



International Union for the Scientific Study of Population ■ IUSSP  
Union internationale pour l'étude scientifique de la population ■ UIESP

## 2017 Conference Evaluation



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## **Introduction**

The 28th International Population Conference, organized by the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) and the South African National Organizing Committee (NOC), was held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 29 October to 3 November 2017. The Conference was attended by approximately 1,900 people (based on the badges list) of which a subset of 1,636 participants registered online and provided contact information.

The IUSSP decided to carry out a survey of Conference participants, as it had done for previous conferences, mainly to help prepare the next International Population Conference in 2021.

The survey was conducted online from 29 November to 31 December 2017, using the same online survey company as in 2009 and 2013 (Survey Monkey). Responses were collected anonymously. The online questionnaire was sent electronically to the 1,636 registered participants who had valid email addresses, of which 866 responded (though not necessarily to all the questions – 54 respondents replied only to the first, mandatory question on the language they wished to use to answer the questionnaire). The response rate based on 812 respondents was 50%, lower than for Marrakech (60%) but higher than for Busan (38%).

The questionnaire was available in English and in French: 86% of respondents (698) chose to answer in English, and 14% responded in French (114). In the following pages, for the sake of clarity, non-respondents are not included in the graphs; the number of respondents (n) is indicated for each question.

## **General conclusions and recommendations**

The results of this evaluation indicate that the 28<sup>th</sup> International Population Conference was a very positive experience for a large majority of respondents. The proportion of respondents who viewed the scientific quality of the Conference as 'excellent' increased compared to previous conferences and the vast majority of respondents appreciated their stay in Cape Town. A total of 98% of the respondents would recommend to their colleagues that they attend the next IUSSP conference (79% definitely and 19% probably).

### **Conference assessment:**

- Ratings for the scientific quality of the Conference as a whole and for specific items (papers, posters, etc.) were higher than in Busan (2013) and Marrakech (2009).
- Respondents found the conference centre excellent as a whole. However, the detailed assessment shows that certain features or services such as on-site registration, audio-visual service, and simultaneous translation were less well rated than in Busan.
- The set-up for the poster sessions was praised by a large majority of respondents, while a few did not appreciate the mix of food and posters. Attention to posters appears to have been much stronger and could be further improved through better signage of the thematic clusters of posters.
- The free lunches provided in the Exhibition Hall were appreciated by most participants (whereas meals had been a source of complaints in Busan and Marrakech). These are crucial as they ensure that participants remain in the centre and, when located near the poster sessions, they help increase attendance. They could be further improved with better signage regarding the type of food (e.g. vegetarian) and with a little more room and additional tables.
- Despite the many problems identified by the IUSSP Secretariat, 88% of the respondents found the abstract submission software simple and clear, with only a minority of respondents encountering problems in using it.
- Similarly, 70% of respondents reported having no problems accessing the online programme and papers; 10% did not use the online programme. This still leaves one in five respondents who reported problems navigating the programme.
- Simultaneous translation was the least well-rated service. More importantly, it was used by such a small number of respondents that it appears to have largely been a waste of time and energy, particularly given the small number of presentations made in French and the fact that almost all the respondents declared that they understand English correctly (87%) or approximately (12%). When simultaneous translation is provided for a presentation in French, participants need to be informed before they enter the room so that they can get headphones. Also, they should not be required to leave their passport in exchange for the headphones.

### **Attendance:**

- Nearly half the respondents attended all 6 days and, on average, they attended 3 of the 4 regular sessions per day.
- Nearly half the respondents attended at least one side meeting organized by the IUSSP or other organizations.

### **Planning for 2021:**

- A large majority of respondents approve of the current format of the conference. If there are to be changes, the conference should not be made longer and the number of simultaneous sessions should not be extended.

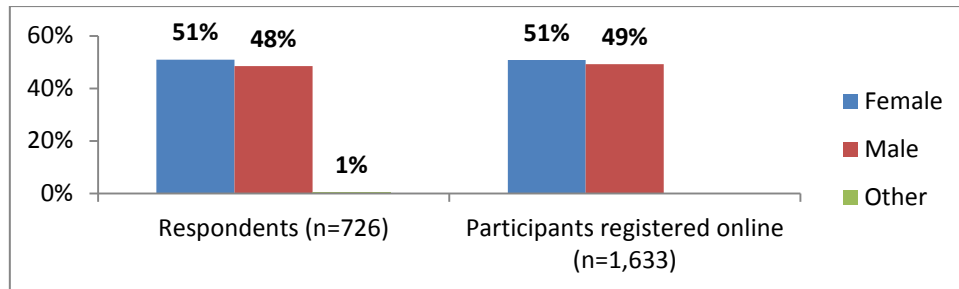
- The possibility to have free lunches and coffee breaks provided in the same area as the poster sessions appears to have been an important element of success for this conference. It can still be improved with increased space, better signage, and more tables and/or chairs.
- The only change supported by a large minority would be to start at 9 am (instead of 8:30).
- A majority of respondents (54%) would favour discussants for all regular sessions but discussants need to be brief and adhere to their role.
- A majority of respondents support plenary debates (73%) but a few regretted the artificial dichotomy between for and against the proposition, preferring a scientific exchange of arguments.
- Research and networking are the main reasons reported to attend the conference. The IUSSP should offer more opportunities for younger scholars (career opportunities, training, mentoring...) and can do more to promote networking opportunities in the conference centre and programme.
- Write-in comments, which may not represent the majority view, highlighted several things that should either be avoided or used to improve the next conference:
  - A number of respondents complained about the gala dinner (poor and untimely communication, restricted access, long speeches and requests by the speakers that participants remain silent).
  - More generally, speeches should be as brief as possible at the gala dinner and also at the opening and closing ceremonies.
  - Simultaneous translation into French should be dropped in non-Francophone countries.
  - On-site registration should be simple and straightforward for those who have pre-registered for the conference.
  - A number of participants regretted that the conference bags were of poor quality (as it was almost the only item of memorabilia offered).
  - More seats and tables outside the session rooms should be offered for people to rest and work (or eat).
  - More timely communication regarding preconference events and local information.
  - More support should be made available to authors of posters and to 'loyal', long-time members.
  - A dashboard would greatly improve the experience of paper submitters and others involved in the scientific organization of the conference.
  - Many participants indicated their desire to be part of the scientific team (organizers, reviewers, chairs, discussants), which should be diversified and rejuvenated.

