

Geneva: Hub of modern conferencing

Bringing people together in multilateral negotiation is a key feature and strength of international Geneva. Providing the best possible conditions for multilateral meetings makes a strong contribution to fulfilling the mandates of the UN.



Global trends

Remote meetings are now easily and frequently organized in the work context. Increasing travel costs are paired with pressures on travel budgets. Hybrid meetings can considerably lower the environmental footprint by reducing air travel.



Use at UNOG

Geneva had the highest share of hybrid meetings in 2021 and 2022 (44%) compared to other Secretariat locations. This is linked to the number of technical meetings requiring expert participation and an expression of the fact that not all UN Member States are permanently represented in Geneva. Civil society, an inherent part in many UN Geneva meetings, particularly benefits from remote participation options.



Impact

Expanded meeting modalities at UNOG have improved inclusivity for Member States and civil society. Remote interaction is seen as complementary with more in-depth interaction in person. Remote observation options have a positive impact on public outreach.

Expanded Meeting Modalities at UN Geneva



Client expectations

Conference organizers and participants attach very high importance to the possibility of holding meetings in person *and* with remote participation options, depending on the issue and context.



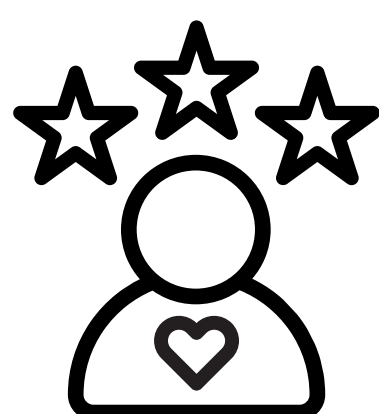
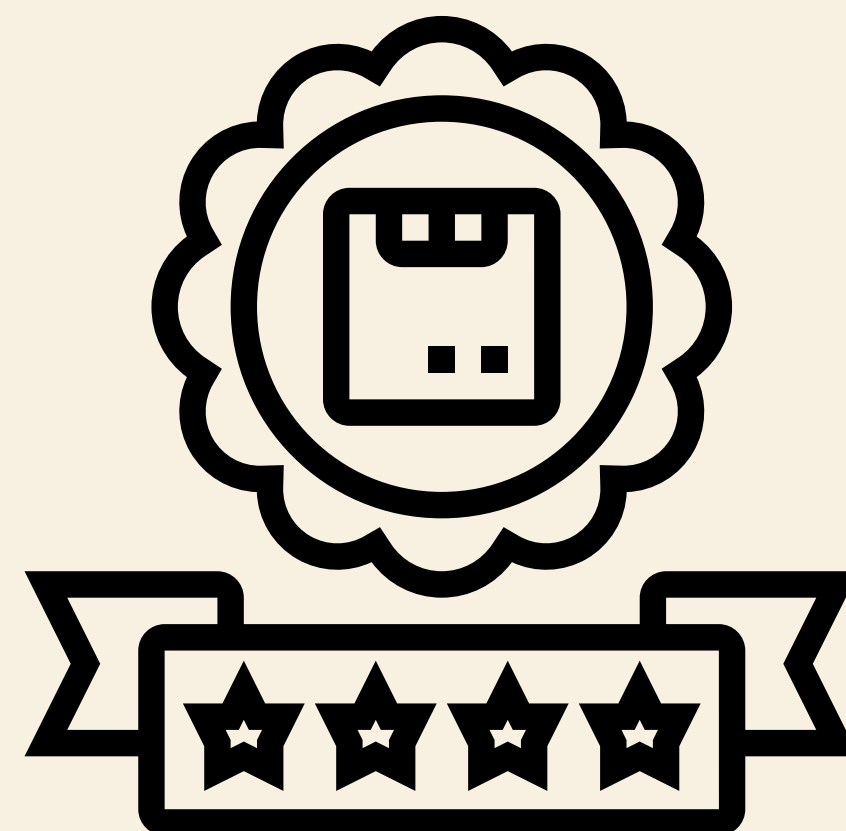
Mandates & Budgets

Many clients express the need for mandates to be established by the General Assembly or their governing bodies to clarify the legal framework and rules of procedure and to be able to claim the necessary budget.

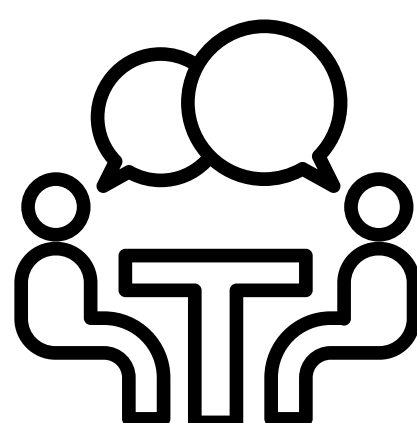
Costs of expanded meeting modalities

For meetings of one to five days, the average savings in travel expenses of one or two participants would generally cover the cost of Webex or Webcasting. However, the savings are usually incurred on the side of participants and there is no direct transfer to the meeting budget.

