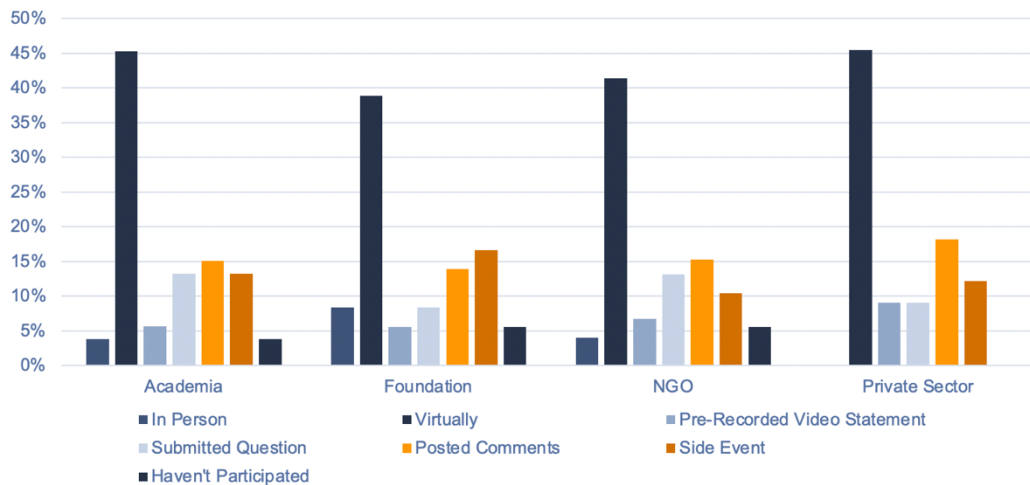
Figure 23: Q5 Responses by Region (percent)
 Q5: Please indicate how you participated in high-level UN meetings and events during COVID-19



Organization Type for Question 5

When looking at these responses by organization type, virtually is the option chosen at the highest percentage across all types (figure 24). This is to be expected since most of the activities were virtual during this period due to COVID. One important takeaway from looking at the responses in this way is that none of the respondents that identified as Private Sector said they participated in person or that they didn't participate at all.

Figure 24: Q5 Responses by Organization Type (percent)
 Q5: Please indicate how you participated in high-level UN meetings and events during COVID-19



Question 7: Which format do you most prefer when it comes to participating in high-level UN meetings and events?

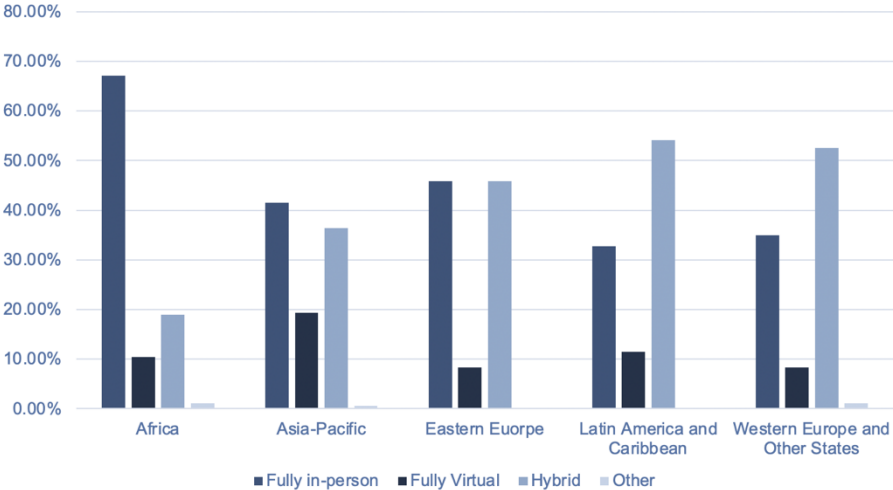
For question 7, the largest number of respondents selected that they preferred fully in-person for participating in UN meetings and events (table 7).

| Table 7: Q7 Responses | |
|--|-----------|
| Q7: Which format do you most prefer when it comes to participating in high-level UN meetings and events? | |
| | Frequency |
| Fully in-person | 498 |
| Fully Virtual | 117 |
| Hybrid | 414 |
| Other | 10 |

Region for Question 7

When looking at region for question 7, it is interesting to note that fully in-person was the most chosen option for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Eastern Europe but hybrid was the most chosen option for Latin American and the Caribbean and Western Europe and Other States (figure 25).

Figure 25: Q7 Responses by Region (percent)
 Q7: Which format do you most prefer when it comes to participating in high-level UN meetings and events?

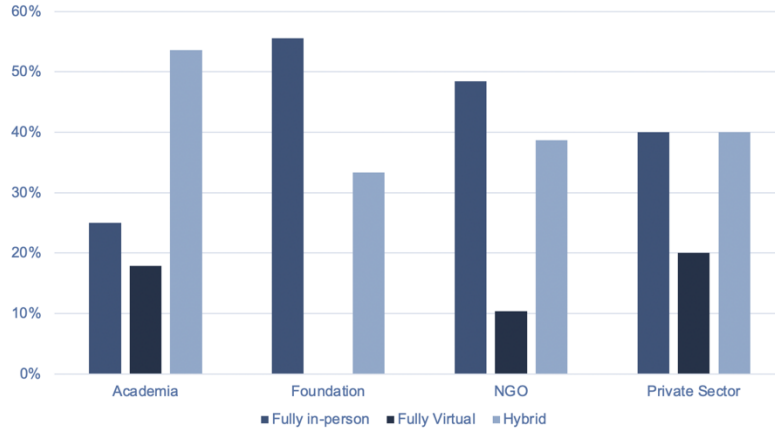


Organization Type for Question 7

When looking at the responses by organization type, respondents from Academia selected hybrid at the highest rate, where respondents from Foundations and NGOs chose fully in-person at the

highest rate and respondents from the Private Sector selected fully in-person and hybrid at the same rate (figure 26).

Figure 26: Q7 Responses by Organization Type (percent)
 Q7: Which format do you most prefer when it comes to participating in high-level UN meetings and events?

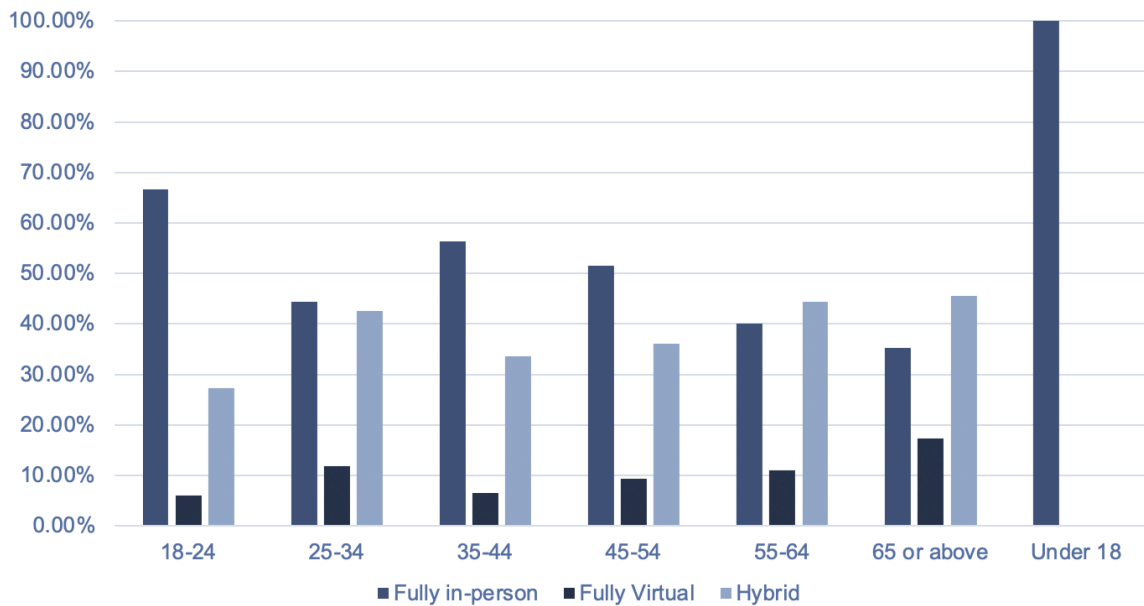


Age for Question 7

When looking at the response by age, ages 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54 and under 18 all selected fully in-person at the highest rate. Respondents in the age groups 55-64 and 65 or above selected hybrid at the highest rate (figure 27).

