



UNION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
UNION DES ASSOCIATIONS INTERNATIONALES

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Union of International Associations (UIA)
International Meetings Statistics Report
56th edition, published June 2015

Introduction

For the past six decades, the Union of International Associations (UIA) has undertaken statistical studies on the preceding years' international meetings. The complete report is available for sale to the public following a period of three months' exclusive use by UIA Associate Members; it will be available to non-members from September 1st 2015.

The statistics are based on information systematically collected by the UIA Congress Department and selected according to strict criteria maintained over the years, thus enabling meaningful comparison from year to year.

Meetings taken into consideration include those organized and/or sponsored by the **international organizations** which appear in the *Yearbook of International Organizations* and in the *International Congress Calendar*, i.e. the sittings of their principal organs, congresses, conventions, symposia, regional sessions grouping several countries, as well as **some national meetings with international participation** organized by national branches of international associations.

Not included are purely national meetings as well as those of an exclusively religious, didactic, political, commercial, or sporting nature, and corporate and incentive meetings, the survey of these specific markets not being within the scope of activities of the UIA.

More prominence is also given to presenting data which, due to the passage of time, can be considered to have stabilized. **The editors emphasize that the number of meetings in the database for the current reporting year will, on average, increase by 11 percent over the next year, and by nearly 35 percent over the following five years.**

As of the report for 2008 (published in 2009), the UIA meetings database has been enriched by connecting it more closely to its sister database on international organizations, the source of the *Yearbook of International Organizations*. This enriches the data available across the time scale and in particular enables historical surveys of international organization meeting activity as far back as the 1850s.

It should be noted that UIA criteria for collection and inclusion have *not* changed over time; only the presentation has changed.

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How many...

	56th Edition (published 2015)	55 th Edition (published 2014)
Total number of meetings in the UIA database	428,369	408,798
Number of those answering the criteria for inclusion in this report	384,097	364,929
Number of those taking place prior to the reporting year	364,834	347,165
Number of those taking place in the reporting year	12,212	11,135
Number of those scheduled to take place after the reporting year	7,051	6,629
Number of countries represented for all years	252	254
Number of cities represented for all years	11,959	11,642
Number of countries represented for the reporting year only	181	174
Number of cities represented for the reporting year only	1,493	1,465

General picture

Top international meeting countries in 2014 (extracted from Table 1.2, A+B column)

Country	Number of meetings	Percentage of all meetings
1. USA	858	7.9%
2. Belgium	851	7.9%
3. Singapore	850	7.9%
4. Korea Rep	636	5.9%
5. Japan	624	5.8%
6. France	561	5.2%
7. Austria	539	5.0%
8. Spain	513	4.7%
9. Germany	439	4.1%
10. UK	354	3.3%

Top international meeting cities in 2014 (extracted from Table 1.3, A+B column)

City	Number of meetings	Percentage of all meetings
1. Singapore	850	7.9%
2. Brussels	787	7.3%
3. Vienna	396	3.7%
4. Paris	325	3.0%
5. Seoul	249	2.3%
6. Tokyo	228	2.1%
7. Madrid	200	1.8%
8. Barcelona	193	1.8%
9. Bangkok	189	1.7%
10. Geneva	173	1.6%

The Table of Contents of the complete statistics report and the criteria descriptions are given on the following pages.

Associated and complementary information is available in the *Yearbook of International Organizations: Volume 5 (Statistics, Visualizations and Patterns)* which contains extensive statistical information on international meetings and organizations (see <http://www.uia.org/yearbook>).

For more information on UIA Associate Membership, statistical and other information products, please contact us (<http://www.uia.org/contact-uia>).

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Union of International Associations (UIA) International Meeting Statistics Report

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NEW!

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What meetings are counted in this report?

The data in this report are drawn from the *International Congress Calendar*, the meetings database of the UIA.

The criteria for inclusion in the *International Congress Calendar* are broad, reflecting the UIA's focus on the broad spectrum of international associations. (See also below, "What is an international organization".)

- The meeting must have a clear link to an international association as defined by the *Yearbook of International Organizations*, the associations database of the UIA (see below "What is an 'international organization'"). An exception is made for meetings of Types "B" and "C" used in Section 1, as described below.
- Meetings of both international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) are eligible for inclusion.
- Meetings are eligible for inclusion regardless of their frequency. A meeting can be a one-off event, part of a regular series, or part of an irregular series.
- Meetings are eligible for inclusion regardless of their location. A meeting series can be held always in the same location, or rotate according to a pattern between locations, or change locations randomly.
- Meetings are eligible for inclusion regardless of their participant numbers. However, in order to be counted in this report, a meeting must have at least 50 participants, or the number of participants must be unknown.

