

# Information for Participants

**58<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC**

**Interlaken, Switzerland  
13 - 17 March 2023**

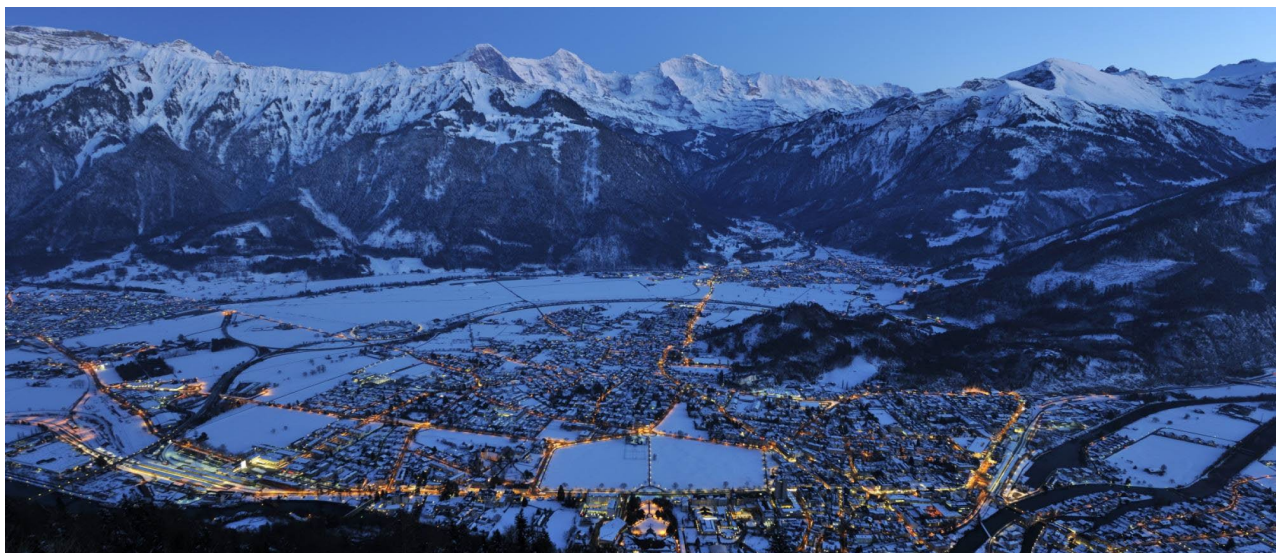
## **I.** INTRODUCTION

The fifty-eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will take place at the [Congress Kursaal Interlaken](#), in the city of Interlaken, Switzerland from 13 to 17 March 2023.

Interlaken is located in the Bernese Oberland in the canton of Berne. It is located between lake Thun to the west and lake Brienz to the east. The city with approximately 20,000 inhabitants is surrounded by mountains, including the imposing and famous trio Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau. The main language of Interlaken is German.

By the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Interlaken had already become renowned for its impressive mountain scenery. Famous contemporaries such as Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Felix Mendelssohn travelled in these mountains. Interlaken's success as a tourist destination was further enhanced by the completion of the Bernese Oberland Railway in 1890 and the Jungfrau Railway in 1912.

In the heart of Switzerland, beautifully situated between mountains and lakes, the Lake Thun region is rich in tradition and a matchless place for holding congresses.



## **II.** REGISTRATION

The **registration** of participants to this meeting will open at the venue as follows:

12<sup>th</sup> March: 14:00 – 18:00

13<sup>th</sup> March: 08:00 – 18:00

14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> March: 09:00 – 16:00

*Please pre-register each designated participant no later than **27 February 2023 (midnight CET)** at the following website: <https://apps.ipcc.ch/register>, using the unique credentials sent to all Focal Points in advance of the session. Please upload a photo for each registered participant in the format specified.*

### **III. VISITORS TO INTERLAKEN**

#### **1. INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND TRAIN STATION**

Participants are recommended to arrive either at Zurich Airport or at Basel EuroAirport and then take the train to Interlaken West.

#### **2. TRANSPORTATION**

Participants will be responsible for coordinating their own transportation to and from the airport or train station. Please consult [The SBB online portal for trains and public transport | SBB](#) for exact timetables.

Travel from Zurich airport by train:

- Time: Two to two and a half hours
- Cost: approximately 74 Swiss Francs (2<sup>nd</sup> class, one-way, full price)

Travel from Basel EuroAirport by train:

- Time: Two and a half hours
- Cost: approximately 67 Swiss Francs (2<sup>nd</sup> class, one-way, full price)

Travel from train station in Interlaken West to the venue:

- 5 minutes by taxi
- 15 minutes by foot

#### **3. TIME ZONE**

Interlaken is in Central European Time (CET) during the winter half of the year (starting from 30 October 2022, 03:00). CET is 1 hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+1).