Figure 27: Q7 Responses by Age (percent)

Q7: Which format do you most prefer when it comes to participating in high-level UN meetings and events?



Increase meaningfulness

Lastly, there was one question that asked about how to make participation more meaningful.

Question 8 sought input into how useful they found certain measures employed by the UN. Participants were asked to select how important each measure was in ensuring meaningful participation in high-level events through a Likert Scale formatted question (figure 28-32). For purposes for the figures, each question was labeled 8A-8E (see below).

8A: UN informs CSOs of opportunities for participation through digital means (email, social media, newsletter)

8B: UN organizes regular CSO briefings to present upcoming opportunities for participation and to discuss possible modes of participation

8C: Speaking slots at meetings / events are allocated in advance with selection processes clearly outlined

8D: CSOs are included in discussions on upcoming meeting and event themes, content, structure, participation opportunities, etc.

8E: CSOs have opportunities to organize side-events in parallel with high-level events / meetings

Figure 28: 8A Responses

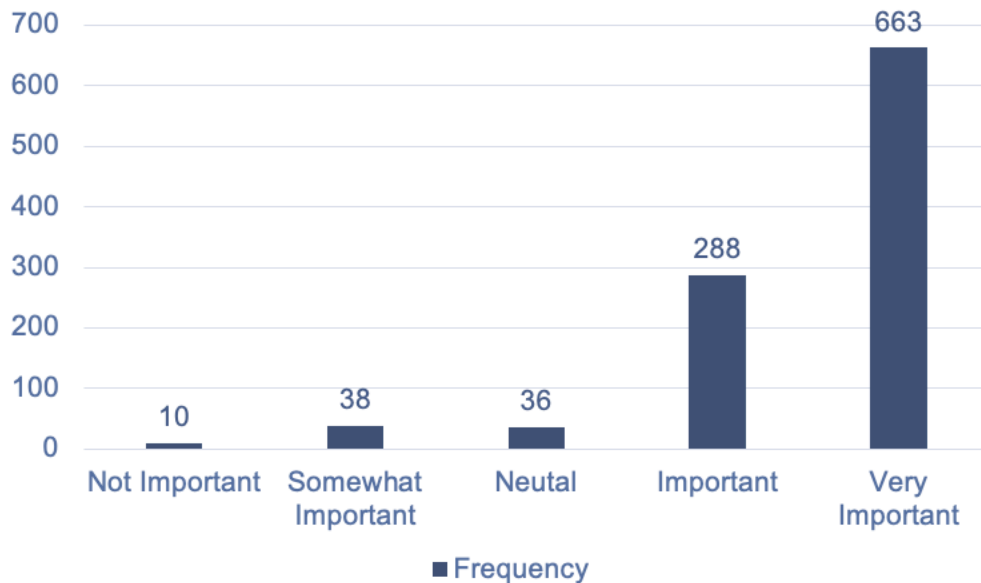


Figure 29: 8B Responses

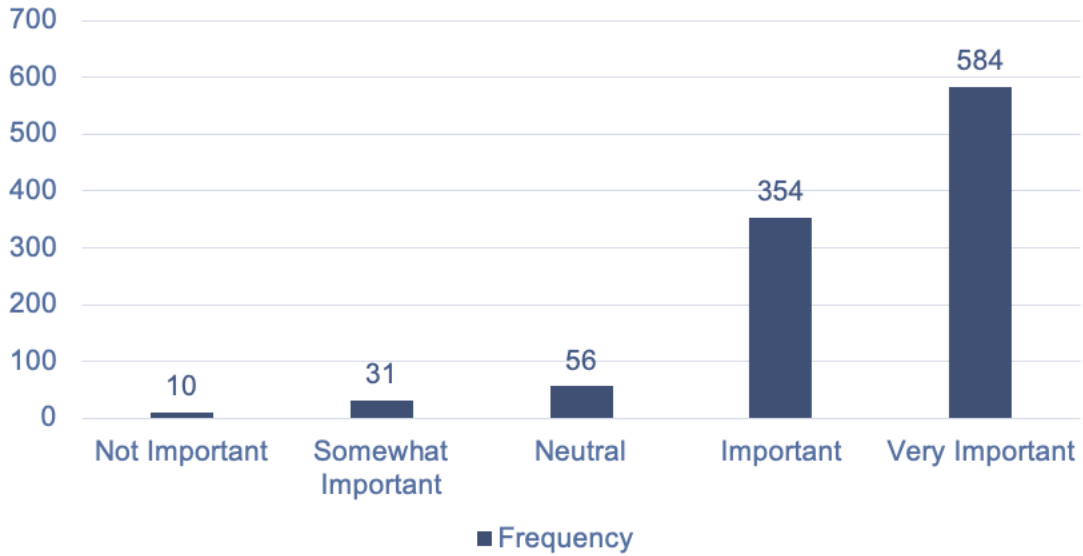


Figure 30: 8C Responses

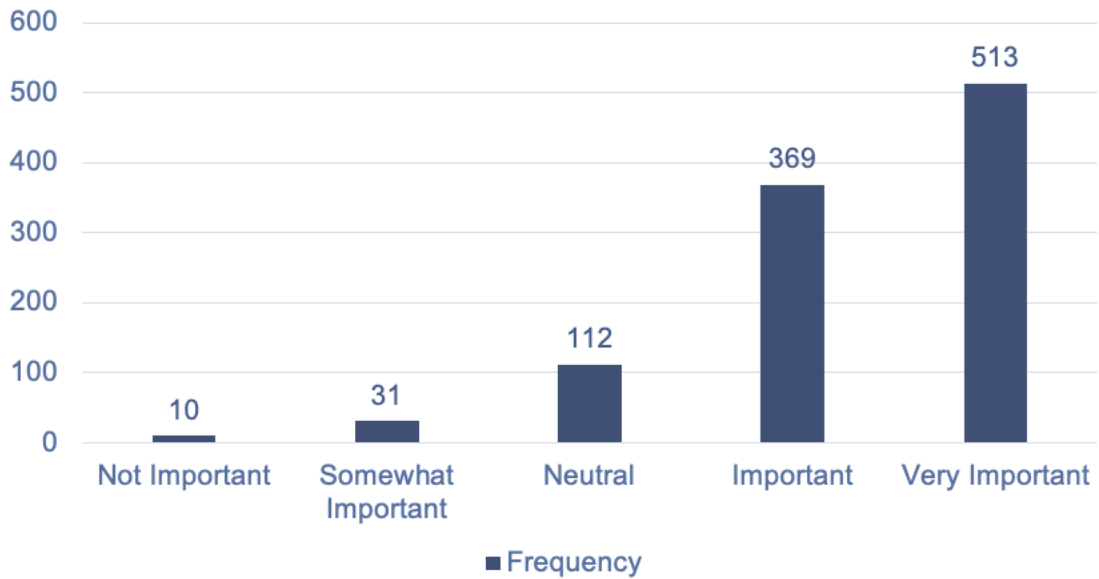


Figure 31: 8D Responses

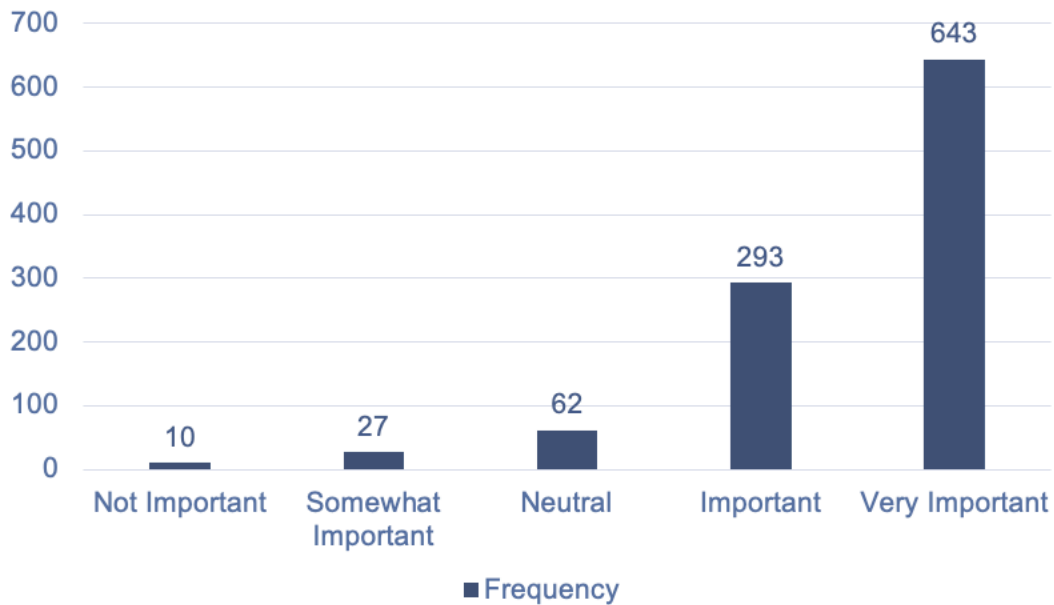
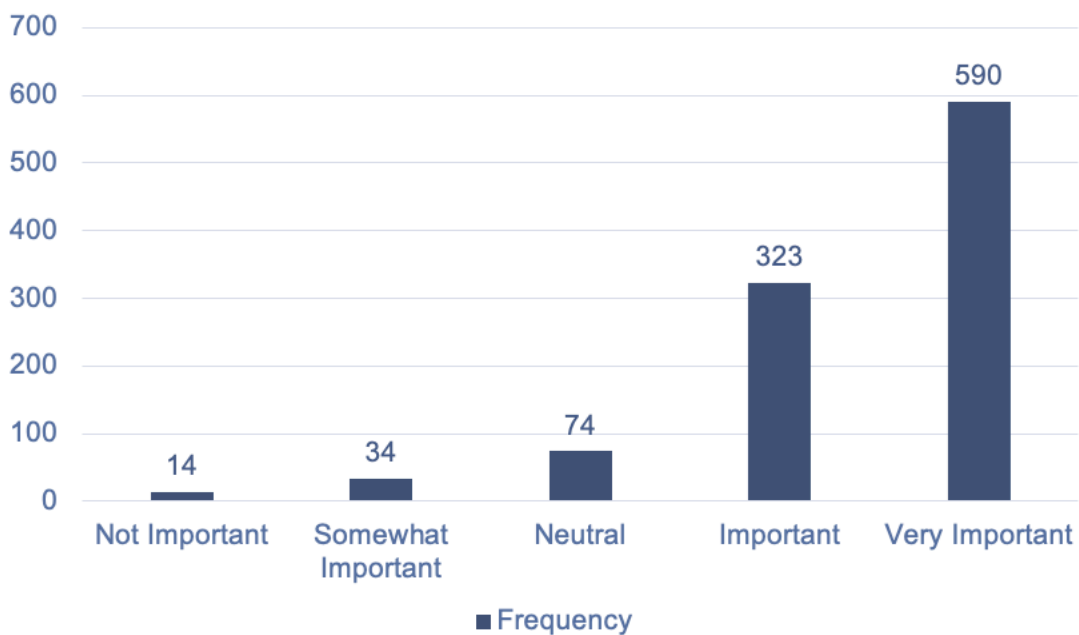


Figure 32: 8E Responses



As seen in the charts above, the overwhelming majority of respondents indicated that these measures were either important or very important. Thus, in order to determine what participants found to be truly important, we created a graph that accumulates only those that selected important and very important for all the provided measures.

