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The Two-Level Game of Transnational Networks: The Case of the Access to Medicines Campaign

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The rapid emergence of transnational networks in world politics calls for an analysis of their power dynamics. By combining the advocacy network literature and the two-level game theory in an innovative manner, this article provides a theoretical conceptualization of the interplay between intra- and inter-network interactions. It argues that the strength of a network as agent springs from its force as a structure. A network win-set is determined by its internal games, thereby affecting both its bargaining power and its chance to reach a consensual agreement with other networks. The issue of access to medicines is used as a factual background to illustrate how the flow of influence within networks affects influence among networks.

KEYWORDS intellectual property, public health, transnational network, two-level game

This article contributes to the growing body of literature on transnational networks by providing a much-needed power analysis. It is often acknowledged that horizontal relations characterizing networks do not amount to equality and do not eliminate power struggles (Risse 2000:18–19). This line of analysis, however, has not evolved beyond this recognition, leaving the nature and mechanics of underlying power dynamics unclarified. How can

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we assess the strength of a given transnational network? How different networks active in the same issue-area interact with each other? How can we explain that some reach their policy objectives but not others? As Carpenter notes, "measuring and understanding these intra and internetwork dynamics will lead to clearer insights" (2007:116).

While recognizing that interactions within and between networks are more horizontal than vertical, this paper pushes this general statement further by asserting that if certain conditions are met, power struggles can take place within a horizontal volume, thus providing a third dimension to the interplay among networks. This volume emerges by combining two existing but hitherto unrelated literatures, i.e., transnational advocacy networks and two-level game. The original combination of these literature leads to the hypothesis that the flow of influence within networks affects influence among networks.

The next section proposes the conceptual framework connecting the literature on transnational advocacy networks with two-level game theory. The remainder of the paper illustrates that these two models can be theoretically and methodologically reconciled by using the example of the policy debate on access to medicines in developing countries.

CONCEPTUALIZING NETWORK TWO-LEVEL GAME

Keck and Sikkink's work on networks offers a valuable starting point to capture the transnational dimension of today's nonstate actors. Importing the concept of network from organizational theory, they developed the notion of transnational advocacy network, which they define as a social organization associating "those relevant actors working internationally on an issue, who are bound together by shared values, a common discourse and who engage in a voluntary, reciprocal, and horizontal exchange of information and services" (1998:200). More importantly for our purpose, Keck and Sikkink conceive that networks have a dual character. They function as agents acting on their own, influencing policymaking beyond the independent action of their components, while at the same time being structures following patterns of interaction among organizations and individuals (Kahler 2009). Following an inter-constitutive approach, the nature of networks' agency derives from their structure, just as their structural nature is the creation of agents embedded within it.

Keck and Sikkink limit their investigation to advocacy networks. They justify their approach by establishing a distinction between advocacy and business networks based on their different motives, the former being motivated by shared principled beliefs and values while the latter pursue instrumental goals. Several publications (Cooley and Ron 2002; Drahos and Braithwaite 2003; Henderson 2002; Johnson and Prakash 2007; Sell and

Prakash 2004) later challenged this assumption. It is now generally recognized that normative frameworks and instrumental objectives inform both advocacy and business networks, although at different levels. Moreover, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and corporations use similar strategies to influence public policy: they overcome their competition to build coalitions, exchange information, and use a common rhetoric to frame public issues. The two types of networks should not therefore be treated differently.

In light of the foregoing, one can go further and extend network analysis to governments. Graham Allison's study of the Cuban Missile Crisis did not use the concept of network, but famously established that public policy is not the result of a unique and centralized agency; rather, it is the internal debate of several departments with their own interests, priorities, and perceptions (Allison 1971). Internal debates are especially frequent on transnational issue areas for which departments with domestic mandates rival those primarily concerned with foreign policy. These centrifugal forces within a government are nevertheless compensated by centripetal forces, such as a common bureaucratic culture and a shared commitment to advance the perceived interests of the country, holding the governmental network together.

However valuable the insights of the advocacy network literature may be, they insufficiently describe the interplay between several competing networks. Moreover, none of these analyses accounts for the complex nexus between networks' internal games and their external influence. As Hafner-Burnton, Kahler, and Montgomery (2009) observed, research so far has focused on networks' effects on policymaking "rather than the effects of network structures on actors and outcomes within those networks."

In order to surpass this limitation, our theoretical framework also draws from a broad literature on the influence of domestic political considerations in international negotiations. In particular, Robert Putnam's two-level game theory (1988) provides a framework for understanding the interaction of domestic and international determinants of foreign policy. According to his metaphor, parties to an international negotiation are represented by a single chief negotiator who plays two games simultaneously. On one side, the negotiator seeks to achieve a common ground when negotiating with his foreign counterparts. On the other side, he strives to obtain domestic approval of the negotiated agreement. Consequently, in his attempt to satisfy both international and domestic pressures, the negotiator is caught in a strategic dilemma. Because moves at one level affect play at the other, policy choices are framed by constraints and opportunities at both levels.

The essence of the interplay between the two levels is captured by the key concept of "win-set," defined as the set of all possible international agreements that would be acceptable at the domestic level (Putnam 1988:437). According to Putnam, the size of the win-set depends on many variables, including ratification procedures, preferences of domestic actors

and the strategic framing of the issue. Since the win-set delineates the array of policy choices at the disposal of each negotiator, an international agreement is possible only if domestic win-sets of all parties overlap. While a large domestic win-set provides negotiators with enhanced room for maneuvre, the constraints imposed by a small domestic win-set can be used as an effective bargaining tool for international negotiations ("My constituents would not approve X, therefore we have to agree on Y."). From this reformulation of the so-called "Schelling conjecture," Putnam predicts that the smaller a domestic win-set, the greater the chief negotiator's bargaining power on the international level. This advantage, however, is met by the concomitant risk that negotiations will break down.

Putnam's model is frequently discussed, both with praises and criticisms (Milner 1997). For our purpose, one of the fundamental weaknesses of Putnam's model is that it ignores the influence of the chief negotiators' preferences on the outcome of the negotiation. Andrew Moravcsik (1993) observed that negotiators' partial autonomy allows them to favour possible agreements in accordance with their own independently specified values. The set of agreements preferred by the chief-negotiator to the status quo is grasped by Moravcsik's concept of "acceptability-set." Further, Moravcsik imagined the possible relationships between the negotiator's acceptability-set and both domestic and foreign win-sets First, when the negotiator's acceptability-set encompasses the domestic one, he is a "negotiator-asagent." When his acceptability-set lies partially outside the domestic win-set but closer to the foreign win-set, he is a "negotiator-as-dove." Finally, if his acceptability-set lies partially outside of the domestic win-set but further from the opposing win-set, he is a "negotiator-as-hawk."