## I. Characteristics of the respondents

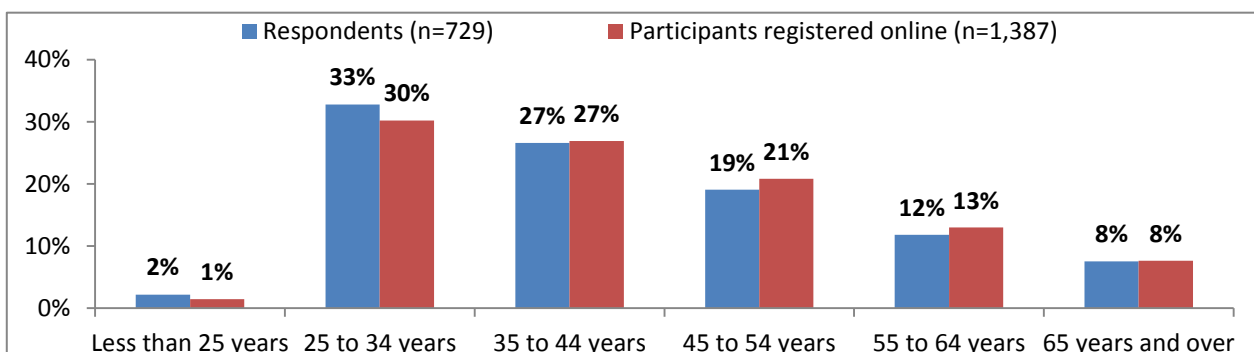
### A) Demographic characteristics of the respondents compared to Conference participants

Detailed demographic information on participants such as gender, age and regional distribution is available only for the subset of conference participants who registered online (1,633 of a total of about 1,900 who attended the conference).

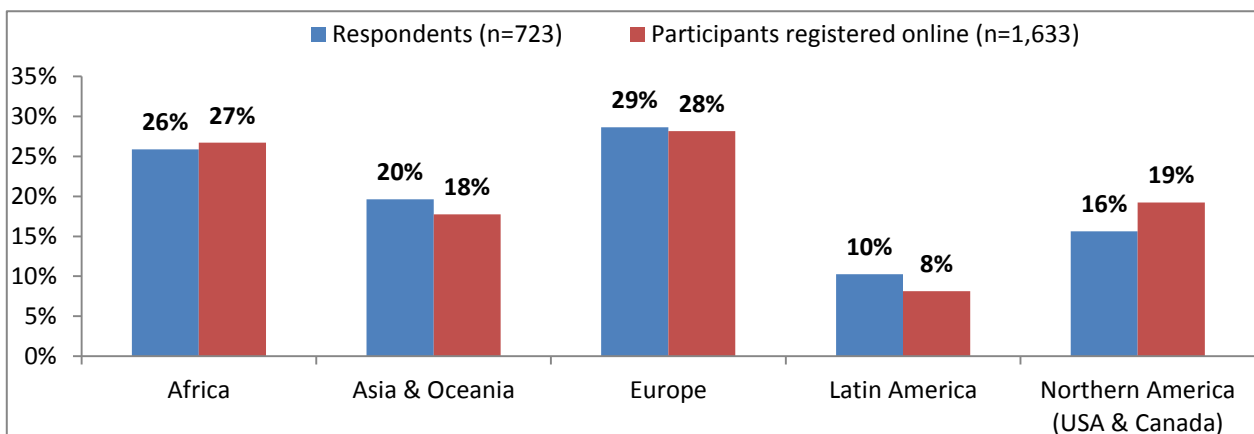
1) **Sex:** The gender distribution of respondents, close to parity, was comparable to that of participants who registered online.



2) **Age:** The age distribution of respondents and participants who registered online was comparable (respondents were slightly younger: 35% vs. 31% below age 35).

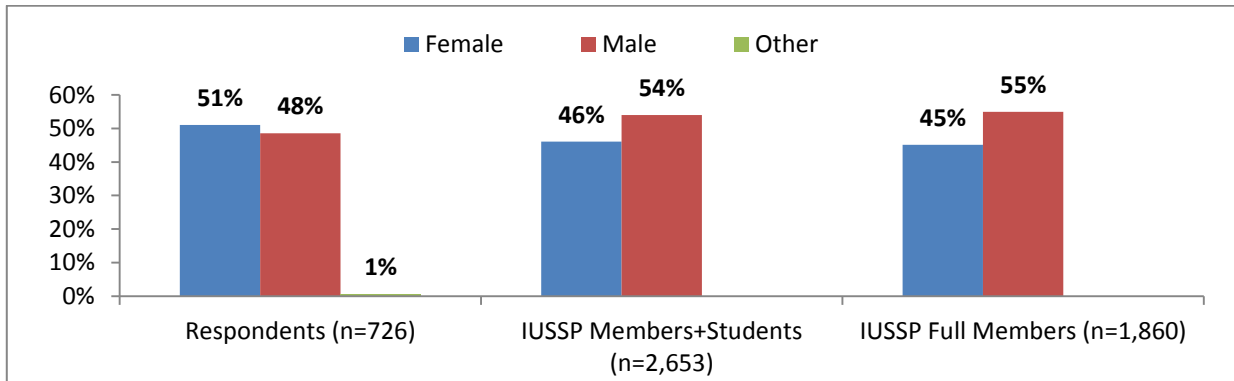


3) **Region of residence:** The distribution of respondents and participants who registered online by region of residence was comparable, with a slight under-representation of North Americans.