| Table 8: Frequency and Percentage of Respondents that chose “Important” or “Very Important” for each Q8 | | | | |
|---|-----------|----------------|-------|---------|
| | Important | Very Important | Total | Percent |
| 8A | 288 | 663 | 951 | 92% |
| 8B | 354 | 584 | 938 | 91% |
| 8C | 369 | 513 | 882 | 85% |
| 8D | 293 | 643 | 936 | 90% |
| 8E | 323 | 590 | 913 | 88% |

Arguably, when considering the total number of responses (1,035), all measures were found to be important by the majority of respondents. Yet, some were found to be more helpful than others. When referencing the newly generated table (Table 8), we can see that respondents found option 8A, regarding UN correspondence and communication, to be the most important measure in guaranteeing meaningful participation. Measures 8B and 8E, concerning CSO briefings and discussions respectively, both show a general preference for inclusion in decision making and were thus closely tied as the second most important measures. Option 8E again offered CSOs agency through organizing side-events and garnered the third most responses, while speaking slots, or option 8C, was found to be the least crucial in ensuring meaningful participation in high-level events.

Region for Question 8

When analyzing the responses by region, the breakdown of responses is fairly similar throughout all the regions. Each region selected “Very Important” at a majority higher rate than other levels of importance, with “Important” secondary in most cases. All measures 8A through 8E evaluated by region are shown in figure form below:

Figure 33: 8A Responses by Region (percent)
8A: UN informs CSOs of opportunities for participation through digital means (email, social media, newsletter)

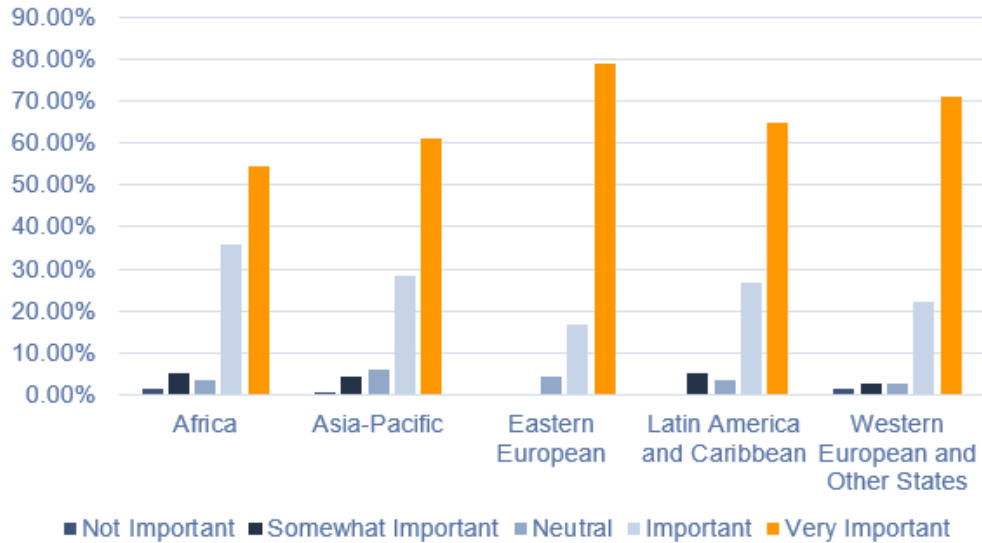
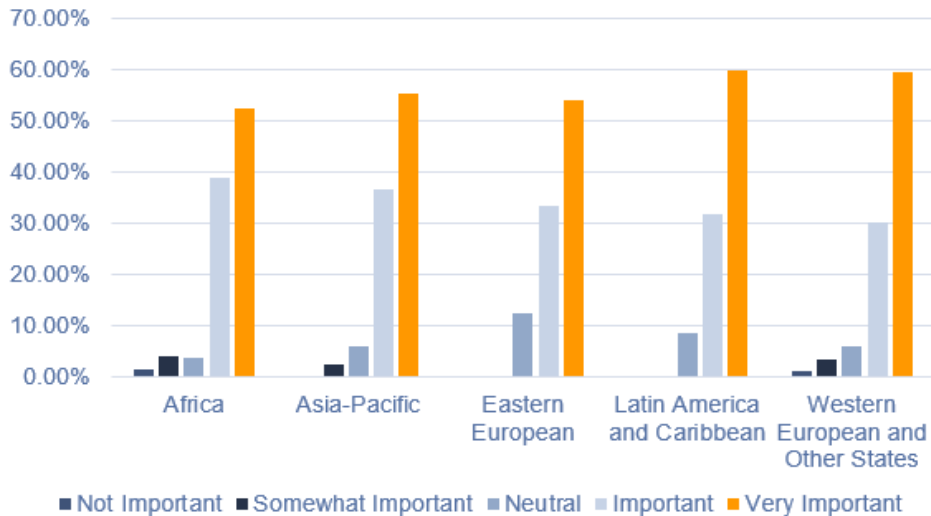