Despite the great influence of Putnam's theory and the value of Moravcsik's contribution, the two-level game metaphor articulated around chief negotiators is heavily state-centric (if not U.S.-centric) and fails to give adequate attention to the reciprocal influence of domestic constituencies across different states. Moreover, the fact that the model disregards the transnational dimension of domestic/international interactions is rather problematic. Since the publication of Putnam's article in 1988, political scientists have well established that nonstate actors, such as academics, NGOs, and corporations, have direct transnational activities that are not mediated by any governmental negotiator. Thus, the divide between international and domestic realms is increasingly artificial. As Keck and Sikkink correctly point out, Putnam's two-way street is too narrow and implies "a limited access to the international system that no longer holds true in many issue areas" (1998:4).

The theoretical model we propose seeks to analyze power dynamics in horizontal governance structures by combining two-level game theory and the transnational advocacy network literature (Table 1). By doing so, we expect to overcome their respective pitfalls, namely, and the state-centric

TABLE 1 Theoretical Background

	Transnational Advocacy Network	Two Level Game Theory
Initial formulation	Keck & Sikkink (1998)	Putnam (1988)
Key amendment	Sell & Prakash (2004)	Moravcsik (1993)
Main strength	Take into account the transnational activities of non-state actors	Bring together internal and external politics
Main weakness	Incapacity to combine intra-network and inter-network politics	Heavily state-centric

aspects of the former and the incapacity to combine the agency and structural dimensions of network of the latter.

Although the alliance of a mechanical two-level game with a fluid transnational network model might seem artificial, the two bodies of literature naturally overlap on several subject matters. For instance, both Moravcsik (1993) and Keck and Sikkink (1998) observed that NGOs and corporations frequently bypass their chief negotiator and directly reach out to international allies to pressure their own governments (also known as the "boomerang phenomenon"). Both literatures also deal with "norm entrepreneurs," noticing their double game while spreading internationally endogenous norms developed in their own network/country, and importing exogenous norms to advocate for a minority position inside their own network/country (Boekle et al. 1999; Finnemore and Sikkink 1998:893). Moreover, several authors noticed that the power of the two-level metaphor could be applied in the constructivist realm, whereby national norms could affect the international social system while international norms could play a role in internal dynamics (Boekle et al. 1999:8; Müller 2004:424).

We propose a model under which the policymaking process involves several antagonistic networks operating similarly. We transpose Putnam's international and national interfaces to the intra- and inter-networks and we replace the state chief negotiator by the network leader. On the intra-network level, these leaders recognize the strategic necessity to speak with a common voice and facilitate the attainment of a consensual standpoint to represent the group. At the inter-network level, most actors involved have insufficient resources to interact directly with all their counterparts. Therefore, their leaders debate to reach consensual agreement in a process similar to Putnam's international level game.

Through the lenses of our model, it appears that a network's internal games determine its win-set and leaders' bargaining power. The flow of influence *within* networks affects influence *among* networks. More particularly, where a network is constituted of a broad range of actors and has lively internal debate, it is likely to have narrow win-set, which gives the network's leader additional bargaining power. Nonetheless, lively internal debate also makes the network more vulnerable to outside pressure, especially to tactics

aiming to influence actors at the margin of the network. Chances of failure to reach a consensual decision therefore escalate as win-sets narrow or move away from each other.

Combining network analysis with two-level game allows for many networks to coexist and interact with each other and illustrates how networks act as both structures and agents. The synthesis provides a strong analytical framework enabling clear hypothesis while taking into the complexity of horizontal governance structure.

THE CASE STUDY

Two conditions must be met for our model to apply to a specific case. First, there must be a sufficient number of stakeholders. Secondly, there must be a shared belief that the participation of all stakeholders, especially non-state actors, is essential. It should be noted that these two conditions are increasingly easy to satisfy since multistakeholder governance is, for better or worse, often presented as a panacea for transnational problems. Decision makers increasingly consider that the participation of nonstate actors provides legitimacy, reduces resistance and minimizes the blame for policy failures (Downs 1967).

The concerted effort to improve access to patented medicine in developing countries provides a valuable illustration. Pressed by a coalition of transnational NGOs, WTO Members launched in November of 2001 a round of international negotiations to find an "expeditious solution" to the problem of access to medicines. Two years later, they adopted the so-called *August 30th 2003 Decision*, which relaxed the conditions under which a country with industrial capacity in the pharmaceutical sector can authorize a generic producer to manufacture and export pharmaceutical products, often through the intermediary of a NGO that buys and distributes them with the authorization of importing developing countries. Thus, nonstates actors were the ones supposed to use and implement the mechanism to reach the policy objectives fixed governments.

Shortly after the *August 30th 2003 Decision*, Canada announced its intention to amend its *Patent Act* to authorize the export of generic drugs under patent protection. Canada's ambition was to fashion an unprecedented humanitarian mechanism that would be used by Canadian generic producers and praised by transnational NGOs without frightening foreign pharmaceutical patent-holders with investments in Canada. To find the appropriate balance between these competing objectives, the Canadian government saw the involvement and consensual support of non-state actors as necessary preconditions. From the Canadian government's viewpoint, it is "only through the concerted and sustained efforts of all relevant actors, developed and developing country governments, the NGO community,

international trade bodies and the private sector, that real and meaning-ful progress can be made" (Government of Canada 2007:5). As a result, the government conducted consultations described by a bureaucrat interviewed for this study as "the most intensive public consultation that has probably gone into recent legislative changes." NGOs, generic producers, and patent holders from Canada and elsewhere were involved at all steps of the creation of the Bill. Although the Bill was adopted in Ottawa, the debate that led to its creation took place at the international level—involving transnational NGOs and firms, reaching all WTO members, and ultimately affecting developing countries. In May 2004, the Governor General finally gave the Royal Assent to Bill C-9, known as the *Jean Chrétien Pledge to Africa Act*.