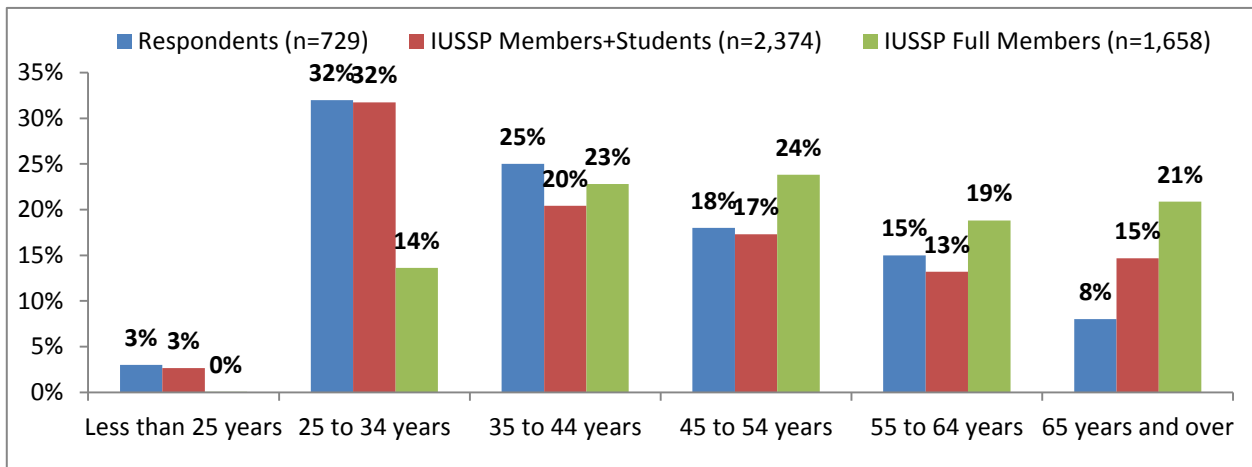


**B) Demographic characteristics of the respondents compared to IUSSP members**

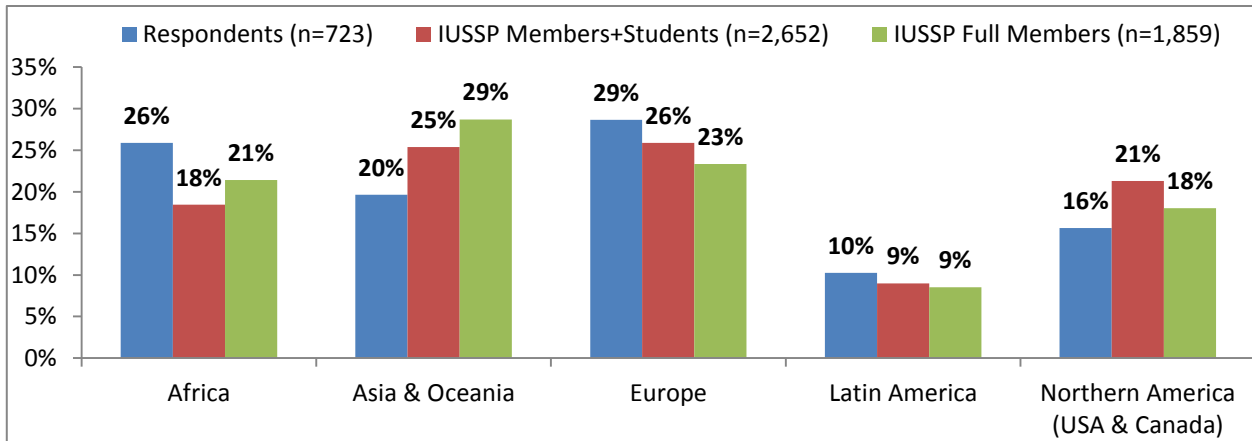
**1) Sex:** The proportion of female respondents was higher than their proportion among IUSSP members, even when student associates are included.



**2) Age:** Respondents were much younger than the IUSSP membership as a whole. The age distribution of respondents is more comparable to that of the IUSSP membership when student associates are included, but respondents are still slightly over-represented in age groups 35 to 64 years and under-represented over 65 years.

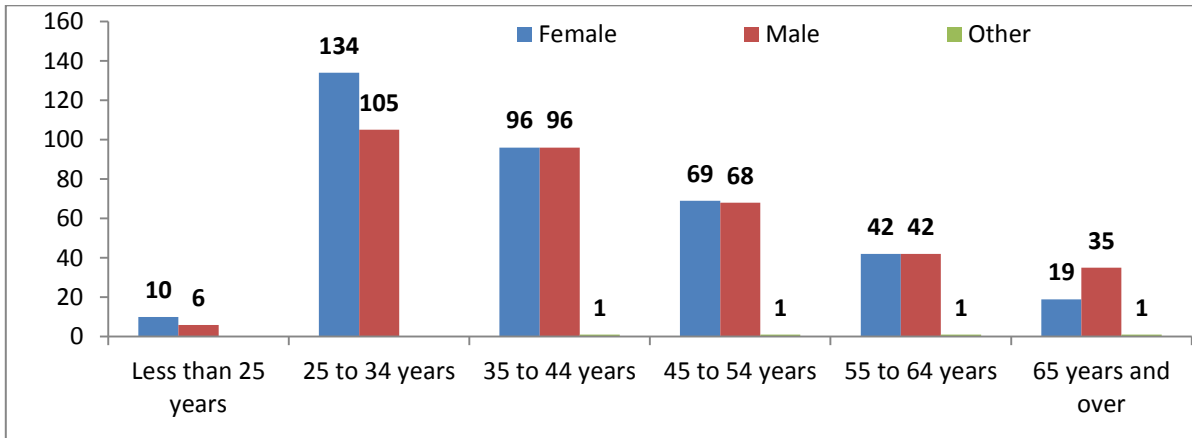


**3) Region of residence:** The proportion of respondents from Africa was larger than that of IUSSP members or student members. Europeans and, to a lesser degree, Latin Americans were also relatively more represented among respondents. Conversely, Asians and North Americans were under-represented among respondents compared to their proportions among IUSSP members and students.

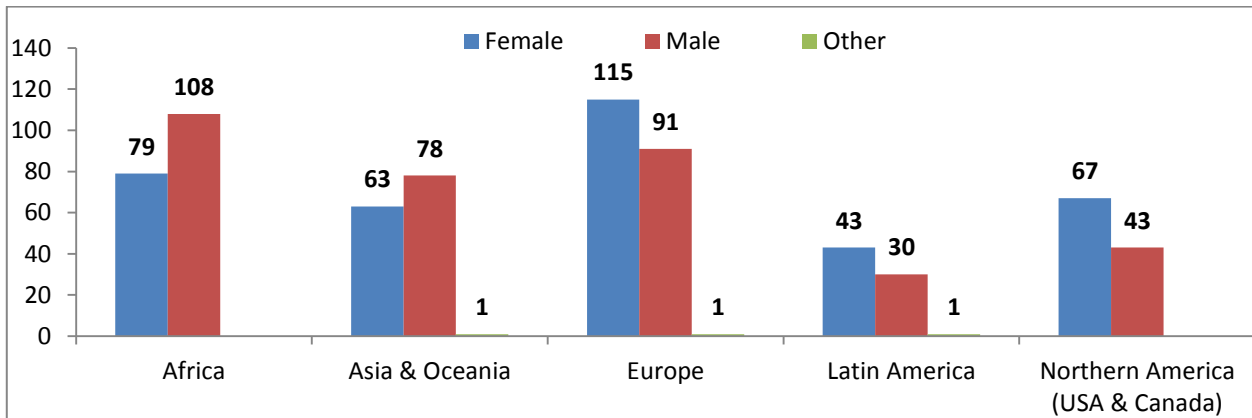


***C) Other demographic characteristics of the respondents:***

**1) Gender and age:** A total of 726 respondents provided information on their gender and age: 370 women, 352 men and 4 respondents who chose “other”. Women in the sample are slightly younger than men: they outnumber men in age groups under 35 years old but are outnumbered by males in the age-group 65 and over.

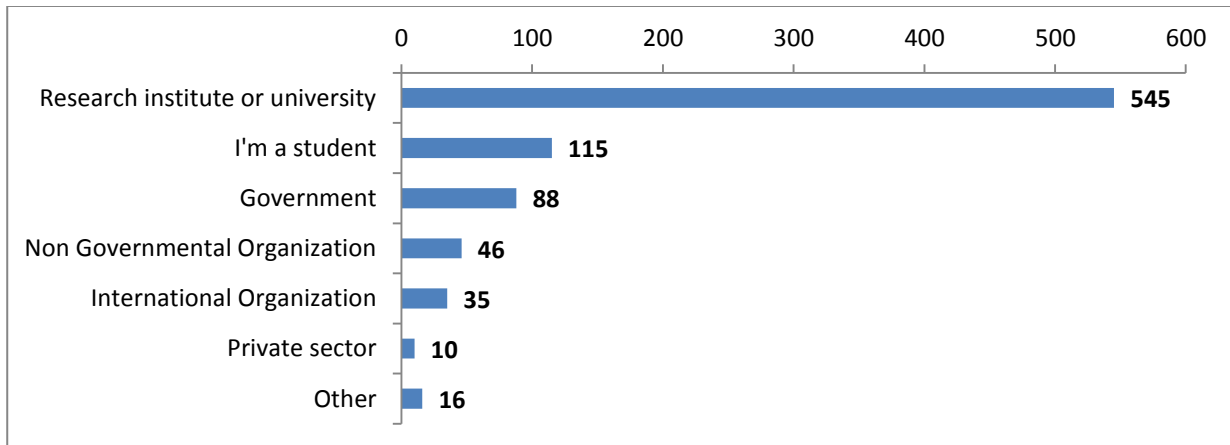


**2) Gender and region of residence:** A total of 720 respondents provided information on their gender and region of residence: 367 women, 350 men and 3 respondents who chose “other”. Women were more numerous than men among respondents from Europe, Latin America and Northern America, while men were more numerous among respondents from Africa and Asia.