Figure 34: 8B Responses by Region (percent)
8B: UN organizes regular CSO briefings to present upcoming opportunities for participation and to discuss possible modes of participation



Breaking from the normal pattern of a highest rate of “Very Important” selections, it is seen in measure 8C by region that both Africa and Eastern European chose “Important” at a higher rate (Figure 35). Additionally, we see Asia-Pacific having a relatively even percentage split between “Very Important” and “Important”. These selections can be evaluated as these regions finding this measure less important as others, but still holding value to them.

Figure 35: 8C Responses by Region (percent)

8C: Speaking slots at meetings / events are allocated in advance with selection processes clearly outlined

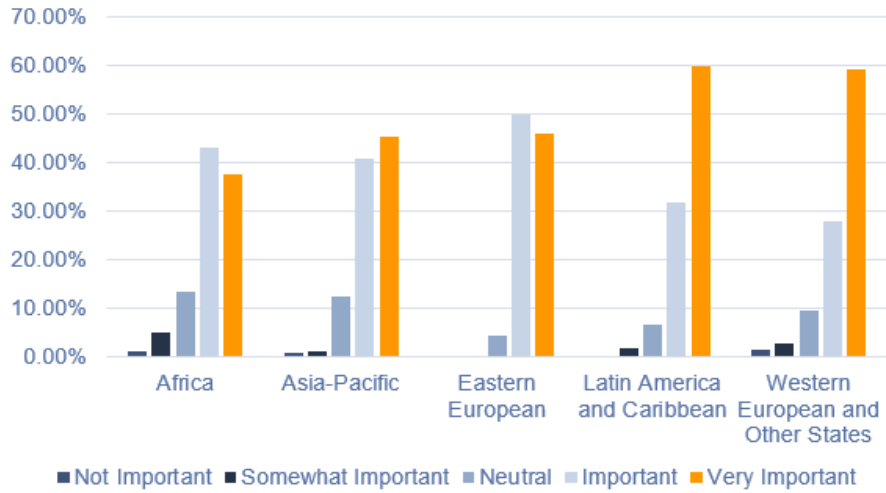


Figure 36: 8D Responses by Region (percent)

8D: CSOs are included in discussions on upcoming meeting and event themes, content, structure, participation opportunities, etc

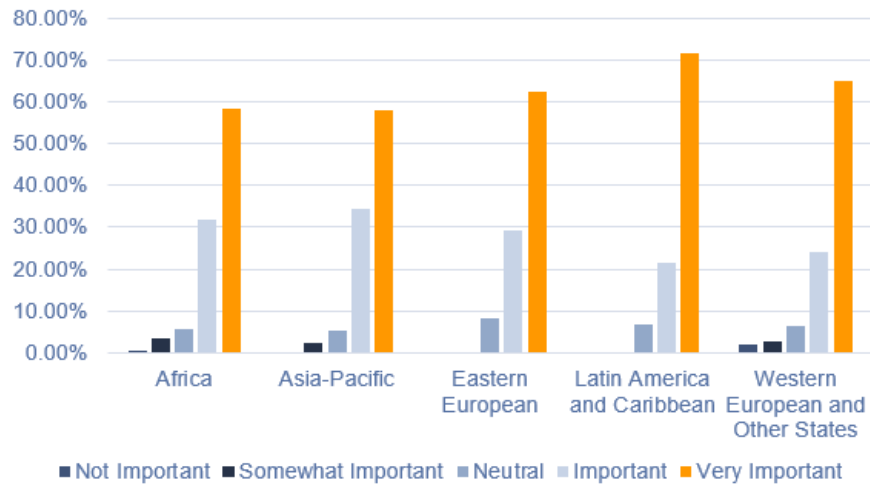
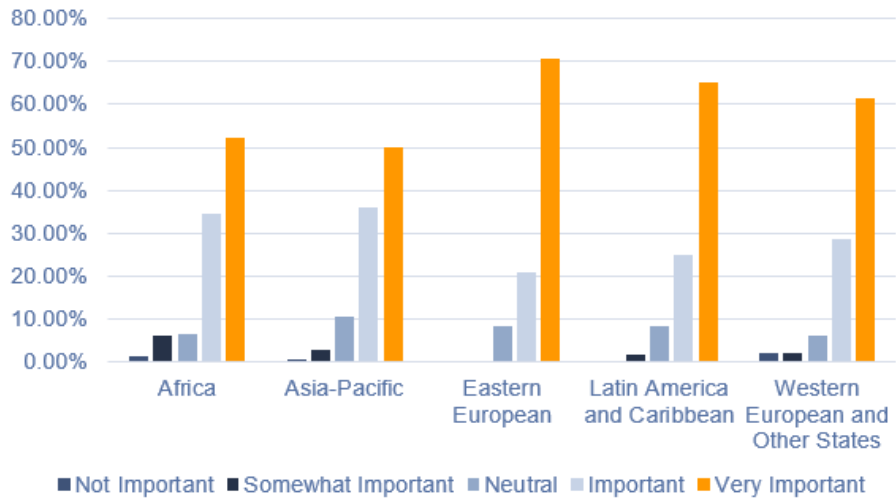


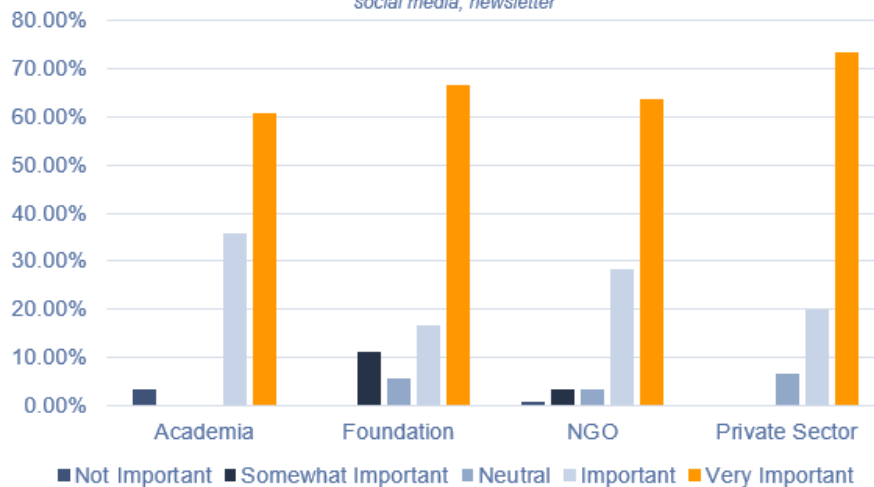
Figure 37: 8E Responses by Region (percent)
8E: CSOs have opportunities to organize side-events in parallel with high-level events / meetings



Organization Type for Question 8

We also broke down question 8 by organization type for each measure given. Again, we see a general trend throughout these figures that each organization type chose “Very Important” at the highest rate for each measure. However, there are some deviations from this pattern, seen in Figure 39, Figure 40, and Figure 41.

Figure 38: 8A Responses by Organization Type (percent)
8A: UN informs CSOs of opportunities for participation through digital means (email, social media, newsletter)



As seen in Figure 39, the measure 8B is a slight anomaly from the pattern of “Very Important” being selected at the highest rate. Most notably, Academia selected “Important” as a majority, with absolutely no “Neutral”, “Somewhat Important”, or “Not Important” votes at all.

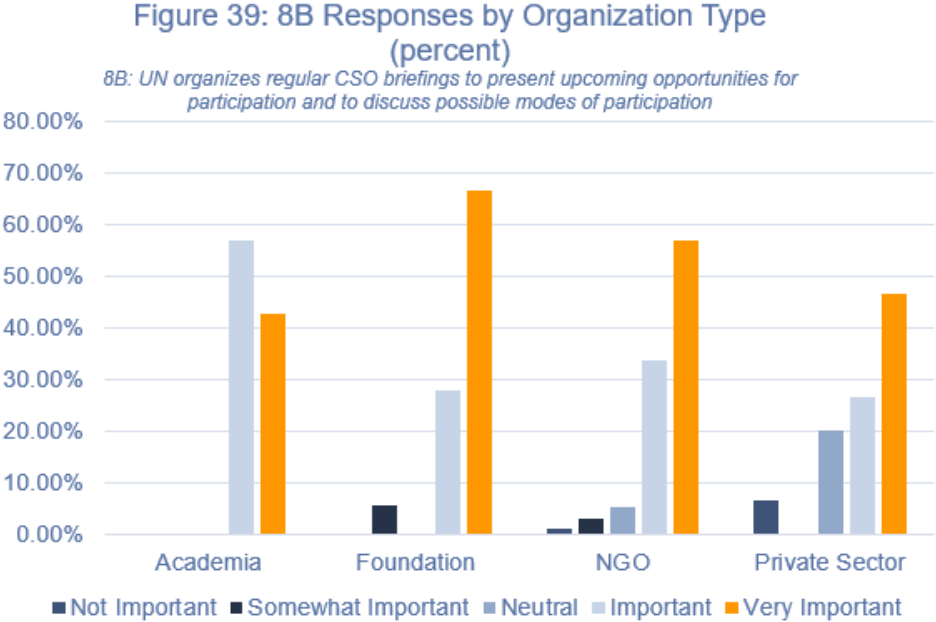
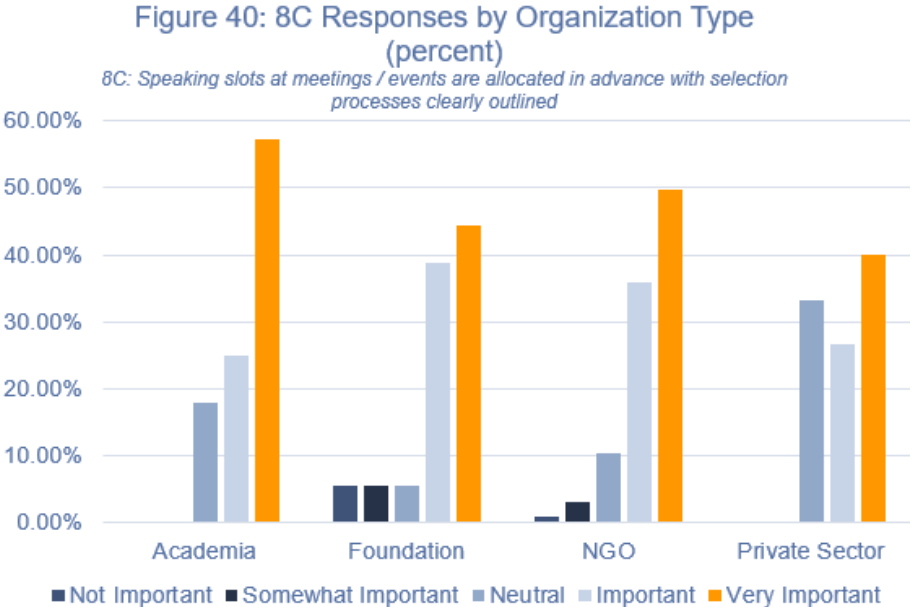
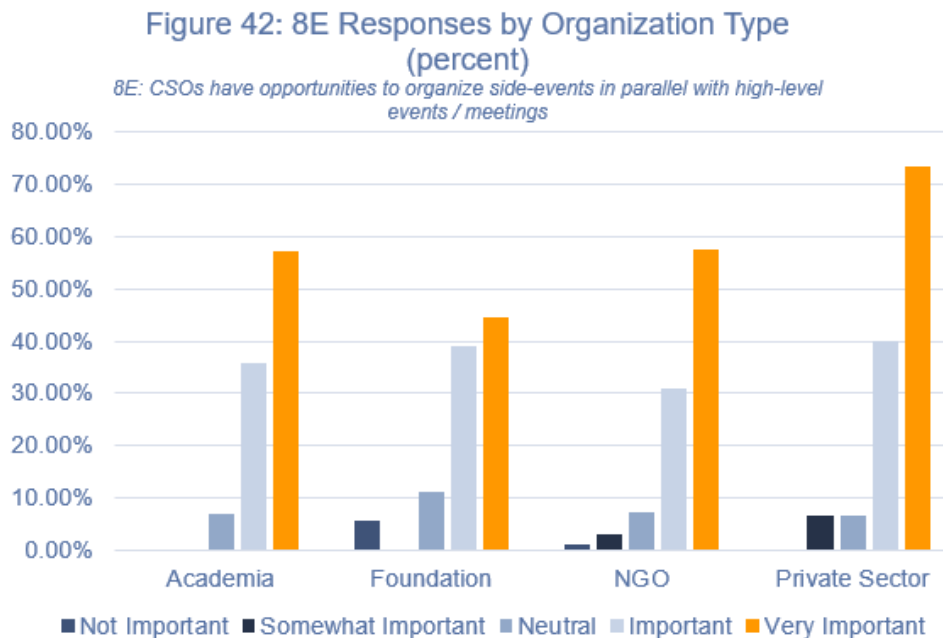
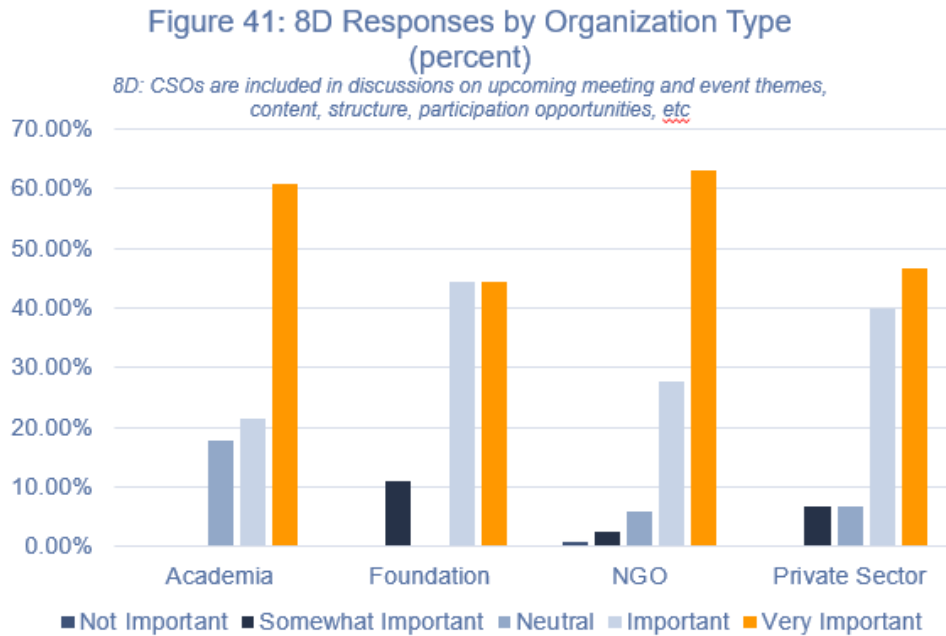


Figure 40 is also important to highlight due to the selections of the Private Sector. Interestingly, there is an evident amount of “Neutral” and “Important” votes along with the popular selection of “Very Important”. This was outstanding because rarely did “Neutral” get selected as much as it did by Private Sector in this measure.



