



UNION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
UNION DES ASSOCIATIONS INTERNATIONALES

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Union of International Associations (UIA)
International Meetings Statistics Report
58th edition, published June 2017

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 2017.

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 32 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...

	58th edition (published 2017)	57 th edition (published 2016)
Total number of meetings in the UIA database	468,700	458,453
Number of those answering the criteria for inclusion in this report	422,522	412,403
Number of those taking place prior to the reporting year	407,255	393,667
Number of those taking place in the reporting year	11,000	12,350
Number of those scheduled to take place after the reporting year	4,267	6,386
Number of countries represented for all years	248	248
Number of cities represented for all years	12,415	12,683
Number of countries represented for the reporting year only	158	178
Number of cities represented for the reporting year only	1,157	1,459

General picture

Top international meeting countries in 2016 (extracted from Table 1.2, A+B column) – tie for 5th place

Country	Number of meetings	Percentage of all meetings
1. Korea Rep	997	9.5%
2. Belgium	953	9.1%
3. Singapore	888	8.5%
4. USA	702	6.7%
5. France	523	5.0%
5. Japan	523	5.0%
6. Spain	423	4.0%
7. Austria	404	3.9%
8. Germany	390	3.7%
9. Netherlands	332	3.2%
10. Thailand	279	2.7%

Top international meeting cities in 2016 (extracted from Table 1.3, A+B column)

City	Number of meetings	Percentage of all meetings
1. Brussels	906	8.6%
2. Singapore	888	8.5%
3. Seoul	526	5.0%
4. Paris	342	3.3%
5. Vienna	304	2.9%
6. Tokyo	225	2.1%
7. Bangkok	211	2.0%
8. Berlin	197	1.9%
9. Barcelona	182	1.7%
10. Geneva	162	1.5%

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 Meetings Statistics Report

Table of Contents – the complete report

Introduction

5

- How many....
- What meetings are counted in this report?
- What meetings are not counted in this report?
- Caveat
- Methodology
- What is an “international organization”?
- Other resources

Section 1: Statistics for the current reporting year, 2016

Data on international association meetings held in the current reporting year, 2016.

Includes the three types of meetings – Type A, Type B, and Type C – as described in the Introduction under the heading “What meetings are counted in this report”.

Table 1.1.	International association meetings by country and city in 2016	13
	Details by city and country of meetings of type A, type A+B, and type A+C	
Table 1.2.	Top countries for international association meetings in 2016	41
	(a) Countries with the most meetings of type A	
	(b) Countries with the most meetings of type A+B	
	(c) Countries with the most meetings of type A+C	
Table 1.3.	Top cities for international association meetings in 2016	44
	(a) Cities with the most meetings of type A	
	(b) Cities with the most meetings of type A+B	
	(c) Cities with the most meetings of type A+C	
Table 1.4.	Top countries for international association meetings in 2016 by continental grouping	47
	(a) Countries with the most meetings of type A	
	(b) Countries with the most meetings of type A+B	
	(c) Countries with the most meetings of type A+C	
Table 1.5.	Top cities for international association meetings in 2016 by continental grouping	51
	(a) Cities with the most meetings of type A	
	(b) Cities with the most meetings of type A+B	
	(c) Cities with the most meetings of type A+C	

Section 2: Statistics for the current reporting year, 2016: supplementary information

Data on international association meetings held in the current reporting year, 2016, compared to international association membership and secretariats (as documented in the database of the Yearbook of International Organizations) and to population.

Includes only meetings of Type A, as described in the Introduction under the heading “What meetings are counted in this report”.

