

2009 Conference Evaluation



Table of Contents

Introduction	3
General conclusions and recommendations	4
I. Characteristics of the respondents	5
II. Organization and communication prior to the Conference	9
III. Level of attendance	11
IV. General assessment of Conference features	14
V. Focus on specific aspects of the Conference	16
VI. Financial support for the Conference	21
VII. Planning the 27 th Conference	22
Annex 1 ó List of õneglected topicsö (question 33a)	26
Annex 2 ó Summary of comments and suggestions for 2013 (question 36)	31
Annex 3 ó Questionnaire for the 2009 Conference survey (English version)	35

Introduction

The 26th International Population Conference, organized by the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) and the Moroccan National Organizing Committee (NOC), was held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 27 September to 2 October 2009. Over 2,300 population scientists from 116 countries attended the conference, of which 2,106 were registered in the IUSSP database. A complete report based on information in the participant database is available on the Conference website at: <http://www.iussp.org/marrakech2009/>.

The IUSSP decided to carry out an evaluation of this Conference, as it had done for the Conferences that took place in 2001 in Bahia and in 2005 in Tours, by asking participants to fill in a questionnaire after the meeting. The main purpose of this evaluation is to prepare a successful International Population Conference in 2013, retaining what appeared to be successful for this Conference and ameliorating those aspects that were less successful. Preferences for the dates and duration of the next Conference were also investigated.

The Conference evaluation was conducted online from 23 October to 23 November, using an online survey company (Survey Monkey). Of the 2,106 participants registered in the Conference database, only 2,045 had an email address. The evaluation was sent to these 2,045 participants, 22 of which had defective emails and 3 of which had opted out of Survey Monkey surveys.

The response rate reached 60.4% (1,235 respondents), which is considerably higher than for the 2005 Conference evaluation for which only about 25% of the participants responded (422 of 1,600 participants with an email in the database). The higher response rate is probably due to the fact that this evaluation was conducted 3 weeks after the Conference had ended whereas in 2005 it was only sent out 3 months after the Conference. To make survey results more easily accessible non-respondents are not included; the number of respondents (n) is indicated for each question.

Although respondents may not faithfully represent the views of all Conference participants, the number of respondents and the high response rate are sufficient to draw significant conclusions from the data. Furthermore, the demographic profile of respondents is comparable with that of the participants registered for the Conference.

General conclusions and recommendations

The results of this evaluation indicate that the 26th International Population Conference was a very positive experience for a large majority of respondents. Results show in particular that respondents were satisfied with the scientific quality of the Conference and appreciated their stay in Marrakech.

Several features were particularly positively assessed:

- The Conference website was both well-rated and often visited, and it was considered simple to use both for paper submissions (Princeton website) and for online registration (IUSSP website).
- On-site registration, which is under the best of circumstances a difficult operation to organize well and which was further complicated by the last-minute requirement for a photo-badge, was also generally well-rated and fast for most participants (though a number of funded participants who registered on Sunday afternoon had to wait a long time).
- Many other services set up by the NOC and the hired event company and travel agency were appreciated, including: shuttles, hotel reservation service, visits to local organizations, and audio-visual services.

A few features, however, should be improved for the next Conference:

- While the subsidized lunches were appreciated by a majority of respondents they were not as well rated as most other features and drew some criticism. These lunches should be replaced by a more flexible and diversified offering of meals.
- Simultaneous translation suffered from many problems and was poorly rated and under-used. Given the cost of providing simultaneous translation, considerable effort should be put into ensuring that optimal simultaneous translation is made available for the next Conference. The service should not require participants to hand over their ID card each time they want to get a head-set; proper booths need to be installed; proper training needs to be provided to translators.
- The cyber-café, which used WiFi (despite the IUSSP's insistence prior to the Conference that the cyber-café required cable), was often slow or not-functioning and thus very poorly rated. Given that participants rely on this service, a cable internet connection needs to be provided for the next conference.

Respondents' level of attendance was particularly high: nearly half the respondents attended all 6 days and on average they attended 3 of the 4 regular sessions per day. Poster sessions and plenary sessions were not quite as well-attended. Only about one-fourth of respondents attended the NOC sessions focusing on the Arab world. Half the respondents attended at least one side meeting and nine out of ten visited the exhibition booths.

Results indicate that a majority of respondents are in favour of having discussants for every session (but they need to be better briefed on their role) and reinstating debates (as in Tours) instead of panel plenaries. A relative majority of respondents (45%) favour a 6-day conference, while 40% would prefer a 5-day conference (in particular women and respondents from North America and Europe). Summer is the preferred season for the next Conference and winter is the season to be most avoided.

The evaluation also highlights a number of key-points that should be kept in mind in dealing with Conference participants:

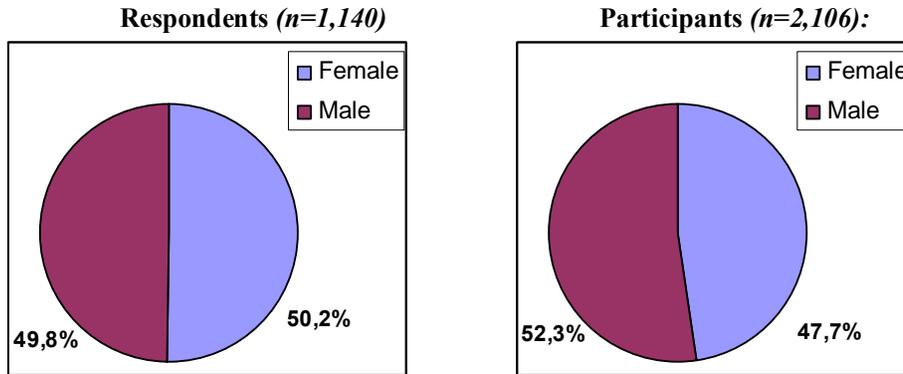
- For a majority of respondents, it was their first IUSSP Conference (56% of respondents in Marrakech; 63% in Tours). This means that every aspect needs to be explained but also that there is room for change.
- A large number of participants join the IUSSP to attend the Conference.
- Most respondents who received financial support from the IUSSP or the NOC could not have attended the Conference without this support.

Comments provided in answer to the final open-ended question offer many useful suggestions for the planning of the next Conference.

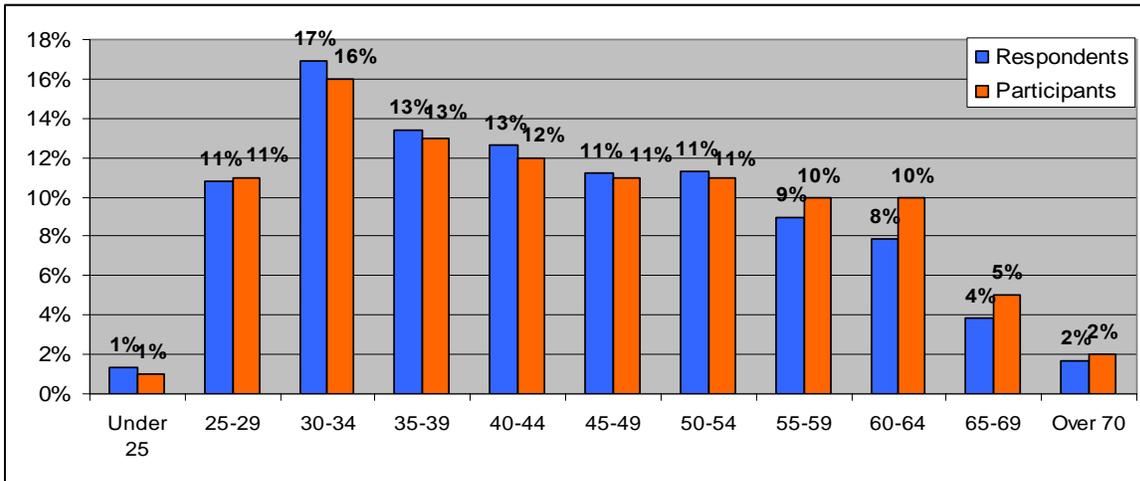
I. Characteristics of the respondents

Demographic characteristics of the sample compared to Conference participants

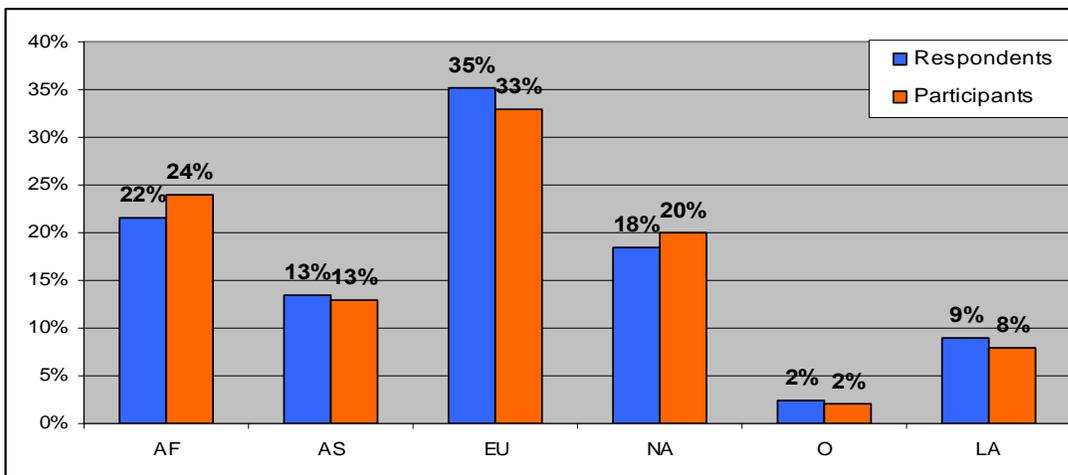
1) **Sex:** The sex ratio of respondents was very close to 1 whereas men slightly outnumbered women among participants (52.3%).



2) **Age:** The age distribution of respondents and participants was very similar. (Respondents (n=1,118); Participants (n=2,106)).

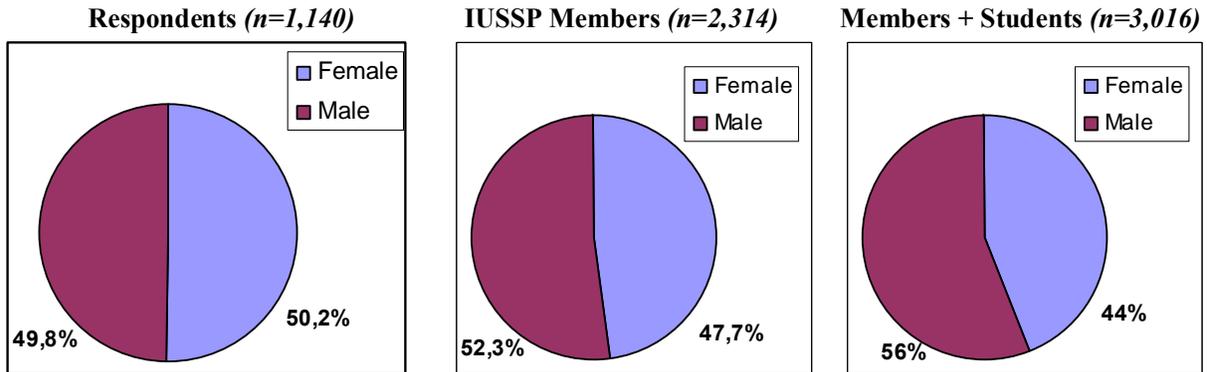


3) **Region of residence:** The distribution of respondents and participants by region of residence was very similar. (Respondents (n=1,143); Participants (n=2,106)).

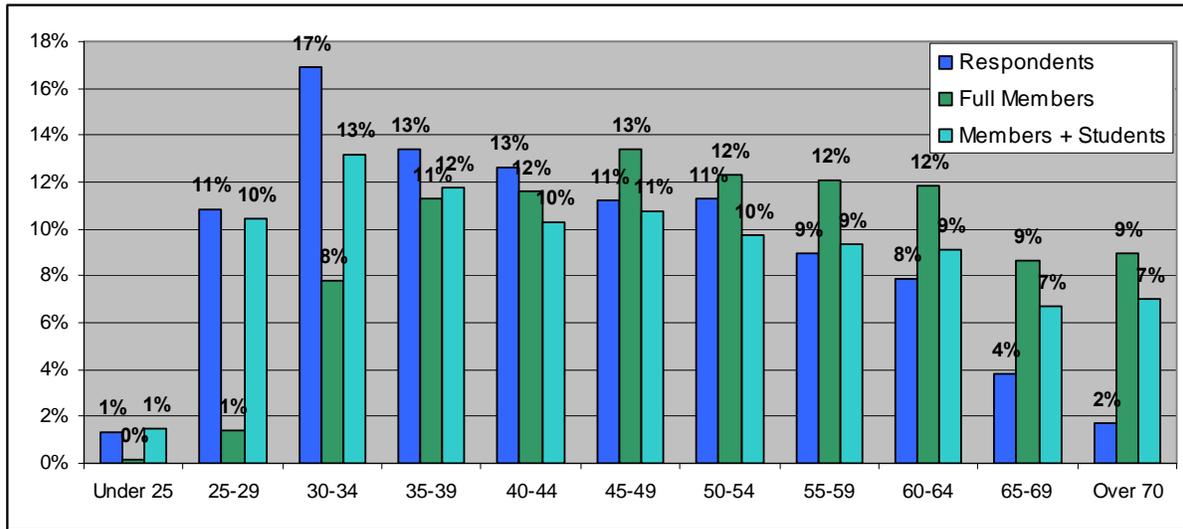


Demographic characteristics of the sample compared to IUSSP members (and students)

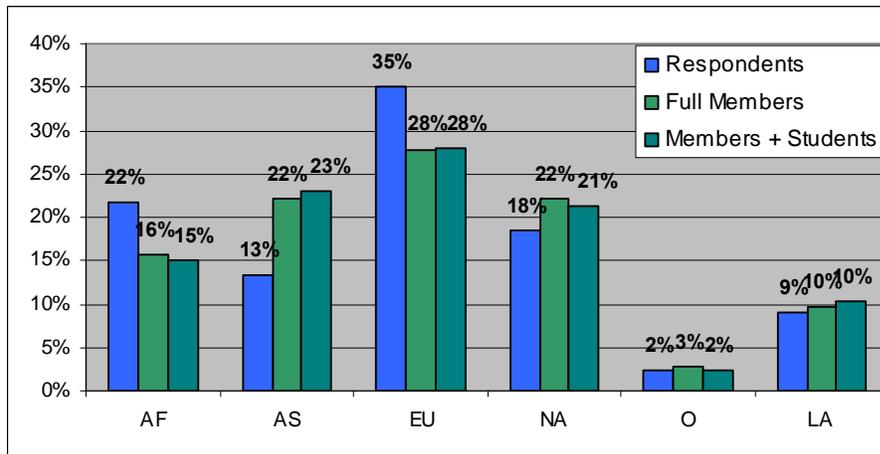
1) **Sex:** The sex ratio of respondents is close to 1 whereas men represent a slight majority of IUSSP members and an even larger majority when Student Associates are included.



2) **Age:** Respondents are much younger than IUSSP members, but comparable (though still younger) when Student Associates are included. (Respondents (n=1,118); Full Members (n=2,314); Members + Students (n=3,016)).