In Figure 41, there is a slight deviation from the normal pattern for the organization type of Foundation. Here, Foundation selected both “Important” and “Very Important” at an even percentage level.



UN Affiliation for Question 8

Finally, we also cross tabulated question 8 by Affiliation with the UN to see if there were any substantial results. Generally, there was not seen to be any substantial differences between these two variables. The observable pattern is seen to be “Very Important” selected at the highest rate by each affiliation type for each measure, and “Important” at the secondary rate.

This variable of UN Affiliation was requested by the clients to be evaluated by question 8, with special attention on measure 8A, looking at how the UN informs CSO’s. Judging from the responses, we can see that CSO’s do hold this communication about participation opportunities through digital means at a high standard. It would be interesting to breakdown in what ranking CSO’s prefer the digital means communication, this being between email, social media, and newsletters. This could then guide the UN in how they should communicate more often and how to measure engagement.

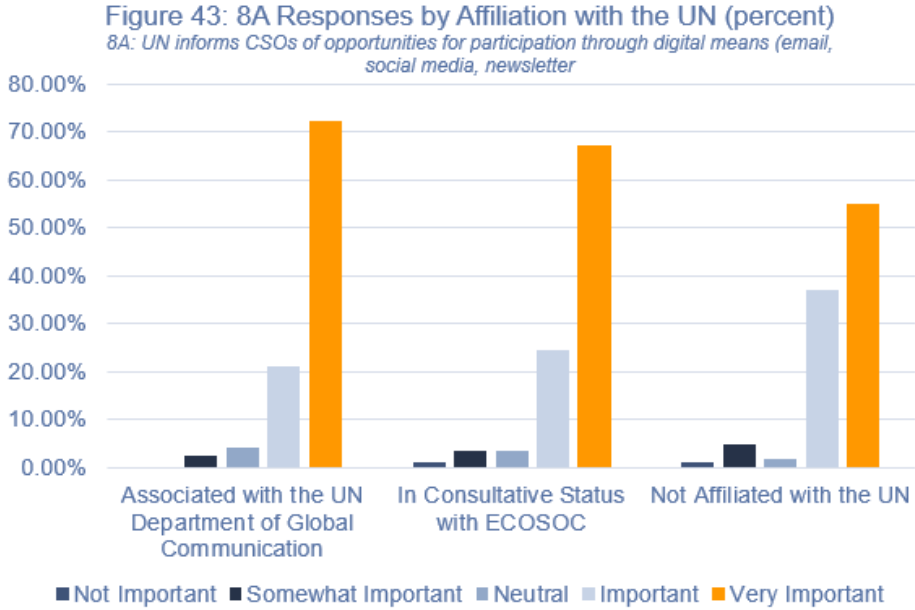


Figure 44: 8B Responses by Affiliation with the UN (percent)

8B: UN organizes regular CSO briefings to present upcoming opportunities for participation and to discuss possible modes of participation

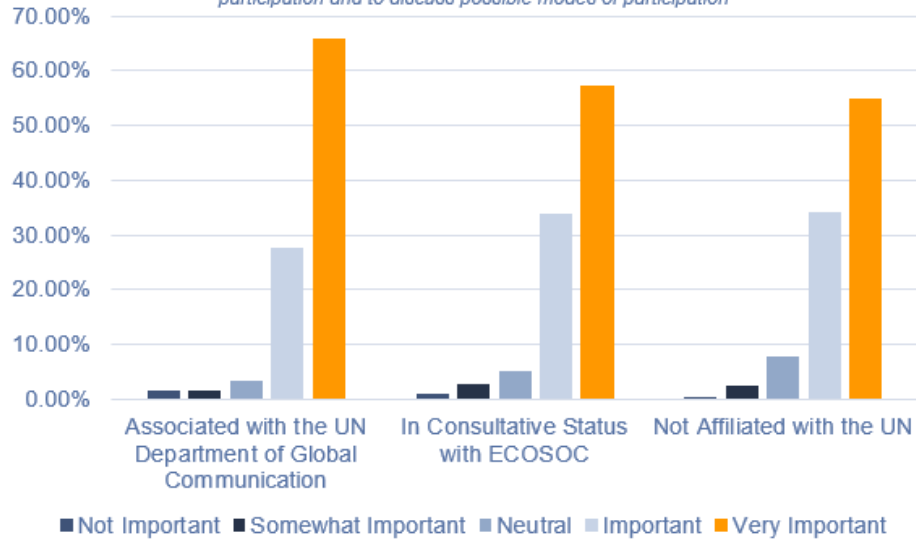


Figure 45: 8C Responses by Affiliation with the UN (percent)

8C: Speaking slots at meetings / events are allocated in advance with selection processes clearly outlined

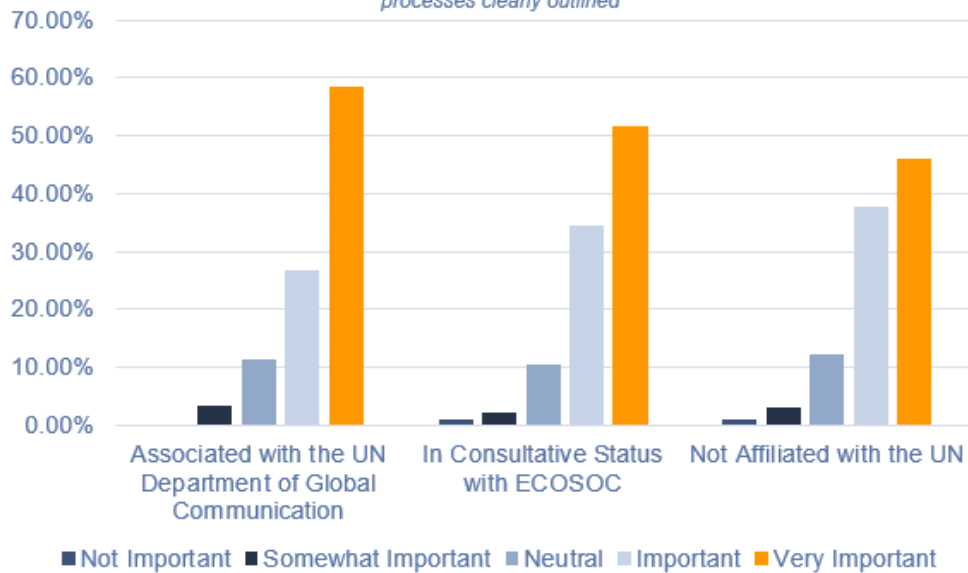


Figure 46: 8D Responses by Affiliation with the UN (percent)

8D: CSOs are included in discussions on upcoming meeting and event themes, content, structure, participation opportunities, etc.

