

Information for Participants

61th Session of the IPCC

**Sofia, Bulgaria
26 July - 2 August 2024**

I. INTRODUCTION

The Sixty First Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will take place in Sofia, Bulgaria from 26 July to 2 August 2024.

Bulgaria, a country occupying the eastern portion of the Balkan Peninsula was founded in the 7th century. Bordered by Greece and Türkiye to the south, Serbia and North Macedonia to the west, and Romania to the north, Bulgaria is one of the oldest states on the European continent. It covers a territory of 110,994 square kilometers and is the 16th largest country in Europe. Sofia is the nation's capital and largest city; other major cities include Burgas, Plovdiv, and Varna. Bulgaria is a member of EU since 1 January 2007.



The meeting will take place at the “**Grand Millenium Hotel**” in Sofia.

Address: 89B, Vitosha Blvd.,
1463 Sofia.

<https://grandhotelmillenniumsofia.bg/>

More information about the Session can be found at

<http://www.ipcc.ch/meeting-doc/ipcc-61/>



II. REGISTRATION

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

Registration for participants to the Session will be open on site as of Thursday, 25th July from 14:00 to 17:00, and as of 08:00 from Friday, 26th July to Friday, 2nd August 2024.

25th July: 14:00 – 17:00

26th July: 08:00 – 17:00

27th July – 2nd August: 09:00 – 16:00

*Please pre-register each designated participant no later than Wednesday, **17th July 2024 (midnight CEST)** 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 BULGARIA

1. INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Participants are recommended to arrive at Sofia airport. Sofia Airport is the main international airport of Bulgaria is located 10 km east of the capital Sofia. The airport currently serves more than 7 million passengers and is easily accessible from all major international hubs.

2. TRANSPORTATION

Participants will be responsible for coordinating their own transportation to and from the airport. Please consult the [airport website](#) for more information, including transportation facilities.

TRANSPORT FROM/TO SOFIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

METRO

Sofia Airport Metro Station is in close proximity to the airport terminal building 2. The line provides a transport connection to the city centre and to the large residential complexes. The journey time from Sofia Airport to the city centre is approximately 18 min.

Trip to the venue from Sofia airport takes approximately 40 minutes via the metro. Delegates can arrive at the meeting venue from the airport by making one quick switch at Serdika station to Line 2 for one more stop to National Palace of Culture (NDK) station.

CAR/TAXI

The distance from the airport to the venue is about 13 km and takes approximately 25-30 minutes (depending on the traffic). Taxis are available outside arrivals of both Terminal 1 and Terminal 2. It is recommended to only take yellow Taxis located outside the terminal.

3. TIME ZONE

Bulgaria is UTC +0200 hours.

4. VISAS FOR TRAVEL TO BULGARIA

A valid entry visa is required for most nationals and needs to be obtained in advance.

Please follow the link for detailed information on required travel documents, visa issuing and application forms:

<https://www.mfa.bg/en/services-travel/consular-services/travel-bulgaria/visa-bulgaria>

As of 1st of April 2024, please stay informed about the upcoming updates regarding Schengen visa applications, which will be available in the link provided above.

It is the delegate's own responsibility to obtain a visa for Bulgaria. The information provided herein acts only as guidance. A list of Bulgarian diplomatic and consular missions abroad and the countries accredited to them where there is no representations are indicated on the website below.

<https://www.mfa.bg/en/situationcenter>

*For any urgent visa related matters or specific questions, please contact **Consular Relations Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs** at + 359 2 948 3016 every working day between 09.00 am and 17.30 p.m. or via email at **consular@mfa.bg***

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>

There are no longer COVID restrictions on entering Bulgaria from abroad.

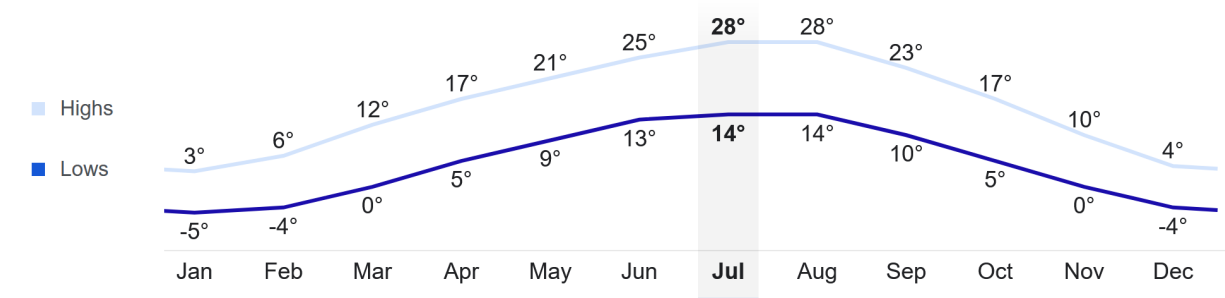
Please note that WMO/IPCC shall not be held responsible for any health problems or accidents that the participants may have. Participants are responsible for making all necessary arrangements for life, health and other forms of insurance as they consider appropriate.

