

Switzerland Visa Information

Dear Participant,

For delegates requiring an entry visa to Switzerland, the visa must be obtained directly from the Swiss Embassy/Mission in your country of origin.

As you may know, all Schengen member states introduced the Visa Information System (VIS) on 11 October 2011. The VIS is a system for the exchange of visa data among Schengen member states and is used to store the biometric data of the visa applicant.

All Swiss diplomatic representations are gradually being connected to the VIS system according to a rollout timetable which can be consulted using the following link:
http://www.bfm.admin.ch/content/bfm/fr/home/themen/einreise/einfuehrung_vis.html

As a result of the new procedure, visa applicants **have to make an appointment with the Swiss embassy/consulate in their country of residence** and present themselves in person to submit and register the biometric data which will remain valid in the VIS system for a period of 5 years. Switzerland has signed agreements with certain countries where it is not represented by a diplomatic or consular entity, to allow, under certain conditions, the issuance of visas by a Schengen state.

The time needed to obtain a visa depends on local circumstances and no standard delay has been communicated. **However, it is expected that a minimum of one month will be required to process an application.**

In support of the visa application, the IGF Secretariat and UNCTAD will each issue a letter confirming the delegate's participation in the Annual General Meeting in Geneva. DFATD will also be issuing a support letter directly to the delegates, **provided that they register and request such a letter by Friday, September 12, 2014.** DFATD's letter of support should be included in the visa application if the delegate has not already applied for the visa.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

We look forward to your participation in October.

Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Forum on
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