



5th Global Forum on Gender Statistics

3-5 November 2014, Aguascalientes, Mexico

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

Welcome to the Global Forum on Gender Statistics

In collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) is organizing the 5th Global Forum on Gender Statistics under the Global Gender Statistics Programme and the guidance of the Interagency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS). The IAEG-GS, established in 2006, is composed of experts from both national and international statistical offices in charge of coordinating the Global Programme, mandated by the United Nations Statistical Commission, and aiming at:

- improving coherence among existing initiatives on gender statistics through international coordination
- developing and promoting methodological guidelines in existing domains as well as in emerging areas of concern related to gender equality and women's empowerment
- strengthening national statistical and technical capacity for the production, dissemination and use of gender relevant data
- facilitating access to gender relevant data and metadata.

Forums have proven to be an important opportunity to share, review and discuss initiatives and tools related to the collection, production, dissemination and use of gender statistics.

Conference Venue

The Forum will be held at Multipurpose Room at INEGI's Headquarters in Aguascalientes, Mexico, Av. Héroe de Nacozari Sur No. 2301, Fraccionamiento Jardines del Parque.



Working Language

The Conference will be conducted in English with Spanish interpretation.

Accommodation

Block reservations have been made at preferential rates with the Marriot Hotel and Quinta Real Hotel for different rooms in its five-stars. The host will book your room according to your choice in the registration form. Participants who wish to stay at other hotels are responsible for their own hotel room reservations.



Hotel Marriott Aguascalientes

Boulevard a Zacatecas s/n
Fracc. Trojes de Alonso
Aguascalientes, México
Tel. +52 (449) 139 4060
01 800 900 8800

<http://www.espanol.marriott.com>

Single or Double Room
\$938.00 MN +18% tax
Buffet Breakfast



Hotel Quinta Real Aguascalientes

Av. Aguascalientes Sur No. 601
Fracc. Jardines de la Asunción
Aguascalientes, México
Tel. +52 (449) 978 5818
01 800 500 4000

<http://www.quintareal.com>

Single or Double Room
\$1,090.00 MN tax included
American Breakfast



Fiesta Americana Aguascalientes

Calle Laureles s/n
Col. Las Flores
20220 Aguascalientes, México
Tel. +52 (449) 910 0500

<http://www.fiestamericana.com>

Single or Double Room
\$1,100.00 MN + 18% tax
European Plan



Gran Hotel Hacienda de la Noria

Av. Héroe de Nacozari Sur 1315
20240 Aguascalientes, México
Tel. +52 (449) 918 4343
01 800 71 49 900

<http://granhotellanoria.com/>

Single or Double Room
\$840.00 MN +18% tax
1 breakfast buffet

Visas

According to the Mexican Government regulations, all citizens must show a valid passport to enter Mexican territory, by any means of transportation. Foreigners from some countries are required to apply for a visa to enter to Mexico. For detailed visa policies, please consult your Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Mexican Embassy or Consulate in your Country at the following link:

<http://www.sre.gob.mx/index.php/representaciones/embajadas-de-mexico-en-el-exterior>



If you need a visa to enter to Mexico, the host will prepare and send the official letter. Please write to pilar.garcia@inegi.org.mx

Other requirements

In addition to their personal items, all passengers entering Mexico may carry a maximum of \$300 dollars in merchandise; otherwise, they will have to pay a fee. All baggage is subject to review by the Mexican customs authorities.

Weather

The winter in Aguascalientes is moderate. April and May are hot and dry. The rainy season begins in May and ends around October, generally with sunny mornings followed by cloudy and rainy afternoons. Mornings and evenings can be chilly, especially in the winter. The average temperature in November is: Low 13°C, High 27°C.

Currency and Exchange

In Mexico, merchants and businesses are no longer allowed to change U.S. dollars for pesos, but they will tell you the location of the nearest currency exchange office. If you have U.S. dollars, there are some places where you can exchange them for Mexican pesos, for example:

- Currency exchange offices: You will usually find a currency exchange counter at international airports throughout Mexico; these can be identified by the “Exchange” sign. You will have to show your passport in order to be able to exchange money. The exchange rate is usual shown as “buy” or “purchase”, which shows how many pesos you will receive for each dollar.
- Banks: Not all banks provide the service of exchanging pesos and dollars, and some require you to have an account with them. Ask someone at your hotel for information about the location of the nearest bank where tourists can exchange their currency. You will also need a valid passport to make the exchange.
- Automated Teller Machine: One of the most convenient ways to buy pesos is by using an ATM. You will often receive better exchange rates, even though you have to pay a service fee, as with most ATMs outside your bank network. Please do not accept any help from people who are not bank employees.
- Credit card: If you have a credit card, you will find that it provides one of the best exchange rates. Although you will not receive pesos directly, your monthly balance usually shows the exchange rate you received on purchases made with the credit card.