Table 2.1.	Ratio of association membership to meetings in 2016	54
	(a) Ratio of the number of international association meetings to the number of international associations with meetings in the country	
	(b) Top countries by association membership:meeting ratio	
Table 2.2.	Ratio of association secretariats to meetings in 2016	58
	(a) Ratio of the number of international association secretariats to the number of international associations with meetings in the country	
	(b) Top countries by association secretariats:meeting ratio	
Table 2.3.	Ratio of population to meetings in 2016	62
	(a) Ratio of the number of international association meetings to the population of the country	
	(b) Top countries by population:meeting ratio	

Section 3: Fifteen year review, 2002-2016

Data on international association meetings held in the past fifteen years, from 2002 to 2016. Only those countries and cities with the most meetings in the years specified are included.

Includes only meetings of Type A, as described in the Introduction under the heading “What meetings are counted in this report”.

Table 3.1.	Top countries for international association meetings in 2002-2016	66
	Countries with at least 20 meetings of type A during the period 2002-2016	
Table 3.2.	Top cities for international association meetings in 2002-2016	70
	Cities with at least 100 meetings of type A during the period 2002-2016	
Table 3.3.	Top countries for international association meetings in 2002-2016: ranking	75
	Countries with the most meetings of type A per year for all years between 2002 and 2016	
Table 3.4.	Top countries for international association meetings in 2002-2016: development	77
	The development from 2002 through 2016 for meetings of type A for the top twenty countries in 2002	
Table 3.5.	Top cities for international association meetings in 2002-2016: ranking	78
	Cities with the most meetings of type A per year for all years between 2002 and 2016	
Table 3.6.	Top cities for international association meetings in 2002-2016: development	80
	The development from 2002 through 2016 for meetings of type A for the top twenty cities in 2002	

Section 4: Fifteen year review, 2002-2016: supplementary information

Data on international association meetings held in the past fifteen years, from 2002 to 2016, on participant numbers, exhibitions, and dates of international association meetings.

Includes only meetings of Type A, as described in the Introduction under the heading “What meetings are counted in this report”.

Table 4.1.	International association meetings, exhibitions and number of participants in 2002-2016	81
	The number of meetings, concurrent exhibitions, and number of participants	
Table 4.2.	International association meetings, and international association meetings with concurrent exhibitions, by month in 2002-2016	83
	The number of meetings and concurrent exhibitions per month per year	
Table 4.3.	Participant numbers in international association meetings by month in 2002-2016	84
	The number of meetings by month and number of participants per year	

Section 5: Long-term review

Data on international association meetings held in the past 160 years.

Includes only meetings of type A, as described in the Introduction under the heading “What meetings are counted in this report”.

Table 5.1.	Change in number of international association meetings by country 2002-2011	87
	Comparison of the number of meetings of type A per country in 2002 and in 2011 with the rate of change	
Table 5.2.	Change in number of international association meetings by city 2002-2011	90
	Comparison of the number of meetings of type A per city in 2002 and in 2011 with the rate of change	
Table 5.3.	Top countries and cities for international association meetings 1862-2011	97
	The 10 countries per 25-year period with the most meetings of type A The 10 cities per 25-year period with the most meetings of type A	
Table 5.4.	International association meetings 1854-2016	99
	The number of international association meetings of type A since 1854	

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What meetings are counted in this report?

General remarks

The data in this report are drawn from the *International Congress Calendar*, the meetings database of the Union of International Associations (UIA), and from the *Yearbook of International Organizations*, the associations 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 in the *International Congress Calendar*.

Meetings are eligible for inclusion in the *International Congress Calendar* 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 in the *International Congress Calendar* 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 in the *International Congress Calendar* 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 2017) there were 468,700 meetings in the UIA meetings database of which 422,522 (90%) meet the criteria for inclusion in this report. Of these 422,522 meetings, 407,255 took place in 2015 or earlier, 11,000 took place in 2016, and 4,267 are scheduled for 2017 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 388,836 type "A" meetings included in this edition for all years; there are 9,566 type "A" meetings included in this edition for 2016 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 25,858 type “B” meetings included in this edition for all years; there are 926 type “B” meetings included in this edition for 2016 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 33,686 type “C” meetings included in this edition for all years; there are 1,434 type “C” meetings included in this edition for 2016 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.