



ONLINE

INNOVATION

THE FUTURE OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

INVITATION TO AN ONLINE SYMPOSIUM
HOSTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

6 DECEMBER 2022

“ The future of conferences and meetings is hybrid...”

THE FUTURE IS NOW

Event facilitation services - whether conferences or larger meetings like retreats, symposia and dialogue events - are undergoing rapid transformation, driven by the massive scaling of online learning formats, the rollout of Virtual Reality applications and the introduction of holographic projections to provide mixed reality experiences. **The future of conferences and meetings is hybrid**, combining face-to-face meetings with virtual and online interaction formats and comprising a larger number of touchpoints before, during and after the core event. The future of conferences and meetings will likely see fewer but larger face-to-face events where networking benefits and scale effects potentially outweigh environmental concerns and budget constraints. The future of conferences and meetings could be more diverse and more democratic since technology can lower physical barriers to participation – provided the challenge of digital inclusion can be met. Artificial intelligence will greatly facilitate event logistics like translation services but data privacy and –security throw up new concerns.

The International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization has a mandate to facilitate conferences and meetings for ILO constituents and ILO development partners. The Centre has been pushing the digital transformation of its portfolio of event facilitation services for years, and fast-accelerated this transformation process under the impact of COVID 19.

WHY ARE WE MEETING?

The overall objective of the event is to contribute towards stronger development partnerships between UN agencies tasked with the facilitation of conferences and meetings. The immediate objective of the symposium is share knowledge among development partners in the UN system about the future of conferences and meeting facilitation, here with focus on (a) trends and priorities; (b) technology supporting hybrid formats; and (c) data-driven services to measure outputs, outcomes and impact along the result chain.

WHO IS PARTICIPATING?

The symposium is directed at staff from UN agencies tasked with the facilitation of conferences and larger meetings, including the design of concepts, the curation of content and the provision of logistical support. Participation is free of charge. To register, follow this link: <https://www.itcilo.org/events/future-conferences-and-meetings-united-nations-system>

WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

The symposium will take place on 6 December 2022 from 1400-1700 hours. It will be live-streamed from the innovation lab of the Centre. The symposium comprises of three sessions. Each session will be introduced with short use cases of global good practices across the UN system, followed by the exchange of experiences:

SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

Time	Event
14.00 – 14.05	Opening remarks
14.05 – 14.50	Session 1 Trends and priorities shaping the future of conferencing in the UN system
Break	
15.00 – 15.45	Session 2 Seeding, scaling and structuring hybrid conferencing modalities
Break	
16.00 – 16.45	Session 3 Data-driven services to quality-assure conferences and dialogue events
16.45 – 17.00	Q&A and closing remarks

INFO

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT**

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