United Nations World Data Forum 2020

Call for Session Proposals

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- **How many sessions are included in the UNWDF? Are side events possible?**
  
  The Forum is a three-day event with over 80 sessions included in the programme. Additional side events linked to the UNWDF are not possible and not planned by the Programme Committee, HLG-PCCB or the UNWDF Secretariat.

- **What are some good examples/formats from past fora?**
  
  Formats that encourage interactions between the speakers and audience and help to fully engage participants and make a more interactive experience are recommended. For example, the use of polling apps to take the pulse of the audience on the topic was well received in previous fora.

- **Can a speaker participate in more than one panel?**
  
  Yes. However, the same speaker cannot appear in the programme more than three times. This was set by the UNWDF Secretariat, the Programme Committee and the HLG-PCCB to ensure that there is broad participation in the programme and full engagement of all stakeholders. One of the main aspects of the UNWDF is to bring a wide range of speakers to participate in the forum. For example, at the first UNWDF in Cape Town, over 300 speakers or moderators were included in the event and at the second forum, there were 376 speakers or moderators.

- **Which selection criteria are most important? How are gender or geographic balance taken into consideration when selecting proposals?**
  
  All aspects of the defined criteria are very important.

  Gender balance of the speakers and moderators in a session will be taken into consideration as a determining criteria, as the Programme Committee, the UNWDF Secretariat, and HLG-PCCB are committed to achieving equal gender representation in every session of the UNWDF 2020. Only proposals with a balanced gender representation will be considered. Also, preference will
be given to sessions that include diverse geographical representation. Where possible, special emphasis on engagement with policy makers and the inclusion of high-level speakers will be considered an asset. Linking the session to the overall goals of the UNWDF and addressing the Cape Town Global Action Plan and the way forward is vital.

- Are sessions featuring results-based data initiatives given priority over ones that mainly include project design?

Initiatives that produce actual results or increases in the volume data that can be used for different purposes, such as to inform and monitor policies, are preferred.

- What is the role of the session organizer?

Session organizers are responsible for:

- inviting the proposed speakers to take part in their session
- ensuring contact with the panelists and moderators of their sessions and proper communication of organizational aspects based on the information provided by the Secretariat of the Forum
- ensuring that speakers register for the Forum and make their own travel, visa and accommodation arrangements
- collecting all presentations from the speakers, ensuring speakers are present at the time of the session, and preparing a short summary of the session to be submitted after the event to dataforum@un.org

- What is the duration of each session?

The expected duration of each session is 1 hour and 15 minutes.

- Can organizations submit multiple proposals?

Yes.

- Are you accepting proposals for high-level plenaries?

Yes, please indicate in the description if the session proposal is intended to be considered for a high-level plenary.

- Will there be an exhibit space?

Yes. There will be a limited number of exhibit spaces. An open Call for exhibit proposals will be announced soon. Participants can submit their application to reserve one of the exhibit spaces. Please follow our website and twitter page for more information.
- **Is there a registration fee to participate in the UNWDF? Are there any other costs involved?**

No, there is no registration fee to participate in the UNWDF. Speakers and participants are responsible for their own travel, lodging and other incidentals incurred to participate or attend the Forum. This includes all associated costs related to travel to attend the Forum.

- **Are there opportunities available to fund speakers to come to Forum? Does the inclusion of a session proposal imply funding for the organizer and panelists?**

UNWDF does not offer supporting funds to facilitate the travel and participation of proposed speakers or sessions. The involvement of speakers (and participants) must therefore be completely self-financed, including travel, accommodation and any other related expenses. There are no registration fees to be a participant or speaker at the Forum.

If sponsorships or resources become available, additional information will be shared.

- **Is the google form to submit the proposal available off-line?**

If you encounter difficulties in accessing the form, please contact the Secretariat at dataforum@un.org

- **How do I apply for a visa?**

Please visit the Swiss Consulate/Embassy’s website for your country for information. You may contact UNWDF@bfs.admin.ch for additional support. Also, please be mindful that the visa application process takes some time. Participants will need to apply well ahead of time, and some may even have to submit visa applications outside their home country.

- **When does registration open?**

The official registration for the Forum is open from June 2020 to August 2020; after this deadline the registration will be closed.