In the following sections, Bill C-9 debate will serve as a factual background to illustrate our theoretical model and its methodological implications. Analyzing the interplay between intra- and inter-network debates is a four-steps process. First, the competing networks must be mapped. Secondly, the leaders acting both at the intra-network and the inter-network levels must be identified. Thirdly, the win-set available to each leader must be estimated. Finally, the overlap of respective win-sets must be compared to the outcome of the debate.

MAPPING THE NETWORKS

Social network analysis offers a methodology to map relevant networks involved. As Scott observes, this methodology "embodies a particular theoretical orientation toward the *structure* of the social world" (1992:37). The structure of relations among actors and the location of individual actors in the network have important consequences for both the system and its individual units (Knoke and Kuklinski 1982). From this point of view, actors and their relationships are viewed as interdependent, and therefore the unit of analysis is not the individuals themselves but the linkage among them. More specifically, the properties of the ties between actors—referred to as "relational forms"—vary according to their intensity (strength or frequency of the interaction) and their degree of joint involvement (for instance, the reciprocal flow of information).

So as to identify a network's structural properties, the researcher must specify boundaries for analysis by delineating a concrete population of social objects and the types of relationship connecting them (Knoke and Kuklinski 1982:13). However, Mario Diani stresses that, "identifying the boundaries of the network is one of the most difficult problems" (2002:176). Social analysts can either apply a predefined conceptual framework on observed facts (the deductive approach) or use the subjective perception of networks' boundaries as determined by actors themselves (the

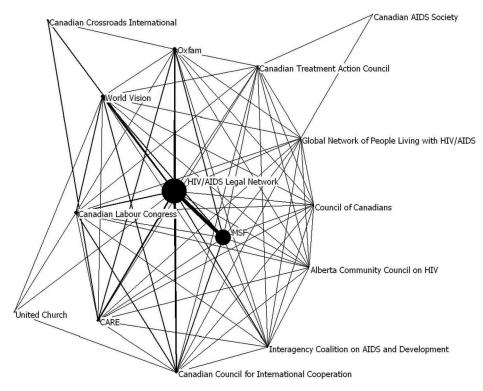


FIGURE 1 Map of the NGO network using Netdraw and Ucinet. The strength of the ties is based on the number of joint press releases and the size of nodes represents the number of press releases.

inductive approach). Resorting to one or the other method should ideally give like results.

Although there is a growing literature on networks in the fields of both intellectual property (IP) and access to medicines, it was necessary to use a deductive approach as most analysts follow Keck and Sikkink and limit their study to advocacy networks (Friedman and Mottiar 2005; Halbert 2005; Hoen 2002; Mayne 2002; Mowjee 2003). In an attempt to define and map networks' boundaries in Bill C-9 case, their nodes and ties were identified by analyzing three sources of information: (1) an exhaustive corpus of 73 press releases related to Bill C-9 (see Figure 1); (2) a compilation performed by Google of hyperlinks found on the Web sites of organizations mentioned in press releases (see figure 2); (3) transcripts of 54 semi-structured interviews with key actors in the process (see Appendix for the list of interviewees). Indications of belonging to the same network include co-signing a press release, mutual references to each other's Web sites, and organizations mentioned during interviews as allies or close collaborators.

Our findings reveal the existence of four distinct networks. The first is the Canadian government. Most governments, with the notable exception of

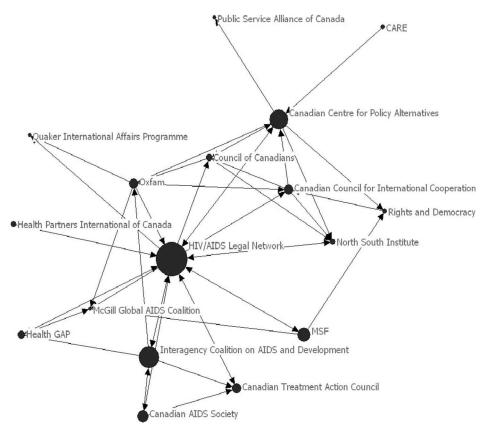


FIGURE 2 Map of the NGO network using Netdraw and Ucinet. The ties and nodes represent hyperlinks to other NGOs on Internet pages related to Bill C-9.

Switzerland's, do not have a central agency to coordinate all domestic and international policies pertaining to intellectual property. Within the Canadian government, the drafting of Bill C-9 involved five key departments, namely Health Canada, Industry Canada, Foreign Affairs Canada, International Trade Canada, and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), coordinated by the Privy Council Office. During the whole process, IP and global health specialists from these departments met regularly to exchange information, coordinate their objectives, and reach a common position. Most of them knew each other from working together on other files, and some have worked in various departments. Christopher Armstrong, for instance, was at CIDA when Bill C-9 was initially proposed, at Foreign Affairs when enacted, and back at CIDA when reviewed.

Despite the fact that bureaucrats working within the same government did not conceive of themselves as a network, their interactions had all its attributes and characteristics. On the one hand, each agency had its interests, perspectives and organizational culture. Interviewees explained that very different sets of values were conflicting between Ministries, and that

disagreement arose over most steps of the way. For a bureaucrat, this competition was a significant hurdle: "The more departments you have the longer it's going to take, the more complex it's going to be, and the more people you will have to bring on board." One the other hand, bureaucrats were committed to reaching common objectives. They "recognized that the five key departments would really have to work together." This coordinated effort is illustrated by the fact that most of the press releases on Bill C-9 included quotations from the five key ministers and contact information from all five departments.

While the government network is national-based, IP business networks have a larger reach. Members of this network are united by the instrumental objectives of increasing worldwide protection for pharmaceutical inventions and share the normative belief that high standards in patent protection increases social wealth and improve global health. They are institutionally organized in various business associations, including the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Association (IFPMA), and often refer to their collective identity as the "innovative pharmaceutical community."

Several members of this transnational business network took an active part in the Canadian debate on the implementation of the August 30, 2003 WTO decision. Most companies expressed reservations because of the potential erosion of IP protection in emerging markets such as China, Brazil, and Argentina. As Canada was the first mover among WTO members, its legislation had the potential to serve as a model for other countries. It was therefore crucial for them to frame the debate and hold sway on policy making. For example, during the 2007 review of the legislation, 11 foreign-owned pharmaceutical companies and five of their industry associations, including the European R&D-based Pharmaceutical Industry and the Irish Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association, sent individual submissions to the Canadian government. The submissions revealed a coordinated discursive strategy by expressing the same ideas and frequently using the exact same language.

In addition to the business network, a transnational NGO network advocating for access to medicines in developing countries was very active during the Bill C-9 process, especially through agenda-setting, public-mobilizing and direct advising. It included faith-based groups with large constituencies (such as United Church), think tanks with research expertise (such as the North South Institute), labor unions with extensive administrative resources (such as the Canadian Labour Council), development advocates with strong communication skills (such as Oxfam), and humanitarian organizations with testimonies from the field (such as Médecins Sans Frontières [MSF]).

Those NGOs were brought together "by the same views, the same values, and the same ideology," and as an interviewee from the NGO network said, each of them "brought something to the table." He adds,

"we're all coming from the same basic perspective which is that poor people should have access to medicine." Therefore, as another recalls, when Canada announced its desire to implement the WTO decision: "We knew very quickly, inherently really, because of the way NGOs work, that we have to be together." The frequent use of words like "we," "our allies," or "our colleagues," reveals a strong sense of collective identity between NGOs.

During their campaign, the NGO network operated through a preexisting coalition called the Global Treatment Access Group (GTAG). GTAG became the focal point for regular exchange of information and the development of common strategies, mostly through emails and conference calls. Given that GTAG did not have a formal list of members and was essentially based on personal connections, it should be conceived of as a network of individuals rather than a network of organizations. As an interviewee said, "when there are new people coming into that network of contact, it is often through another contact." Some individuals even travelled within the network, like Marie-Hélène Bonin who moved from MSF to the Canadian Labour Congress. Several interviewees mentioned their friendship with other GTAG members relating the "familiarity, trust and respect that have built up over years." As an interviewee summarized, "in NGOs, it's always like that, it's all about individuals."

Our findings revealed the existence of a fourth network involved in the debate. Indeed, the business network must be divided between the brand name and the generic networks. This stood out especially as an interviewee working for one group qualified the other as their "arch enemy," explaining that "on virtually every issue there is, our position would be the opposite of theirs."

Sell and Prakash (2004:149) insist that the generic industry should be included in the NGO network because both share an interest in relaxing patent standards. They argue, for example, that Cipla, an Indian generic manufacturer, was a "key member of the Access Campaign," notably because the very special rates they offered to MSF served as a critique of the prohibitively high prices of patented pharmaceutical. However, analysis of press releases, Web site and interviews reveal that NGOs and the generic industry belong to two different networks. All the members of GTAG interviewed were very clear on the fact that generic companies were not considered as one of their own. They were deliberately excluded from the collective "we." They were considered, just like bureaucrats and brand name representatives, as "the guys in suits." Several NGO representatives explained that not only did the generic industry have different end objectives, but they could not be trusted more than the brand name industry as both are driven by profit. "We try to keep our distance in this," one explained. "We didn't want to be seen to be pro-generics." For example, when MSF negotiated a contract with the generic producer Apotex in order to use the Canadian mechanism, their communication specifically avoided depicting their relationship as a

"partnership," but only as a "cooperation" so to reassure that they were not members of the same network.

The strategic decisions of generic producers to keep a low profile during WTO negotiations partially explains why this fourth network has been overlooked by previous research efforts. Interviewees working with the generic industry acknowledged that they preferred investing their political capital in other policy issues as they did not foresee enough business opportunities. Nevertheless, members of the Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association (CGPA) started to play a more active role when the debate moved from Geneva to Ottawa. They started developing their own discourse focusing on price as their competitive advantage. They also defined their policy objectives to protect themselves from legal disputes initiated by brand name companies. Moreover, third parties recognized the existence of the generic network as a cohesive, legitimate, and organized group of actors. As unpublished governmental documents show, the generic industry was systematically distinguished from the other stakeholders.

Relying on press releases, websites and interviews, four networks were identified. Nonetheless, this should not suggest that every actor was an active member of one of these networks. Some actors gravitated around the existing networks and made independent contributions, like political parties in the opposition (such as the New Democratic Party which played an active role), academics (such as Frederick Abbott, Jillian Cohen, Amir Attaran, James Orbinsky, and Joel Lexchin), prominent public figures (Stephen Lewis and Bono) and intergovernmental organizations (the World Health Organization and UNICEF). Conversely, some groups deliberately decided to remain at the margins, such as the Quaker United Nations Office and Health Partners International Canada.

IDENTIFYING NETWORK LEADERS

Although a network's structure is a key variable determining its success, structure alone "cannot deliberate, imagine, strategize or engage in decision-making" (Morris and Staggenborg 2004:187). Network leaders are the necessary interface between the two games. As one interviewee said, "If you try to isolate the actors, you see there are few actors that have been involved in each coalition; they are sort of the nucleus and they are organizing the coalition around it."

Ascendance among peers does not derive solely from intrinsic resources attached to particular individuals, such as charisma or financial means. Rather, power flows stem from the leaders' positions in network environments (Ganz 2003), and consequently, networks tend to coalesce around a few active leaders located in core positions and surrounded by layers of peripheral actors (see Figures 1 and 2). A leader's strategic position in

the network provides him with two important advantages over other actors, namely easy access to diverse and salient knowledge, as well as a channel to diffuse ideas and information to their peers. Leaders therefore function as *translators*: within the network, they mobilize and inspire their members, and outside the network, they distill and articulate the substance of internal exchanges (Gusfield 1966). For this reason, they are often nominated as spokespersons or selected by the media to act as representatives. In a situation like that of Bill C-9's drafting and implementation, leaders are responsible for altering a preexisting institutional framework in order to accommodate the network's preferences, while shaping these preferences in accordance with the institutionally embedded framework (Morris and Staggenborg 2004:186). They are, as Putnam's chief negotiator, at the interface of two games.

In the debate over Bill C-9, leadership was often assumed by umbrella organizations. Several interviewees from the brand name network explained that business associations such as IFPMA and Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D) have much greater ability to express their opinion to policymakers and the media than any specific companies. As one explained, a business association "is not a brand, [it] doesn't sell medicines, so their image doesn't matter as much." Companies prefer not to take the stand on public policy issues; they would rather delegate this role to associations, which are less sensitive to public perception and reputation. "It's our role to be out there as advocates; and companies prefer having us than having that role," confirmed an interviewee from a business association.

When the Canadian government announced its intention to implement the WTO Decision, the first reaction came for the international industry association. Harvey Bale, the Director of Geneva-based IFMPA, warned the Canadian government that its initiative would be "a negative black eye" that will "very well affect the investment climate" (*Globe and Mail* 27 Sept. 2003, A1). But less than a week later, the Canadian Rx&D, representing the very same companies, clearly took a leadership role and abandoned IFPMA's confrontational approach. As a lobbyist working outside of Canada explained, "Rx&D were talking to [the Canadian] government because they had [a] relationship compared to other [foreign] companies" and industry associations. Despite the fact the international, American, and European industry associations took the Canadian Bill "very seriously" and were regularly consulted for their key expertise acquired at the WTO, they delegated the leadership role for the Bill C-9 debate to Ottawa-based Rx&D.

In the generic network, the leadership role was assumed by CGPA. During the drafting and amendment processes, CGPA issued six press releases on Bill C-9, sent detailed submission to parliamentary committee, and it was even invited to read and comment upon undisclosed drafts of the Bill. Apotex, as the largest Canadian-owned pharmaceutical company, was also a crucial player in this network. It had more products to offer to

developing countries, and therefore more interest in developing new ones than any other generic manufacturer. That is why Apotex regularly met with NGOs and policymakers to discuss the drafting and implementation of the Bill. Moreover, the company upheld a constant interest and expressed a non-equivocal commitment to the issue. As a result, Apotex became the first company worldwide to have used the WTO mechanism in 2007. One could even doubt that the CGPA would have played such an active role without the involvement of this key member.

Within the government network, interviewees designated Industry Canada as the predominant player, although each of the five departments cited above made some contributions and even took the lead on specific issues. Industry Canada's leadership was visible as it bore precedence in parliamentary hearings—being first to speak—and in interdepartmental press releases where their perspectives and contact information would show first. Industry Canada's leadership attributes derived from several factors. First and foremost, the *Patent Act* is under its administration. Its responsibilities and expertise on IP law, which it shared with Health Canada, gave it "a certain credibility." Its leadership also came from Allan Rock, its Minister, who according to an insider, "made it a personal issue for him and led the charge in Cabinet, and he sort of was able to overcome any obstacles or inertia that might have otherwise held up the policy development process."

The Privy Council Office (PCO) also played an important but secondary role within the government network. It was responsible for briefing the Prime Minister, supporting the Cabinet process and coordinating the different departments. It was especially concerned about the unity of government's public views and interests, either real or perceived. In short, the PCO made sure that the government ultimately spoke with one voice. If Industry Canada was leading the substance of negotiations, the PCO was leading the interdepartmental process.

In the case of the NGO network, the structure was substantially different. As one interviewee said: "there was not a functioning structure, an office, or a paid coordinator." Existing umbrella organizations such as the Canadian Council for International Cooperation or the Inter-Agency Coalition on AIDS and Development were involved in the debate but were not considered official leaders. Moreover, it was decided not to transform the GTAG in a formalized umbrella organization with a single budget, membership, spokespersons, and branding. Not only was there insufficient time and resources to create such an organization, but as several interviewees also pointed out, the flexibility of an informal coalition and the weight of some existing NGOs' brands were key assets that they wanted to preserve.

There were three layers of actor involvement in the NGO network that can be illustrated by three concentric circles. At the periphery were organizations such as World Vision and the North-South Institute. Most of them readily recognized their minor role in the discussions: "We were involved sporadically but not all the time." The second layer include actors who were frequently mentioned in our interviews, such as Oxfam, the Canadian Labour Congress, the Canadian Council for International Cooperation, and the Inter-Agency Coalition on Aids and Development. Finally, at the heart of the network, the first circle was constituted by MSF and the HIV/AIDS Legal Network, almost unanimously recognized by interviewees as the "elite group." They published by far the highest number of press releases, articles and open letters and were the most quoted in the media. They were "the core where everything came together."

The leadership of this nucleus derives from four attributes. First, they possessed legal and medical expertise that proved to be useful. For instance, the HIV/AIDS Legal Network provided the necessary legal knowledge to argue that a closed list of medicines was not a requirement under the TRIPS Agreement. As for MSF, they had the medical expertise to determine which important drugs were missing in the governmental list. Secondly, both organizations had instrumental contacts in Canada as well as in developing countries. Because the Canadian branch of MSF was part of the broader MSF network, they had lobbyists following the debate at the WTO as well as persons that could provide testimonies from the field. As of the HIV/AIDS Legal Network, it is a genuine Canadian organization with close connections to two key South African NGOs (the AIDS Law Project and the Treatment Action Campaign) that participated in the debate and sent their own submissions to the Canadian government. Thirdly, both MSF and the HIV/AIDS Legal Network had the capacity and the willingness to devote resources, especially human resources, in the campaign and potentially at the expense of other policy issues. Lastly, the individuals working in these two organizations clearly demonstrated leadership. Richard Elliot, Marie-Hélène Bonin, and Rachel Kiddell-Monroe were described by their peers as passionate and dedicated individuals.

Leaders of the four networks had a double mandate. Internally, their role was to mobilize and consult with their members in order to speak with a common voice. They focused essentially on sharing information, galvanizing their network, and as one said, sold their ideas to their partners. Externally, they had to interact with one another—either directly, during private meetings, or indirectly, through the media. The key concept of win-sets is found at the intersection between these two levels.

ESTIMATING THE WIN-SET SIZE

Many variables can be expected to have direct effect on leaders' bargaining power. Drawing from Putnam's discussion on the variables of a win-sets and Moravcsik's concept of acceptability set, it appears that at least five factors can enhance bargaining power by reducing the win-set size: (1) the

network's tolerance of the status quo; (2) heterogeneity of interests; (3) the network's tolerance of dissension; (4) the leader's autonomy; and (5) the leader's strategic preferences.

The first variable that contributes to reduce the win-set size is the network's tolerance of the status quo. If a "no-agreement" outcome bears little or no cost for a network, the latter is likely to be less compromising or more easily opposed to the agreement. On the other hand, if the status quo persists at great cost or represents a worsening situation, the network will likely show general support for the legislation. Thus, as a general rule, a lower cost to maintaining the status quo will engender a smaller win-set.

Since maintaining the status quo was not an appealing outcome for the brand name network, they showed consistent support for the proposed Bill. After the bad press they received at the 1999 South African trial, the industry rallied in support of Bill C-9 and wanted to be seen as supportive. The brand name companies repeatedly said that they "support[ed] the laudable goals of the Doha Decision," and at most expressed a mere "disappointment" for a specific measure. The government also showed general support for the legislation since the decision to implement the WTO Decision had been announced to electors just before the elections in the spring of 2004. Although scepticism about the feasibility of the Bill was high within the governmental network, pressure from the executive thwarted all resistance. As an interviewee said, "a lot of people in the Canadian government, senior level, would not have done it, but once you have the Prime Minister saying, "I want to get this done," then the whole dynamic changes and it gets done." As the political cost of no-agreement was perceived as being high, they were ready to compromise to achieve consensus.

In contrast, NGOs were neither committed nor pressured to support the agreement. In fact, they had an interest in drawing out the discussion. Should the debate come to a standstill, some NGOs could successfully have demonstrated the failure of the mechanism and, as an interviewee said, show "that it's all a waste of time and we should be looking for completely different ways of doing this." Generic companies had an interest in the status quo as well. As a key player in the generic industry commented, "there's no way that this bill is ever going to be able to be used." Given this skepticism, their commitment toward reaching an agreement was low. Besides, they were afraid that any measure would thrust expectations upon them, since any adopted mechanism would require managing expectation that generic companies could not alone save developing countries.

The heterogeneity of interests is the second variable affecting the winset. The presence of heterogeneous interests among members reduces the scope of possible agreements that are available. In a homogenous group, the network leader can seek to obtain maximum concessions from his opponents without being afraid that his members will complain of too many gains. However, in a heterogeneous group, division creates possibilities of

defection if, in the eyes of the members, the agreement realizes too little or too much. Internal coalitions, issue-linkages and trade-offs that are typical of heterogeneous group complicate the constitution of a joint platform, increase the risk of factionalism, reduce the number of potentially "winning" agreements, and consequently impact the win-set size.

The network showing the highest level of homogeneity was the brand name industry. When the companies sent their own submissions to the government, they typically specified in the introduction that they "fully support the submission by our industry association." Their interests were fairly homogenous, although some companies, like Pfizer, had more stringent positions on the protection of their patent rights than others, such as Merck. Their debate was more about the appropriate strategy than about their shared interests. As for the generic companies, they expressed no opposition to the Bill. Although Apotex was showing an ongoing interest in the legislation, most other companies kept a low profile. They did not strongly support nor oppose the Bill. With respect to internal coalitions, the brand name industry and the generic companies networks could not be said to have really exploited issue linkages. While the pharmaceutical and generic industries tried to divert the debate toward other issues (the former emphasizing on health infrastructure and corruption in developing countries and the latter hoping to secure government buying as part of development assistance), these linkages were merely strategies aimed at minimizing cost or maximizing benefits.

A completely different situation took place within the NGO and government networks, which were subject to considerable internal debate. In the former, markedly different opinions were expressed with respect to objectives and resources. Not only did the NGO network group comprise a wide range of organizations with heterogeneous interests, but it was also divided between radicals and reformists. As one interviewee explained, "People have different bottom lines on how flexible they are, what they are willing to accept." Locally based and transnational organizations, religious groups and AIDS activists, pragmatic doctors, and dogmatic protestors had to agree on a common platform combining development and health issues. One contentious issue within the NGO network was whether or not generics should be allowed to profit from this mechanism. As one interviewee said, "The free stuff is not sustainable." But other NGOs were rather focused on the humanitarian dimension and were "not worried about whether it's profitable or not." Each internal coalition between NGOs was thus setting new expectations toward the Bill while also reducing its chances of success.

At the governmental level, the departments' different interests, perspectives, and organizational cultures frustrated internal cooperation. Concerns ranged from drug safety and efficacy to international standing of the country. The five departments nevertheless agreed on a triple objective behind

the adoption of the Bill, namely the improvement of access to medicines in developing countries while respecting international trade rules and maintaining the integrity of the domestic patent system. Although those objectives are not necessarily in conflict, their overlap is thin and precarious.

The third factor influencing the win-set size is tolerance to dissension. Contrary to the heterogeneity within the network, this variable measures the cost rather than the risk of factionalism. Thus, among networks striving with internal debate, the tolerance to audible divergent opinion can vary. The lower the tolerance to dissenting voices, the higher the necessity for the leader to take into account the disparate interests of members. This added responsibility reduces the win-set.

For NGOs, generic manufacturers and the brand name industry, the cost of dissension is high but tolerable. Within the NGO network, for example, intolerance to dissenting voices was manifest after the Canadian Access to Treatment Coalition left the network. The network reacted strongly to this event and, as one interviewee recalls, "That was one of the tough moments, and we sort of lost a partner in the process at that time." The same state of shock happened twice with MSF. In 2004, MSF refused to sign a press release considered too compromising and instead issued its own entitled: "How Canada Failed the International Community" (29 April 2004). A year later, MSF also refused to support an NGO platform that sought to address issues other than access to medicines. These were painful but not insurmountable moments.

The government network is, by nature, much more intolerant to any leakage of dissenting voices. Although competition between departments is inevitable, the government wanted to be seen by the electorate as a united team. Dissenting voices within an informal NGO network or industry association, if noticed by third party, rarely challenge the credibility of the entire network. The government, however, has a greater stake in being perceived as working toward a coherent goal. The five departments thus repeatedly expressed their position with a single voice. As one interviewee maintains, "I think probably no department or no Minister wanted to be seen as the one who was blocking this [Bill] from happening (. . .) nobody was interested in having that kind of media coverage."

The fourth variable to consider is the leader's autonomy vis-à-vis the network. As a general rule, the more autonomy a leader enjoys with respect to decision-making, the larger his win-set. A leader ultimately perceived as immune from internal pressures loses considerable bargaining power because he cannot invoke lack of internal support as a constraint. Conversely, a leader with little autonomy will see his win-set reduced for he is bound to the position of his members.

Leaders in the generic and brand name industry, respectively Rx&D and CGPA, depend on their members, and have little autonomy to act contrary to their interests. As trade associations, they do not have the material and

political capacity to ignore the mandate given to them by their contributors. Far from being authoritative, they could be described as "serving leaders."

Within the governmental network, Industry Canada had more autonomy. The *Patent Act* is under its authority and its expertise is incontestable. That being said, it could not have imposed the decision unilaterally because of its lack of formal authority on other ministries. Industry Canada was simply first among its peers.

In the NGO network, members refused to adopt a sole leader to speak on their behalf. As one interviewee explains, electing a spokesperson for all NGOs would likely interfere with some strong and influential members who "would not allow anyone to speak on their behalf." Since the network renounced institutionalizing an umbrella organization, its leaders enjoyed great autonomy and generally spoke on their own behalf.