**3) Sector of work (Tick as many answers as apply) (n=728)**

A large majority of respondents (75%) worked for a university or a research institute; 16% were students and 12% worked for a government.

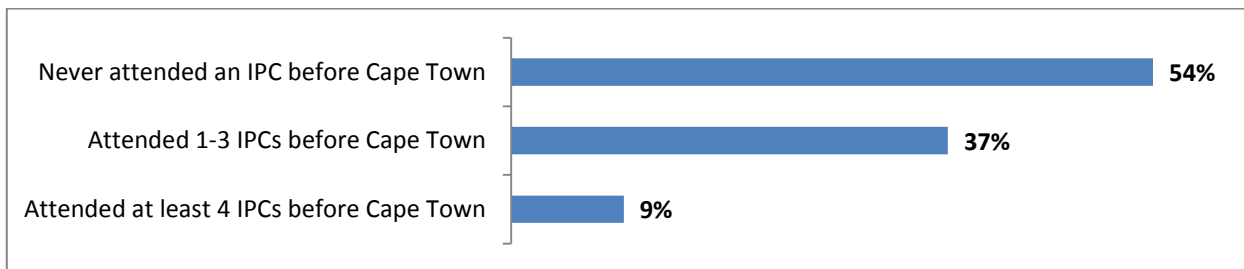




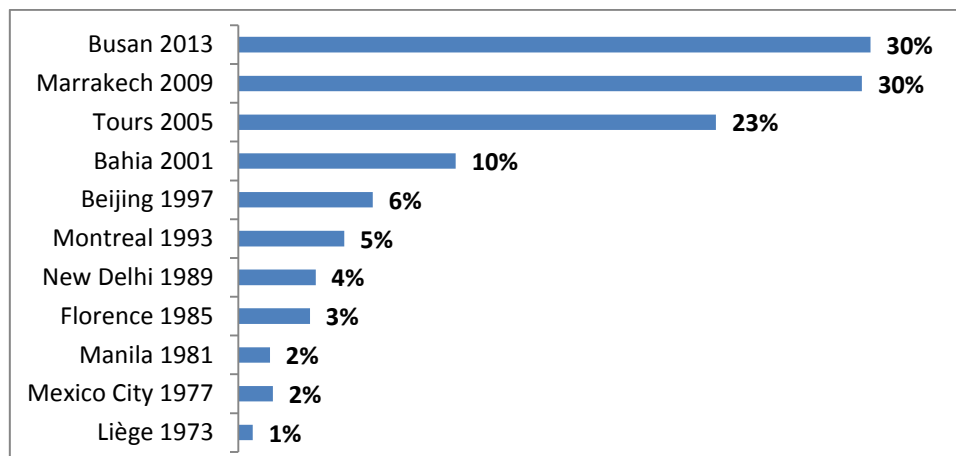
**Previous attendance at conferences:**

**Q33. Which IUSSP International Population Conferences did you attend? (n=731)**

More than half of the respondents (54%) had never attended an International Population Conference before this one, 37% had attended 1-3 conferences and 9% had attended 4 conferences or more.

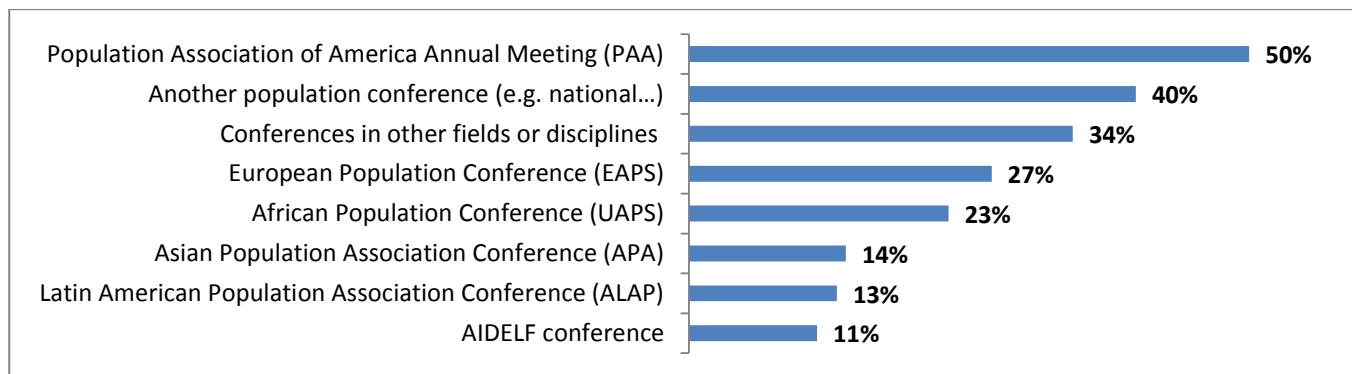


About 30% of the respondents had attended Busan 2013 and 30% attended Marrakech 2009 (18% attended both of these recent conferences). Three respondents attended 10 IPCs, one respondent attended 12 IPCs (each conference since Liège 1973) and one respondent attended 15 IPCs, every conference since Ottawa 1963!



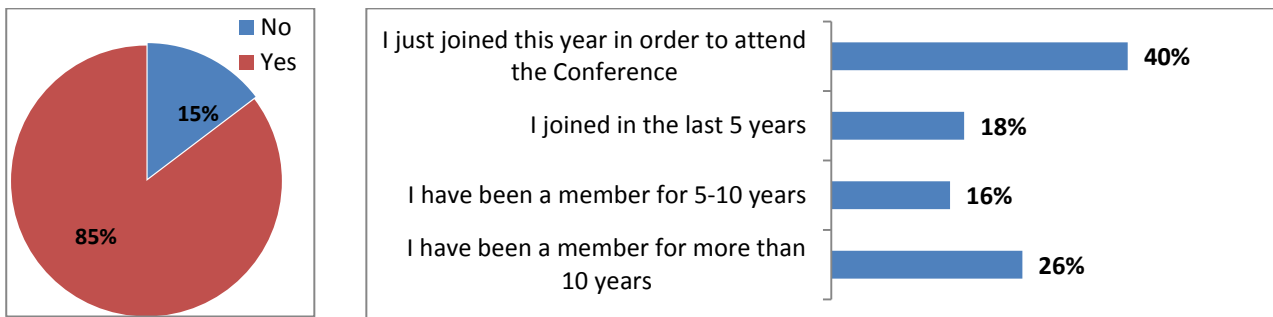
**Q34. What other Conferences have you attended in recent years? (Tick as many answers as apply) (n=624)**

[Approximately 15% of the respondents who responded to subsequent questions in the questionnaire skipped this question; presumably because many of them had not attended any other conferences in recent years – based on n=731]. Among those who answered this question (n=624), half had attended an annual meeting of the PAA, 40% had attended another population conference (e.g. of their national association), and one-third had attended a conference in another discipline. Also many respondents had attended a regional population conference: 27% had attended an EAPS conference, 23% a UAPS conference, 14% an APA conference, 13% an ALAP conference, and 11% the Francophone AIDELF conference.