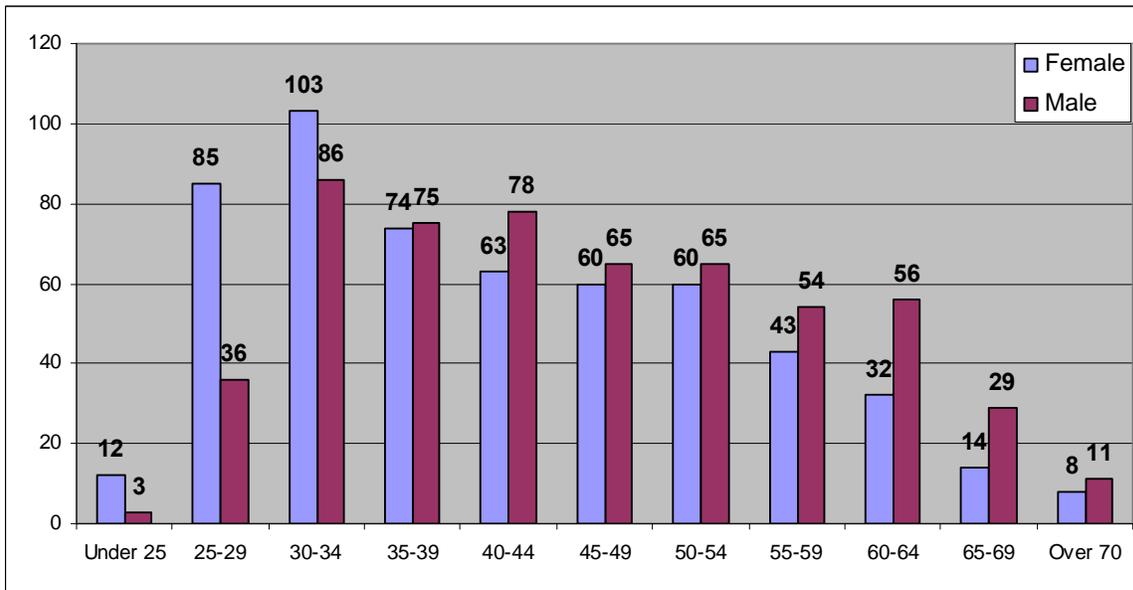


3) **Region of residence:** Respondents from Africa and Europe were over-represented compared to their proportion among IUSSP members and respondents from North America and Asia were under-represented. (Respondents (n=1,143); Full Members (n=2,314); Members + Students (n=3,016)).

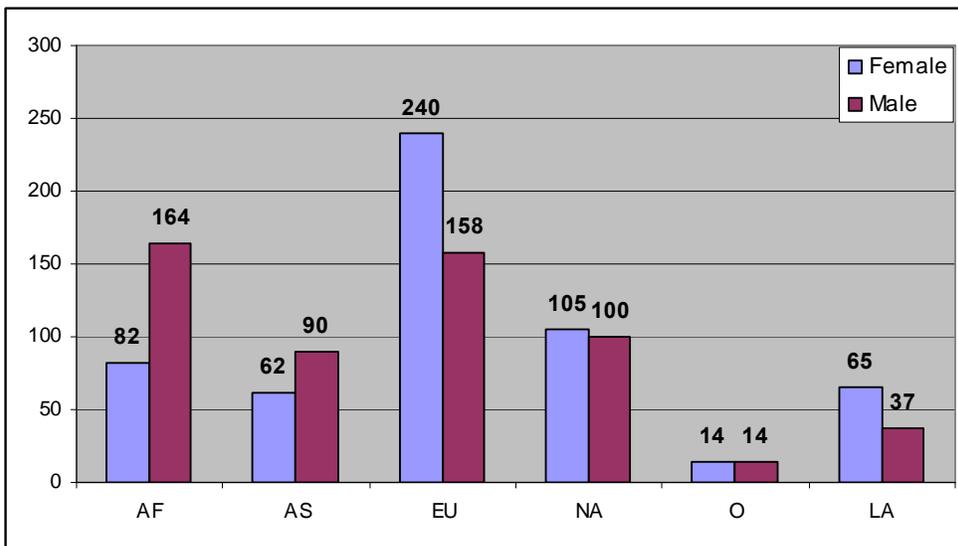


Other demographic characteristics of the sample:

1) Sex and age: A total of 1,112 respondents provided information on their sex and age: 558 women and 554 men. Women in the sample represent a far younger group than men. Women outnumber men under 35 by almost 2 to 1.

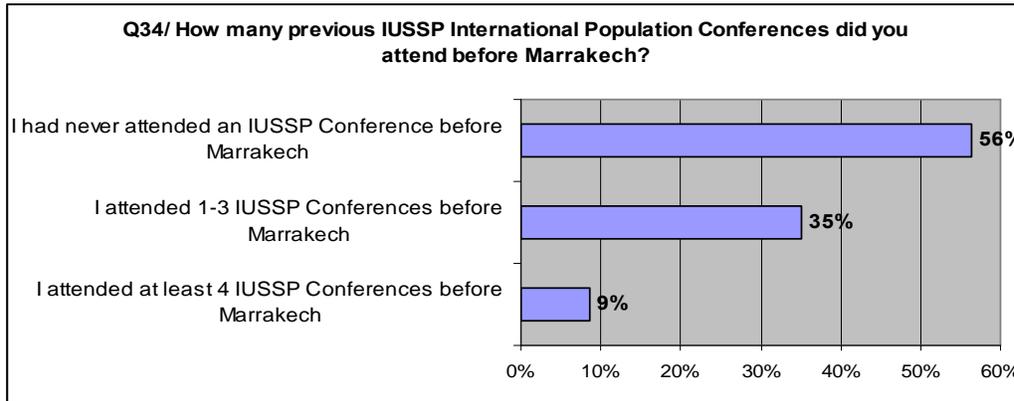


2) Sex and region of residence: A total of 1,131 respondents provided information on their sex and region of residence: 568 women and 563 men. Women represent a large proportion of respondents from Europe (60%) and Latin America (64%), whereas men represent the majority in Africa (67%) and Asia (59%). In North America and Oceania the sex ratio is close to 1.



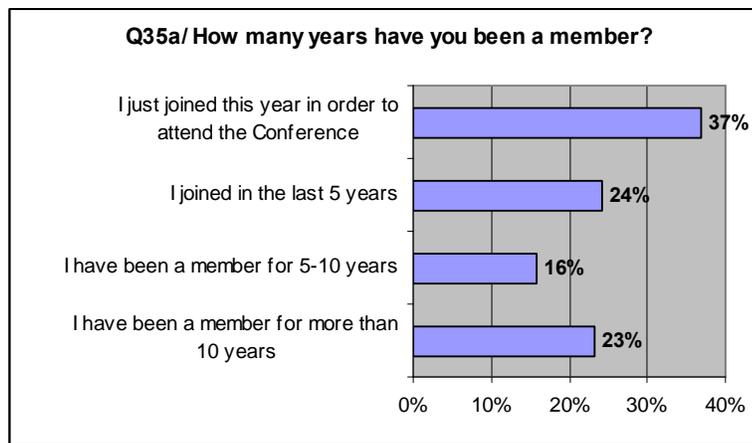
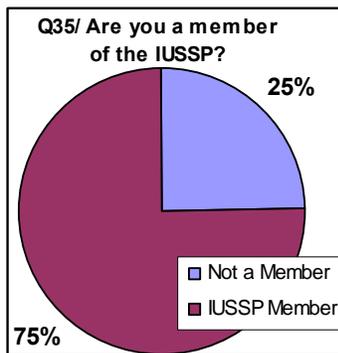
Previous attendance at IUSSP Conferences (Q34; n = 1,153)

For a majority of respondents (56%), the Marrakech Conference was their first IUSSP Conference (vs. 63% for the 2005 Conference in Tours); 35% had attended 1-3 conferences and 9% had attended 4 conferences or more.



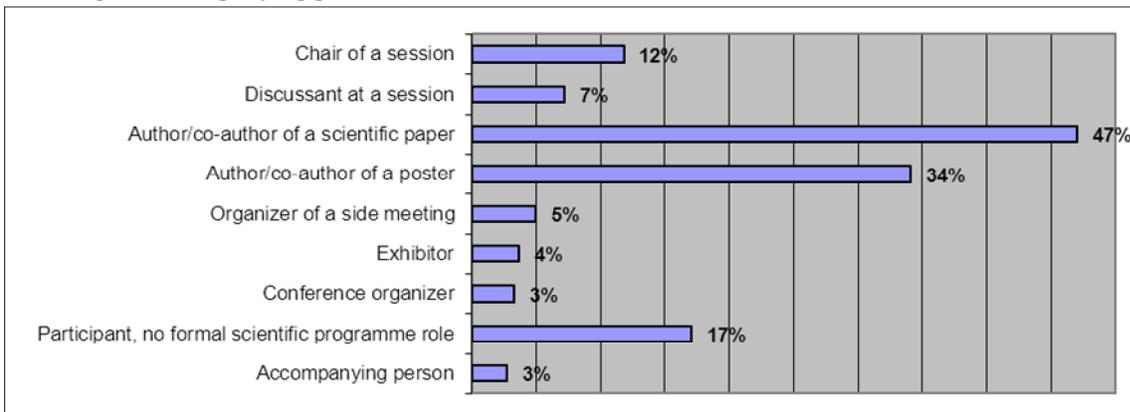
IUSSP Membership (Q35; n = 1,155) and (Q35a; n = 869)

Three-quarters of respondents were IUSSP members (vs. 70% for Tours), of which 37% joined in order to attend the conference, 24% had been members for 5 years, 16% for 5-10 years and 23% for more than 10 years.



Role during the conference (Q5; n = 1,182)

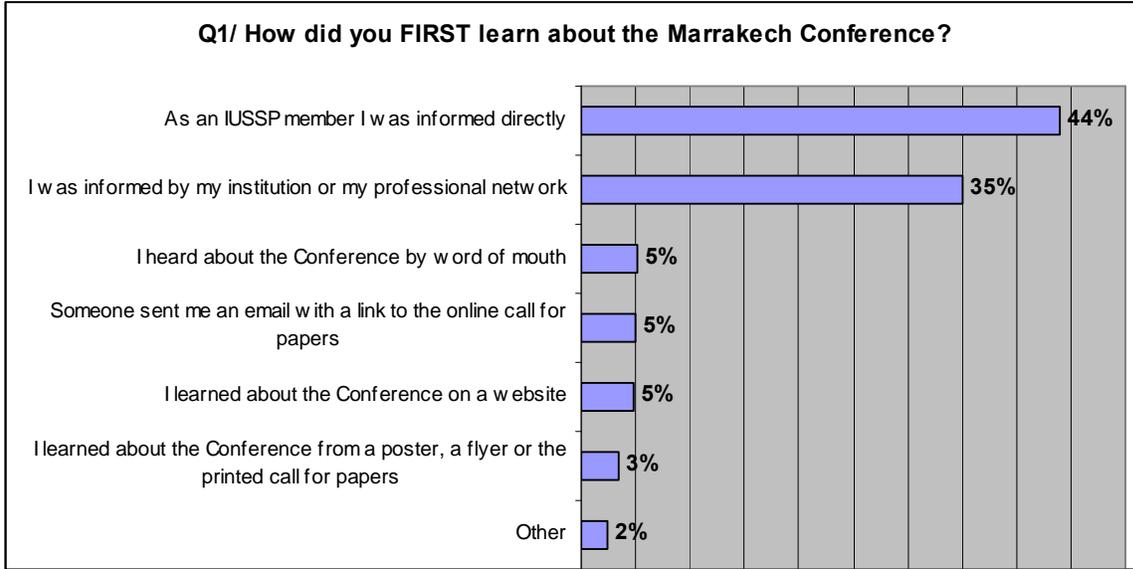
Most respondents (and participants) played an active scientific role in the Conference, in particular as authors or co-authors of papers (47%, 556 resp.) or of posters (34%, 403 resp.), session chairs (12%, 140 resp.) and discussants (7%, 85 resp.). Only 20% of respondents had no formal scientific role (234 resp., including 32 accompanying persons).



II. Organization and communication prior to the Conference

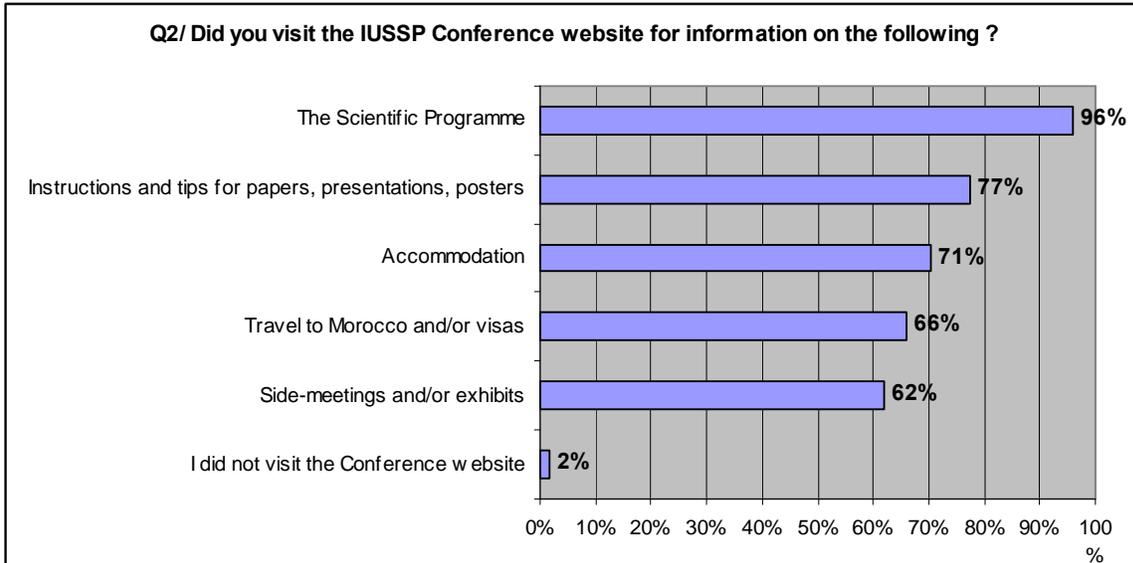
How participants learned about the Conference (Q1; n = 1,191)

Respondents learned about the conference mainly as IUSSP members (44%) or through their institution or professional network (35%). Only one-fifth learned about the conference through other means.



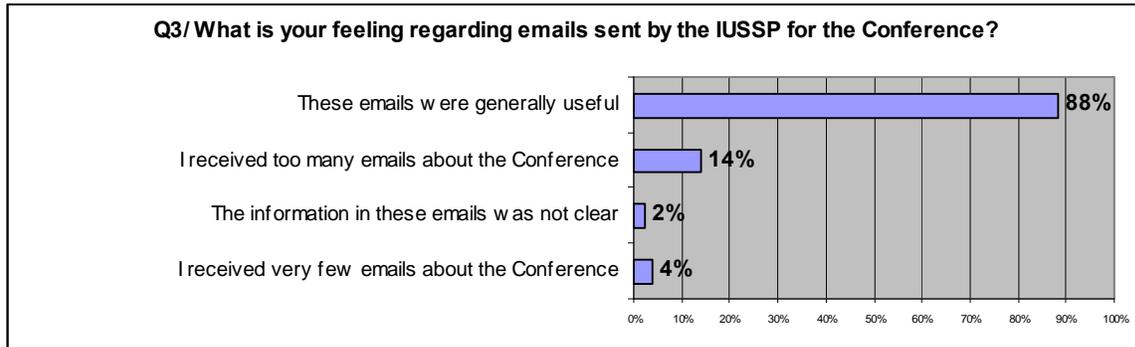
Use of the Conference website (Q2; n = 1,190)

Almost all respondents visited the IUSSP website for information on the scientific programme. A large proportion of respondents also visited the website for other types of information, including instructions for papers etc. (77%), accommodation (71%) travel to Morocco (66%) and side meetings and exhibits (62%).



Opinion on number of emails sent by the IUSSP (Q3; n = 1,180)

Only a minority of respondents declare that they received too many emails (14%) or found them unclear (2%). The vast majority of respondents (88%) found these emails useful.



Paper submissions (Q4; n = 1,188) and (Q4a; n = 825) and (Q4c; n = 807)

Seventy per cent of respondents submitted a paper; 97% of these found the paper submission system simple; 3% found the procedure difficult.

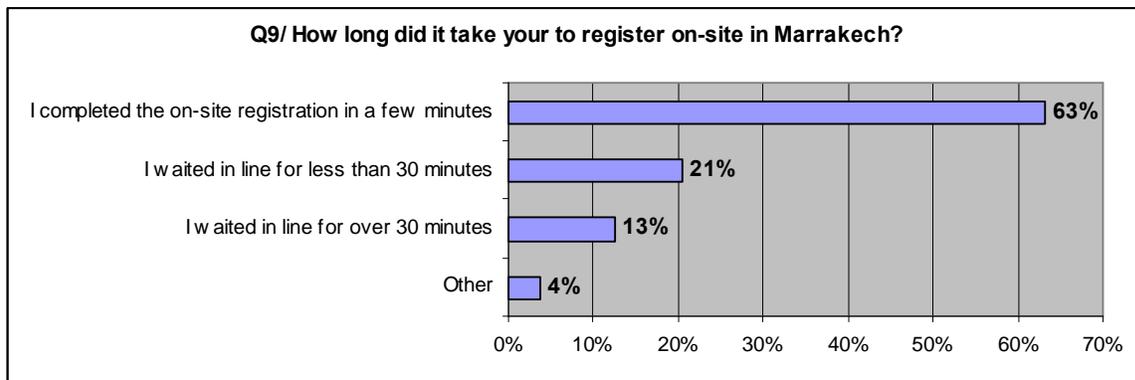
Ninety-six per cent of respondents who submitted a paper had their paper accepted on the programme either as a paper or a poster.