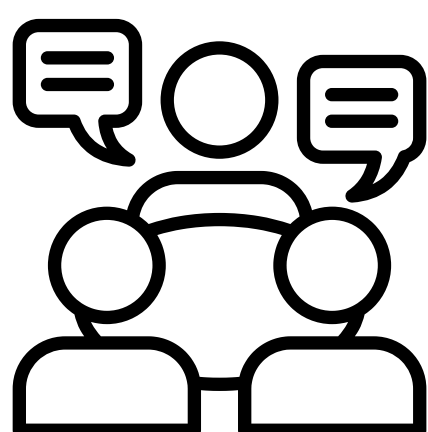
Conclusion and Recommendations



CLIENTS EXPECT UNOG TO MAKE FULL USE OF EXPANDED MODALITIES TO REMAIN A MODERN CONFERENCE HUB



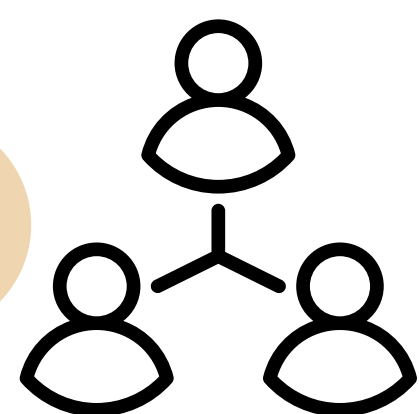
IN-PERSON AND REMOTE PARTICIPATION GO HAND IN HAND: THE MEETING SHOULD DETERMINE THE BEST FORMAT



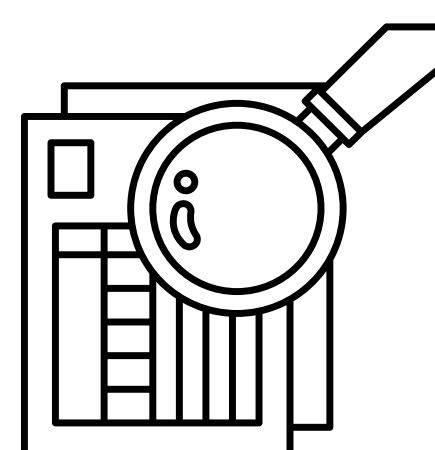
TO COVER THE NEEDS OF CLIENTS AND OFFER 58% OF ALL RB MEETINGS WITH HYBRID MODALITIES, BETWEEN 3.5 MILLION USD AND 613'000 USD WOULD BE NEEDED, DEPENDING ON THE PLATFORM.



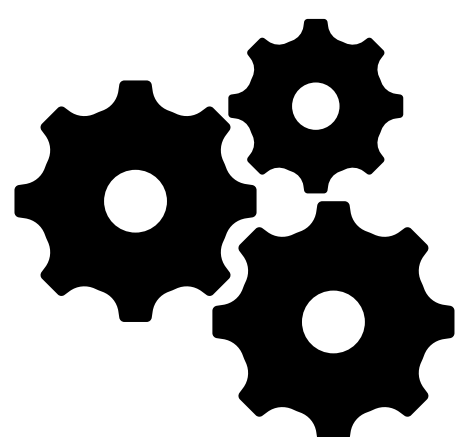
THIS IS SEEN AS AN IMPORTANT INVESTMENT IN MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATION CAPACITIES, THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FEATURE OF THE UN SYSTEM, IN PARTICULAR IN GENEVA.



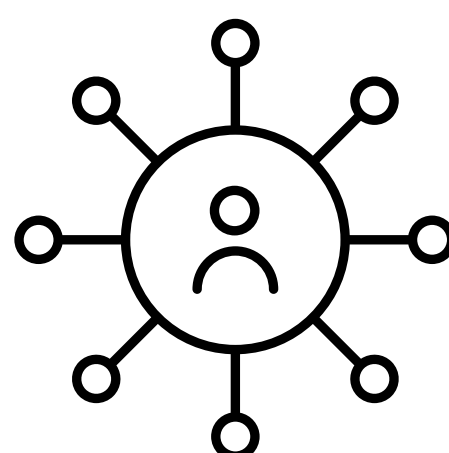
CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION IS BECOMING MORE COMPLEX REQUIRING ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR COORDINATION.



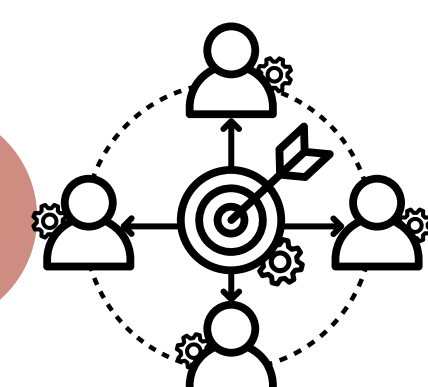
NEED TO MAKE CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION MORE INTUITIVE FOR CLIENTS, OFFERING STANDARDIZED PACKAGES AND PERSONALIZED ADVICE.



PRIORITIZING TECHNICAL SUPPORT: FACILITATING CLIENT CHOICES AND ACCOMMODATING DIVERSE PLATFORMS



ENSURING GOOD MEETING CONDUCT: CONTINUOUS OUTREACH, TRAINING, AND SUPPORT FOR CHAIRS AND ORGANIZERS



HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE: A CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN CRISIS PREPAREDNESS AND TO ENSURE BUSINESS CONTINUITY



ADAPTING TO MARKET TRENDS: UN MUST EVOLVE WITH CLIENT EXPECTATIONS AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS