

Frequently asked questions on COP 23 logistics

As of 7 May 2017

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1. When and where will COP 23 take place?

The 2017 UN Climate Change Conference will take place from 6 to 17 November at the [World Conference Center](#) in Bonn, Germany, the seat of the UNFCCC secretariat.

2. Which bodies will be meeting?

The following bodies will be in session:

- *The Conference of the Parties (COP 23);*
- *The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 13);*
- *The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 1.2);*
- *The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 47);*
- *The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 47);*
- *The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA).*

3. Why is COP 23 held in Bonn?

The COP Presidency rotates among the five UN regions. As per the established rhythm, the Presidency of COP 23 would come from the Asia-Pacific States. At COP 22 held in Marrakech, the Conference of the Parties expressed its appreciation for the nomination received from the Asia-Pacific States of a representative of the Government of Fiji, as the first-ever small island state, to serve as President. According to Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure, the sessions of the COP take place at the seat of the secretariat (Bonn), unless the COP decides otherwise. This principle was confirmed by the COP in Marrakech.

4. What is the division of roles between the Government of Fiji, the Government of Germany and the UNFCCC secretariat?

The Conference will be convened under the [Presidency of Fiji](#) which will provide political leadership.

The UNFCCC secretariat, as host of the Conference, is working with the Government of Germany, the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and the [City of Bonn](#) to make all the necessary arrangements for the Conference.

The Government of Germany, as the host country of the secretariat, provides valuable political and financial support to the organization of the sessions.

5. How can I support the organization of COP 23?

The UNFCCC secretariat is seeking to establish partnerships which will be formally recognized and given high visibility through UNFCCC's websites and social media channels, conference branding and media engagement activities. More information is available on the [UNFCCC website](#).

6. Where can I find the COP 23 logo?

The logo may be accessed here (link to be announced in due course).

Information on the design competition held in Fiji is available [here](#).

7. I heard the Conference will take place in two different zones. What is the difference between them and how will they be connected?

COP 23 presents a unique opportunity for piloting a new setting for future climate conferences in which the importance of climate action by multiple non-Party stakeholders is showcased as a complement to the formal meetings.

Under the innovative “One conference, Two zones” concept, plenary halls and meeting rooms for negotiations, delegation offices as well as major media facilities will be housed in the former “Blue Zone”, currently referred to as “Bula Zone”, composed of WCCB, UN Campus and an extended area behind Deutsche Welle.

The other zone, called the “Bonn Zone”, will accommodate climate action events including some high-level events, side events and exhibits organized by both UNFCCC and the Government of Germany, some media activities as well as events in the delegation pavilions. In other words, the “Bonn Zone” will house part of the former “Blue Zone” and “Green Zone” activities within the limited available space.

8. What is the distance between the zones and how will they be connected?

The distance between the zones is 1.4 km, with an estimated commuting time of approximately nine minutes by vehicle, or 15 minutes walking. Both zones will be well-connected through the regular bus lines, enhanced with a special shuttle service. In addition, bicycles will be available free of charge for those who enjoy a cool breeze.

9. Do I need a visa and, if yes, how may I obtain it?

All foreign delegates entering the Federal Republic of Germany must have a valid passport.

Participants requiring a visa should contact the appropriate consular authorities well in advance of the Conference to ensure sufficient time for processing. The issuance of a Schengen visa may take up to two weeks from the date of submission of the visa application. To facilitate the issuance of a visa, a copy of the acknowledgement letter from the Online Registration System must be attached to the visa application.

For more information, please visit the English, French or Spanish language pages of the [German Federal Foreign Office](#) and the website of the German mission where you are planning to apply for your visa.

Participants are advised that obtaining a Schengen visa is contingent on the participant securing comprehensive insurance that covers the entire period or periods requested.

10. How will registration work?

The concept of “One Conference - Two Zones” calls for a new approach to registration and badges.

“Bula Zone”:

- For Parties, the Online Registration System (ORS) will open on 15 May 2017.*
- For NGOs and IGOs, the ORS will be open for nominations from 15 May to 7 July 2017.*
- For NGOs and IGOs, the confirmation period will be from 14 July to 31 October 2017.*

“Bonn Zone”:

- All participants registered for the “Bula Zone” will have access to the “Bonn Zone”.*
- A similar registration system for further participants will be set up (currently under development).*
- A new and unique badge for participants registered for this zone will be issued. Participants registered for this zone will not be included in the list of participants of the sessions of the Conference of the Parties.*
- Detailed information will be provided to NFPs and DCPs in due course to enable them to make the corresponding nominations.*

All organizers, speakers and other participants must be registered for the Conference as representatives of Parties or admitted observer organizations to ensure that they will be granted access to the conference venue.

More information on registration will soon be made available on the [UNFCCC website](#).

11. Will there be a high-level segment?

Information on the high-level segment will soon be made available on the [UNFCCC website](#).

12. Where can I access information on the participation of observer organizations?

The timelines for registration of delegates through the [Online Registration System](#) are tentatively scheduled as follows:

- *Nomination period: 15 May to 7 July 2017, midnight Central European Time;*
- *Confirmation period: 14 July to 31 October 2017, midnight Central European Time.*

Further information on the participation of observer organizations is available on the [UNFCCC website](#).

13. Where can I find information on delegation offices and pavilions on a commercial basis?

As usual, Parties and admitted observer organizations will be able to apply for delegation offices (located in the “Bula Zone”) and pavilions (located in the “Bonn Zone”).

Requests for renting space on a commercial basis have to be made through the [website of the General Contractor for COP 23](#) by 9 June 2017, using the log-in details sent to you. All those without log-in details may request them by sending an email to the COP 23 Commercial Services Team at mail@cop23-service.de.

For more information on the application procedure please click [here](#).

Additional details are included in [this information note to Parties](#).

14. How about side events and exhibits?

COP 23 will host many side events and exhibits by Parties, non-Party stakeholders and the UNFCCC secretariat. These events and exhibits will take place in the “Bonn Zone” of the official conference venue, making it a major hub for showcasing climate action, knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and networking.

As per past practice, it is planned that the side events will be clustered around major themes, to be announced at a later stage, with specific days being dedicated to different clusters.

For more information on the application procedure please click [here](#). Kindly note that the availability of space for side events and exhibits for entities without observer status in the UNFCCC process will be announced at a later stage. For any activity outside the official conference venue, please contact the City of Bonn (contact details will be made available at the above link in due course).

15. Where can I find information on accommodation?

The [UNFCCC website](#) includes comprehensive information on accommodation options.

Bonn and the surrounding region offer a wide variety of accommodation, from five star hotels to bed-and-breakfast lodging and many homestay opportunities. Nine thousand hotel beds exist within Bonn city limits, and neighboring counties and cities between Cologne to the north and Koblenz to the south offer another 56,000 beds within a radius of 50 km.

Participants who have not yet booked for COP 23 may wish to note that the November sessions are expected to attract much larger numbers than the SBs. In addition, lodging could be further limited due to a number of other events that will be held in the region. Therefore, all participants are encouraged to make their arrangements as early as possible.

Accommodation can be booked directly with hotels and other providers or through travel agencies and online services. Participants seeking personal advice and assistance may wish to contact [Tourismus & Congress](#), Bonn and the region's tourism agency.

16. How about travel and transportation?

The [UNFCCC website](#) features useful information on trains, metros/ trams and buses which will be running at short intervals. From most places in the region, no more than one change of transport needs to be made to arrive at the conference centre.

For a map of the region and directions to the United Nations Campus and the WCCB please see the [Maps and Directions page](#) on the UNFCCC website. The page facilitates the exploration of routes between hotels and the conference venue and shows useful information on travel from surrounding airports.

In addition to an already well-functioning and integrated public transportation system, [Stadtwerke Bonn](#) will make available additional trams and buses to accommodate your access to the COP.

[Deutsche Bahn](#), with funding from the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, is building a "UN Campus" train stop (for RE and RB trains) close to the conference venue.

The U-Bahn stop closest to the venue is "Heussallee".

A bus stop located even nearer the conference venue is "Deutsche Welle" (610 and 611 lines).

High-speed intercity trains (IC, EC, ICE) from Cologne, Koblenz and further away stop at Bonn Hauptbahnhof/ Central Station and Siegburg/ Bonn, from where a metro/ tram takes travellers directly to "Heussallee".

The State of North Rhine-Westphalia has generously offered to provide free regional transportation passes to all COP delegates for the duration of the Conference.

17. Will Wi-Fi services be available inside the conference venue?

Yes, both conference zones will be covered.

18. Which actions are planned to increase the sustainability of the Conference?

To achieve the overall goal of climate neutrality, the amount of greenhouse gas emissions generated in connection with the conference will be reduced to the extent possible. Unavoidable emissions (such as those associated with travel, which is responsible for the lion's share of the overall footprint) will be offset.

More information on planned sustainability actions has been posted on the [UNFCCC website](#). An overview of the ten sustainability focus areas is available [here](#).

19. May I distribute publications related to other meetings?

Participants will be requested to refrain from distributing printed material, such as publications and information related to future meetings. Please note that the secretariat strongly encourages the electronic dissemination of information, such as through the use of USB flash drives.

20. What is the website of the COP 23 Presidency?

The link to the incoming Presidency's website is as follows: <http://cop23.com.fj/>.

21. What is the website of the City of Bonn?

The link to the City of Bonn's website is as follows: <http://www.bonn-international.org/>.

22. What are the most important UNFCCC websites I should be aware of?

[Newsroom](#)

[Session website for COP 23](#)

[Bonn Information Hub](#)

[Practical information for participants](#)