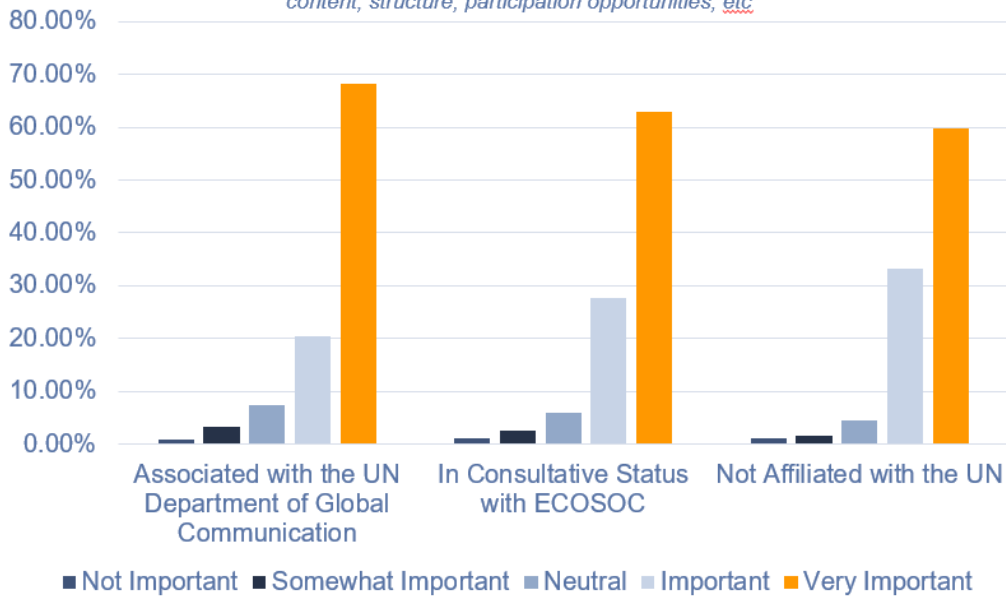
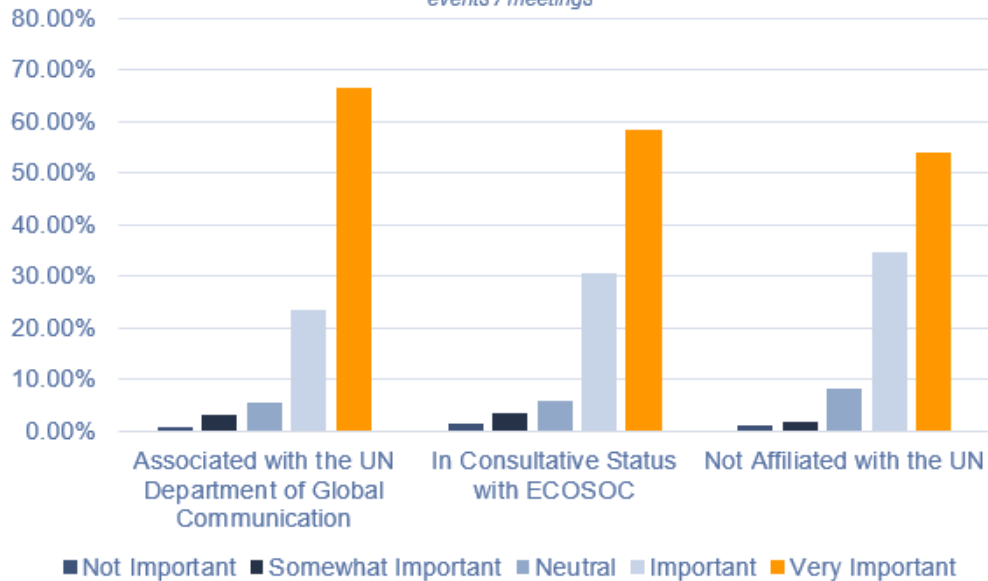


Figure 47: 8E Responses by Affiliation with the UN (percent)

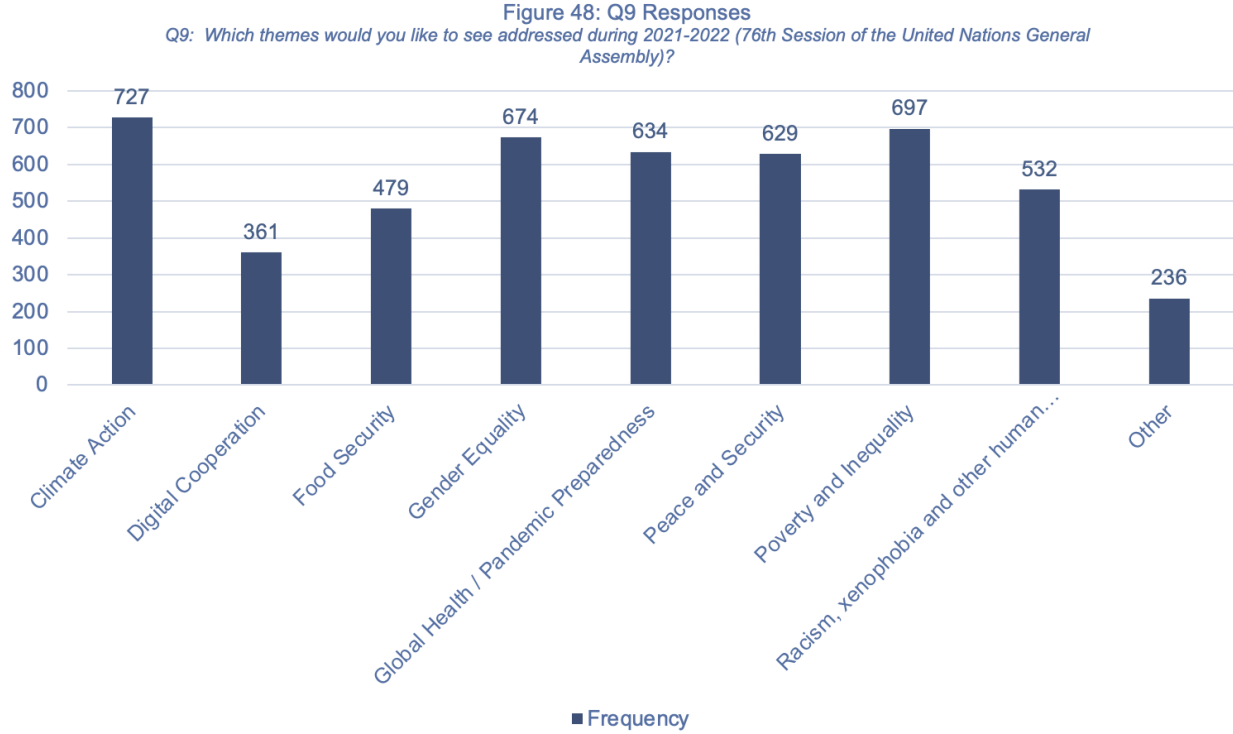
8E: CSOs have opportunities to organize side-events in parallel with high-level events / meetings



Summary of Question 9: Which themes would you like to see addressed during 2021-2022 (76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly)?

The final content related question on the survey asked about which themes respondents would like to see addressed in the upcoming general assembly. This question was not directly related to participation during COVID and therefore was looked at by itself. The purpose of this question is

to get an understanding of what topics are important to the members participating in the UN meetings. This can help tailor the agenda for the upcoming assembly to meet the requests of the respondents. This was a “check all that apply” question with the following options: Climate Action, Digital Cooperation, Food Security, Gender Equality, Global Health / Pandemic Preparedness, Peace and Security, Poverty and Inequality, Racism, Xenophobia and other Human Rights Violations. The top three most chosen responses were Climate Action, Poverty and Inequality, and Gender Equality. The full breakdown of the responses can be seen in figure 48 below.



Region for Question 9

When looking at the responses by region for question 9, there is a lot of variation in what responses were selected at the highest frequency (figure 49 and table 9). It is most notable that all regions except for two selected Climate Action at the highest rate as their most highly desired theme to be addressed. These anomalies were: Africa selecting Poverty and Inequality and Latin America and Caribbean selecting Gender Inequality as their respective theme selected at the highest amount.

Figure 49: Q9 Responses Broken Down by Region (percent)

Q9: Which themes would you like to see addressed during 2021-2022 (76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly)?

