

FAQs

Volunteering for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 23)

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1. What is the COP 23 volunteering initiative all about?

The COP 23 volunteering initiative seeks to involve and engage volunteers who are passionate about climate action, promote values of volunteering, and foster citizen participation. This programme will deliver the necessary training, promoting the values and principles of the United Nations to empower you in the organisation and support of the conference.

2. When does the Registration for volunteers open?

The registration portal is open from 18 September to 3 October, 2017 at www.cop23volunteers.com. Please also visit the [UNFCCC](http://unfccc.org) or [UNV](http://unv.org) websites for further information.

3. What are the eligibility criteria?

To volunteer at COP 23 you must complete the online registration, participate in a full day training, and be present during your assigned working period. Eligibility criteria include:

- **Age:** 18+ years old

- **Languages:** Working knowledge of English is required. Working knowledge of another official United Nations language (French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Chinese, Portuguese) and German are an asset.
- **Educational background:** Candidates with an academic or professional background related to sustainable development, international relations, law, ICT, business or public administration, environmental studies, social sciences or other specialized fields are especially encouraged to apply.
- **Professional knowledge and job-related skills:** Candidates should have a demonstrated ability to work well as part of a team. They should also demonstrate tact and good judgement. Previous volunteering experience is an asset.
- ***Most importantly, candidates should be highly motivated and eager to contribute towards action on climate change!***

4. [Is there an upper age limit to participate?](#)

No, there is no limit.

5. [How does the volunteer selection process work?](#)

COP 23 Volunteers will be selected based on the criteria listed above. The final selection process consists of a mandatory full-day training. Completing this training session is necessary to participate in the volunteer programme. 650 volunteers will be selected.

6. [What is the COP 23 Substantive Training?](#)

During this **mandatory full-day** training you will be provided with an understanding of the issues surrounding climate change and climate action through discussions on 'Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement' as well as information about the vision and mandate of COP 23. In addition, you will learn about the UNV programme and efforts towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

7. [When will the COP 23 full-day training take place and how do I register?](#)

The training will take place on Monday, 30 October 2017 in Bonn. If selected as volunteer, you will receive an invitation to the training by email.

8. [Will I receive training for my assigned role?](#)

Yes. You will be trained for your assigned role.

9. [Will volunteers be deployed throughout the whole conference?](#)

Yes. Volunteers will be needed throughout the conference (5-17 November 2017) and some may be requested to participate as early as October 2017.

10. [Which are the most common functions I will be assigned to?](#)

Tasks range from guiding visitors to supporting the conference as side events and exhibits assistants or registration desk support, working on sustainability and greening projects, as ushers, room assistants or note-takers, just to name a few.

11. [Can I volunteer for only one week or do I need to be available during the whole conference?](#)

Preference will be given to those persons available for all event dates.

12. [Which shifts will I be assigned to during the event?](#)

Volunteers will be working in 6-hour shifts (morning, afternoon or evening). Each volunteer can indicate his/her availability during the registration process.

13. [Are shifts rotating?](#)

No. The volunteer will be working the same shift every day.

14. [What level of English is required?](#)

Working knowledge of English is required.

15. [What benefits will I get as a volunteer?](#)

This is an opportunity to be at the epicenter of decision-making around climate action - a global issue with significant ramification today and for future generations. COP 23 volunteers are not only contributing to the significant outcome of this event but are also gaining valuable knowledge for their personal and professional life. The volunteers will receive a certificate after successful completion of their assignment, and are invited to attend the high-level Recognition Ceremony, in honour of their efforts.

Beyond the event, volunteers are encouraged to become sustainability ambassadors in their communities. A seed grant will be available for the best project proposal addressing climate change in the volunteer's community as part of a Climate Action Challenge.

16. [Do I receive my Certificate of Recognition without being present for my shifts?](#)

No. You must attend the COP 23 full-day training and, most importantly, must be present for your shifts during the conference to receive the Certificate of Recognition.

17. [What is the dress code?](#)

COP 23 shirts will be provided to you. Style and colour of pants and shoes should be appropriate according to your assigned volunteer position.

18. [Will I receive financial compensation?](#)

No. COP 23 Volunteers will not receive any financial compensation.

19. [Will medical insurance be provided?](#)

No, but each of the volunteers will receive accident insurance.

20. [Will food be provided during the event?](#)

Yes. You will be provided with a lunch voucher during 6 hour shifts.

21. [Do I need accreditation to get in the conference zones?](#)

Yes. A conference badge will be provided to all COP 23 Volunteers. You must carry your badge visibly at all times in order to enter the conference premises.

22. [Since COP 23 is a mass event, will there be security controls?](#)

Yes. All participants will undergo a security check.

23. [Can I get support with visa applications?](#)

Visa assistance (including letters of support) will not be provided to COP 23 Volunteers. Volunteers must ensure their own legal status in-country.