

United Nations Nations Unies

OFFICE OF THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL
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8 December 2023

Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you of a “Call to host the sixth United Nations World Data Forum”. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), as secretariat of the United Nations Statistical Commission and its High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is inviting Member States to express their interest in hosting the sixth United Nations World Data Forum (UNWDF 2026) tentatively scheduled to take place in late 2026.

The United Nations World Data Forum, will provide an opportunity to spur data innovation, nurture partnerships, mobilize high-level political and financial support for data, and build a pathway to better data for sustainable development. The Forum is organised by DESA, under the guidance of the Statistical Commission and its High-level Group for Coordination, Capacity-Building, and Partnership for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in close consultation the stakeholder community. The host Government will be responsible for all in-country logistical and organizational arrangements.

This three- or four-day event is expected to bring together about 2,500 participants representing a wide range of stakeholders from across governments, civil society, the private sector, donor and philanthropic bodies, international and regional agencies, the geospatial community, the media, academia, and professional bodies. Since January 2017, the Forum’s community has grown from the 3,000 people who attended the first and second Forum in Cape Town, South Africa and Dubai, United Arab Emirates to an active list of over 20,000 interested stakeholders. This growth in interest was driven by the more open and accessible Forums held virtually in 2020 and in hybrid format in Bern, Switzerland in 2021 and Hangzhou, China in 2023.

The 2026 event will be the sixth instance of the Forum following the fifth to be held in Medellín, Colombia, on 11-14 November 2024, which will bring the Forum back into its intended biennial timetable, aligned to the endpoint of the 2030 Agenda and the current Sustainable Development Goals. The selection of the 2026 venue will take into account the desirable regional rotation.

All Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations
New York

Governments are invited to submit any queries regarding the event, as well as their expressions of interest to host the UNWDF 2026 to:

Mr. Stefan Schweinfest
Director, Statistics Division
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
2 UN Plaza, Room DC2-1670
Email: schweinfest@un.org

We would be grateful for your response **by 27 March 2024**.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



LI Junhua
Under-Secretary-General