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## Abstract

While many are writing about the rise of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to the international stage, this article suggests we need to take a more longitudinal, detailed, and comparative look at NGO lobbying before making assessments about influence. An analysis of Canadian and British development NGOs' lobbying of their own governments prior to two world conferences, 18 years apart, suggests that NGOs have the most influence in highly salient, low policy issues accompanied by early and continuous access to decision-makers. Trends since 1992 are discussed, pointing to the importance of studying the "nongovernmental movement" as part of a much more interesting debate on international governance.



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## Keywords

nongovernmental organizations; United Nations conferences; influence; lobbying; UNCED; World Food Conference

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