The fifth and last variable is the leader's strategic preferences. Moravcsik's amendment to Putnam makes clear that a chief negotiator is likely to favor agreements that match his acceptability-set. For instance, the leader can deliberately adopt a noncooperative approach in order to force his counterparts on his ground and act, in Moravcsik's terms, as a leader-as-hawk. Alternatively, if the leader adopts a cooperative approach, he is a leader-as-dove.

Although brand name industry association has often played the leader-as-hawk in public policy debates, in this case, Rx&D was a leader-as-dove. Soon after the Canadian government's announcement that it would implement the WTO decision, the transnational pharmaceutical companies abandoned their previous confrontational approach. They changed for a more cooperative one, as shown in their press releases using terms such as *partnership*, *cooperation*, *coordination*, *jointly*, *together*, *agree*, and *shared*.

At the government level, Industry Canada was primarily concerned with maintaining the equilibrium of the *Patent Act*. Other objectives, such as insuring a better access to medicines in developing countries or implementing safety measure for the imported drugs, were never endorsed by the leading agency. In light of this, Industry Canada qualifies as a leader-as-hawk since its acceptability-set lies partly outside of the domestic win-set, and even further from the opposing win-set.

The NGO network had MSF, often pictured as cut-and-dried, less compromising, and more arrogant, as their leader-as-hawk. Several NGOs considered that having MSF was a key attractive force and helped the overall campaign. Two interviewees underlined the French root of MSF to explain why they were less consensus-orientated.

The five aforementioned variables contribute to the complex interplay of power forces, as the Bill C-9 debate makes explicit. It appears from our analysis that the NGO network, closely followed by the generics and the government, had accumulated the most variables that reduce win-set size

TABLE 2 Variables Contributing to the Reduction of the Win-Set Size in the Bill C-9 Debate

	$Larger\ win\text{-set}\ \longleftrightarrow\ Smaller\ win\text{-set}$		
	Low (1)	Medium (2)	High (3)
Tolerance to status quo	Brand name Government	Generics	NGO
Heterogeneity of interests	Brand name	Generics	NGO Government
Intolerance to dissension		Brand name Generics, NGO	Government
Leaders' dependence	NGO	Government	Brand name Generics
Leader's preferences	Brand name	Generics Government	NGO
Total:	NGO: 12; Government: 11; Generic: 11; Brand name: 8		

(see Table 2 above). According to our model, their networks would have the smaller win-sets and potentially greater power to influence outcomes. As the next section will detail, this hypothesis has proven true in the case of Bill C-9.

COMPARING WIN-SETS OVERLAP WITH OUTCOME

Ultimately, the four networks behaved in accordance with predictions of the revisited version of the two-level game theory. First, the prediction that parties with smaller win-sets have higher bargaining power was confirmed with the NGO and government networks. The legislator adopted many of the proposals submitted by the NGO and the generic networks, like the removal of the "right of first refusal" for pharmaceutical companies, the expanded list of beneficiary countries, the revision of the categories of eligible purchasers, and the inclusion of additional products in the list of eligible drugs for export. The government was also able to include some of its own ideas—such as the pricing scale—that was not anticipated by any stakeholder. As interviewees from all sides admitted, NGOs and bureaucrats had a "significant impact on the legislation."

Secondly, as anticipated, the possibility to reach an agreement was dependent upon the overlap of parties' win-sets. The opportunity to reach consensus on Bill C-9 has been greatly enhanced by the brand name network's large win-set. Faced with a public relations disaster, their objective became the mitigation of losses. They realized that their material interests could be spared and their reputation improved if they cooperated and supported the suggested mechanism. Thus as they readily admit, they decided to "conceded on some demands."

Not only did the parties behave in accordance with the revised two-level game but they also seem to have consciously maximized it in two ways.

Indeed, relevant actors were familiar with the two-level game at play. At the *intra-network* level, most networks recognized the strategic necessity to speak with a common voice. Aware that only a strong and cohesive network would be successful, they strived to find a consensual standpoint to represent the group. As one interviewee from the NGO network explained: "If you have too many messages, then they divide to conquer. So it is very important to show that you have some cohesion, that there is one message." And a policymaker confirmed the effectiveness of the latter strategy: "Having all these NGO's involved with this and all focusing in the same direction, I mean, government we listen."

Parties also planned strategies at the *inter-network* level. When a network is subject to lively internal debate, it is also more vulnerable to tactics intended to influence marginal actors. As Keck and Sikkink explain, "undermining a dense network rather requires destructuring it—that is, eroding the relations of trust or mutual dependence that exist among networked actors" (1998:207). Thus, network leaders often strategically targeted a player at the margin of another network in order to establish partnerships, share information, create alliance or weaken a rival network.

The NGO network has been especially targeted by this tactic since their internal dissension, exhibiting some degree of weakness, was perceivable from the outside. Health Partners International of Canada, for example, received free medicines and vaccines from brand name companies, and at the end, supported the brand name idea of a tax credit for drug donations. Similarly, the bureaucrats from the five department find it useful to meet with a small group of NGO representatives, isolated from their coalition, because "they didn't have a lot of time for turnaround, so they were actually very helpful tender comments." That being said, the same tactic was used against the government network. Some bureaucrats had privileged meetings with stakeholders in the absence of their colleagues and thus obtained from these meetings information necessary to support their position in the internal governmental debate. As a result, the industry representatives considered that "we had some people in the (administration) working in our direction" and some NGOs recognized that they were "playing one department against another." Similarly, both NGO and government representatives tried to bypass industry associations, described as "not good interlocutors" because they repeatedly state predetermined positions. Rather, they sought to interact directly with their "forward-looking CEOs," seen as more receptive but also more difficult to reach.

While stakeholders were tacitly aware of the two-level game at play, an enhanced understanding of intra- and inter-network negotiations could inform their strategic decisions. NGOs might realize, for example, that their lack of a strong leader speaking on behalf of their entire network is an important weakness. Similarly, the governmental network might come to the conclusion that having a single agency permanently dealing with all intellectual property issues could raise its control over the outcome.

CONCLUSION

Following Keck and Sikkink, the current literature in international relations acknowledges the structural dimension of network but focuses on network-as-actors. This paper intended to offer an original theoretical conceptualization of the interplay between intra- and inter-network interactions by importing and adapting the two-level game theory. Viewed through these lenses, the Bill C-9 case illustrates a revised version of the two-level game theory, shows how structural features of networks can have significant influence on the outcome, and suggests that the strength of networks as *agent* springs from their force as a *structure*. A network involving a broad range of actors with lively internal debate may lead to a narrow win-set, and, if well communicated, can give additional bargaining power because its counterparts know that they cannot support an outcome outside of this framework if they want member support. At the same time, until a win-set is defined, lively internal debate makes networks vulnerable to external pressure and tactics.