6. WEATHER

Bulgaria has a wide variety of climate types.

During July, you can expect temperatures that range from warm to very warm and precipitation levels ranging from moderate to high. Various regions within the country however, influenced by geographical factors like mountains and proximity to the Black Sea, experience their own unique microclimates. These can be totally different from the typical temperate conditions.

Temperatures (°C)



7. CURRENCY

The currency in Bulgaria is the Bulgarian lev. Each lev is divided into 100 stotinki.

The currency code for Bulgarian Lev is BGN. Once you're in Bulgaria, you'll see the symbol лв used to show prices. Banknotes are in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100. There are also 1 lev coin and 2-lev coin.

The current exchange rates are:

1 USD = Lev 1.80

1 EUR = Lev 1.95

Please note that these rates can vary with time and with the agent exchanging currency. Please check www.xe.com for the most up-to-date exchange rates.

Foreign currency can be changed at banks, foreign currency exchange bureau or at hotels. Banks in major centers are open from 09.00 to 17.00 Monday to Friday.

ATMs

ATMs are available country-wide with 24-hour access.

Credit cards

Major international cards are accepted.

Tipping

It's normal to tip for good service in restaurants, bars and cafes in Bulgaria - especially in touristy or business areas. Tips are also appreciated in hotels and serviced apartments - and other places where staff may provide services. The amount you tip in Bulgaria will depend on where you are and what type of services you're buying. As a general rule, expect to tip around 10% of the bill. If you get exceptionally good service, you closer to 15-20%.

8. ELECTRICITY

Power systems are 220 volts and 50 Hz.

Participants are advised to bring their own plug adapters to plug into power sockets. The type of plugs and sockets found in Bulgaria are [type F](#).



Type F

9. HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Participants are responsible for making their own hotel arrangements.

Sofia offers a wide provision of accommodation, from international hotel chains to local hotels. You will have to make reservations and pay for the room directly.

Some of the hotels in the vicinity are indicated in a separate document on the website, with approximate prices. Prices are subject to change.

The participants are responsible for any “no- show”.

10. INTERNET SERVICES

Free Wi-Fi facility will be available at the venue and meeting rooms. You will be given details of the wireless network connection when you register on-site.

11. WORKING LANGUAGES

Bulgarian, pronounced [ˈbʉɫgərski] is an Eastern South Slavic language spoken in Southeast Europe, primarily in Bulgaria. It is the language of the Bulgarians.

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.

12. USEFUL LINK/S FROM THE HOSTS

- <https://bulgariatravel.org/bg/>

13. EMERGENCY NUMBERS

European Emergency Number

112

**TABLE OF COUNTRIES WHOSE CITIZENS, HOLDERS OF ORDINARY
PASSPORTS, REQUIRE/DO NOT REQUIRE VISAS TO ENTER BULGARIA
(list provided by host country)**

Last update: 13.12.2023

	<i>Country</i>	<i>Visa is required Yes/No</i>
1	Afghanistan	Yes
2	Albania (3)	No
3	Algeria	Yes
4	Andorra	No
5	Angola	Yes
6	Antigua and Barbuda	No
7	Argentina	No
8	Armenia	Yes
9	Australia	No
10	Austria (1)	No
11	Azerbaijan	Yes
12	Bahamas	No
13	Bahrain	Yes
14	Bangladesh	Yes
15	Barbados	No
16	Belarus	Yes
17	Belgium (1)	No
18	Belize	Yes
19	Benin	Yes
20	Bhutan	Yes
21	Bolivia	Yes
22	Bosnia and Herzegovina (3)	No
23	Botswana	Yes
24	Brazil	No
25	Brunei	No
26	Burkina Faso	Yes
27	Burundi	Yes
28	Cambodia	Yes
29	Cameroon	Yes
30	Canada	No
31	Cape Verde	Yes
32	Central African Republic	Yes
33	Chad	Yes
34	Chile	No