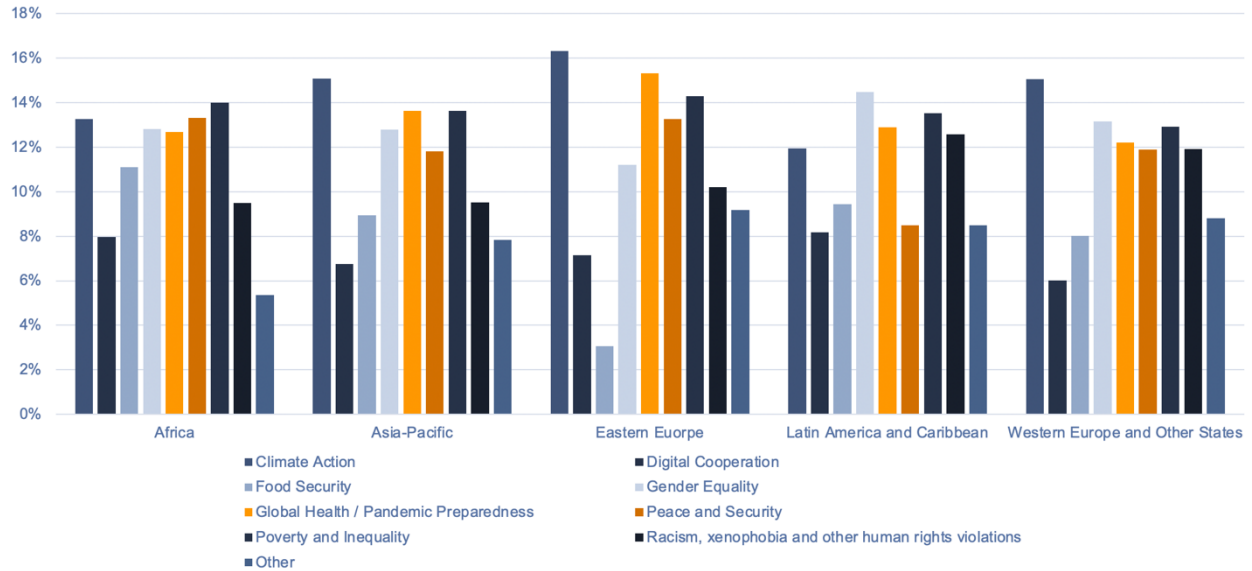


Table 9: Q9 by Region

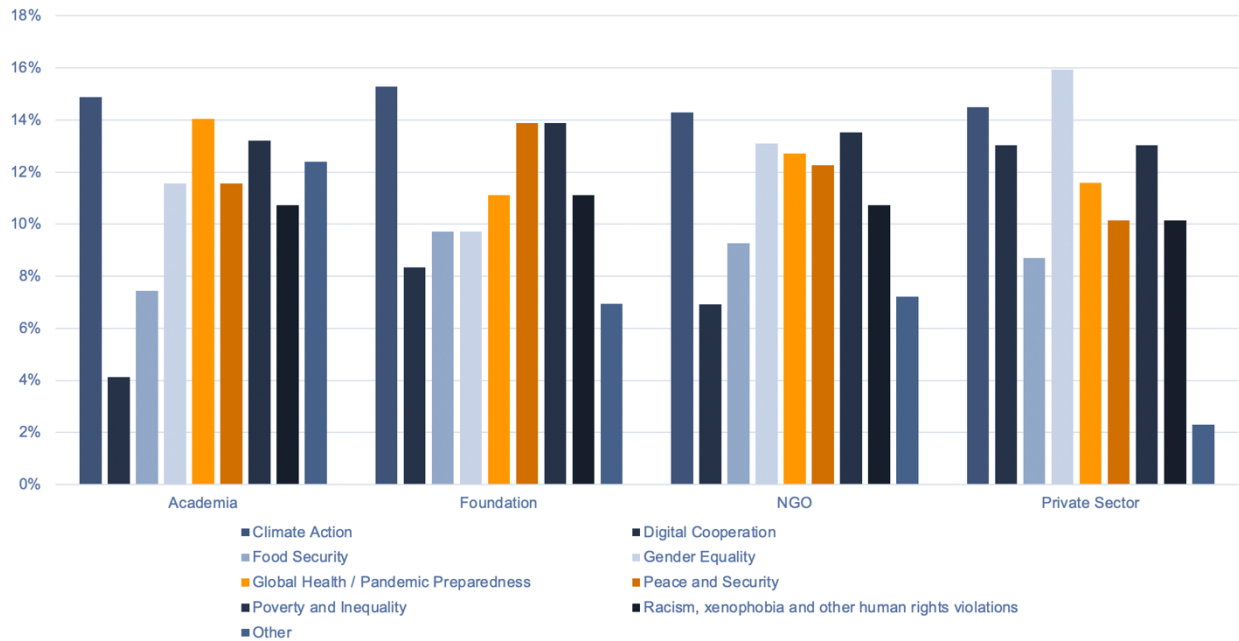
Q9: Which themes would you like to see addressed during 2021-2022 (76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly)?

| | Theme selected at the Highest Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------|
| Africa | Poverty and Inequality | 14.00% |
| Asia-Pacific | Climate Action | 15.08% |
| Eastern Europe | Climate Action | 16.33% |
| Latin America and Caribbean | Gender Equality | 14.47% |
| Western Europe and Other States | Climate Action | 15.07% |

Organization Type for Question 9

When looking at the responses by organization type for question 9, all organization types besides the private sector selected climate action at the highest frequency. The private sector respondents selected gender equality at the highest frequency (figure 50 and table 10).

Figure 50: Q9 Responses Broken Down by Organization Type (percent)
 Q9: Which themes would you like to see addressed during 2021-2022 (76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly)?



| | Theme selected at the Highest Frequency | Percentage |
|----------------|---|------------|
| Academia | Climate Action | 14.88% |
| Foundation | Climate Action | 15.28% |
| NGO | Climate Action | 14.29% |
| Private Sector | Gender Equality | 15.94% |

Conclusion

This survey provided a lot of insights to the attitudes of CSO members on the UN processes and operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. This report provides an in-depth look at the responses to the survey and the overall conclusions that these data support are below.

Key Takeaways by Question

Questions 1-4 asked respondents if they thought participation increased, decreased or stayed the same and then give reasoning as to why. Overall, there was a fairly even split between respondents reporting that they believed participation increased / stayed the same or decreased. When asked to explain why they answered as they did many respondents highlighted concerns such as accessibility, lack of communication and quality of engagement.

Question 5 asked respondents to indicate how they participated in high-level UN meetings and events during COVID-19. The largest number of respondents reported that they

attended virtually through webcasts or other online platforms. This shows that these ways of hosting meetings and providing information was highly utilized across regions and organization types and should be continued.

Question 6 inquired about the biggest challenges for respondents. Accessibility (internet access, wi-fi consistency) was the highest reported challenge however when looking at the responses by region, Time Difference was the highest reported for all regions except Africa. This shows that both accessibility and time difference are key areas of issues for respondents and that this does vary by regions so it may be important to try to provide alternative methods of meetings for the specific regions based on these reported challenges.

Question 7 allowed respondents to choose what format they most prefer for meetings. Fully in-person was chosen at the highest percentage which shows that members do still prefer the in-person meetings and it may be necessary to return to that format when it is safe. One important distinction for this question was that when looking at the responses by age, ages 55-65+ selected that they would prefer a hybrid model.

Question 8 entailed many breakdowns and evaluations due to the five measures and factors of interest. It was found that the measure 8A, UN informs CSOs of opportunities for participation through digital means (email, social media, newsletter), was deemed the most important by the respondents. However, all five measures were very highly selected individually. When evaluating this question by other factors of interest: region, organization type, and UN Affiliation, a general pattern of voting each measure of high importance was observed. While there were some occasional deviations from this, this shows a clear need from the CSO's to continue to be informed and updated by the UN in order to continue to make participation more meaningful.

The last question of interest, question 9, targeted the respondents' interests in what themes should be addressed at the 2021-2022 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. From this, it was found that Climate Action is the most highly desired theme to be focused on, with Poverty and Inequality coming up as a close second. The least selected theme to be addressed at the general assembly was Digital Cooperation. When breaking down by region, we see the themes of Poverty and Inequality and Gender Inequality being ranked highly as well. This was also seen when breaking down by organization type as well, with Climate Action and Gender Inequality being selected at the highest frequencies.