Online registration for the conference (Q6; n = 1,177)

Ninety-three per cent of respondents (pre)registered for the Conference via the Internet; 95% of these found the online registration procedure simple. Only 7% of respondents registered on site.

On-site registration (Q9; n = 1,172)

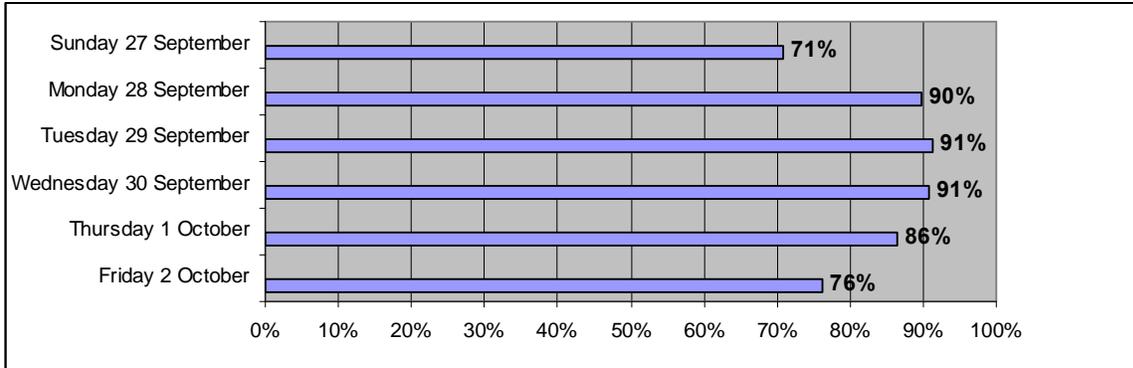
For most respondents, on-site registration to retrieve the conference badge was completed in a few minutes (63%); 21% of respondents had to wait less than 30 minutes and 13% had to wait more than 30 minutes. Most of those who had to wait more than 30 minutes in line (64%) were receiving travel support (which added time to the registration procedure).



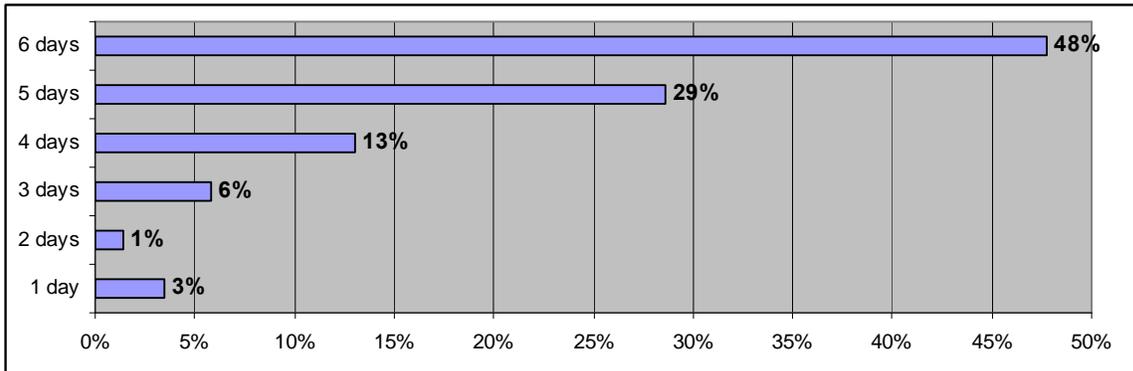
III. Level of attendance and participation

Days of attendance at the Conference (Q13; n = 1,165)

Respondents' attendance was very high all through the conference: at least 86% of respondents were present during the four central days of the conference and only slightly less on the opening day (71%) and the closing day (76%).

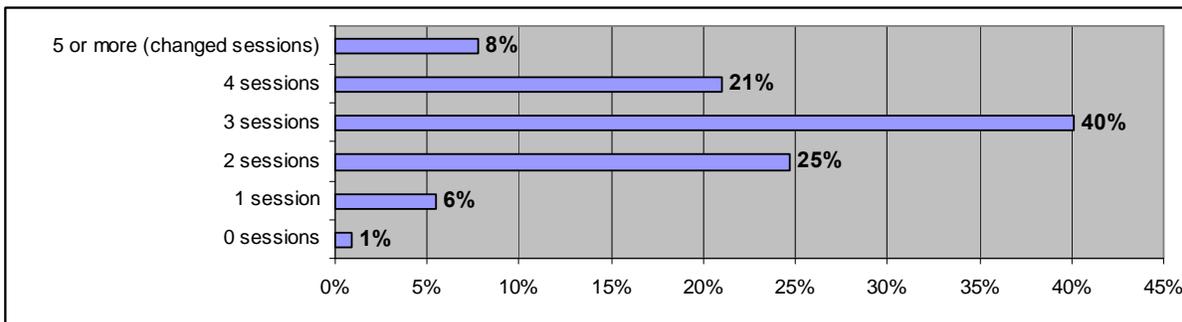


Nearly half the respondents (48%) attended all 6 days and 77% attended at least 5 days.



Number of regular sessions attended each day (Q14; n = 1,159)

On average, respondents attended 3 regular sessions per day: 21% attended all 4 sessions in the day, 40% attended 3 sessions, 25% attended 2 sessions, 6% attended one session and 8% attended 5 sessions or more (staying for 1-2 papers and then moving to another session).

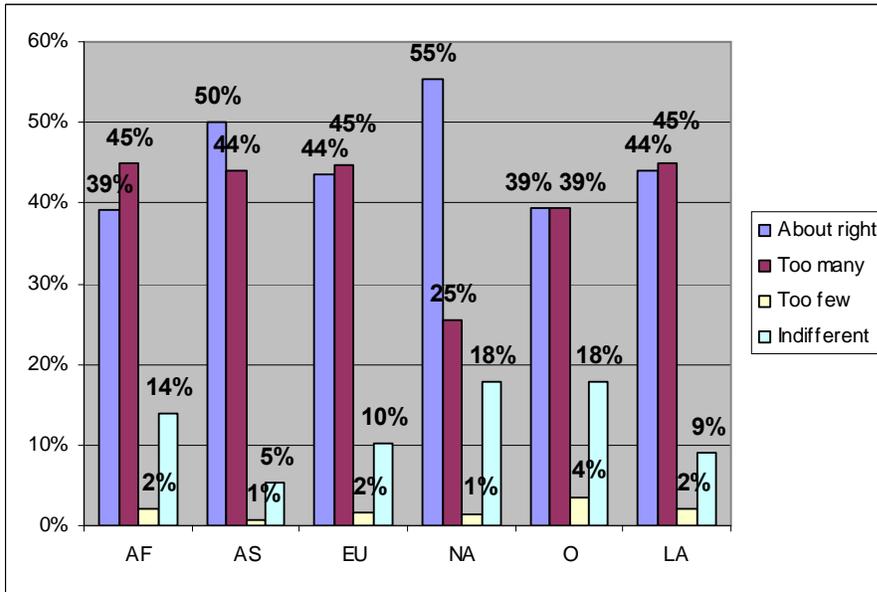


Opinion on the number of simultaneous regular sessions per day. (Q15; n = 1,145)

Almost half the respondents (46%) felt the number of simultaneous sessions (which was 11) was about right while a slightly smaller proportion (41%) felt there were too many; 12% were indifferent and less than 2% felt there were too few parallel sessions.

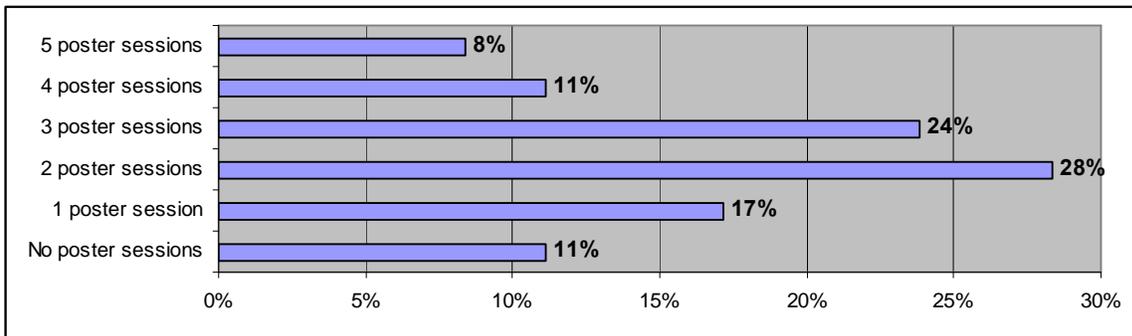
A majority of North Americans (perhaps accustomed to the 18 parallel sessions at the Annual Meeting of the PAA) and Asians found the number of sessions about right, while a slight (relative) majority of Africans, Europeans and Latin Americans felt that there were too many parallel sessions.

Opinion on number of simultaneous sessions by region of residence. (Q11 / Residence; n = 1,121)



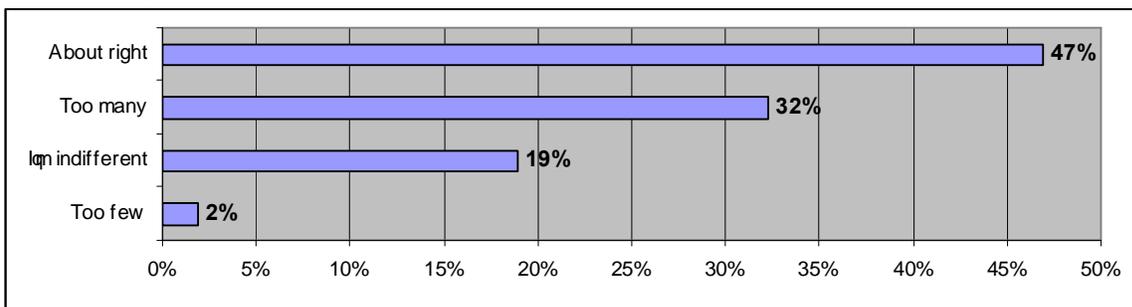
Number of Poster sessions attended (Q16; n = 1,153)

Most respondents attended 2 or 3 of the 5 poster sessions (respectively 28% and 24%).



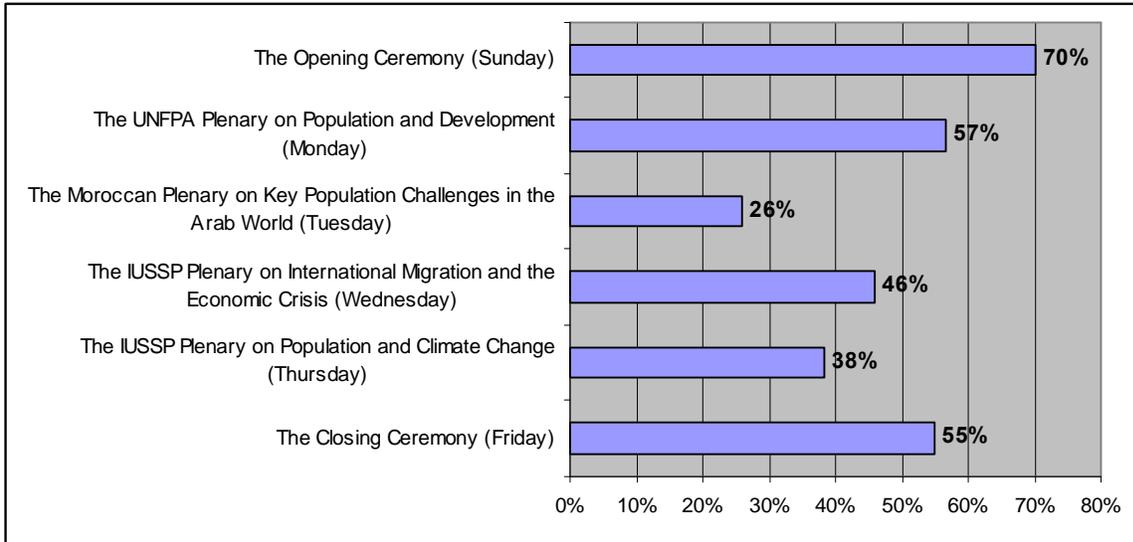
Opinion on the number of posters in each poster session (100 to 150) (Q17; n = 1,130)

Most respondents found the number of poster displayed about right (47%), though nearly one-third felt there were too many (32%).



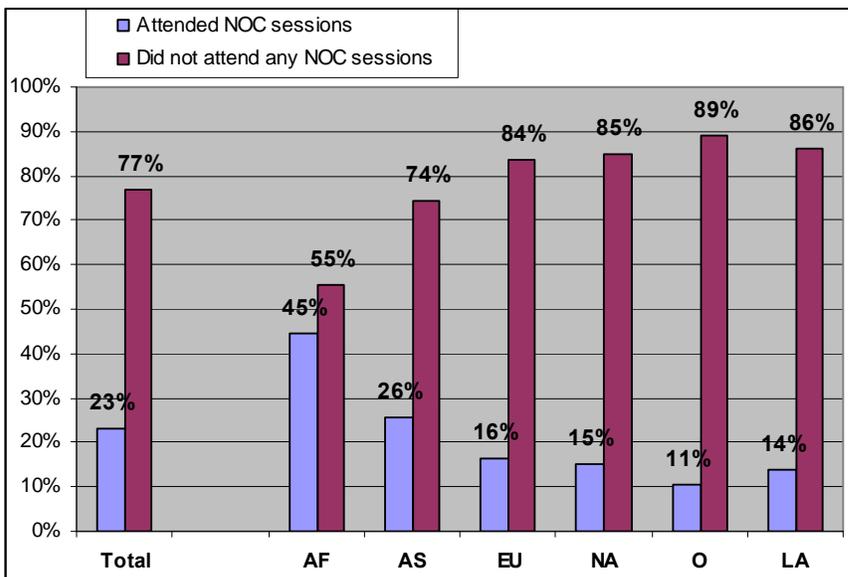
Number of plenary sessions attended (Q18; n = 1,029)

The opening ceremony was the most attended plenary (70% of respondents), followed by the UNFPA plenary on the 2nd day of the conference (57%) and the closing ceremony (55%). The two IUSSP plenaries on the 4th and 5th day attracted 46% and 38% of respondents respectively. The Moroccan plenary, which focused on the Arab world, attracted 26% of participants.



Attendance of the NOC sessions focusing on the Arab World (Q19; n = 1,141)

Almost one-fourth of respondents (23%) attended some of the sessions organized by the Moroccan National Organizing Committee (NOC) on population issues in the Arab world. Respondents from Africa and Asia attended in greater proportion (45% and 26% respectively), those two regions being those where Arab countries are situated.



Visits of the exhibition booths (Q20; n = 1,154)

Eighty-eight per cent of respondents visited the exhibition booths during the Conference.

Attendance of side meetings (Q21; n = 1,148)

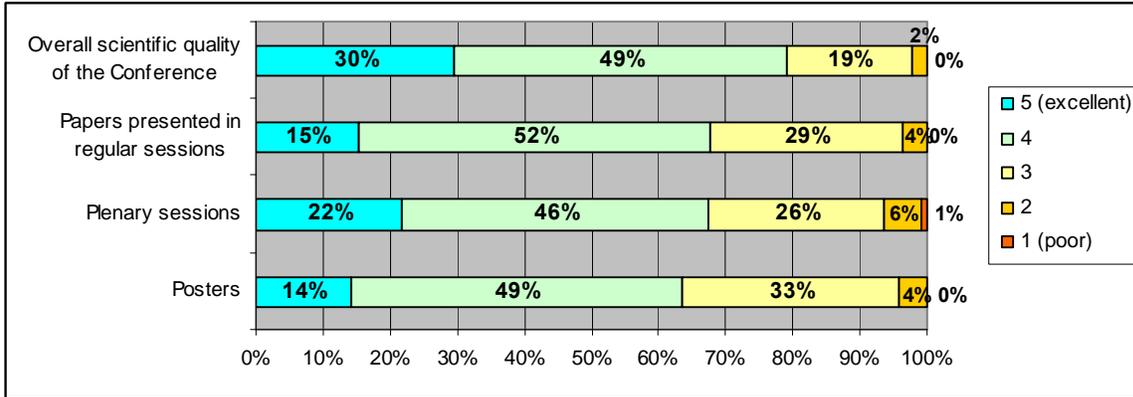
Fifty-four per cent of respondents attended at least one of the side meetings organized by various institutions.