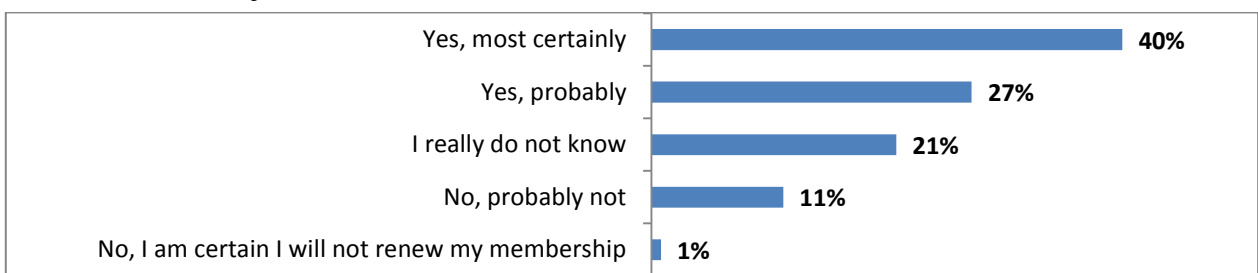
**IUSSP Membership: Q35 (n = 729) and Q35a (n = 623)**

Eighty-five percent of respondents were IUSSP members, of which 40% joined in order to attend the conference.



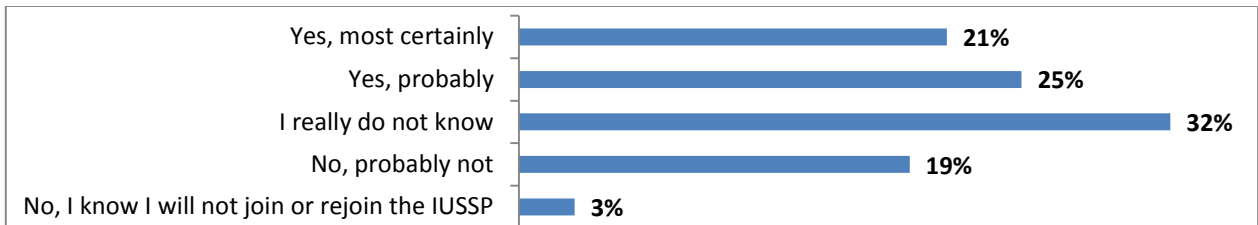
**Q35b Intention for “new members” to maintain their membership (n = 250)**

Most members who joined to attend the IPC indicate their intention to remain members.



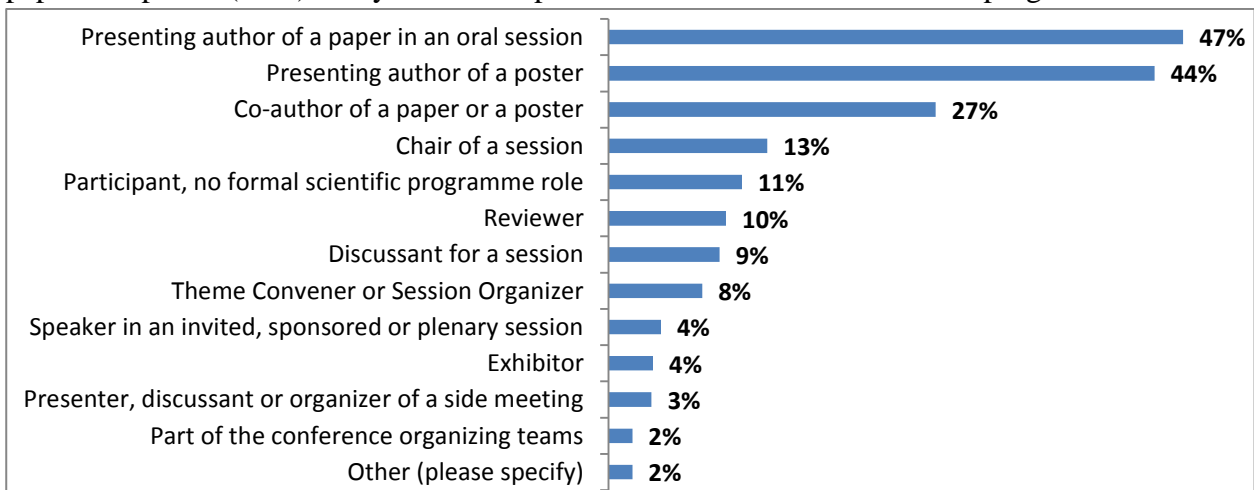
**Q35c Intention for “non-members” to become a member (or renew) (n = 109)**

Attending the IPC2017 may have convinced some respondents who had yet not joined the IUSSP to join (25% probably and 21% certainly).



**Q.7 What was your role in the scientific programme? (Tick as many answers as apply) (n=777)**

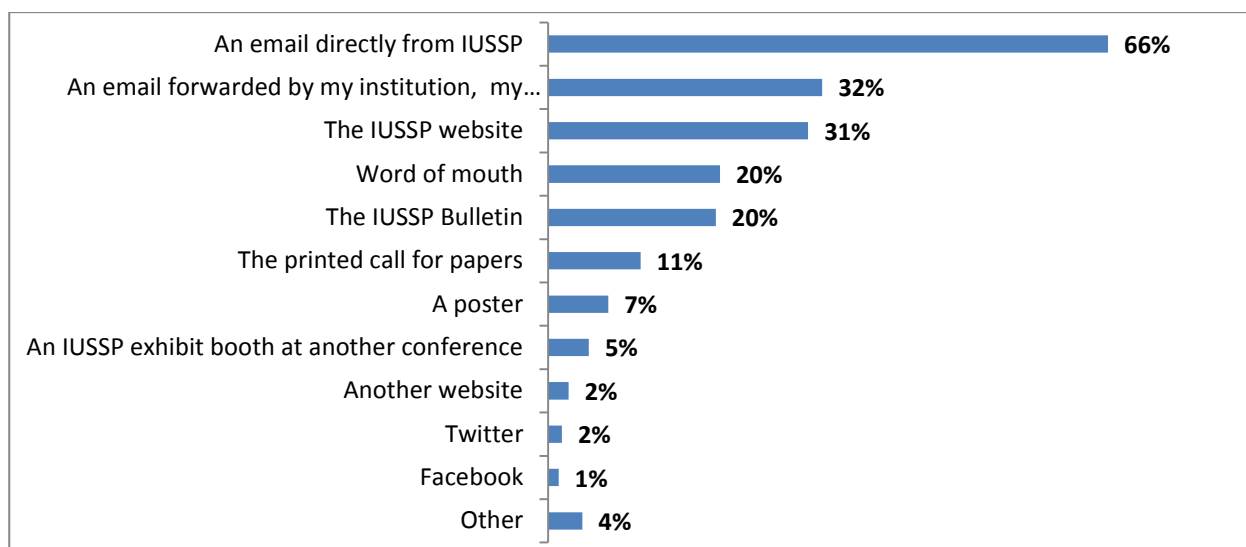
Most respondents played an active scientific role in the Conference, in particular as presenting authors of papers in an oral session (47%), presenting authors of a poster (44%), or co-authors of a paper or a poster (27%). Only 11% of respondents had no formal role in the programme.



