

9.1. 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*.

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 organizations and associations in the UIA database are the prime source of information in this report. 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.

These reports have never claimed to be a complete survey of all international meetings. 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.

9.1.1 What meetings are counted in this report?

Previous editions of this report included a description of meeting Types A, B and C. As announced in 2023, UIA is no longer including B and C type meetings in these statistics due to the low number of them in the data.

The database of the *International Congress Calendar* continues to contain more meetings than are selected for the statistics report, as has always been the case. Meetings not included in the report are visible in the public and subscription databases.

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*. At the time of producing this edition there were 554,714 meetings in the UIA meetings database of which 517,728 meet the criteria for inclusion in this report.

Of these 517,728 meetings 504,016 took place in 2022 or earlier, 8,486 took place in 2023, and 5,226 are scheduled for 2024 or later. Some events take place in more than one city and are counted in this report for each city separately.

Meetings of international associations conform to all the following criteria:

- The meeting must have a clear link to an international association included in the UIA database, the source of the *Yearbook of International Organizations*. (See also below "What is an international organization?".)
- The meeting can be linked to either an international non-governmental organization (INGO) or an intergovernmental organization (IGO).
- The meeting is eligible for inclusion regardless of its frequency. A meeting can be a one-off event, part of a regular series, or part of an irregular series.
- The meeting is eligible for inclusion regardless of its location. A meeting series can be held always in the same location, or rotate according to a pattern between locations, or change locations randomly.
- The meeting is eligible for inclusion regardless of its participant numbers.
- Included in this report are 8,486 meetings for 2023.

On average, 900-1,200 new organization descriptions are added to the database annually.