

At the venue of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties

What can you expect when you arrive?

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Pacific Media Mana
Kit Factsheet Series

Overwhelmed by the sheer size of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties venue? Let us help to prepare you for what you can expect to see.

COP venues are immense and the layout of each one is dependent upon the host country. Every COP is different. The areas are generally divided into what is called the Blue Zone which is for accredited delegates only, and the Green Zone which is open to the public. Within the Blue Zone there are plenary rooms, pavilion areas if the host country chooses to have them as part of their hosting, delegation offices, meeting rooms, rest areas, food courts, bathrooms and negotiation spaces.

It is recommended that you familiarise yourself with a map of the venue, which is normally available on the UNFCCC website, or that from the website of the host country, prior to the conference. It is easy to get lost in these spaces which can impact how you work.

But let's begin from when you enter the venue.

ENTRANCE

The entrance ways into the venue have strong security checks. On your first day, once you are cleared from security, you cannot go anywhere else until you are registered, and you have obtained your conference badge which will tell you which areas you can access. Sometimes, during peak hours the security lines can take quite a while - you will need to be mindful of this if you are working against timelines.

REGISTRATION

Upon arrival at the conference venue for the first time, media representatives will be requested to proceed to the registration desk to collect their badges for access to the premises. Delegates should present the acknowledgement document from the UNFCCC Online Registration System, printed or on mobile device, and the ID document entered during online registration, such as a valid passport or a nationally approved identification card for the issuance of a badge. For security reasons, it is not possible to send badges in advance. Badges must be collected in person at the registration desk at the conference venue. For subsequent visits to the venue, once participants have their badges, they may access the venue directly through security, without stopping at the registration desk.

MEDIA ACCREDITATION

Now you are inside the venue, what else can you find? Your badge restricts you to certain areas of the venue and it is important to know what and where these are.

UNFCCC INFORMATION COUNTER

The UNFCCC Information Counter is where you will find the answer to any questions you may have about the venue and the meetings.

FOOD AREAS

At the COP, there will be areas where you can purchase food noting these may be in a food court area, or individual restaurants and food stands where drinks and food are available for purchase as long as the venue is open. Cash and card can be used. Be prepared to wait in long queues at peak times, and also for exorbitant prices.

PAVILION AREAS

The Pavilion and the Exhibition Centre is where you will find displays and exhibitions from all corners of the globe. It can be quite colourful, entertaining, loud and very informative. This is also where most of the side events happen so you will need to familiarise yourself with the different pavilion spaces. For the Pacific, media representatives are encouraged to check in at the Moana Pacific Pavilion Space at all times, it is the heart of Pacific engagement activities at COP.



DELEGATION OFFICES

There are dedicated spaces for delegation offices where leaders, negotiators and national delegations will hold bilateral, and or trilateral and coordination meetings throughout the COP. These are closed and private spaces but it may be where you might like to be to “door-stop” interview subjects.

NEGOTIATION ROOMS

These are rooms throughout the conference venue dedicated for the different strands of negotiations. Entry is often restricted depending on the subject

PLENARY HALL

The main plenary hall is where the COP’s opening and closing ceremonies are held. It is also where you will expect the announcements of key decisions being made at the conference to be delivered.

REST AND PRAYER AREAS

These are dedicated spaces for delegates to put their feet up and relax in between meetings. You will also find dedicated spaces for prayers and meditating at the venue.

BATHROOMS

Because of the sizes of the venue, and the number of people attending COP, there are several blocks of bathrooms for all delegates. You are encouraged to familiarise yourself with the location of these facilities early. You are also warned that there are queues there most of the time.

NURSING ROOM AND MEDICAL AREAS

A nursing room and medical areas are available

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

You will need to learn more about the High-Level Segment of the COP and if one is being held. How these are held are at the discretion of the host country and can vary from Roundtables, to Leaders Statements. You will need to research more to learn about this and how this will be held at the COP.

WHERE YOU CAN ACCESS THE CONFERENCE GUIDE AND MANUALS TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE

It must be emphasised that every COP is different. We recommend that you read and familiarise yourself with the UNFCCC information note, which contains all the details about the logistical arrangements. Sometimes COP hosts offer a shuttle bus system but there have been times when they have not. You must be prepared, and stay well informed about the logistics, before you fly out to a COP.

GLOSSARY

Blue Zone:

The Blue Zone at COP is where delegates engage in formal negotiations and discuss policy frameworks that could lead to meaningful climate action.

Green Zone:

The Green Zone is a space managed and delivered by the COP Presidency. It offers a platform to stakeholders, including youth, civil societies, NGOs, the private sector, and indigenous peoples to have their voices heard, promoting dialogue and awareness about climate action.