## II. Organization and communication prior to the Conference

### Q2. What were the primary means of communication that made you aware of the conference? (Tick as many answers as apply) (*n*=791)

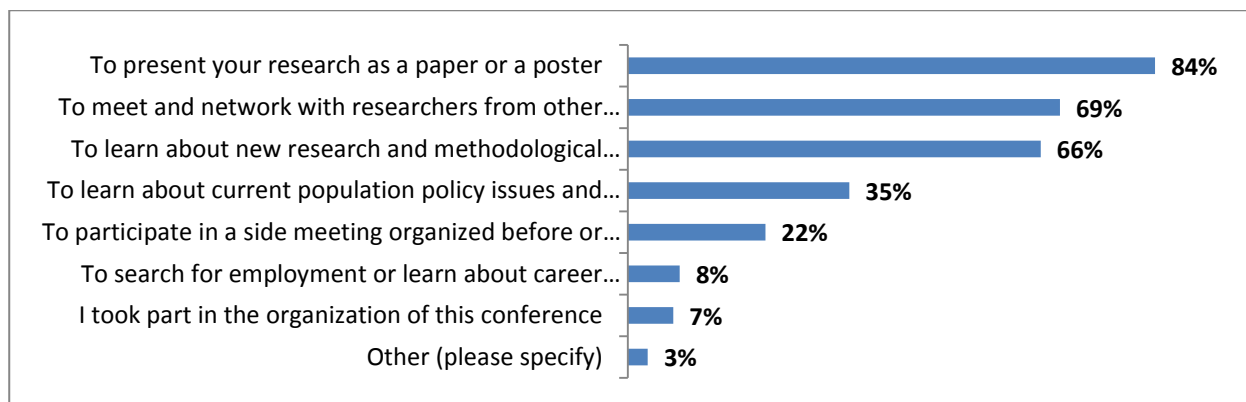
Two-thirds of respondents were made aware of the conference by an email sent directly from the IUSSP (to its members and participants in previous IPCs). Nearly one-third (32%) were informed by an email forwarded by their institution, professional network or a colleague. [Only 15% were not made aware by any email at all.] Other means of communication also played a role : the IUSSP website (31%), word of mouth (20%), the IUSSP Bulletin (20%), the Printed Call for Papers (sent to members, to institutions active in population research and to UNFPA offices worldwide) (11%), and an IUSSP poster (7%) or exhibit booth at another conference (5%). Very few respondents say they were made aware of the conference through Facebook (1%) and Twitter (2%), despite numbers of “followers” approaching 1,000.



Four percent of the respondents (32 individuals) indicate that they heard of the conference via “other” means, mainly that they are aware the IPC takes place every four years or that they were present in Busan when the following IPC was announced. A few participants were made aware through the National Organizing Committee.

### Q3. What were your main reasons for attending the International Population Conference? (Tick as many answers as apply) (*n*=787)

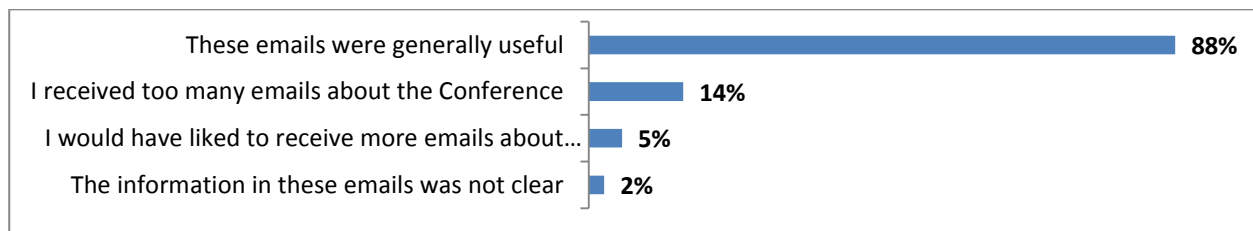
The three main reasons for attending the conference were to present research (84% of respondents), to network with other researchers (69%) and to learn about new research (66%).



Three percent of respondents (25 individuals) indicated an “other” (often additional) reason to attend the conference, mainly as session chairs or discussants, exhibitors, or to visit South Africa.

**Q4. The IUSSP sent emails to participants to inform them of various aspects of the Conference. What is your feeling regarding these emails? (Tick as many answers as apply) (n=787)**

The vast majority of respondents (88%) found the emails sent by the IUSSP useful. A number of respondents (14%, vs. 18% in 2013) declared that they received too many emails.

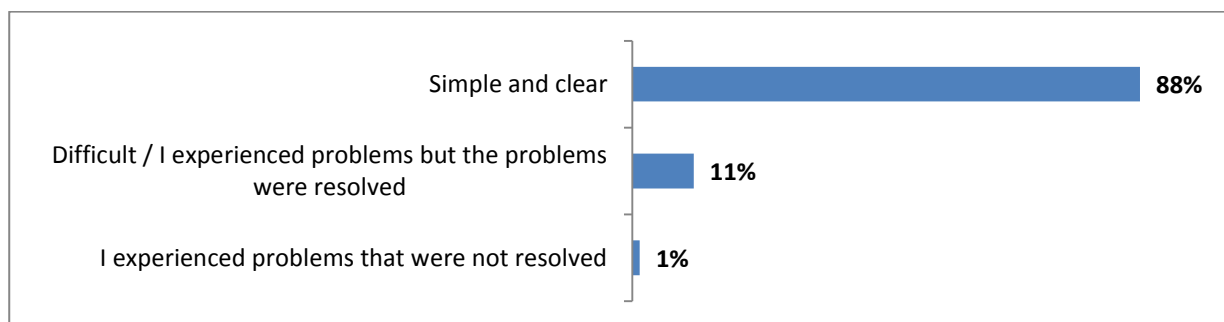


**Paper submissions (Q5; n=788), (Q5a; n = 621) and (Q5b; n = 74)**

**Q5:** 80% of respondents submitted a paper themselves, using the online submission system.

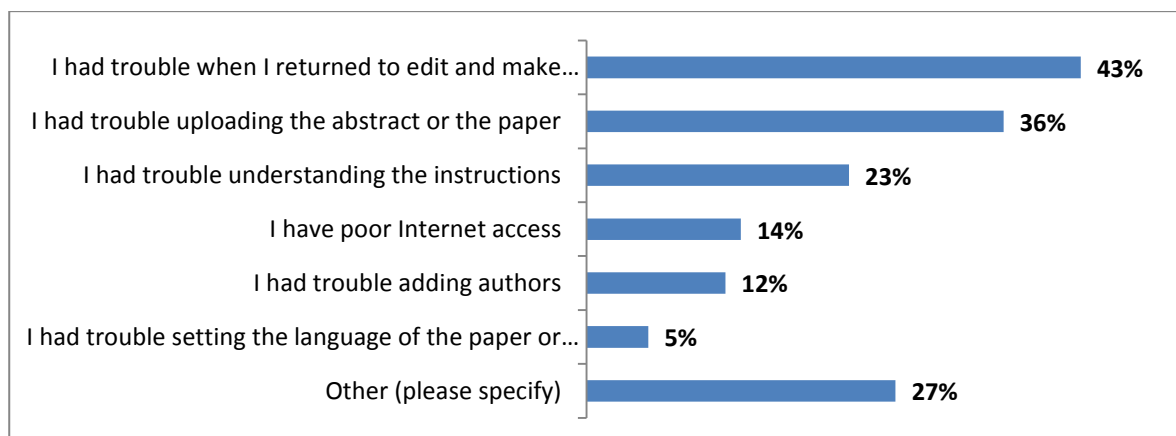
**Q5a. How would you describe the online paper submission procedure? (n=621)**

Eighty-eight percent of the respondents found the paper submission system simple, an improvement compared to Busan in 2013 (83%, where different software was used) but not as easy as for Marrakech in 2009 (97%, where still another software was used). 11% (66 respondents) found it difficult or experienced problems with the procedure that were eventually resolved; 1% (8 respondents) experienced problems that were not resolved.



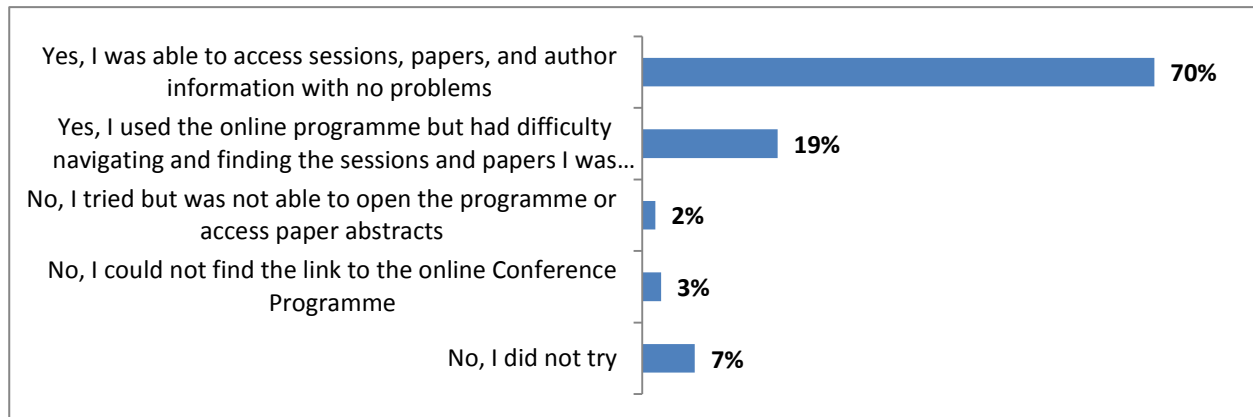
**Q5b. Why was the online paper submission difficult for you? (Tick as many answers as apply) (n=74)**

Respondents who experienced problems with the submission system reported a variety of problems, (often more than one), and these problems are mostly unrelated to the quality of their access to the internet. Among those who indicated problems “other” than the potential problems identified before the survey, the main issue was that the system was not user-friendly, it was difficult to know where to find things, and the absence of a real dashboard.



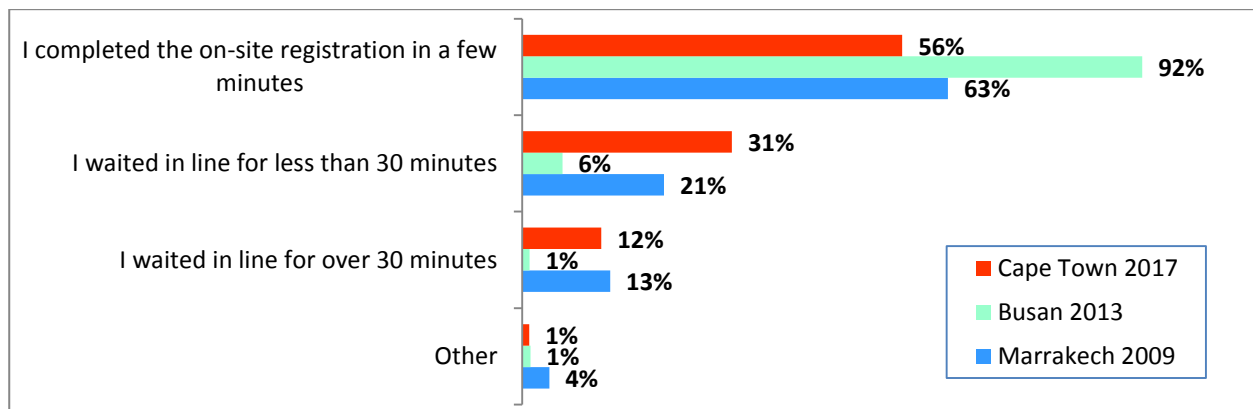
**Q6. The online conference programme provided access to abstracts and papers. Were you able to access this online programme? (n=778)**

Most respondents (70%) did not experience problems in accessing the programme and papers (vs. 62% for Busan in 2013). 19% reported difficulties navigating the online programme; only 2% indicated that they could not access the programme and 3% that they could not find the link to the programme. Write-in comments pointed mostly toward navigation and user-friendliness issues.



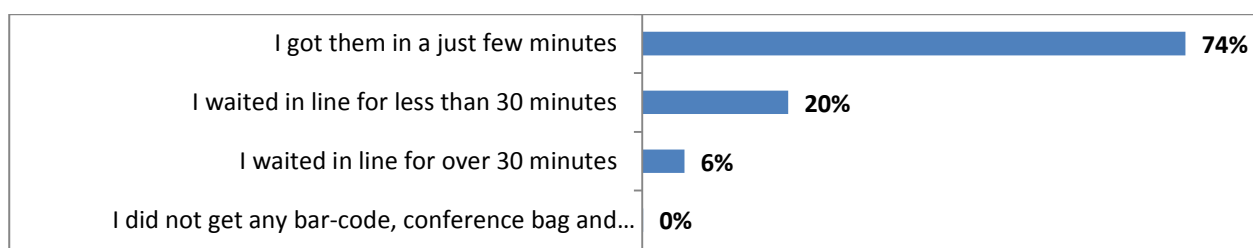
**Q9. How long did it take you to register on-site in Cape Town and get your badge? (n = 770)**

Most respondents registered on-site in only a few minutes (56%) but the process was still longer than in Busan (where 92% registered in just a few minutes) and Marrakech (63%). Thirty-one percent registered in less than 30 minutes and 12% registered in over 30 minutes. However, unlike Busan and Marrakech, the registration for badges did not include the distribution of the conference bags, programmes and bar-codes to access meeting rooms (see below).



