

NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

Tenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and Third session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP3) to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products

IMPORTANT VISA INFORMATION AND DEADLINES

1. The Convention Secretariat wishes to draw to the attention of COP10 and MOP3 participants to important information about the visa application process, outlined in detail in this Notification to the Parties.
2. Of particular importance is the **deadline of 15 September to apply for a visa**, as the visa approval process may take up to 60 business days. Participants will obtain a visa support letter from the Convention Secretariat only after they have registered and provided their credentials.
3. The Convention Secretariat, therefore, strongly encourages all Parties and observers **to register and upload their credentials before 31 August 2023**, using the following links:
 - (a) Registration for COP10: <https://indico.un.org/e/FCTC/COP10>.
 - (b) Registration for MOP3: <https://indico.un.org/e/Protocol/MOP3>.
4. Detailed visa information and requirements can be found in the following pages of this Notification to the Parties.
5. Any queries should be directed to: cop10mop3@gmail.com. Please indicate VISAS in the subject line of the email.

I. VISA INFORMATION FOR COP10 AND MOP3

Participants from which countries need a visa to enter Panama?

Participants from these countries **NEED A VISA** to enter Panama:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Participants from these countries **DO NOT NEED A VISA** to enter Panama:

Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niue, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

II. VISA EXEMPTIONS

Nationals from any of the following countries who are in possession of a **diplomatic, consular, official, special, or service passport** DO NOT NEED a visa to enter Panama:

- China
- Cuba
- Dominican Republic
- Haiti
- India
- Indonesia
- Philippines
- Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

According to [Executive Decree No. 521 of 6 August 2018](#), all nationals from countries that require a visa to enter Panama and in possession of a valid tourist or residence visa, duly issued by one of the countries listed below, DO NOT NEED a visa to enter Panama, if the visa granted meets the following three conditions:

1. It has been granted for multiple entries
2. It has been used at least once to enter the issuing country
3. It is valid for at least six (6) months from the date of entry into Panama.

Thus, participants, who otherwise would need a visa to enter Panama, will not need a Panamanian visa if they have visas to the following countries that also meet the above-stated three conditions:

- Australia
- Canada
- any Member State of the European Union
- Japan
- Republic of Korea
- Singapore
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- United States of America.

III. APPLYING FOR A VISA TO ENTER PANAMA

For participants from countries that need a visa and **HAVE a Panamanian embassy or consulate** in their country

- China
- Cuba
- Dominican Republic
- Egypt
- India
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Morocco
- Philippines
- Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).¹

Participants are urged to directly approach the Panamanian embassy or consulate in their country as soon as possible (and **no later than 15 September 2023**) to apply for a visa. Cover letters from Panama, as well as a personalized visa support letter and a generic note verbale (all in Spanish), will be provided by the Convention Secretariat to each visa applicant.

Please note that the Convention Secretariat can provide a visa support letter **ONLY to delegates whose registration has been approved**.

The closest Panamanian embassy or consulate can be located here: <https://mire.gob.pa/mapa-ubicacion-embajadas>.

Please ensure that your application is complete and is accompanied by all required documents to avoid unnecessary delays. The list of documents to be provided, including the [visa application form](#), can be found on the COP10-MOP3 local host country website: <https://cop10-mop3-pma.com/cop10/storage/documentos/22/requisitos-visa-de-turismo-1688695441.pdf>. This document is only available in Spanish and participants are invited to use free online tools to translate it or contact the Panamanian embassy or consulate in their country.

The Convention Secretariat highly recommends that participants check whether the local Panamanian embassy or consulate, especially in Cuba, India and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, works on an appointment-only basis for submission of applications.

While self-funded participants are requested to pay for their visa application fees, delegates nominated to receive travel support and citizens of Egypt, India, Jordan, Lebanon, or the Philippines, should follow the process on page 6, under “B. FOR DELEGATES RECEIVING TRAVEL SUPPORT” and will have their visa application fees paid for.

