

# SDG Action Weekend

16 and 17 September 2023

Frequently Asked Questions

30 August 2023

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### **What is the SDG Summit?**

The 2023 SDG Summit will take place on 18-19 September 2023 in New York. It will mark the beginning of a new phase of accelerated progress towards the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) with high-level political guidance on transformative and accelerated actions leading up to 2030.

Convened by the President of the General Assembly, the Summit will mark the half-way point to the deadline set for achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. It will be the centerpiece of the High-level Week of the General Assembly. It will respond to the impact of multiple and interlocking crises facing the world and is expected to reignite a sense of hope, optimism and enthusiasm for the 2030 Agenda.

For more information on the Summit, please visit: <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/SDGSummit2023>.

### **How can I attend the SDG Summit?**

Participation in the SDG Summit is limited. Please review the webpage for additional details: <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/SDGSummit2023/registration-participation>

The official meetings of the SDG Summit will be available live on UN TV: <http://webtv.un.org>.

### **What is the SDG Action Weekend?**

To generate opportunities for the engagement of Member States, relevant Intergovernmental Organizations and other stakeholders, the United Nations is convening an **[SDG Action Weekend \(16 – 17 September 2023\)](#)** in the lead up to the Summit, which will consist of the *SDG Mobilization Day* on Saturday, 16 September, and the *SDG Acceleration Day* on Sunday, 17 September at the UNHQ in New York.

Civil society, the private sector, youth, scientists, local and regional governments and other stakeholders all have a key role in the implementation of the SDGs. Their participation, contributions and catalytic mobilization will be essential to the success of the SDG Summit and its follow-up.

The SDG Mobilization Day will create an opportunity for stakeholders from all sectors to convene inside the United Nations Headquarters and mobilize towards an ambitious SDG Summit and UN General Assembly High-Level Week.

The SDG Acceleration Day will build on the twelve High Impact Initiatives that the UN development system is mobilizing around in advance of the SDG Summit. The Initiatives correspond with six major SDG transitions; five critical means of implementation and the transversal priority of gender equality and are elaborated upon in greater detail [here](#).

The SDG Action Weekend will also feature a limited number of high-level side-events organized by UN Member States, UN entities, relevant International Organizations and stakeholder networks working in partnership. Side-events were identified through an open call and will be

held on both days. Please check the SDG Action Weekend website for more information on side-events: <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/SDGSummit2023/SDG-Action-Weekend>.

### **What is the relationship between the SDG Action Weekend and the SDG Summit?**

The [SDG Action Weekend](#) will help ramp up momentum towards the SDG Summit and facilitate the contribution of all relevant actors to the SDG Summit.

Events held during the SDG Action Weekend are also encouraged to indicate synergies with other UNGA High-level Week events, including the SDG Summit, the Secretary-General's Climate Ambition Summit, the High-level Dialogue on Financing, the ongoing process in preparation for the Summit of the Future and the high-level meeting on health.

### **What is the programme for the SDG Action Weekend?**

The programme is available on the SDG Action Weekend website: <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/SDGSummit2023/SDG-Action-Weekend>.

### **Who can participate in the SDG Action Weekend?**

The SDG Action Weekend will be open to representatives of all Member States, the UN system and organizations and stakeholders whose work is relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

All in-person participants MUST have either a valid UN grounds pass or a Special Events Ticket issued by the United Nations to enter the United Nations Headquarters during the SDG Action Weekend. Please note that, as an exception, CSO badges ("N") will be valid during the two days of the SDG Action Weekend (16 -17 September 2023).

All information on how to register for the SDG Action Weekend is available on the SDG Action Weekend website: <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/SDGSummit2023/SDG-Action-Weekend>.

**Please note that registration will close on 8 September 2023.** No late registrations will be accepted, and no onsite registration will be possible.

Please also note that the United Nations does not charge fees for participation in Conferences and events. If you are aware of possible scams, please email us using this email address: [dsdg@un.org](mailto:dsdg@un.org).

### **Do I have to pay to attend the SDG Action Weekend?**

The United Nations does not charge fees for participation in Conferences and events. If you are aware of possible scams, please email [dsdg@un.org](mailto:dsdg@un.org).

### **Will there be side-events during the SDG Action Weekend?**

In parallel to the main programme, a **limited number of high-level side-events**, organized by UN Member States, UN entities, relevant International Organizations and stakeholder networks working in partnership and identified through an open call, will take place during the weekend.

### **How can I attend a side-event during the SDG Action Weekend?**

All participants that are duly registered to attend the SDG Action Weekend can attend side-events held during the SDG Action Weekend. There is no separate registration / participation process set up for SDG Action Weekend side-events.

### **Who can organize a side-event during the SDG Action Weekend?**

Side-events were selected through an open call. Please check the details [here](#).

### **What is the format of the side-events?**

All side-events will be held in person at United Nations Headquarters for a duration of 90 minutes.

### **How can I apply to organize a side-event?**

The deadline for applications was 4 August 2023 and the selection process has been completed.

### **How will I find out if my side-event has been selected?**

The Secretariat identified a limited number of high-level side-events, based on the [criteria laid out in the guidelines](#) while also ensuring regional and thematic balance. [Only organizers of approved applications](#) have been contacted.

### **Are there costs related to organizing side-events inside the UN?**

Side-event organizers are responsible for **ALL** costs related to the side-events inside the UN Headquarters, including costs for the room, technical services, UNWebTV and interpretation, if needed/available. In addition, all arrangements for travel, including visas, accommodation, and transportation, of speakers and participants are the responsibility of the side-event organizers.

### **Will my side-event be promoted?**

The SDG Summit Secretariat will include all selected side-events in the official schedule of events for the SDG Action Weekend. Organizers are responsible for promoting their events through the relevant channels, including on social media.

### **Will side-events be webcast?**

Side-event organizers may be able to request webcasting services, depending on the webcasting capacity of the assigned conference room. All costs for webcasting services must be borne by the organizers.

### **What are the responsibilities of the SDG Summit Secretariat with regards to the SDG Action Weekend side-events?**

The Secretariat identified a number of selected side-events, based on the [criteria laid out in the guidelines](#) while also ensuring regional and thematic balance. Following the selection of proposals, the Secretariat has assigned a meeting room and a timeslot for each approved session/event.

The SDG Summit Secretariat is **not** responsible for selecting and inviting speakers and participants, time management of the events, the costs of the events, promoting the events, and preparing final summaries.

### **As organizer of a side-event during the SDG Action weekend, what are my responsibilities?**

The session/event co-organizers' responsibilities include – but are not limited to – the invitation and travel arrangements for speakers including visa and security clearance, as needed; the oversight of the “run of show”; and moderation of the entire session/event, including strict time management and note taking.

Organizers are also required to submit a short summary by 22 September 2023.

### **Who can I contact with questions about a side-event?**

Please review the guidelines for the organization of side-events [here](#).

For further information regarding side-events, please contact [dsdg@un.org](mailto:dsdg@un.org) with [Side-events – SDG Action Weekend] in the subject. Due to the high number of messages, only those addressing themes not covered in the guidelines or the FAQs will be responded.

### **Can I organize a side-event during the SDG Summit (18 – 19 September) or the General Assembly High-level week (18 – 22 September)?**

Requests for side-events during the UNGA High Level Week are managed by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. For details, please, check [here](#).

### **Are funds available for stakeholders to participate at the SDG Action Weekend and the SDG Summit?**

Registered stakeholders are responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs.