
1.1 General methodology

This report is extracted from the Union of International Associations (UIA) database, which is the source of UIA's flagship publications: the *International Congress Calendar* and the *Yearbook of International Organizations*.

It should be noted that UIA's criteria for the collection and inclusion of data in this report have not changed since the first edition in 1960; only the presentation has changed.

Since its founding in 1907 the UIA has collected information on international organizations and their international meetings; a first statistical review was published in its *Revue internationale des congrès* in 1910. Since 1960 the UIA has prepared statistics on the international meetings that have taken place worldwide in the preceding year. This work is based on routine research and surveys undertaken by the UIA for the compilation of the *Yearbook of International Organizations* (published since 1950) and the *International Congress Calendar* (published since 1960).

The prime source of information is international organizations. The UIA editors work continuously throughout the year on the meetings database, adding and modifying event records using information acquired from international organizations and secondary sources, whether for meetings planned for future years or for meetings which took place in years (long) past. The data in this report are extracted every year anew. The most current edition of the report is therefore the most up to date and comprehensive set of data available.

Because the UIA's meetings database is always changing, data extracted from the database today differ from those extracted and published previously, whether they refer to the future or to the past. Changes may arise from the re-scheduling or relocation of meetings and from the addition of supplementary information on recorded meetings or the addition of previously unrecorded meetings. As data are modified, more meetings are added to the database than are removed.

While never claiming to be a complete survey of all international meetings, the merit of the UIA statistics is that they have been compiled over several decades from the same sources and using consistent methods and criteria.

The editors note that there have been initiatives to determine a standard and generally accepted and applied definition of the term "meeting". While the editors see the need for such an agreement, they point out that the chief merit of the UIA statistics is that they have been compiled over several decades from the same sources and using consistent methods and criteria.

New this year

In previous editions, in order to be counted in this report a meeting had to have at least 50 participants, or the number of participants be unknown. As of this edition, meetings with under 50 participants are also included.

The editors have always examined information received on international meetings which have no clear link to an international association included in the UIA database, the source of the *Yearbook of International Organizations*. In some cases, this examination leads to the creation of new association profiles in the database, and thus to Type "A" meetings; in other cases, the meetings are considered for Type "B" or Type "C". In past years, this examination often took place after the publication of this report. For this edition, extra effort was made to ensure that all information was evaluated before production of the report. This has resulted in an increase in the proportion of meetings classified as Type "A" and a reduction in the proportion of meetings classified as Type "B" or Type "C". (See "What meetings are counted in this report?" for more information on Types.)