This article is an attempt to bring back the network-as-structure in the literature on transnational advocacy network. The next step would be to test this theoretical model by relying, for example, on the methods of social network analysis (Hafner-Burton, Kahler, and Montgomery 2009; Kahler 2009). Social network analysis is a methodological approach that offers quantitative tools to measure the strength of a network, based on the magnitude and the frequency of the links among nodes (see Figures 1 and 2). For example, networks' leaders could be identified through one of the several measurements of centrality, such as the sum of the ties between a leader and every other actors or the length of the path between the leader and every other actors. Similarly, the heterogeneity of a network, affecting its win-set, could be inferred from a measurement of density, which is the proportion of ties in a network relative to the total number possible. The leader's autonomy visà-vis the network, another variable affecting the win-set, could be indicated by the leader's prominence, which is the degree of centrality of the actors to whom the leader is connected, or the leader's betweenness, which is the number of paths between two actors in the network that pass through the leader. Such a measurement of networks' structural dimensions could usefully contribute to testing the hypothesis on the interplay between intra and inter network interaction. That being said, some of the variables affecting a network's win-set, such as "leader's preferences" and "network tolerance to status quo" do not have a pure structural dimension and could hardly be assessed by the statistical tools. This is one of the reasons why network mapping techniques alone could not be sufficient and must be completed by a qualitative analysis.

It is important to recall, moreover, that structural dimensions of networks are likely to explain the outcome only if there is a shared belief that the participation of all stakeholders is essential. This is a necessary condition to import in the transnational network literature the two-level game theory, which, in its classical form, assumes that the ratification of an international agreement by states is necessary to establish cooperation. If decision makers do not share this belief, classic indicators of capabilities used in the interest group literature, such as financial resources, number of members, or connection to decision makers, are more likely to explain the relative influence of a given nonstate actor. In fact, these more classic indicators continue to play a significant role as NGOs, industries, and others nonstate actors do not have a formal veto power in most international regimes. But as the belief that multistakeholder governance is the most desirable procedure in world politics is spreading, the former interplay between domestic and international politics could increasingly be substituted by the interplay between intra- and inter-network negotiations.

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APPENDIX: List of Interviewees

Interviewee	Affiliation	Date of interview
Abbott, Frederick M.	Florida State University	January 16, 2007
Addor, Felix	Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property	February 14, 2007
Armstrong, Christopher	Canadian International Development Agency	January 17, 2007
Austin, Sara	World Vision	August 23, 2006
Bennett, Catherine	Formerly with Pfizer	October 6, 2006
Berger, Jonathan	AIDS Law Project (South Africa)	April 2, 2007
Blouin, Chantal	North South Institute	June 21, 2006
Bonin, Marie-Hélène	Formerly with Médecins Sans Frontières	November 8, 2006
Charles, Furaya	Government of Rwanda	November 20, 2007
Clark, Bruce and Hems, John	Apotex	January 30, 2007
Clark, Douglass	Industry Canada	November 17, 2006
Connell, Jeff	Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association	January 30, 2007
Drummond, John	Department of Foreign Affairs (Canada)	October 31, 2006
Elliott, Richard	Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network	January 31, 2007
Elouardighi, Khalil	Act Up Paris	October 30, 2006
Finston, Susan	Formerly with PhRMA	October 5, 2006
Foster, John	North South Institute	September 8, 2006
Fried, Mark	Oxfam	September 8, 2006
George, Douglas and Boisvert, Julie	International Trade Canada	September 7, 2006
Gerhardsen, Tove Iren	IP Watch	November 1, 2006
Gorlin, Jacques	Gorlin Group	October 5, 2006
Jennings, Marlene	Member of the Canadian Parliament	October 10, 2006
Jorge, Fabiana and Cullen, Dolores	MFJ International	October 6, 2006
Kiddell-Monroe, Rachel	Médecins Sans Frontières	November 10, 2006
Kurji, Feyrouz	Formerly at the Private Council Office (Canada)	January 10, 2007
Lee, David K.	Health Canada	September 8, 2006
Lewis-Lettington, Robert	Genetic Resources Policy Initiative (Kenya)	April 4, 2007
Lexchin, Joel	York University	January 31, 2007
Love, James	Knowledge Ecology International	September 23, 2006
Matthews, Merrill	Institute for Policy Innovation	November 2, 2006
McCool, Terry	Eli Lilly	February 8, 2007
McCoy, Stanford	United State Trade Representative Office	October 6, 2006
Musungu, Sisule	South Center	November 10, 2006

(Continued)

APPENDIX: (Continued)

Interviewee	Affiliation	Date of interview
Noehrenberg, Eric	International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations	November 1, 2006
O'Connor, Michael	Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development	November 8, 2006
Otten, Adrian and Watal, Jayashree	World Trade Organization	October 31, 2006
Passarelli, Carlos	Government of Brazil	December 13, 2007
Patry, Bernard	Member of the Canadian Parliament	November 8, 2006
Pettigrew, Pierre	Former Canadian Minister of International Trade	December 14, 2006
Pitts, Peter	Center for Medicines in the Public Interest	January 25, 2007
Pugatch, Meir	The Stockholm Network	December 20, 2006
Smith, Eric	International Intellectual Property Alliance	October 6, 2006
Smith, Patrick	Intellectual Property Institute of Canada	January 22, 2007
Spennemann, Christoph	UNCTAD	November 1, 2006
Sreenivasan, Gauri	Canadian Council for International Cooperation	September 7, 2006
Tamakloe, Joseph	Ghanaian Patent Office	November 16, 2007
Taubman, Antony	WIPO 33	January 17, 2007
Twiss, Caroline	Canadian Activist	March 7, 2007
Vandoren, Paul and Ravillard, Patrick	European Commission	December 13, 2006
Van-Eeckhaute, Jean Charles	European Commission	December 19, 2006
Velasquez, German	World Health Organization	October 31, 2006
Weissman, Robert	Essential Action	October 5, 2006
Williams, Russell	Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies	December 20, 2006
Yong-d'Hervé, Daphné	International Chamber of Commerce	December 5, 2006