#### **4. VISAS FOR TRAVEL TO SWITZERLAND**

Where and how to apply for a visa: Switzerland applies Schengen regulations for the issuance of visas. This means that all participants requiring a visa to enter Switzerland should apply for their visa directly to the Embassy or Consulate-General of Switzerland in their country. In cases where no Swiss Embassy or Consulate is available, participants should apply to the country designated by Switzerland to handle visa applications. Following the registration for participation at the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the IPCC and the request for financial support, a personalized invitation letter will be provided by the IPCC/WMO for participants eligible for funding from the IPCC Trust Fund. This letter can be used for visa application purposes.

Additional information in several languages regarding the implementation of the VIS system, registration of biometric data and the rollout timetable for Swiss embassies/consulates implementing the VIS system is available through the following link: <https://www.swiss-visa.ch/ivis2/#/i210-select-country>

When to apply: The time needed to obtain a visa may vary from case to case. It is strongly recommended that delegates inform themselves of the relevant appointment system and procedures as early as possible but at the latest 20 days before the planned arrival date, to ensure that the visa may be issued in a timely manner. Delegates can find this

information on relevant national government websites, or they can consult directly with the Swiss Embassy/Consulate in the applicant's country of residence.

*Special circumstances:* In cases where a delegate encounters some difficulties in obtaining his/her visa, a request must be sent by the delegate to the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization who will in turn submit it to Switzerland consulate or embassy in the country of concern.

Such requests must contain all the necessary details: A copy of the delegate's passport including pages with visa stamps and a copy of the invitation letter. Requests should be received by the Secretary-General as far in advance of session as possible.

*Additional information:* Additional information regarding entry visas for people travelling to Switzerland may be found through the following link:

[Information for people travelling to Switzerland within the "International Geneva" context \(admin.ch\)](https://www.admin.ch)

See [attached a note developed to guide delegates expected in Switzerland in an official capacity](#) (English version)

*Please use the interactive Travelcheck tool to check what entry requirements apply in your individual situation. Travelcheck takes account of the entry requirements set by both the Federal Office of Public Health and the State Secretariat for Migration.*

*Please also note, it is important for those delegates that need to secure a visa to do so as soon as possible.*

## **5. HEALTH REQUIREMENTS AND COVID-19-RELATED ISSUES**

Up-to-date information on international travel and health requirements are provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) at the following websites:

- <https://www.who.int/travel-advice>
- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

*Please note that WMO/IPCC shall not be held responsible for any health problems or accidents that the participants may have, nor will WMO/IPCC be responsible for any quarantine costs following a positive COVID-19 test on arrival for those that require it. Participants shall make their own arrangements for life, health and other forms of insurance as they consider appropriate. Participants, when travelling, should ensure to have their insurance card or certificate with them as to international coverage.*

In Switzerland, there are currently no restrictions in place related to COVID-19. Masks are not compulsory, including public transport. There is also no COVID-19 certificate requirement so you can move freely without restrictions. Any update on COVID-19 specific information will be published on the Swiss Mission's website:

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/missions/mission-onu-geneve/en/home/news/Coronavirus-COVID-19.html>

COVID-19 specific information for the 58<sup>th</sup> Session will be provided to the delegates before the Session, based on the evaluation of the situation during the time.

## 6. WEATHER

MeteoSuisse provides regular weather updates through its mobile phone applications and through its website at the following addresses:

[Homepage - MeteoSwiss \(admin.ch\)](#)

## 7. CURRENCY

The currency in Switzerland is the Swiss Franc (CHF, SFr.). The euro is also accepted in most shops, but at a higher price. Check [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com) for the most up-to-date exchange rates. Most transactions in the city are conducted in cash and credit cards. ATMs are widely available throughout the city.

## 8. ELECTRICITY

Power systems are generally 230 volts and 50 Hz. An adaptor may be necessary.

Participants are advised to bring their own plug adapters to plug into Swiss power sockets. Information on the appropriate plugs may be found on the Internet (for example, at:

<https://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets/j/>).



## 9. HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Participants are responsible for making their own hotel arrangements. Participants are advised to book their hotel accommodation in Interlaken or the surrounding area using the link below provided by the host or other available online reservation websites. The deadline for making the bookings via the link is **24 Feb 2023**.

English:

<https://interlaken.e-vent.online/webform/5445D29C03B849519A9B305B67D378E3/EN>

French:

<https://interlaken.e-vent.online/webform/5445D29C03B849519A9B305B67D378E3/FR>

German:

<https://interlaken.e-vent.online/webform/5445D29C03B849519A9B305B67D378E3/DE>

Italian:

<https://interlaken.e-vent.online/webform/5445D29C03B849519A9B305B67D378E3/IT>

## 10. INTERNET SERVICES

Wireless Internet connection (Wi-Fi) will be available in all buildings at the conference venue. The access is free and access details will be provided to all participants through hangers in the buildings.

## 11. WORKING LANGUAGES

During the session, simultaneous interpretation in the six UN official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) will be provided in the main conference room.

*To pursue a sustainable pathway and to promote circularity, the host country kindly invites all delegates to bring their own individual water bottle to the conference venue.*