When your application is submitted, the approval process begins, including the evaluation of the applicant’s profile. This process can take up to 60 days.

¹ For participants receiving travel support and citizens of Egypt, India, Jordan, Lebanon, or the Philippines, please follow the process on page 6, under “**B. FOR DELEGATES RECEIVING TRAVEL SUPPORT**”.

IV. APPLYING FOR A VISA TO ENTER PANAMA

**For participants from countries that need a visa and
DO NOT HAVE a Panamanian embassy or consulate in their country¹**

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

A. FOR SELF-FUNDED DELEGATES

Please prepare your visa application as soon as possible, including the cover letter from Panama, the visa support letter and the note verbale (in Spanish), all of which will be provided by the Convention Secretariat. However, please note that the Convention Secretariat can provide a visa support letter **ONLY to delegates whose registration has been approved.**

Panama has set up a special procedure so that registered COP10 and MOP3 participants do not have to travel abroad to request a visa.

Participants need to locate the closest Panamanian embassy or consulate to their country and **send via email their application, no later than 15 September 2023**, with all required documents, including:

- (a) completed visa application form ([available here](#));
- (b) scanned copy of **all the pages** of your passport or travel document;
- (c) copy of previous visas, or permissions, approved by Panamanian immigratory authorities (if any);
- (d) flight reservation with itinerary of trip continuation or electronic ticket;
- (e) confirmed hotel reservation ([list of official hotels available here](#));
- (f) copy of a valid ID or resident card from the country of residence of the applicant (if applicable);
- (g) one digital passport photo (passport size) on a light background;
- (h) supporting letters by Panama provided through the Convention Secretariat (in Spanish);
- (i) visa support letter issued by the Convention Secretariat (provided in Spanish);
- (j) note verbale from the Convention Secretariat (provided in Spanish);
- (k) proof of income (for example, bank or credit card statements from the last three months, Income declaration from last fiscal year, any other proof of income); and
- (l) a receipt for the payment of 60 Panamanian balboas or US\$ 60 for the visa application fees (participants are required to pay the fees directly to the embassy or consulate before submitting their application and attach the receipt as one of the required documents).

¹ This also applies for participants living too far from the Panamanian embassy or consulate within the same country.

Participants are invited to contact their closest Panamanian embassy or consulate to obtain the exact email address where to send their application, as well as payment details and information on how to make wire bank transfer.

The closest Panamanian embassy or consulate can be located here: <https://mire.gob.pa/mapa-ubicacion-embajadas>. A list of suggested embassies or consulates of Panama for each country is also available in the annex.

Please ensure that your application is complete with all required documents to avoid unnecessary delays.

When your application is submitted, the approval process begins, including the evaluation of the applicant's profile. This process can take up to 60 days.

Once your application is approved, you will receive by email an approval letter from the embassy or consulate, which will allow you to travel to Panama.

Upon arrival in Panama City, participants are invited to follow the priority lanes to the immigration desks to have their passport stamped for entry to Panama.

All participants who are seeking entry to Panama through this special procedure are requested to arrive at the airport at least one hour earlier than the required time by the airline company in order to avoid any unforeseen complications.

B. FOR DELEGATES RECEIVING TRAVEL SUPPORT

Please prepare your visa application as soon as possible, including the cover letter from Panama, the visa support letter and the note verbale (in Spanish), all of which will be provided by the Convention Secretariat. Please note that the Convention Secretariat can provide a visa support letter ONLY to delegates whose registration has been approved.

Panama has set up a special procedure so that registered COP10 and MOP3 participants do not have to travel abroad to request a visa.

