



# “ALONE AGAINST THE WORLD”: BOLIVIA’S VOICING OF HETERODOX VISIONS AT THE CANCUN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

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# Paper outline

1. Conflicting views at the Cancun conference
2. Corpus and methods
3. Results
4. Concluding remarks



# COP16 in Cancun



# Narratives and counter-narratives



Photo: *The Guardian*



Photo: Wikipedia

# Corpus – Cancun narratives by Solheim and Solón



## Why Bolivia stood alone in opposing the Cancún climate agreement

We were accused of being obstructionist, obstinate and unrealistic. But we feel an enormous obligation to set aside diplomacy and tell the truth



### HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

Published under: Stoltenberg's 2nd Government  
Publisher Ministry of the Environment

## Goddess saves the day in Cancun

Speech/article | Published: 2010-12-15

By [Former Minister of the Environment and International Development](#)

There is an expectant atmosphere in the plenary hall at the UN Climate Change Conference on Friday evening. Patricia Espinosa, President of the Conference, is greeted with a standing ovation. Her proposal for a climate compromise is finally to be discussed. But suddenly she is interrupted by shouts and hammering on the doors.



# UAM CORPUS TOOL

Project: **Konferanse2015**

Layers in this project:

Name: appraisal	Delete	Name: Referents	Delete	Name: process	Delete	Name: intertextuality	Delete	Name: simple_referent	Delete
Type: code-segments		Type: code-segments		Type: code-segments		Type: code-segments		Type: code-segments	
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Scheme: appraisal.xml	Edit	Scheme: Referents.xml	Edit	Scheme: process.xml	Edit	Scheme: intertextuality.xml	Edit	Scheme: simple_referent.x	Edit

Add Layer

Files in this project: **Extend Corpus**

Action ▼	appraisal	Referents	process	intertextuality
Action ▼	appraisal	Referents	process	intertextuality
Action ▼	appraisal	Referents	process	intertextuality

appraisal analysis for: Texts/Why Bolivia stood alone in opposing the Cancún climate agreement.txt

Why Bolivia stood alone in opposing the Cancún climate agreement  
 We were accused of being obstructionist, obstinate and unrealistic. But we feel an enormous obligation to set aside  
 diplomacy and tell the truth  
 Diplomacy is traditionally a game of alliance and compromise. Yet in the early hours of Saturday 11 December, Bolivia  
 found itself alone against the world: the only nation to oppose the outcome of the United Nations climate change  
 summit in Cancún. We were accused of being obstructionist, obstinate and unrealistic. Yet in truth we did not feel alone,

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Assigned	Gloss
appraisal	
attitude	
appreciation	
social-valuation	
involved	



# "TO STAND ALONE"

## **Solón**

- Bolivia may have been the only country to speak out against these failures, but several negotiators told us privately that they support us.

## **Solheim**

- But now Bolivia stands alone. Pablo Solón reminds us that consensus is needed in the UN. It is as if one of your neighbours were to turn up at the general meeting of the housing cooperative and insist that the balconies should be painted green, even though everyone else wants them to be grey. Ms Espinosa has the patience of a goddess [...].





# ADVERSATIVES - SOLON

Context	Text	
...e and unrealistic.	But	...we feel an
...ce and compromise.	Yet	...in the early
...e and unrealistic.	Yet	...in truth we
...ded by the attacks.	Instead	..., we feel an
...o hours to read it.	Despite	...pressure to
...discuss the text,	despite	...a lack of co
...ght direction." We	disagree	...: it is a giant
...ent. These pledges	contradict	...the stated g
...temperature at 2C,	instead	...guiding us
...nst these failures,	but	...several neg
...e to climate change,	but	...with the lea
...dealing with things.	But	...we face an

We were accused of being obstructionist, obstinate and unrealistic. **Yet** in truth we did not feel alone, nor are we offended by the attacks.





## Adversative verbs

- Many commentators have called the Cancún accord a "step in the right direction." We **disagree**: it is a giant step backward. (Solón)
- The proposed Cancun text would take us **a big step forwards**. (Solheim)



# ADVERSATIVES - SOLHEIM

			is finally to be discussed.	But	suddenly she is interrupted b
			the support of all countries.	But	it is a case of take it or le
			ompleted as soon as possible,	but	without clarifying all the co
			issue has not been resolved,	but	neither is it being allowed t
			e very close to an agreement,	but	that she has to listen to the
			ed the Copenhagen agreement.	But	now Bolivia stands alone. Pab
			nies should be painted green,	even though	everyone else wants them to t

[...] Cuba, Nicaragua and Saudi Arabia give the same response. This is the same group that blocked the Copenhagen agreement. **But** now Bolivia stands alone. Pablo Solón reminds us that consensus is needed in the UN.