IV. General Assessment of Conference features

Quality of the scientific programme (Q10)

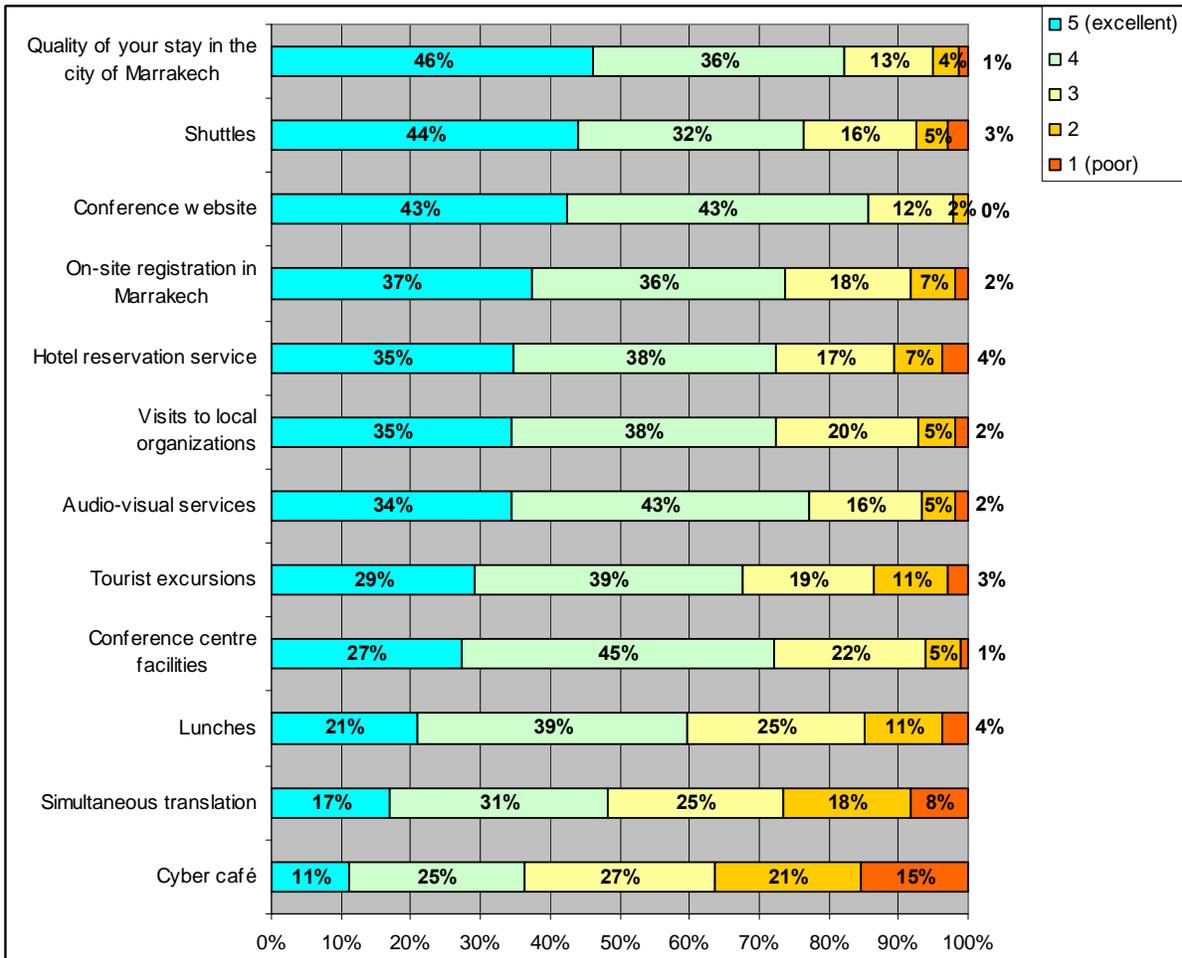
The overall scientific quality of the conference ($n = 1,141$) was rated excellent by 30% of respondents, another 49% rating it 4; total positive: 79%. Separately, the various scientific features were rated positively by 67% for plenary sessions ($n = 963$) and papers ($n = 1,140$), and by 63% for posters ($n = 1,005$).

Q10. What is your general appreciation of the following aspects of the Conference?



Quality of the conference services and social programme (Q10 & Q11)

Q10 & Q11. What is your general appreciation of the following aspects/services of the Conference?



The **quality of their stay in Marrakech** ($n = 1,138$) was rated very positively: nearly half the respondents (46%) rated it excellent while the total positive ratings (4 and above) reached 82%

The **conference website** ($n = 1,121$) was also very positively rated: 43% rated it excellent and a total of 86% rated it positively (4 or above).

Many other services were well rated (ratings 4 and above) by participants who actually used them: **On-site registration** (73%; $n = 1,083$), **shuttles** (76%; $n = 644$), **hotel reservation service** (73%; $n = 689$), **visits to local organizations** (73%; $n = 318$), **audio-visual services** (77%; $n = 1,063$), **tourist excursions** (68%; $n = 480$), and **Conference centre facilities** (72%; $n = 1,096$).

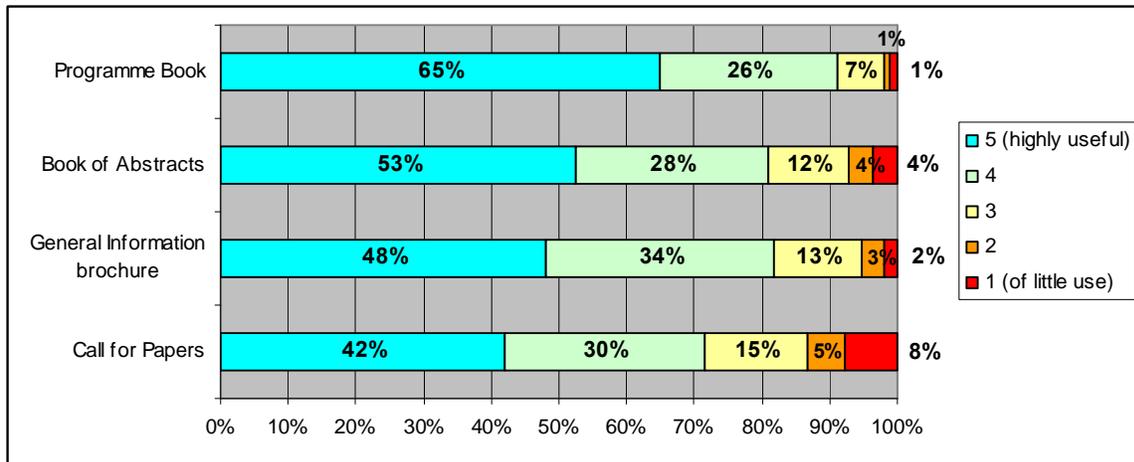
Three items were not as well rated:

- **lunches** (60% rated it positive, 40% rated it average or below; $n = 997$).
- **simultaneous translation** (48% positive, 51% average or below; $n = 833$).
- **cyber café** (36% positive; 64% average or below; $n = 950$).

Quality of printed Conference documents (Q12)

In general, conference documents were considered very useful by respondents, in particular the **Conference Programme** (rated "highly useful" by 65% of respondents, rated 4 and above by 91%; $n = 1,137$). The **Book of Abstracts** was rated 4 and above by 80% ($n = 1,128$); the **General Information Brochure** was rated 4 and above by 82% ($n = 1,090$); the printed **Call for Papers** was rated 4 and above by 72% ($n = 864$).

Q12. Score the usefulness of each of the Conference documents.



V. Focus on specific aspects of the conference.

Simultaneous Translation (Q23 and Q23a)

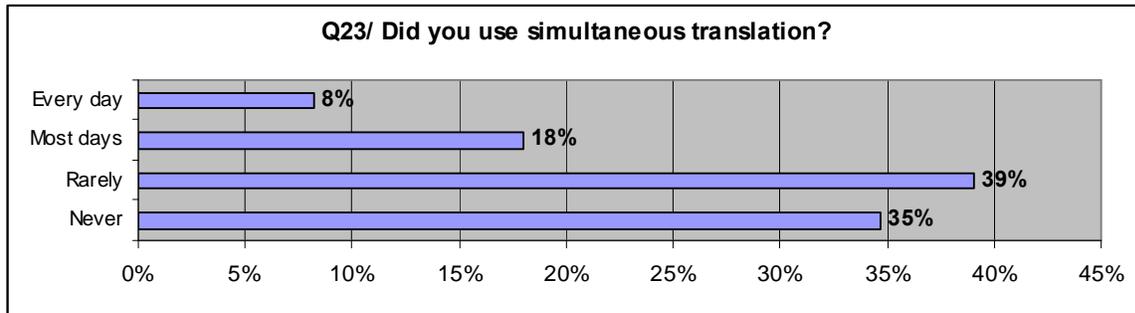
Main results:

- 26% of respondents used simultaneous translation regularly;
- simultaneous translation was used much more by Francophones than by Anglophones;
- 35% of respondents declare that they have only approximate knowledge or no knowledge at all of English (9% not at all);
- two-thirds of respondents residing in Africa and one-third of those residing in Europe have only approximate or no knowledge at all of English;
- simultaneous translation was poorly rated as a service.

**Qualitative Data: Simultaneous translation was considered fairly poor, but most comments point to the technical conditions (non-soundproof booths) and absence of organization and communication between upload-room and translators. The fact that one needed to provide an ID card to get headsets prevented many participants from using them when needed. Many comments indicate that English speakers tend to flee sessions with French speakers. There were suggestions to provide simultaneous translation for all sessions, to provide it only for plenaries and to not provide at all. There was also one suggestion to offer a translation on the screen of speeches (especially for the opening ceremony, especially if in a language other than English or French) and another to indicate in the programme the language used for presentation (*A good hint is actually provided as the title is bolded for the language in which the original paper or abstract was submitted).*

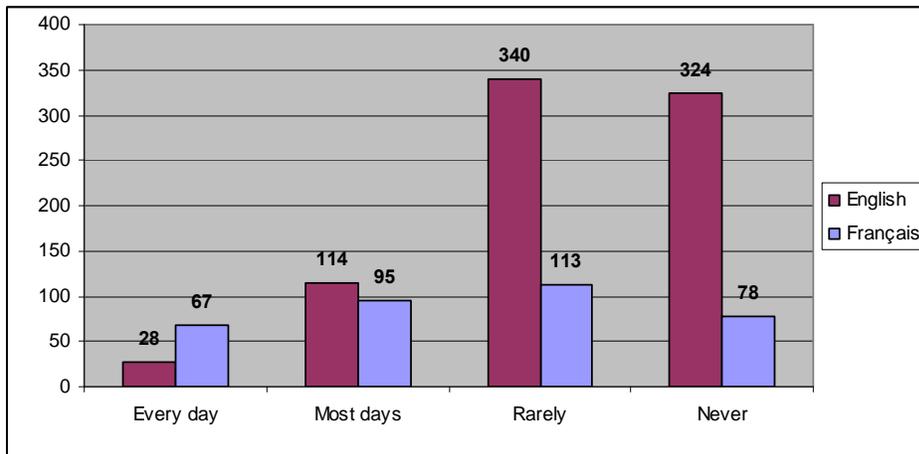
Most respondents (74%) rarely or never used simultaneous translation.

Use of simultaneous translation? (Q23; n = 1,159)



Based on the choice of language to respond to the evaluation questionnaire (English or French), we see that a significant proportion of Anglophones did not use simultaneous translation at all (40%), whereas almost half the Francophones (46%) used simultaneous translation on a regular basis (every day or most days).

Use of simultaneous translation by language used to respond to the survey (Q23; n = 1,159).



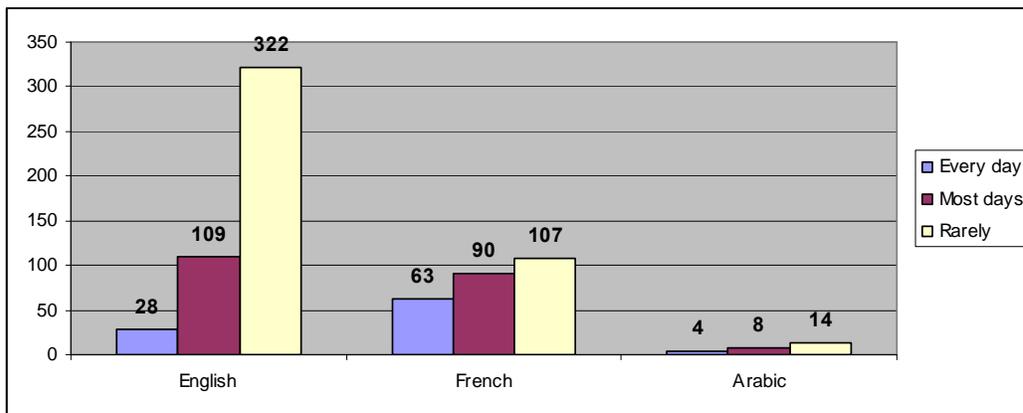
N.B. The following questions Q23a and Q23b were filtered using Q23 to exclude respondents saying they “never” used simultaneous translation. The following responses and cross-tabulations are based on subset of respondents which is not representative of respondents as a whole (n = 752).

Language used to listen to the simultaneous interpretation (in the headphones) (Q23a; n = 752)

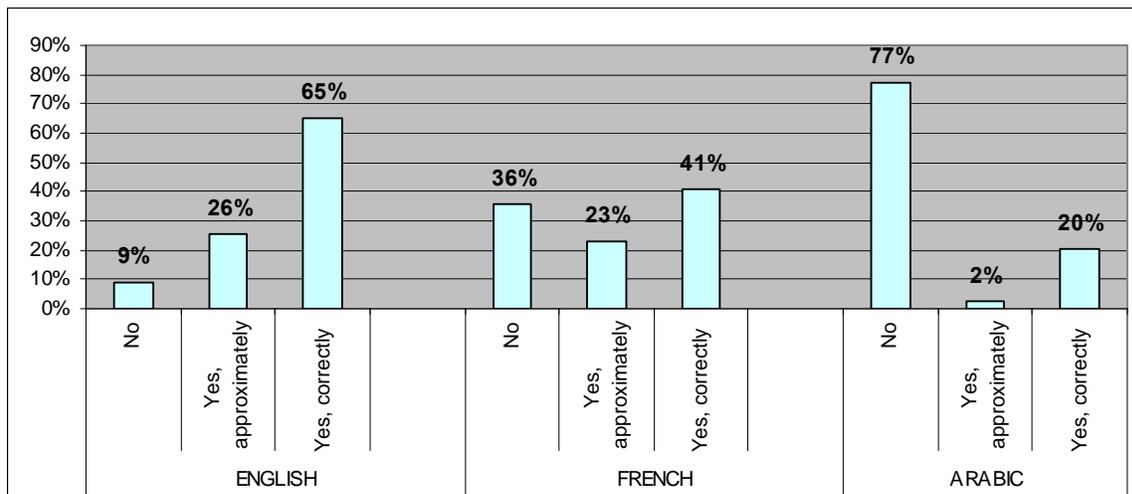
Language	Percentage
English	62%
French	35%
Arabic	3%

Nearly two-thirds of respondents used simultaneous translation into English, slightly more than one-third used it into French and only 3% (26 respondents) used it into Arabic. However, most of those using simultaneous translation into English used it rarely, which can be explained by the fact that most papers were presented in English.

Daily use of simultaneous translation by language (Q23 / Q23a; n=752)



Ability to understand presentations made in each language (Q23b; n=752)

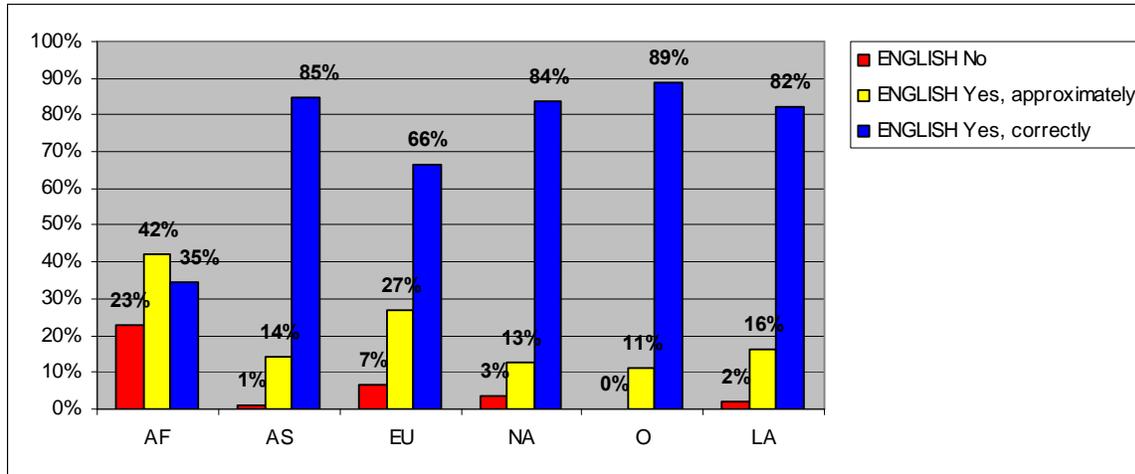


- Only 9% of respondents declare that they cannot understand presentations made in English vs. 91% who said they understand English, either correctly (65%) or approximately (26%). The proportion of participants who can understand presentations in English would most likely increase if respondents who never used simultaneous translation had been included.
- 36% of respondents cannot understand presentations made in French vs. 64% who say they understand French, either correctly (41%) or approximately (23%).
- 77% of respondents cannot understand presentations made in Arabic vs. 64% who say they understand Arabic, either correctly (20%) or approximately (2%).

Differences by region of residence:

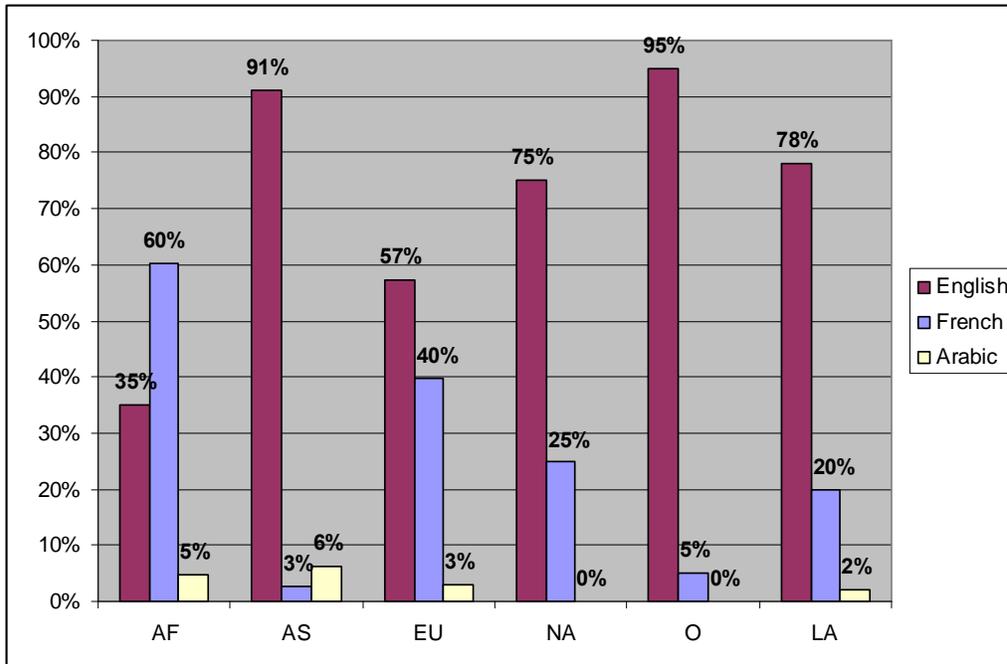
Almost one-fourth of respondents in Africa have no understanding of English. Two-thirds of respondents residing in Africa and one-third of those residing in Europe have only approximate or no knowledge at all of English. For all other regions, at least 82% of respondents declare that they have correct understanding of English. Participants who have no knowledge at all of English are very rare (1 to 3%).

Ability to understand English by region of residence (Q23b / Residence; n = 752)



A majority of respondents used simultaneous translation into English for all regions except Africa (60% into French), though significant proportions of respondents from other regions used simultaneous translation into French: Europe (40%), North America (25%) and Latin America (20%).

Language of simultaneous translation by region of residence (Q23a / Residence; n=739)



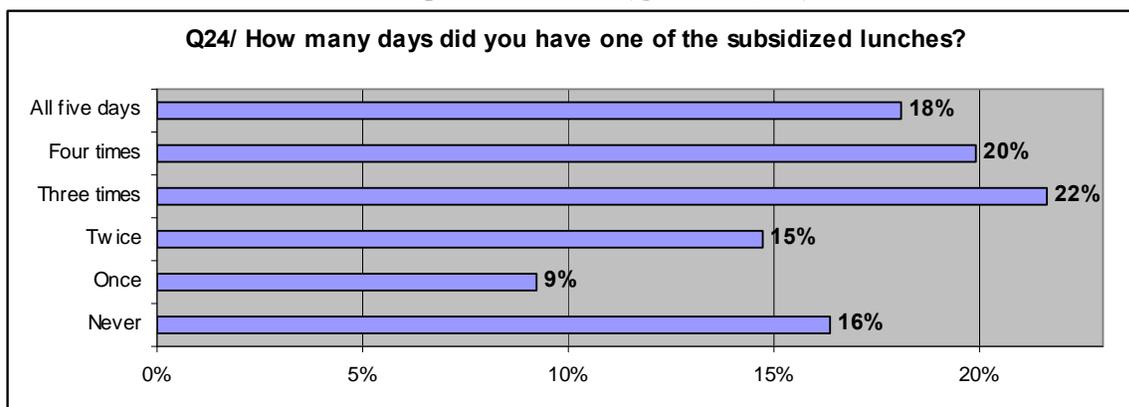
Quality of simultaneous translation (Q11; n = 833)

Half the respondents (51%) rated simultaneous translation as average or below (1 to 3). Compared to other services rated in the evaluation, this rating is one of the lowest. In comparison, only 33% of respondents for the evaluation of the 2005 Tours Conference had rated simultaneous translation below 4.

Subsidized lunches (Q24 and Q 25)

Subsidized lunches served at the Conference centre drew a large number of participants: 84% of respondents had at least one lunch there and 60% of respondents had at least 3 of those lunches.

Number of subsidized lunches during the Conference (Q24; n = 1,160)



Quality of the subsidized lunches (Q11; n = 997)

The proportion of respondents who rated these lunches 4 and above was 60%, while 40% rated these lunches average or below).

**Qualitative Data:* Several comments suggested to include the meals in the registration fee, to include food in morning and afternoon breaks, to ensure that drinking water is available all the time and that a variety of food (including snacks) is available within the conference centre. Comments on the subsidized lunches were generally positive (though not all) and several people complained that they had made them sick. Sit-down dinners were generally appreciated though a number of people remarked that buffets offer more possibilities for people to mingle (one comment highlighted the fact that sit-down dinners could offer the possibility to meet people you did not know).

Proportion of vegetarians (Q25; n = 1,152)

Ten per cent of respondents declared that they were vegetarians (115 respondents). Half of these vegetarians were from three countries: India (25), USA (22) and the UK (9), the others were mainly from other countries in North America and Europe. Only 4 respondents were not able to locate the vegetarian lunches proposed by the Conference centre (Q25a).

**Qualitative Data:* While the provision of vegetarian food was appreciated, having separate areas for vegetarians was strongly disapproved (and misunderstood). Also there was a feeling that the constraints of vegetarian meals had been misunderstood with that of 'vegan' meals – milk products, whole beans, lentils, which provide protein, should be included. In addition, for 2013, the Korean NOC may need to take into account food constraints for Muslims (availability of food without pork).

Accommodation booked through Conference website (Q26; n = 1,146)

Only 38% of respondents booked their hotel through the travel agency Objectif Maroc, via the Conference website (430 respondents).

Quality of the hotel reservation service (Q11; n = 689)

The proportion of respondents who rated the service 4 and above was 73%.

**Qualitative Data:* Comments generally indicate that while Objectif Maroc staff at the Conference was competent and helpful, the hotel registration website was dysfunctional, at least in the beginning, and the cost was not cheaper than through other websites.

Use of WiFi connection at the Conference centre (Q27; n = 1,153)

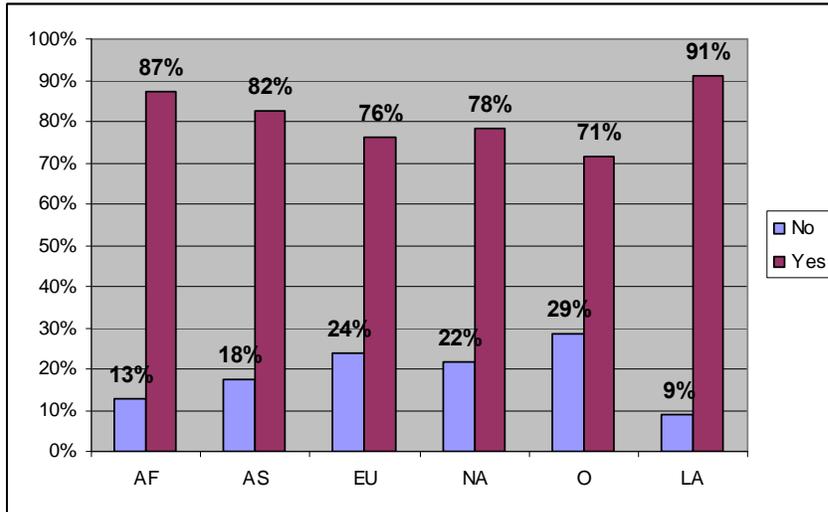
Forty per cent of respondents used the WiFi connection provided in the Conference centre to connect to the Internet.

Contacts that could lead to collaboration with colleagues from other countries (Q22; n=1,147)

A very large proportion of respondents (81%) indicated that they were able to establish contacts that could lead to new collaboration with colleagues from other countries.

The proportion of respondents who indicated that they had made contacts that could lead to new research collaborations was slightly higher in the South ó Latin America (91%), Africa (87%) and Asia (82%) ó than in the North ó North America (78%), Europe (76%) and Oceania (71%).

Established research contacts by region of residence (Q22 / Residence; n = 1,129)



**Qualitative Data: To improve networking, several respondents suggest lightening the daily schedule. In addition, meeting points should be arranged, additional chairs, tables, bars made available, and a proper contact message board, preferably electronic, linked to the website and to a big screen. In any case, participants need to be informed that read messages need to be removed from the board.*

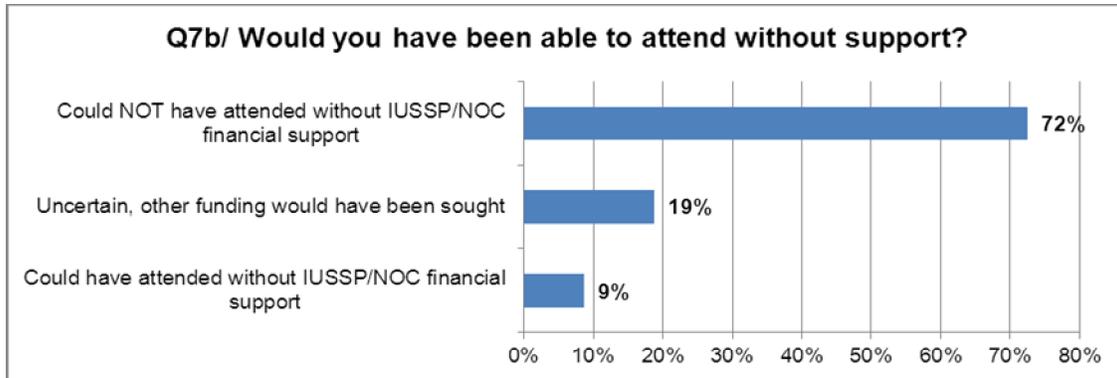
VI. Financial support for the Conference

Recipients of IUSSP or NOC financial support (Q7; n = 1,180)

Thirty-seven per cent of respondents received financial support (registration fees, accommodation and/or airfare) from the IUSSP or the Moroccan National Organizing Committee (NOC).

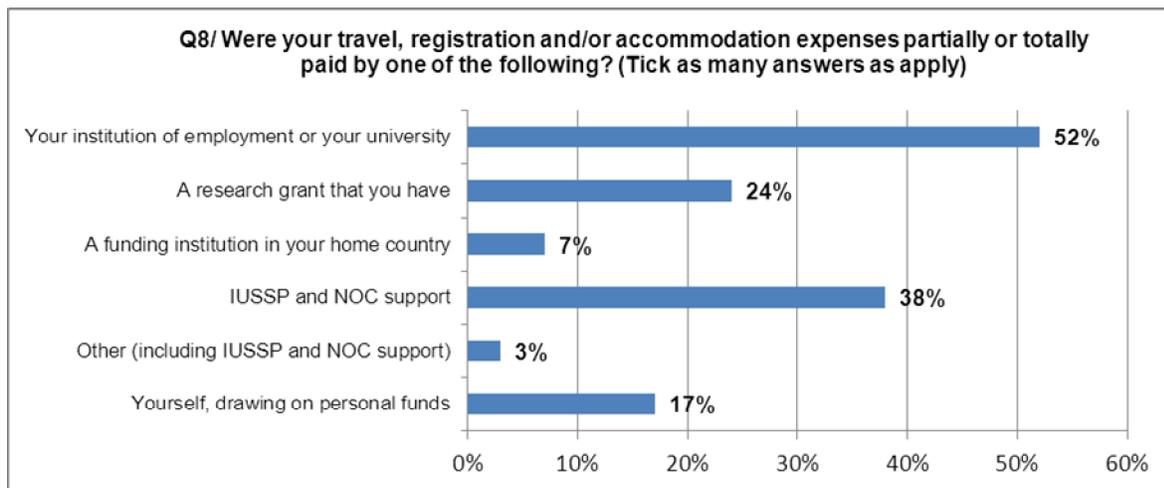
Ability to attend the Conference without this support (Q7b; n = 431)

Seventy-two per cent of those who received IUSSP or NOC support declare that they could not have attended the Conference without that support while 19% declare that they would have had to seek funding from elsewhere and 9% declare that they could have come anyway.



Other sources of financial support (Q8; n = 1,157)

A majority of respondents had their travel, registration or accommodation expenses covered by their institution or university (52%); 24% used a research grant; 7% received support from a funding institution in their home country; 38% received support from the IUSSP or the NOC; 3% received support from other sources; 17% of respondents drew at least partially on personal funds to attend the Conference.



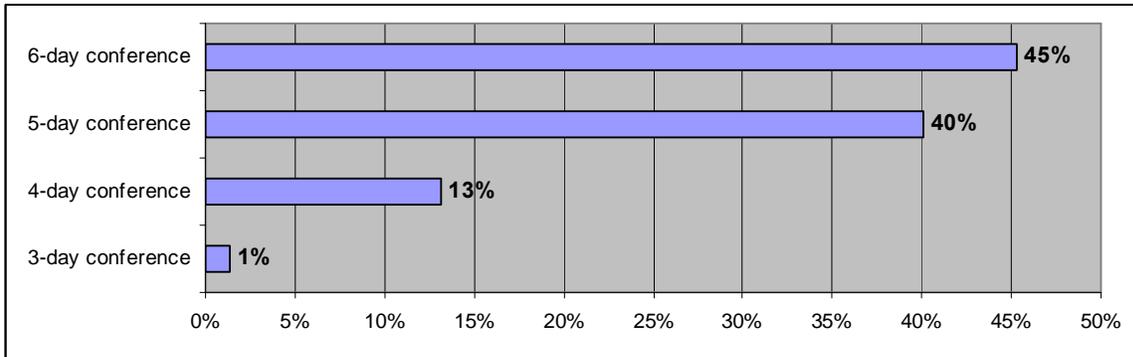
**Qualitative Data: Comments indicate that support should not be provided based on First Author criterion as this is sometimes only alphabetical order. Wire-transfers should be made at least for (developing) countries where it may be difficult to cash checks. Communication on Fees and Financial Support needs to be improved and should be transparent: procedures, deadlines, criteria, and rationale must be explained and it should be clarified in particular that eligibility for support does not guarantee support.*

VII. Planning the 27th Conference

Preferred duration of the Conference in 2013 (Q30; n = 1,147)

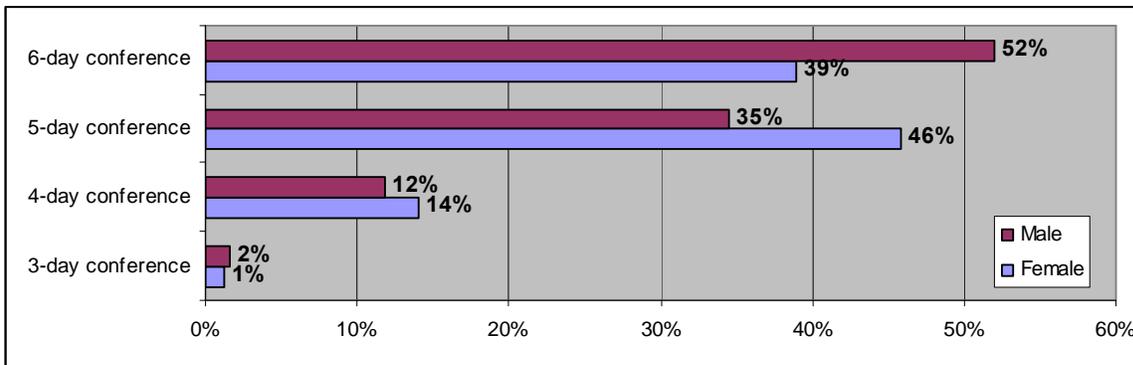
A relative majority of respondents (45%) said they prefer a 6-day conference (as in Marrakech), closely followed by those who prefer a 5-day conference (40%). Only 14% would like the Conference to last less than 5 days. The results are very similar to those for the survey for the 2005 Conference in Tours.

Preferred duration of the Conference in 2013



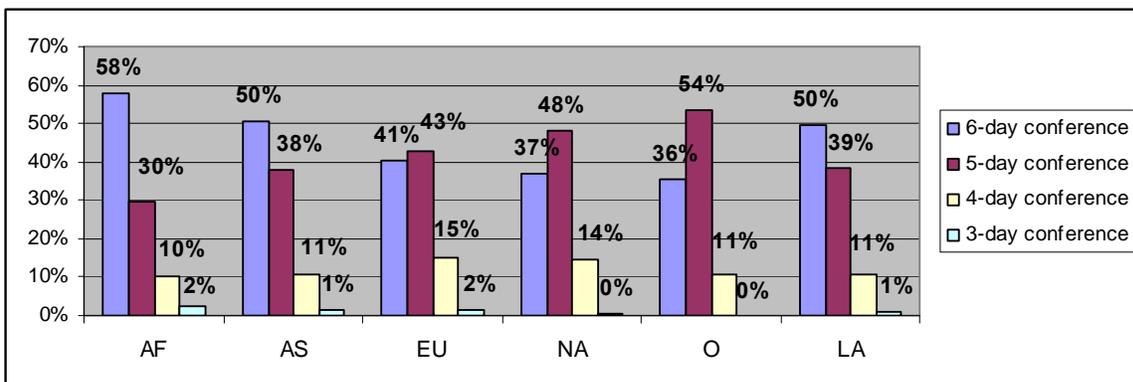
Gender differences for this question are quite marked, with a majority of women favouring a 5-day conference (similar results as for the 2005 Conference in Tours).

Preferred duration for the next conference by sex. (Q30 / Sex; n = 1,128)



Respondents from Africa, Asia and Latin America indicate a preference for a 6-day conference while respondents from North America, Europe and Oceania indicate a preference for a 5-day conference. (N.B. Men represent a majority of respondents in Africa and Asia but not in Latin America).

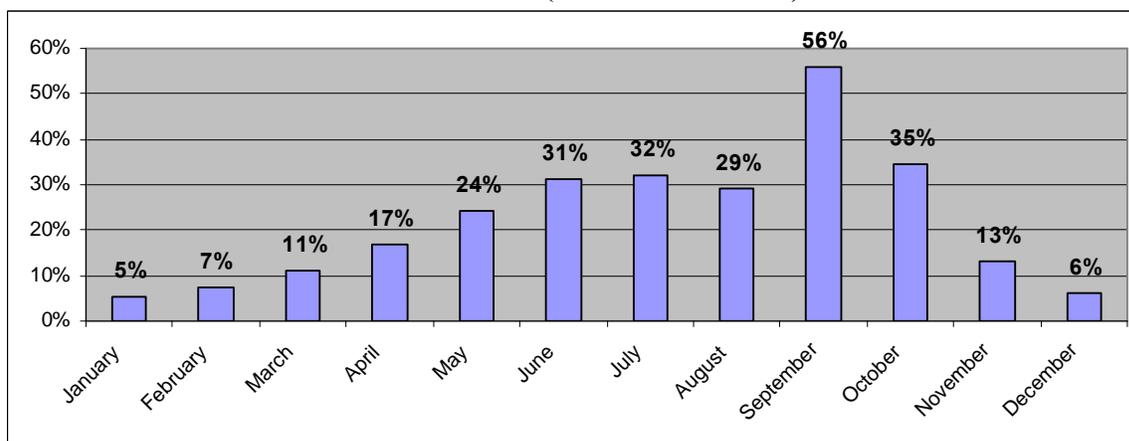
Preferred duration for the next conference by region of residence. (Q30 / Residence; n = 1,130)



Preferred months for the Conference in 2013 (Q31. n = 1,098)

Preferred months for the next conference are September and October, followed by Summer months of June, July, August, to a lesser extent May. The preference for September and October is likely to be an artefact (because those were the months of this Conference).

Preferred months for the Conference in 2013 (Tick no more than 4)



September is the preferred month for all regions of the world. However, distribution of responses by region of residence shows some strong differences: Africans favour April to October (with less marked preferences between these months); Asians indicate a strong preference for October (39%) but are less inclined to select May, June and even July. Europeans very strongly favour September (63%) but are not as keen as other regions for July and August. North Americans strongly prefer summer. Australians indicate a strong preference for July and August. Latin Americans strongly prefer July (43%) over August (27%).

Preferred months for the Conference by region of residence. (Q31 / Residence; n = 1,086)

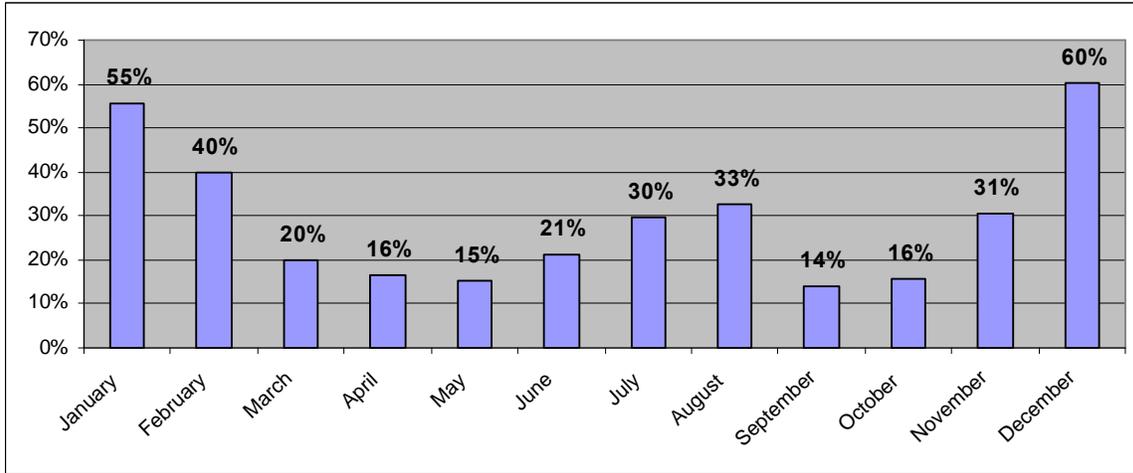
	<i>AF</i>	<i>AS</i>	<i>EU</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>LA</i>	<i>Total</i>
January	2%	4%	5%	8%	18%	7%	5%
February	4%	10%	7%	6%	18%	11%	7%
March	14%	12%	10%	8%	4%	9%	11%
April	21%	13%	18%	9%	14%	13%	17%
May	21%	18%	26%	27%	14%	15%	24%
June	25%	20%	32%	41%	21%	23%	31%
July	27%	22%	23%	45%	50%	43%	32%
August	24%	26%	20%	47%	32%	27%	29%
September	44%	48%	63%	50%	54%	53%	56%
October	28%	39%	35%	33%	29%	29%	35%
November	17%	18%	11%	8%	18%	10%	13%
December	11%	8%	3%	5%	11%	2%	6%
	(n=247)	(n=153)	(n=401)	(n=211)	(n=28)	(n=102)	(n=1,098)

Top four months marked in blue.

Months to avoid for the Conference in 2013 (Q32; n =1,060)

The months that most respondents prefer to avoid are Winter months: December, January and February. More than 30% of respondents would also prefer to avoid the months of November, July and August.

Months to avoid for the 2013 Conference? (Tick no more than 4)



Looking at the differences between regions regarding which months should be avoided for the Conference, it is noteworthy that the strong disapproval of July and even more strikingly August are based mainly on responses from residents of Europe (35% and 39% respectively) and Africa (28% and 38%), whereas disapproval remains below 25% for the four other regions.

Months to be avoided for the Conference by region of residence. (Q32 / Residence; n = 1,042)

	<i>AF</i>	<i>AS</i>	<i>EU</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>LA</i>	<i>Total</i>
January	57%	54%	42%	49%	61%	67%	55%
February	37%	41%	29%	39%	36%	54%	40%
March	17%	24%	12%	25%	32%	18%	20%
April	15%	21%	10%	23%	32%	7%	16%
May	13%	16%	16%	13%	25%	7%	15%
June	19%	23%	21%	14%	32%	15%	21%
July	28%	20%	35%	22%	4%	24%	30%
August	38%	15%	39%	21%	21%	16%	33%
September	15%	11%	11%	18%	14%	4%	14%
October	15%	10%	15%	18%	18%	10%	16%
November	27%	26%	25%	32%	36%	37%	31%
December	45%	49%	57%	60%	61%	72%	60%
	(n=247)	(n=153)	(n=401)	(n=211)	(n=28)	(n=102)	(n=1,060)

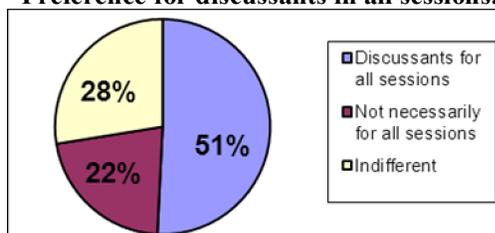
Top four months to be avoided marked in red.

Preference for discussants in all sessions (Q28; n =1,140)

Half the respondents (51%) indicate that they would prefer discussants for all sessions in 2013 vs. 22% who would rather not (and 28% declare that they are indifferent).

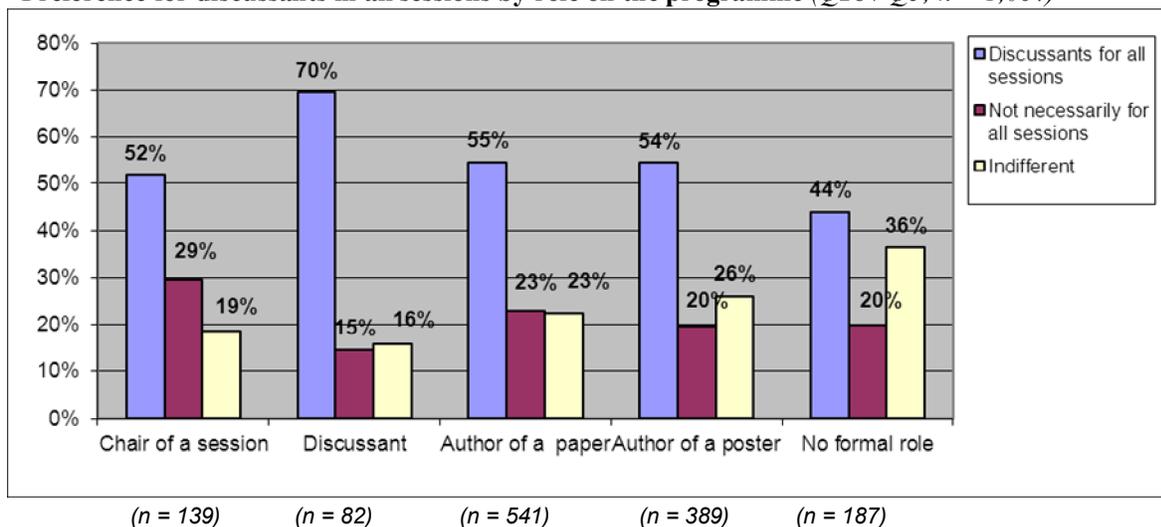
(Similar results as for Tours 2005, where 55% declared that they were in favour of discussants).

Preference for discussants in all sessions.



A majority of respondents are in favour of having discussants in all categories but it is noteworthy that discussants are strongly in favour of having discussants for all sessions (70%) while opposition to having discussant in all sessions is highest among session Chairs (29%).

Preference for discussants in all sessions by role on the programme (Q28 / Q5; n = 1,064)



**Qualitative Data: Many comments on insufficient time given to discussion in each session, in particular from the floor, with various suggestions to select appropriate discussants, brief them (as well as Chairs) on their role or not have any discussant at all. For discussants to do their job correctly, they also require full papers (or at least detailed abstracts) to be submitted in advance.*

Preference for plenary debate sessions in 2013 (Q29; n =1,140)

Two-thirds of respondents would like debate sessions in 2013, one-third are indifferent. Only 4% are opposed to debates.

**Qualitative Data: Many comments suggested reinstating debates instead of panel plenaries. These do not have to be limited to 4 and other formats could be proposed (roundtables, etc.).*

Scientific topics that were given insufficient attention in the programme (Q33; n =1,141)

One quarter (26%) of respondents considered some topics were given insufficient attention at the Conference (vs. 31% who did not and 43% who had no opinion).

**Qualitative Data: Comments suggested to encourage sessions on new research, methods, theories, etc. Many comments highlighted the fact that too many presentations provided data and results, without any attempt to include developments on the quality of the data, on the theories their research was based on, nor the perspective of social sciences, qualitative research, etc. A focus on current issues is also desirable as well as an attempt to provide, if feasible, the practical or policy implications of the results.*

Those who answered that they felt certain topics had been given insufficient attention were asked to list up to three “neglected topics” (Q33a). A list of 488 “neglected topics” is available in Annex 1.

Annex 1

List of “neglected topics” in 2009

488 topics were suggested in answer to the open-ended question:

Q33a. Please list below up to 3 topics (that you thought were given insufficient attention in the Marrakech programme):

- 2010 Round Population Censuses
- A methodological discussion of mixed methods
- Abortion (2)
- Achievement and failure of 1995 Cairo Conference
- Activity and unemployment
- Adolescent health
- Ageing (4)
- Ageing and its effect on the housing market
- Ageing and longevity in Africa
- Ageing and migration
- Ageing and Public Policy
- Ageing in developed countries
- Ageing in Developing Countries
- Ageing migrant populations
- Ageing population in poorer countries
- Ageing: family and generational aspects
- Analysis of longitudinal data
- Anthropological demography (2)
- Anthropology
- Applied demography
- Aspirations of womankind
- Basic methodological issues
- Bayesian demography
- Behaviour / solutions to be adopted by the people to curb global warming
- Behavioural biology
- Biodemography
- Biological & behavioural aspects of longevity
- Breast cancer in Arab countries
- Causal inference in demographic research
- Census
- Challenges and opportunities where demography and statistics overlap
- Child development
- Child nutrition
- Child Protection
- Childhood obesity & its consequences + lifestyle intervention
- Chronic non-communicable diseases (diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases)
- Civil registration history and development
- Climate change (4)
- Climate Change and fertility behaviour
- Co-development
- Coercive, non-consensual sex among youth
- Collection of longitudinal data
- Community Characteristics and its influence on fertility and mortality
- Composite measures of human development
- Conduct of Censuses of Population and Housing
- Conflicts and their impact on populations
- Cross-border marriage
- Cross-national comparison
- Cultural Aspects
- Cultural aspects of fertility decline
- Cultural aspects of low mortality and longevity
- Culture (3)
- Culture and Population in the Arab world
- Data from qualitative research
- Data quality
- Data quality and evaluation
- Declining fertility
- Demographic and Epidemiological transition
- Demographic and spatial analysis
- Demographic aspects of intergenerational justice
- Demographic aspects of minorities
- Demographic challenges in Africa
- Demographic change
- Demographic Data Collection and Availability
- Demographic Data Visualization
- Demographic dividends
- Demographic impact on the environment
- Demographic impact with globalization
- Demographic issues with low fertility
- Demographic methodological papers
- Demographic methods, including census
- Demographic software: Projections, Estimates, etc.
- Demographic techniques: the two sessions on indirect methods were oversubscribed in terms of papers; and in terms of attendees.
- Demographic theories (on migration, mortality, fertility, etc.) (4)
- Demographic transition (2)
- Demography and development policy
- Demography and Health
- Demography and housing
- Demography and infectious diseases other than HIV-AIDS
- Demography and politics (or policy)
- Demography and social security
- Demography in interaction with education
- Demography of hunger and malnutrition
- Demography of mortality in least developed countries
- Demo-linguistic (2)
- Determinants of mortality in Morocco

- Developing countries
- Development
- Development policies and population movements in the Arab
- Disability (3)
- Disability implications on life
- Disadvantage groups, elderly, disabled, youth and children
- Discontinuity of obstetric care
- Disease Burden estimation
- Diseases of the century: cancers, Alzheimer, stress, etc.
- Domestic accident in children
- Economic and demographic consequences of native labour force decline
- Economic and social aspects of integration of foreign-origin populations
- Economic crisis and population
- Economic demography (3)
- Economic Depression
- Economic Development, Climate, Population Interface
- Economic Growth and demography
- Economic growth and poverty
- Economic issues
- Economic theories for demography
- Economics (2)
- Economics of demographic change
- Economics of population ageing
- Education (7)
- Effects of population activities on climate change
- Effects of population growth on ecological change/destruction
- Emigration and international education in the Arab world
- Employability
- Employment
- Environment (3)
- Environment and Development
- Environment and health
- Environment and health (barring climate change, urbanisation)
- Environmental hazards and health of children
- Environmental health
- Epidemiologic transition in tribal societies
- Epidemiology End of Life
- Epistemology
- Estimation of demographic parameters in Arab countries
- Ethical issues
- European demographic situation, both west and east
- European studies on the main topics analysed
- Evolution
- Evolution of human behaviour
- Evolutionary demography (2)
- External influences in a given country
- Family
- Family and migration
- Family demography
- Family dynamics
- Family household
- Family Planning (2)
- Family Planning Programmes in sub-Saharan Africa-Successes and Failures
- Family policies
- Family policy
- Fertility (3)
- Fertility and gender/power relations
- Fertility dynamics
- Fertility related theories
- FGM
- Fight against poverty
- Food safety
- Forced migrations (not environmental!)
- Foreign-origin populations of countries of immigration
- Formal demography (2)
- Formal models
- Future fertility trends in sub-replacement fertility countries
- Future of family planning programs with low fertility
- Gender (3)
- Gender & leadership
- Gender & Trade Union
- Gender and Politics
- Gender and Population
- Gender based violence
- Gender bias in education
- Gender equality
- Gender issues
- Gender-Environment Nexus
- Genetic studies
- Genetics and demography
- Geographic information systems
- Geotechnologies and demography
- GIS
- Global Warming
- Grand theory
- Grass-root Solidarity and public policies
- Handicap
- Harmonizing of demography education in universities
- Health
- Health & mortality
- Health and population
- Health expenditure
- Health issues in highly developed countries
- Health needs
- Health of the poor
- Health over the life course
- Health services for immigrants especially in Africa
- High fertility and underdevelopment

- Historical Demography (6)
- Historical demography (different estimation approach)
- History of demographic thought
- History of ideas in demography (economics/sociology...)
- HIV counselling
- Homosexuality (3)
- Housing Demography
- Human capital migration (i.e. migration of highly qualified)
- Human development and climate change
- Human Development Index
- Human Rights and Population (5)
- Hunger
- Illegal Migration and human right
- Immigration (2)
- Impact of armed conflicts on the demographic processes
- Impact of migration on environment
- Impact of research on national health policy
- Improved engagement between Statisticians (those who measure) and Demographers (those who analyse)
- Improvements in demographic data & estimates in developing countries
- Indigenous Populations
- Indirect methods of estimation for countries with deficient data
- Inequality (3)
- Inequities
- Infant and child mortality
- Infectious disease
- Infertility
- Interactions with the economic (sphere)
- Interactions with the political (sphere)
- Intergenerational studies
- Intergenerational transfers (2)
- Intergenerational transfers and family savings
- Internal Displacement
- Internal displacement
- Internal displacement and refugees
- Internal migration (2)
- Internal migration and spatial development
- International Migration (4)
- International Migration and Co-development
- International Migration and Development from different countries as case of studies
- International Migration and Economic sectors Analysis
- International Migration New Concepts and Agendas
- Interrelated strategies of poverty and population policies
- Interrelationship between Demography and other Social Sciences
- Interventions in developing countries
- Invest in training people at the conference
- Labour
- Labour force
- Labour market consequences of demographic change
- Labour Markets (2)
- Languages (2)
- Latin America (3)
- Latin American Demography
- Latin American issues
- LGBT: health and Demographic concerns
- Life course analysis and biodemography
- Life Course and Social Dynamics
- Linkages between fertility behaviour and reproductive health outcomes
- Living and Surviving Climate Change
- Local
- Local communities and governance
- Local population in Arab countries
- Longevity
- Longitudinal data analysis
- Long-run change in household and family
- Long-term evolution of human species
- Malaria in tropical areas
- Marginalized population
- Marriage and union formation
- Maternal and child health
- Maternal Health
- Mathematical modelling on demographic variables
- Mathematical modelling on Economic burden on MCH care
- MDG 5
- Measure of subjective poverty
- Measurement methods
- Measures of progress and quality of life
- Mechanisms of the influence of religion on reproductive behaviour
- Menopause
- Mental Health
- Mental tension
- Methodological approach: qualitative
- Methodological aspects
- Methodological innovations in demography
- Methodological issues - research practices
- Methodological issues in demographic analysis
- Methodology (collection, analysis, interpretation) (3)
- Methods
- Methods and history
- Methods and Statistics
- Methods of transform of demographic research to policy and plan for governments
- Methods to estimate the disaggregated level in the absence of local data on finer
- Microsimulation modelling in demography
- Middle Aged
- Migrants (integration, profile, migration strategy ...)
- Migration (3)
- Migration and Environmental Change

- Migration and health (2)
- Migration and Human Rights
- Migration in developing countries
- Migration north / south (many Europeans migrate to countries in the south: conjunctural or structural phenomenon)
- Migration of women
- Minorities, indigenous populations
- Mobility and family formation
- Mobility issues
- Models and simulations
- Morbidity
- Morbidity and health
- Moroccan Demography
- Mortality (2)
- Mortality and health
- Mortality and longevity (causes)
- Mortality issues in sub-Saharan African countries
- Mortality issues in the developing countries in general
- Mortality related to life style
- New areas of formal demography (segregation, longitudinal models, heterogeneity)
- New demographic challenges in Africa: stall fertility, forced migration, and poverty persistence
- New demographic methodologies
- New forms of family: transnational, LAT, cohabiting
- New methodologies
- New methods of data collection
- Non-consensual sex
- Norms and attitudes about life course events
- Nutrition
- Orphan children
- Parent-child interaction, socialisation patterns
- Parent-child relationship
- Perceived health
- Policy evaluation
- Policy issues in general
- Policy on population
- Political consequences of demographic change
- Political consequences of demography
- Political influence of demography
- Politics of Demographic Data
- Politics of population growth
- Pollution
- Population & development
- Population & Labour Market % Trade Union
- Population ageing (2)
- Population and Agrarian System
- Population and Climate Change
- Population and climate change adaptation
- Population and economics or health economics
- Population and Environment
- Population and environment (2)
- Population and Food Security
- Population and Housing
- Population and Human Development
- Population and Its Responsibility towards Earth
- Population and law
- Population and nutrition
- Population and Sustainable Development
- Population and the Water Crisis in the 21st Century
- Population and urban growth
- Population censuses
- Population changes in Asia and Pacific region
- Population data analysis
- Population distribution, land and natural resources
- Population geography
- Population Health
- Population history
- Population history and historical demography
- Population policies (6)
- Population Policies, challenges and opportunities
- Population policy
- Population projection
- Population projections in emerging situations
- Population Projections for the African Continent
- Population theories (meaningful theories)
- Population, development and environment
- Population, Health & Environment
- Population forecasts
- Poverty (4)
- Poverty and Development
- Poverty and the measurement approaches
- Poverty dynamics
- Poverty in its various forms
- Preferences of patients/population for health
- Prematurity and stillbirth
- Prevention and management of childhood illnesses
- Prison population
- Problems in adolescence
- Processing of personal statistics
- Productivity
- Professional migration
- Projection
- Projection of future population
- Projections of small areas
- Public Expenditure and population
- Public Expenditure on education
- Public Finance and education
- Qualitative methods in demography
- Qualitative surveys
- Quality of statistics
- Quantitative methods
- Race and ethnic relations
- Race and health
- Racial inequality
- Racism and discrimination
- Recently methodological approaches
- Reflexivity in social science research
- Refugees (2)
- Refugees and displacement

- Refugees, IDP, displacement and vulnerability
- Regional and intraregional disparities
- Regional demography
- Regional demography [i.e., Central Asia, Southeast Asia]
- Regions of the World
- Relationship between population and environment
- Reproductive health and family planning
- Reproductive Health in developing world
- Research and Development Policies
- Research on policies and programs that influence demographic behaviour
- Residential mobility
- Right-based research on population development
- Risks
- Role of migration in the demographic development
- Rural Labour
- School Health
- Schooling (2)
- Second generation immigrants
- Seniors and Ageing
- Sensitive issues
- Sessions focussed on the work of National Statistics Institutes
- Sex imbalance and social implications
- Sex Ratio Problem
- Sex ratio transition in Asian population
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Sexual and reproductive health in Europe
- Sexual Health (2)
- Sexual negotiation
- Sexuality (2)
- Sexuality and reproductive health
- Sexuality and Rights
- Simulation, modelling
- Skill attendance at birth in Latin America
- Social and economic inequality
- Social class and population change
- Social inequalities
- Social inequalities and health
- Social inequalities and population dynamic
- Social justice and inequality
- Social mobility and integration of immigrants
- Social networks and demography
- Social policy
- Social Stratification
- Sources
- South-South exchanges (or trade)
- Spatial analysis of population issues
- Spatial Demography
- Spatial Dimension of population
- Spatial disparities
- Statistical Methodology in Demography
- Statistical methods
- Statistical methods for demography
- Statistics
- Statistics on gender and family
- Studies of small populations
- Subjective norms about demographic events
- Survey methodology
- Survey methodology in population research
- Survey research methodology and techniques
- Surveys data processing and analysis
- Sustainable Human Development
- Teaching Demography
- Technology like GIS & Remote Sensing
- Temporary Mobility
- The 2010 round census
- The effects of Confucianism on population change
- The future of post-industrialized countries facing a birth rate among the lowest in the world
- The impact of immigration from the west to the eastern countries
- The loss of antenatal care in developing countries
- The public health aspects of abortion
- The specificity of the other
- Themes about childhood
- Theories for demographic phenomena with interdisciplinary approach
- Theories of Population
- Theories of urbanisation
- Theory
- Time use
- Topics on child vulnerability
- Topics unrelated to the MDGs
- Transportation
- Trends and prospective
- Unsafe Abortion and Maternal Morbidity
- Urban Environment
- Urban growth
- Urban Issues
- Urban Poor's access to health services
- Urban Population ad settlement
- Urbanization (3)
- Urbanization / settlement systems
- Urbanization and climate change
- Urbanization and its implication on growing urban poor
- Urbanization and migration
- Urbanization and population dynamic
- Use of technology in collecting data
- Violence
- Violence against women and man
- Vulnerable Populations
- Women with disabilities
- Youth and HIV

Annex 2

Summary of comments and suggestions for 2013

Four hundred respondents provided comments and suggestions in answer to the final open-ended question:

Q36. If you have any other comments on the 2009 Conference or suggestions that you would like to make for the 2013 Conference, please note them briefly in the space below.

1) Scientific Programme

Papers

A number of comments focused on the insufficient quality of many presentations. These comments were linked to suggestions to shorten the conference, diminish the number of sessions, carefully select papers and increase means to better select (e.g. require submission of full papers). In particular, some felt that work in progress should not be accepted. Many commented that posters were occasionally better than presentations. A number of comments suggested that the IUSSP Conference should encourage new research (proscribe papers already presented numerous times), as well as presentations on theory, methods, etc. rather than case-studies. There should be more effort to avoid duplicates and overlaps (which may involve a checking procedure by convenors and by the Scientific Committee for the conference to ensure that authors [or teams] do not present similar research twice in different sessions). There were also some comments on the influence of networks (and/or politics) in the selection of papers, highlighting that authors in a session should not belong to the same organization or country. (It is therefore important to clarify when a session was not created from the call for papers but handed over to an institution such as a regional association, or organized by the NOC or the IUSSP).

Posters

There were many comments on posters: on the fact that many posters were superior in quality to many papers presented in regular sessions (which does not seem appropriate); on the need for more space to circulate around posters, especially during the time-slot for presenting posters; on the fact that too many posters were displayed. There was one suggestion to provide snacks, fruits and drinks around the poster area; another to move the poster session during a prolonged coffee break (as for the EAPS Conference in Barcelona). Several respondents requested a printed version of the Book of Poster Abstracts and asked that organizers provide the possibility to print the poster on-site. There was also a suggestion to make the Best Poster Committee more visible, more official.

Plenaries

Many comments proposed to reinstitute debates instead of panel plenaries. More generally, other formats could be proposed aside from plenaries and regular sessions (more than 4 plenaries, roundtables, etc.).

Training workshops

More training workshops should be offered as side-meetings or as sessions.

Chairs

Chairs need to be (even more) briefed on their responsibility to make sure presenters will attend and that authors need to provide completed papers in advance for discussants.

Discussants and discussion

Many comments on the insufficient time given to discussion in each session, in particular from the floor, with various suggestions to select appropriate discussants and brief them on their role or not have any discussants at all. (One should keep in mind that the quantitative evaluation showed that a large majority of participants favoured discussants for all sessions.) For discussants to do a good job, they also require full papers to be submitted in advance.

Rapporteur / Synthesis

Several participants suggested appointing a rapporteur for each session, in particular to record the discussion. Discussants could be asked to give their comments to the rapporteur. Alternatively, presentations could be filmed.

Session scheduling and room size

Many respondents indicated that there were sessions taking place at the same time that they would have liked to attend, which leads to two types of suggestions: reduce the number of sessions or improve scheduling. There were also several comments on the need to improve room assignment for sessions. Ideally, small rooms should be avoided for all sessions and amphitheatres should not be used for any regular sessions. (Session Chair evaluation forms should help adjust room size for 2013.)

Reduce the number of sessions (overall)

Many respondents commented on the fact that there were too many sessions per day over too many days. Some respondents suggest organizing fewer sessions but with far more time for the presentation of papers and for discussion. In addition, with fewer papers the overall quality of the papers could increase. Some respondents would also like more time more time to meet, to discuss and to network. They point toward the fact that such a huge conference makes it more impersonal, that participants burn out by the end of the week (or the day). A number of respondents suggested a half-day free in the middle of the Conference.

2) Suggestions for the planning of the Conference

Registration

On-site registration needs to be a formality for participants who have already preregistered, even for those who have financial support. Certificates of attendance and registration invoices need to be given out systematically (and/or very easily obtained on demand).

Financial support

Support should not be provided in priority to the first author as this order is sometimes only alphabetical. Wire-transfers should be preferred to checks at least for (developing) countries where it may be difficult to cash checks. Chartered flights could be arranged for countries with many participants (e.g. by national population associations). Communication on fees and financial support should be improved and be made transparent. Procedures, deadlines, criteria, and rationale need to be explained and it should be clarified that eligibility for support (e.g. being a member and having a paper accepted) does not guarantee support.

Website

A login space and a Google search field should be added on the home page of the Conference Website. An online Bulletin Board would be very useful.

Publications

It was suggested to add the ISSN of the Conference on all documents (and CD-rom) and to print on thinner paper. There were many comments on the waste of paper represented by the various books (many of which are thrown away) but also requests that the Book of Poster Abstracts be printed as well. Information provided in the Information Bulletin should be accurate (and not changed last-minute).

Languages

Suggestion to indicate in the programme the language used for presentation (though this could lead to more English speaking participants avoiding presentations in other languages). (**A good hint is actually provided as the title is bolded for the language in which the original paper or abstract was submitted*).

PPTs and data visualization

There were several comments on the low visual quality of many PowerPoint presentations and the need for guidelines (i.e. better advertise and encourage use of guidelines which are available on the website).

Exhibitors

Perhaps the IUSSP Secretariat needs to be more involved in the organization of exhibitions in order to ensure that they are provided adequate assistance. Outreach to software companies is desirable.

Reduce no-shows and no-papers

There were many comments on the number of no-shows, whether in regular sessions or among poster presenters. This points to the need to remove authors who have not completed registration at a certain date (unless they indicate that they will attend and register on-site).

3) Comments on and suggestions for the organization of the Conference on-site

Badges

There were a number of complaints about the chaos linked to the photo-badges for registration. If photo-badges are required in the future, photos will have to be requested in advance.

Bags

Suggestions were made to replace the conference bags by simple cloth bags.

Censorship

There were many comments on the censorship of scientific posters and exhibit material that showed a border between Morocco and Western Sahara on the part of the Moroccan authorities (28 comments protesting against the censorship and one comment in defence of the censorship). Many suggest that in the future the IUSSP should ensure by contract with the NOC that there will be no censorship.

Hotels (Objectif Maroc)

Many comments indicate that while Objectif Maroc staff at the Conference was competent and helpful the hotel registration website was dysfunctional, at least in the beginning, and the cost was not cheaper than through other websites.

IT

There were many comments on the disorganized PPT upload system and infected CD-rom as well as on the slow cybercafé, lack of English keyboards, lack of tables. In particular one comment highlighted the absence of any computer accessible by disabled.

Meals

There were suggestions to include the meals in the registration fee, to include food in morning and afternoon breaks, to ensure that drinking water is available all the time and that a variety of food (including snacks) is available within the conference centre. Subsidized lunches seem to have been generally appreciated though some did not appreciate them and several people complained that these had made them sick. Dinners were mostly appreciated though a number of people remarked that buffets offer more possibilities for people to mingle (though one comment highlighted the fact that sit-down dinners could offer the possibility to meet people you did not know). While the provision of vegetarian food was appreciated having separate areas for vegetarians was strongly disapproved (and the rationale misunderstood). Also there was a feeling that the constraints of vegetarian meals had been misunderstood with that of -veganø meals. For 2013, the Korean NOC may need to take into consideration food constraints for Muslims (availability of food without pork) and for vegetarians (include milk products; whole beans, lentils, which provide protein).

Networking

To improve networking meeting points should be arranged, additional chairs, tables, bars made available, as well as a proper contact message board, preferably electronic, linked to the website and to a big screen. (In any case read messages need to be removed from the board.)

Photographers:

Many participants were incensed by the photographers' intrusions during sessions.

Royal Air Maroc

There were a number of complaints about the RAM discount (which never really materialized) and the fact that many bags were lost in Marrakech.

Simultaneous translation

Simultaneous translation was considered fairly poor, but most comments point to the technical conditions (non-soundproof booths) and absence of organization and communication between upload-room and translators. The fact that one needed to provide an ID card in exchange for the headsets prevented many participants from using them when needed. There were also comments disapproving of the propensity for English speakers not to use the headsets and to leave the room when presentations were in French. There was one suggestion to offer a written translation of speeches on the screen (especially for the Opening Ceremony,

and especially if the language is other than English or French). There were suggestions to provide simultaneous translation for all sessions, to provide it only for plenaries and to not provide at all.

Social visits

Comments on social visits were generally positive. Some felt these were insufficiently advertised. There were also several suggestions to organize these visits at a different time than regular sessions.

Staff

Generally, Conference staff was seen as nice but of little help because inadequately trained. Conference booths at the airport were appreciated.

T-shirts

Suggestion to have a conference T-shirt that has local characteristics.

Telephones

Availability of telephones at the conference location would have been helpful.

Time-control

There should be a strict time-control mechanism like in Tours.

Transportation / Shuttles

Several respondents suggested avoiding mass transfers for dinners and to allow all participants to use Conference shuttles at the airport.

Visas

Visa issues need to be taken care of by the NOC well in advance.

Wireless microphones

One respondent suggested replacing the microphone by wireless microphones attached to the presenters' collars to allow them to move around.

Working rooms with tables and computers

Several commentators requested a working room with tables, computers (and printers) as well as electricity and wireless internet.

Annex 3

Questionnaire for the 2009 Conference survey

(English version)

NOTE:

1. This questionnaire is totally anonymous;
2. Tick only one answer for each question unless otherwise indicated.

In which language would you like to take the survey?

(Dans quelle langue souhaitez-vous répondre à ce questionnaire ?)

- a) English
- b) Français

Information about the Marrakech Conference

1. How did you FIRST learn about the Marrakech Conference?

- a) As an IUSSP member I was informed directly
- b) I was informed by my institution or my professional network
- c) Someone sent me an email with a link to the online call for papers
- d) I learned about the Conference on a website
- e) I learned about the Conference from a poster, a flyer or the printed call for papers
- f) I heard about the Conference by word of mouth
- g) Other

2. The IUSSP set up a Conference website, which provided information on many aspects of the Conference.

Did you visit the IUSSP website for information on the following items?

(Tick as many answers as apply)

- a) The Scientific Programme
- b) Instructions and tips for papers, presentations and/or posters
- c) Side-meetings and/or exhibits
- d) Travel to Morocco and/or visas
- e) Accommodation
- f) I did not visit the Conference website

3. The IUSSP regularly sent emails to participants to inform them about various aspects of the Conference.

What is your feeling regarding these emails?

(Tick as many answers as apply)

- a) These emails were generally useful
- b) I received too many emails about the Conference
- c) The information in these emails was not clear
- d) I received very few emails about the Conference

Call for Papers

4. Did you yourself submit a paper for the Conference using the online submission system?

- a) Yes
- b) No [*Filter → Go to question 5*]

4a. How would you describe the online paper submission procedure?

- a) Simple [*Filter → Go to question 4c*]
- b) Difficult

4b. Why was the online paper submission difficult for you?

(Tick as many answers as apply)

- a) I had trouble understanding the instructions
- b) I have poor Internet access
- c) Other

- 4c. Was one or more of your submissions accepted as a paper or a poster on the programme?
- a) Yes
 - b) No

Role in the Programme

5. What was your role in the scientific programme?

(Tick as many answers as apply)

- a) Chair of a session
- b) Discussant at a session
- c) Author/co-author of a scientific paper
- d) Author/co-author of a poster
- e) Organizer of a side meeting
- f) Exhibitor
- g) Conference organizer
- h) Participant, no formal scientific programme role
- i) Accompanying person

Conference Registration and Travel Support

6. How would you describe the ONLINE Conference registration procedure (by Internet)?

- a) Simple
- b) Difficult
- c) I did not register online before the Conference

7. Did you receive financial assistance from the IUSSP or the Moroccan National Organizing Committee (NOC) to help cover your participation costs?

- a) Yes
- b) No [*Filter → Go to question 8*]

Travel Support

7a. What kind of support did you receive?

(Tick as many answers as apply)

- a) Registration fees
- b) Accommodation
- c) Airfare

7b. Would you have been able to attend the Conference if you had not received financial assistance from the IUSSP or NOC?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Uncertain, other funding would have been sought

Conference Registration and Travel Support

8. Were your travel, registration and/or accommodation expenses partially or totally paid by one of the following?

(Tick as many answers as apply)

- a) Your institution of employment or your university
- b) A research grant that you have
- c) Yourself, drawing on personal funds
- d) A funding institution in your home country
- e) Other (including IUSSP and NOC support)

9. How long did it take you to register on-site in Marrakech to get your badge?

- a) I completed the on-site registration in a few minutes
- b) I waited in line for less than 30 minutes
- c) I waited in line for over 30 minutes
- d) Other

General Appreciation of the Conference

PLEASE RATE EVERY ITEM ON THIS PAGE (or tick N/A when you can't)

10. What is your general appreciation of the following aspects of the Conference?

Score each item from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent), or tick N/A if you cannot evaluate the item.

- a) Overall scientific quality of the Conference
- b) Papers presented in regular sessions
- c) Posters
- d) Plenary sessions
- e) Conference website
- f) On-site registration in Marrakech
- g) Quality of your stay in the city of Marrakech

11. What is your general appreciation of the following services offered at the Conference?

Score each item from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent), or tick N/A if you did not use or cannot evaluate the item.

- a) Simultaneous translation
- b) Audio-visual services for presentations
- c) Cyber café
- d) Conference centre facilities
- e) Food service in the Palais des Congrès (ticket lunches)
- f) Hotel reservation service (with Objectif Maroc)
- g) Shuttles between Conference centre and hotels
- h) Visits to local organizations
- i) Tourist excursions organized by Objectif Maroc

12. Several printed Conference documents were produced and distributed to participants.

Score the usefulness of each of those documents from 1 (of little use) to 5 (highly useful) or tick N/A if you cannot evaluate the document.

- a) Call for Papers (printed and disseminated in April 2008)
- b) General Information brochure (given out at the Conference)
- c) Programme Book (included in the Conference bag)
- d) Book of Abstracts (included in the Conference bag)

Conference Programme

13. Which days did you attend the Conference?

(Tick as many answers as apply)

- a) Sunday 27 September
- b) Monday 28 September
- c) Tuesday 29 September
- d) Wednesday 30 September
- e) Thursday 1 October
- f) Friday 2 October

14. There were four daily time periods during which regular sessions were held. How many regular sessions did you attend each day, on average?

- a) None
- b) 1
- c) 2
- d) 3
- e) 4
- f) 5 or more (I stayed for 1-2 papers and then went to another session)

15. There were 11 simultaneous sessions every day. According to you, were there:
- Too few
 - Too many
 - About right
 - Indifferent
16. There were 5 poster sessions at the Conference, one each day. How many poster sessions did you attend?
- None
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
 - 5
17. There were 100 to 150 posters displayed in each poster session. According to you, were there:
- Too few
 - Too many
 - About right
 - Indifferent
18. Which plenary sessions did you attend?
(Tick as many answers as apply)
- The Opening Ceremony (Sunday 27 September at 17:30)
 - The UNFPA Plenary on Population and Development (Monday 28 September at 17:30)
 - The Moroccan Plenary on Key Population Challenges in the Arab World (Tuesday 29 September at 17:30)
 - The IUSSP Plenary on International Migration and the Economic Crisis (Wednesday 30 September at 17:30)
 - The IUSSP Plenary on Population and Climate Change (Thursday 1 October at 17:30)
 - The Closing Ceremony (Friday 2 October at 17:30)
19. Did you attend any of the Moroccan National Organizing Committee (NOC) sessions, which focused on the Arab World? [held in Ambassadeurs amphitheatre on Monday and Tuesday all day and on Wednesday morning]
- Yes
 - No
20. Did you visit the exhibition booths during the Conference?
- Yes
 - No
21. Did you attend any of the side meetings organized by various institutions?
- Yes
 - No
22. Did the Marrakech Conference result in your making contacts that could lead to new collaboration with colleagues from other countries?
- Yes
 - No

Simultaneous Translation

23. Did you use simultaneous translation?
- Every day
 - Most days
 - Rarely
 - Never [*Filter* → *Go to question 24*]

23a. In which language did you choose to listen to the simultaneous interpretation? (in the headphones)

- a) English
- b) French
- c) Arabic

23b. If simultaneous translation had not been available, would you have been able to understand presentations made in each of the 3 languages used at the XXVI Conference?
(Answer for each language)

	Yes, correctly	Yes, approximately	No
English			
French			
Arabic			

Lunches

24. Subsidized lunches (with lunch tickets) were served from Monday to Friday in the Palais des Congrès and the adjacent hotel. How many times did you have lunch there?

- a) Never
- b) Once
- c) Twice
- d) Three times
- e) Four times
- f) All five days

25. Are you a vegetarian?

- a) Yes
- b) No [*Filter → Go to question 26*]

Vegetarian

25a. Were you able to locate the vegetarian lunches served in the Ouzoud area?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) I did not try to locate these lunches

Accommodation and WiFi Connection

26. Did you book your accommodation through the Conference website with the travel agency Objectif Maroc?

- a) Yes
- b) No

27. Access to a free WiFi connection from your own computer was available in the Palais des Congrès. Did you use this WiFi service to connect to the Internet?

- a) Yes
- b) No

The 2013 Conference. Your Expectations

28. A number of sessions had no discussant in Marrakech. Would you prefer a discussant in all sessions?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Indifferent

29. Should the IUSSP organize plenary debate sessions at its 2013 Conference? (as it did in Tours in 2005 and Bahia in 2001)

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Indifferent

30. The length of the 2009 Conference was 6 days. In 2013, how many days would you recommend for the Conference?

- a) 6 days conference
- b) 5 days conference
- c) 4 days conference
- d) 3 days conference

31. Which months would you prefer for the 2013 Conference?

(Tick no more than 4)

- a) January
- b) February
- c) March
- d) April
- e) May
- f) June
- g) July
- h) August
- i) September
- j) October
- k) November
- l) December

32. Which months would you prefer to avoid for the 2013 Conference?

(Tick no more than 4)

- a) January
- b) February
- c) March
- d) April
- e) May
- f) June
- g) July
- h) August
- i) September
- j) October
- k) November
- l) December

33. In planning the next Conference, were there any scientific topics that you thought were given insufficient attention in the Marrakech programme?

- a) Yes
- b) No [*Filter → Go to question 34*]
- c) No opinión [*Filter → Go to question 34*]

Neglected Topics

33a. Please list below up to 3 neglected topics

- a) Topic 1
- b) Topic 2
- c) Topic 3

Previous attendance at IUSSP Conferences

34. How many previous IUSSP International Population Conferences (Tours 2005, Bahia 2001) did you attend before the Marrakech Conference?

- a) I had never attended an IUSSP Conference before Marrakech
- b) I attended 1-3 IUSSP Conferences before Marrakech
- c) I attended at least 4 IUSSP Conferences before Marrakech

IUSSP Member

35. Are you a member of the IUSSP?

- a) Yes
- b) No [*Filter → Go to question 36*]

35a. How many years have you been a member?

- a) I just joined this year in order to attend the Conference
- b) I joined in the last 5 years
- c) I have been a member for 5-10 years
- d) I have been a member for more than 10 years

Additional Comments

36. If you have any other comments on the 2009 Conference or suggestions that you would like to make for the 2013 Conference, please note them briefly in the space below.

Last Page - Individual Information

PLEASE FILL IN THESE 5 LAST QUESTIONS

A. In which sector do you work?

(Tick as many answers as apply)

- a) Research institute or university
- b) Government
- c) Private sector
- d) Non Governmental Organization
- e) International Organization
- f) I'm a student
- g) Other

B. In which country do you reside?

Country of residence:

C. What is your nationality?

Nationality:

D. What is your year of birth?

Year of birth:

E. What is your sex?

- a) Male
- b) Female