Participants who are receiving travel support are required to send via email their application to CIBTvisas at: customerservices@cibtvisas.ch, no later than **15 September 2023**, with all required documents, including:

- (a) completed visa application form ([available here](#));
- (b) scanned copy of **all the pages** of your passport or travel documents;
- (c) copy of previous visas, or permissions, approved by Panamanian immigratory authorities (if any);
- (d) flight reservation with itinerary of trip continuation or electronic ticket;
- (e) confirmed hotel reservation ([list of official hotels available here](#));
- (f) copy of a valid ID or resident card from the country of residence of the applicant (if applicable);
- (g) one digital passport photo (passport size) on a light background;
- (h) supporting letters from Panama provided through the Convention Secretariat (in Spanish);
- (i) visa support letter issued by the Convention Secretariat (provided in Spanish); and
- (j) note verbale from the Convention Secretariat (provided in Spanish).

Please ensure that your application is complete with all of the required documents to avoid unnecessary delays. For your information, your visa application fees will be paid on your behalf and CIBTvisas will attach the receipt to your documents before submitting them to the consulate of Panama in Geneva.

When your application is submitted, the approval process begins, including the evaluation of the applicant's profile. This process can take up to 60 days.

Once your application is approved, you will receive an approval letter via email from the embassy or consulate in Geneva, which will allow you to travel to Panama.

Upon arrival in Panama City, participants are invited to follow the priority lanes to the immigration desks to have their passport stamped for entry to Panama.

All participants who are seeking entry to Panama through this special procedure are requested to arrive at the airport at least one hour earlier than the required time by the airline company in order to avoid any unforeseen complications.

ANNEX:

**SUGGESTED EMBASSIES OR CONSULATES OF
PANAMA FOR VISAS APPLICATION**

COUNTRY	SUGGESTED EMBASSIES/CONSULATES OF PANAMA TO APPLY FOR VISAS
Afghanistan	China
Albania	Italy
Algeria	Spain, Morocco, Egypt
Angola	South Africa
Azerbaijan	Türkiye
Bahrain	Qatar
Bangladesh	India
Benin	Morocco, Egypt
Burkina Faso	Morocco, Egypt
Burundi	South Africa
Cameroon	Egypt
Cabo Verde	Morocco
Central African Republic	Egypt
Chad	Egypt
China	China
Congo	South Africa
Côte d'Ivoire	Egypt
Cuba	Cuba
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	China
Democratic Republic of the Congo	South Africa
Djibouti	Egypt
Dominican Republic	Dominican Republic
Egypt	Egypt
Equatorial Guinea	Morocco, Egypt
Eritrea	Egypt
Eswatini	South Africa
Ethiopia	Egypt
Gabon	South Africa
Gambia	Morocco, Egypt
Georgia	Türkiye
Ghana	Morocco, Egypt
Guinea	Morocco, Egypt
Guinea-Bissau	Morocco, Egypt
Haiti	Dominican Republic
India	India
Indonesia	Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Qatar
Iraq	United Arab Emirates
Jordan	Jordan

COUNTRY	SUGGESTED EMBASSIES/CONSULATES OF PANAMA TO APPLY FOR VISAS
Kazakhstan	China
Kenya	South Africa
Kyrgyzstan	China
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Thailand
Lebanon	Lebanon
Lesotho	South Africa
Liberia	Morocco, Egypt
Libya	Egypt
Malawi	South Africa
Mali	Morocco, Egypt
Mauritania	Morocco, Egypt
Morocco	Morocco
Mozambique	South Africa
Myanmar	Viet Nam
Nepal	India
Niger	Morocco, Egypt
Nigeria	Morocco, Egypt
Oman	Qatar
Pakistan	United Arab Emirates
Philippines	Philippines
Rwanda	South Africa
Senegal	Morocco, Egypt
Sierra Leone	Morocco, Egypt
Somalia	Egypt
South Sudan	Egypt
Sri Lanka	Viet Nam
Sudan	Egypt
Suriname	Trinidad and Tobago
Syrian Arab Republic	Türkiye and Jordan
Tajikistan	China
Togo	Morocco, Egypt
Tunisia	Morocco and Egypt
Turkmenistan	Türkiye
Uganda	Egypt
United Republic of Tanzania	South Africa
Uzbekistan	Türkiye
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Venezuela
Yemen	Jordan
Zambia	South Africa
Zimbabwe	South Africa

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