35	China	Yes
36		No
37	Cook Islands	
38	Colombia	No
39	Comoros	Yes
40	Congo, Democratic Republic of the	Yes
41	Congo, Republic of	Yes
42	Costa Rica	No
43	Cote d'Ivoire	Yes
44	Croatia	No
45	Cuba	Yes
46	Cyprus (1)	No
47	Czech Republic (1)	No
48	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Yes
49	Denmark (1)	No
50	Djibouti	Yes
51	Dominica	No
52	Dominican Republic	Yes
53	Ecuador	Yes
54	Egypt	Yes
55	El Salvador	No
56	Equatorial Guinea	Yes
57	Eritrea	Yes
58	Estonia (1)	No
59	Ethiopia	Yes
60	Fiji	Yes
61	Finland (1)	No
62	France (1)	No
63	Gabon	Yes
64	Gambia	Yes
65	Georgia (3)	No
66	Germany (1)	No
67	Ghana	Yes
68	Greece (1)	No
69	Grenada	No
70	Guatemala	No
71	Guinea	Yes
72	Guinea-Bissau	Yes
73	Guyana	Yes
74	Haiti	Yes
75	Honduras	No
76	Hungary (1)	No
77	India	Yes
78	Indonesia	Yes
79	Iran	Yes

80	Iraq	Yes
81	Ireland (1)	No
82	Iceland (1)	No
83	Israel	No
84	Italy (1)	No
85	Jamaica	Yes
86	Japan	No
87	Jordan	Yes
88	Kazakhstan	Yes
89	Kenya	Yes
90	Kiribati	No
91	Kosovo (3)	No
92	Kuwait	Yes
93	Kyrgyzstan	Yes
94	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Yes
95	Latvia (1)	No
96	Lebanon	Yes
97	Lesotho	Yes
98	Liberia	Yes
99	Libya	Yes
100	Lichtenstein (1)	No
101	Lithuania (1)	No
102	Luxemburg (1)	No
103	North Macedonia (3)	No
104	Madagascar	Yes
105	Malawi	Yes
106	Malaysia	No
107	Maldives	Yes
108	Mali	Yes
109	Malta (1)	No
110	Marshal Islands	No
111	Mauritania	Yes
112	Mauritius	No
113	Mexico	No
114	Micronesia	No
115	Moldova (3)	No
116	Monaco	No
117	Mongolia	Yes
118	Montenegro (3)	No
119	Morocco	Yes
120	Mozambique	Yes
121	Myanmar	Yes
122	Namibia	Yes
123	Nauru	Yes
124	Nepal	Yes

125	Netherland (1)	No
126	New Zealand	No
127	Nicaragua	No
128	Niger	Yes
129	Nigeria	Yes
130	Norway (1)	No
131	Oman	Yes
132	Pakistan	Yes
133	Palau	No
134		Yes
135	Panama	No
136	Papua New Guinea	Yes
137	Paraguay	No
138	Peru	No
139	Philippines	Yes
140	Poland (1)	No
141	Portugal (1)	No
142	Puerto Rico	No
143	Qatar	Yes
144	Republic of Korea	No
145	Romania (1)	No
146	Russian Federation	Yes
147	Rwanda	Yes
148	Saint Kitts and Nevis	No
149	Saint Lucia	No
150	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	No
151	Samoa	No
152	San Marino	No
153	Sao Tome and Principe	Yes
154	Saudi Arabia	Yes
155	Senegal	Yes
156	Serbia (4)	No
157	Seychelles	No
158	Sierra Leone	Yes
159	Singapore	No
160	Slovakia (1)	No
161	Slovenia (1)	No
162	Solomon Islands	No
163	Somalia	Yes
164	South Africa	Yes
165	Spain (1)	No
166	Sri Lanka	Yes
167	Sudan	Yes
168	Suriname	Yes
169	Eswatini	Yes

170	Sweden (1)	No
171	Switzerland (1)	No
172	Syria	Yes
173		No
174	Tajikistan	Yes
175	Tanzania	Yes
176	Thailand	Yes
177	Timor-Leste	No
178	Togo	Yes
179	Tonga	No
180	Trinidad and Tobago	No
181	Tunisia	Yes
182	Türkiye (2)	Yes
183	Turkmenistan	Yes
184	Tuvalu	No
185	Uganda	Yes
186	Ukraine (3)	No
187	United Arab Emirates	No
188	UK	No
189	Uruguay	No
190	USA	No
191	Uzbekistan	Yes
192	Vanuatu	Yes
193		No
194	Venezuela	No
195	Vietnam	Yes
196	Yemen	Yes
197	Zambia	Yes
198	Zimbabwe	Yes
	South Sudan	

(1) Citizens of the EU, EEC (Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein) and Switzerland are exempted from the requirement to have a long-term visa and from the requirement to have “work permit” when staying in Bulgaria for the period of more than 90 days.

(2) Citizens of the Republic of Turkey holding valid regular passports and visas issued by the Member States of the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement or of the European Union, or residence permits issued by the Member States of the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement or of the European Union, Switzerland or Liechtenstein, may enter the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and transit there through without visas for up to 5 (five) days, when their transit is from the Republic of Turkey to the state which issued the visa or residence permit, as well as in case of transit from such state to the Republic of Turkey. Nationals of Turkey, holders of special passports are not visa exempt.

(3) Only holders of biometric passports are exempt from the visa obligation. Holders of non-biometric passports still require a visa in which case the visa facilitation agreements apply. The exemption from the visa requirement should apply only to holders of biometric passports issued by Kosovo in relevance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2023/850 of the European Parliament

and of the Council of 19 April 2023 amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1806 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement.

(4) Only holders of biometric passports are exempt from the visa obligation. Holders of non-biometric passports and holders of passports issued by the Serbian Coordination Directorate (in Serbian: Koordinaciona uprava) still require a visa in which case the visa facilitation agreements apply.

**TABLE OF COUNTRIES WHOSE CITIZENS, HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC AND SERVICE PASSPORTS, REQUIRE/DO NOT REQUIRE VISAS TO ENTER BULGARIA
(list provided by host country)**

Last update: 13.12.2023

	<i>State</i>	<i>Diplomatic passport</i>	<i>Service passport</i>
1	Afghanistan	Yes	Yes
2	Albania	No	No
3	Algeria	No	No
4	Andorra	No	No
5	Angola	Yes	Yes
6	Antigua and Barbuda	No	No
7	Argentina (1)	No	No
8	Armenia	No	Yes
9	Australia	Yes	Yes
10	Austria	No	No
11	Azerbaijan	No	No
12	Bahamas	No	No
13	Bahrain	Yes	Yes
14	Bangladesh	Yes	Yes
15	Barbados	No	No
16	Belarus (4)	Yes	Yes
17	Belgium	No	No
18	Belize	Yes	Yes
19	Benin	Yes	Yes
20	Bhutan	Yes	Yes
21	Bolivia	Yes	Yes
22	Bosnia and Herzegovina	No	No
23	Botswana	Yes	Yes
24	Brazil	No	No
25	Brunei	No	No
26	Burkina Faso	Yes	Yes
27	Burundi	Yes	Yes
28	Cambodia	Yes	Yes
29	Cameroon	Yes	Yes
30	Canada	No	No
31	Cape Verde	No	No
32	Central African Republic	Yes	Yes
33	Chad	Yes	Yes
34	Chile	No	No

35	China, People's Republic of	No	No
36		No	No
37	Cook Islands		
38	Colombia	No	No
39	Comoros	Yes	Yes
40	Congo, Democratic Republic of the	Yes	Yes
41	Congo, Republic of	Yes	Yes
42	Costa Rica	Yes	Yes
43	Cote d'Ivoire	Yes	Yes
44	Croatia	No	No
45	Cuba	Yes	Yes
46	Cyprus	No	No
47	Czech Republic	No	No
48	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	No	No
49	Denmark	No	No
50	Djibouti	Yes	Yes
51	Dominica	No	No
52	Dominican Republic	Yes	Yes
53	Ecuador	No	No
54	Egypt	Yes	Yes
55	El Salvador	No	No
56	Equatorial Guinea	Yes	Yes
57	Eritrea	Yes	Yes
58	Estonia	No	No
59	Ethiopia	Yes	Yes
60	Fiji	Yes	Yes
61	Finland	No	No
62	France	No	No
63	Gabon	Yes	Yes
64	Gambia	Yes	Yes
65	Georgia	No	No
66	Germany	No	No
67	Ghana	Yes	Yes
68	Greece	No	No
69	Grenada	No	No
70	Guatemala	No	No
71	Guinea	Yes	Yes
72	Guinea-Bissau	Yes	Yes
73	Guyana	Yes	Yes
74	Haiti	Yes	Yes
75	Netherlands	No	No
76	Honduras	No	No
77	Hungary	No	No
78	India	No	No

79	Indonesia	No	No
80	Iran (1)	No	No
81	Iraq	Yes	Yes
82	Ireland	No	No
83	Iceland	No	No
84	Israel	No	No
85	Italy	No	No
86	Jamaica	Yes	Yes
87	Japan	No	No
88	Jordan	No	Yes
89	Kazakhstan	No	No
90	Kenya	Yes	Yes
91	Kiribati	No	No
92	Kosovo	Yes	Yes
93	Kuwait	No	No
94	Kyrgyzstan	Yes	Yes
95	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Yes	Yes
96	Latvia	No	No
97	Lebanon	Yes	Yes
98	Lesotho	Yes	Yes
99	Liberia	Yes	Yes
100	Libya	Yes	Yes
101	Lichtenstein	No	No
102	Lithuania	No	No
103	Luxemburg	No	No
104	North Macedonia	No	No
105	Madagascar	Yes	Yes
106	Malawi	Yes	Yes
107	Malaysia	No	No
108	Maldives	Yes	Yes
109	Mali	Yes	Yes
110	Malta	No	No
111	Marshal Islands	No	No
112	Mauritania	Yes	Yes
113	Mauritius	No	No
114	Mexico	No	No
115	Micronesia	No	No
116	Moldova	No	No
117	Monaco	No	No
118	Mongolia	No	No
119	Montenegro	No	No
120	Morocco	No	No
121	Mozambique	Yes	Yes
122	Myanmar	Yes	Yes

123	Namibia	Yes	Yes
124	Nauru	Yes	Yes
125	Nepal	Yes	Yes
126	New Zealand	No	No
127	Nicaragua	No	No
128	Niger	Yes	Yes
129	Nigeria	Yes	Yes
130	Norway	No	No
131	Oman	Yes	Yes
132	Pakistan	Yes	Yes
133	Palau	No	No
134		Yes	Yes
135	Panama	No	No
136	Papua New Guinea	Yes	Yes
137	Paraguay	No	No
138	Peru	No	No
139	Philippines	Yes	Yes
140	Poland	No	No
141	Portugal	No	No
142	Puerto Rico	Yes	Yes
143	Qatar	No	No
144	Republic of Korea	No	No
145	Romania	No	No
146	Russian Federation (3)	Yes	Yes
147	Rwanda	Yes	Yes
148	Saint Kitts and Nevis	No	No
149	Saint Lucia	No	No
150	Saint Vincent and Grenadines	No	No
151	Samoa	No	No
152	San Marino	No	No
153	Sao Tome and Principe	Yes	Yes
154	Saudi Arabia	Yes	Yes
155	Senegal	Yes	Yes
156	Serbia	No	No
157	Seychelles	No	No
158	Sierra Leone	Yes	Yes
159	Singapore	No	No
160	Slovakia	No	No
161	Slovenia	No	No
162	Solomon Islands	No	No
163	Somalia	Yes	Yes
164	South Africa	No	No
165	Spain	No	No
166	Sri Lanka	Yes	Yes

167	Sudan	Yes	Yes
168	Suriname	Yes	Yes
169	Eswatini	Yes	Yes
170	Sweden	No	No
171	Switzerland	No	No
172	Syria	Yes	Yes
173		N/A	N/A
174	Tajikistan	Yes	Yes
175	Tanzania	Yes	Yes
176	Thailand	No	No
177	Timor-Leste	No	No
178	Togo	Yes	Yes
179	Tonga	No	No
180	Trinidad and Tobago	No	No
181	Tunisia	No	No
182	Türkiye (1)	No	No
183	Turkmenistan	No	No
184	Tuvalu	No	No
185	Uganda	Yes	Yes
186	Ukraine	No	No
187	United Arab Emirates	No	No
188	United Kingdom	No	No
189	Uruguay	No	No
190	USA	Yes	Yes
191	Uzbekistan	Yes	Yes
192	Vanuatu	No	No
193	Vatican City State	No	No
194	Venezuela (1)	No	No
195	Vietnam	No	No
196	Yemen	Yes	Yes
197	Zambia	Yes	Yes
198	Zimbabwe	Yes	Yes
199	South Sudan		

(1) Nationals of these countries, holders of diplomatic and service passports, may enter the territory of Bulgaria for the period up to 30 days.

(2)

(3) In relevance with Council Decision on the suspension in whole of the application of the Agreement between the European Community and the Russian Federation on the facilitation of the issuance of visas to the citizens of the European Union and the Russian Federation

(4) Only for categories of holders listed in Council Decision (EU) 2021/1940 of 9 November 2021 on the partial suspension of the application of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Belarus on the facilitation of the issuance of visas