General Information

Aguascalientes is known for its brave bullfighters, gentle climate, and relaxed provincial character. Capital of the state bearing the same name, the attractive colonial city of Aguascalientes is today a burgeoning commercial and industrial center. Aguascalientes is Mexico's second smallest state, yet it enjoys high commercial status, producing a large proportion of Mexico's high-tech manufacturing output. However, you'll find that Aguascalientes' rapid growth and urbanization has done nothing to diminish the city's colonial charm. Chichimec Indian territory, Aguascalientes was later blossomed as a strategic link between Mexico City and the mines of Zacatecas, while prosperous agriculture and ranching helped feed Spain's emerging New World cities.

If it's your first time in Aguascalientes, the following are a must: a visit to the city's thermal mineral springs, some cultural sightseeing in the historic center, and the city's annual fair – the Feria de San Marcos. Dating back to 1604, this fair is held each April-May and is one of the most representatives of Mexico.

Recent restoration efforts have revitalized the city's many colonial-era structures, so whatever you do in Aguascalientes, don't miss a visit to its stunning historic center. Wide pedestrian arcades span much of the central area, so you can enjoy a truly relaxed afternoon's sightseeing. Aguascalientes dates back to 1575, when it became a Spanish outpost in hostile acting over a million foreign and Mexican visitors. If you're en route between Guadalajara and Zacatecas, you won't be disappointed with a stop-off in Aguascalientes. The city boasts an impressive range of hotels –from the boutique to the modern all-inclusive– so if you're visiting on business or just taking in the city's glorious surroundings, you can do so in comfort and style.

Attractions you won't want to miss while in Aguascalientes include the Plaza De La Patria at the heart of the old city center: extensively remodeled in 1985, this broad, handsome square is dominated by a tall Ionic column built in 1808 by famous architect Manuel Tolsa. On the south side of the square you'll find the Palacio de Gobierno (Government Palace), a former mansion with a stunning dark red volcanic stone façade. Walking along its arched interior hallways, take in the colorful murals painted by Chilean artist Oswaldo Barra Cunningham, a disciple of Diego Rivera. To the west you'll find the magnificent Catedral Basilica (Basilica Cathedral), completed in 1738, and noted for its fanned vaults, gilded Neoclassical altar and priceless paintings by colonial-era artist Miguel Cabrera. Just next to the cathedral, you'll encounter the Teatro Morelos (Morelos Theatre), built in 1885 and a showpiece for Victorian architectural style. To the north lies the elegant Palacio Legislativo, formerly a hotel and now the imposing site of the state's Congress.

Emergency telephones (dialed in Aguascalientes)

Emergencies	066
Red Cross	065
Fire-fighter	(52 449) 970-00-65, 970-00-75 y 970-39-39
Locatel	(52 449) 910-20-20
Tourist Office	(52 449) 915-95-04 y 916-00-51



Calls from Mexico

Cell phones: if your mobile phone has international roaming you can use it in Mexico.

Long distance calls from the hotel and cabins or telephone: Try to avoid them, as they are very expensive. Most public telephones in Mexico require prepaid cards known as "Ladatel" which come either in 30, 50 and 100 pesos and are used mainly for local calls. In shops or newsstand can purchase prepaid cards long distance rates.

To international calls from Mexico you must dial: 00 + country code + state code + local number

Electricity

The electricity used in Mexico is 110-120 voltage. We recommend bringing pin adapter with voltage transformer for connecting devices

Health

We recommend do not drink tap water, it is best to drink bottled water at all times.

As Mexico City is located at 2.239 meters above sea level (7,343 ft.), some visitors sometimes experience discomfort, including shortness of breath, fatigue, headache, insomnia or nausea during the first hours or the first day. To acclimate quickly, it is suggested to drink plenty of fluids, avoid alcohol and strenuous exercise

Tipping

Tipping is expected in Mexico in some services, such as restaurants and hotels. A 10% to 15% tip on the customer's bill will be appropriate in restaurants. In most hotels around 3 to 5 USDlls will be acceptable for bellboys.

Contact details

For further information please contact shibata@un.org or pilar.garcia@inegi.org.mx.