Some events take place in more than one city; such events are counted in this report for each city separately.

At the time of producing this edition (May 2015) there were 428,369 meetings in the UIA meetings database of which 384,097 (90%) meet the criteria for inclusion in this report. Of these 384,097 meetings, 364,834 took place in 2013 or earlier, 12,212 took place in 2014, and 7,051 are scheduled for 2015 or later.

Types of meetings

Meetings included in this report are divided into three types. The types are indicated by letters: type A, type B and type C. These letters have, in themselves, no significance in relation to the meetings they group, and are used merely for convenience.

Meetings counted under the heading "A" are "Meetings of international organizations" and meet all the following criteria:

- meetings organized or sponsored by "international organizations", i.e. international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) that are included in the UIA's *Yearbook of International Organizations* (see below "What is an 'international organization'") and whose details are subject to systematic collection and updates on an annual basis by the UIA
- with at least 50 participants, or number of participants unknown

In previous editions, this type was referred to as "Meetings of international organizations". The criteria for this type have not changed at any point since the first edition of this report in 1960, although they were not always fully described in the accompanying notes.

There are 353,433 type "A" meetings included in this edition for all years; there are 10,694 type "A" meetings included in this edition for 2014 alone. Type "A" meetings are included in all sections of this report.

Meetings counted under the heading “B” are “Other international meetings (3 days)” and meet all the following criteria:

- meetings not organized or sponsored by “international organizations” but nonetheless of significant international character, notably those organized by national organizations and national branches of international organizations
- at least 40 percent of the participants are from countries other than the host country and at least 5 nationalities are represented
- lasting at least 3 days, or of unknown duration
- with either a concurrent exhibition or at least 300 participants

In previous editions, this type was referred to as “Other international meetings”. In the edition *International Meetings Statistics for the year 2007* (49th edition, published in 2008), it was further defined as “Other international meetings (3 days)”. The criteria for this type have not changed since at least the early 1990s, although they were not always fully described in the accompanying notes.

There are 23,849 type “B” meetings included in this edition for all years; there are 1,085 type “B” meetings included in this edition for 2014 alone. Type “B” meetings are included in only Section 1 of this report.

Meetings counted under the heading “C” are “Other international meetings (2 days)” and meet all the following criteria:

- meetings not organized or sponsored by “international organizations” but nonetheless of significant international character, notably those organized by national organizations and national branches of international organizations
- at least 40 percent of the participants are from countries other than the host country and at least 5 nationalities are represented
- lasting at least 2 days, or of unknown duration
- with either a concurrent exhibition or at least 250 participants

This type was included for the first time, at the request of users of this report, in the edition *International Meetings Statistics for the year 2007* (49th edition, published in 2008), where it was referred to as “Other international meetings (2 days)” and included only in presentation 1/2. Type “B” and type “C” are counted separately in order to ensure continuity with prior editions and the creation of type “C”.

There are 30,664 type “C” meetings included in this edition for all years; there are 1,562 type “C” meetings included in this edition for 2014 alone. Type “C” meetings are included in only Section 1 of this report.

Logically, all meetings counted under the heading “B” are also counted under the heading “C”. The reverse is, equally logically, not true.

Methods of selection

Regarding participant numbers, all selections have been made on the basis of “at least” 50 participants in the case of meetings of international organizations, and “at least” 250 or 300 participants for other international meetings. In editions prior to *International Meetings Statistics for the year 2007* (49th edition, published in 2008) it has not always been clear if selections were made on the basis of “at least” 50 (or 250 or 300) participants, or “more than” 50 (or 250 or 300) participants.

In editions prior to *International Meetings Statistics for the year 2007* (49th edition, published in 2008) it was the intention to exclude meetings of intergovernmental bodies if the title of the meeting contained the words “ministerial” or “summit”. Unfortunately, this criterion was not always strictly applied: some such meetings were excluded, others were included. As of the edition published in 2008 (49th edition), this criterion has been abandoned. Meetings of intergovernmental bodies are included if they meet the standard criteria. The number of meetings concerned is in most cases not significant enough to affect percentages or rankings.