**Q9b. How long did it take you to get your bar-code, conference bag and printed programme? (n = 763)**

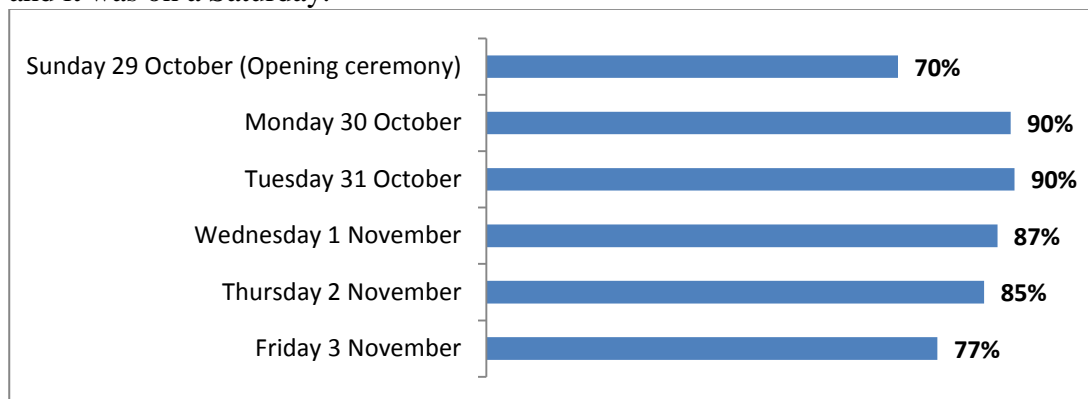
Most respondents got their bar-code, conference bag and printed programme in only a few minutes (74%) but 26% had to wait a bit more, less than 30 minutes (20%) or over 30 minutes (6%). Only one respondent (from the organizing team) answered that he/she never got a bar-code, a conference bag and a printed programme.



### III. Level of attendance and participation

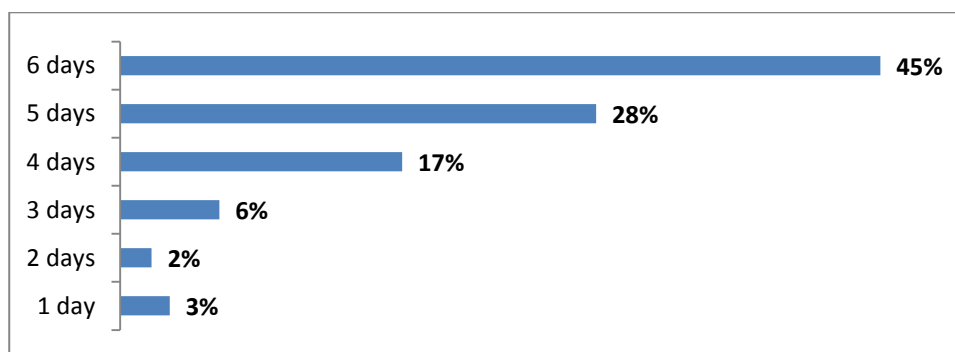
#### Q13. Which days did you attend the Conference? (Tick as many answers as apply) (n=753)

Respondents' attendance was very high throughout the conference: 70% on the opening day (vs. 71% in Marrakech, also on a Sunday, and 75% in Busan, on a Monday) and at least 85% of respondents were present during the four central days of the conference (similar to Marrakech and Busan). There was a small decrease in attendance on Friday, the closing day (77%), comparable to Marrakech (76%) but less marked than in Busan (59%), where there was only a half-day of sessions and it was on a Saturday.



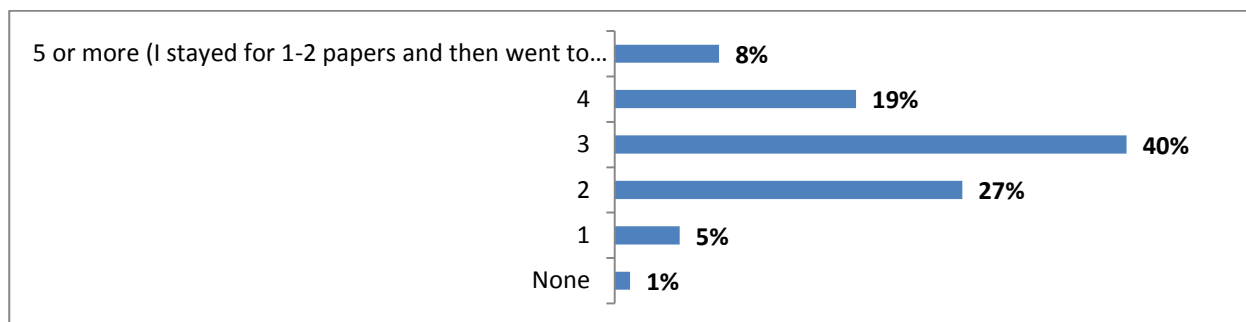
Forty-five percent of the respondents attended all 6 days and another 28% attended 5 days (N.B. these attendance rates probably do not correctly reflect attendance by participants as it can be assumed that respondents are a more “involved” subset of the overall participants).

#### (Q13) Number of days attended (n=753)



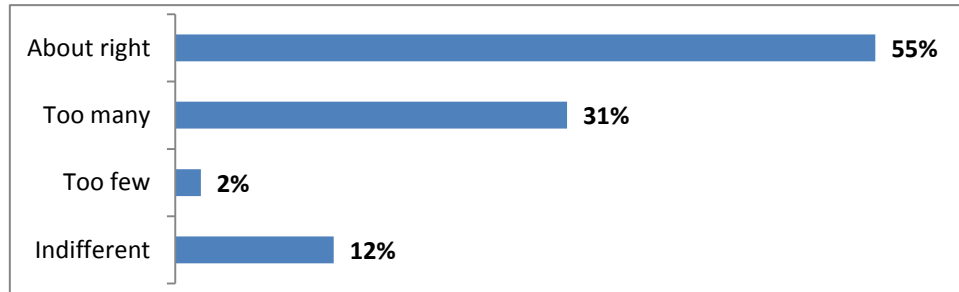
#### Q14. There were four daily time periods during which regular sessions were held (for the first four days of the conference). How many regular sessions did you attend each day, on average? (n=751)

On average, respondents attended 3 regular sessions per day: 19% attended on average all 4 sessions in the day, 40% attended 3 sessions, 27% attended 2 sessions, 5% attended one session and 1% attended none. In addition, 8% of the respondents attended 5 sessions or more, staying for 1-2 papers and then moving to another session.



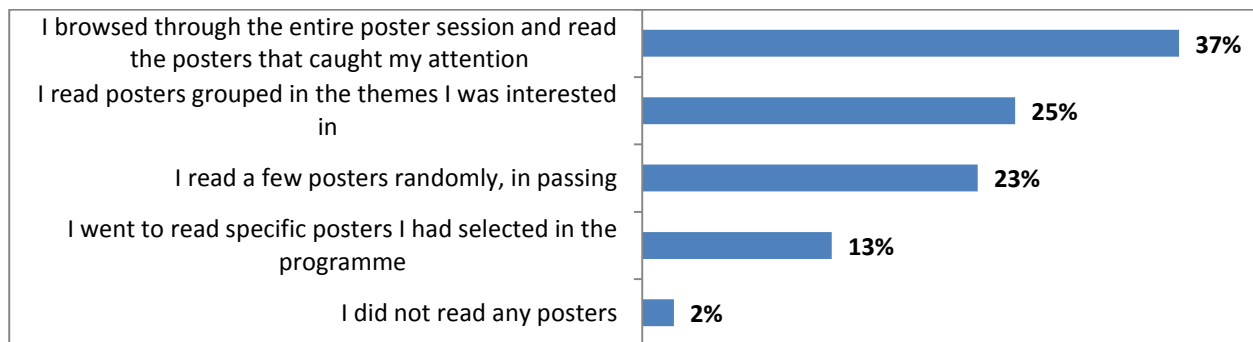
**Q15. There were 12 simultaneous sessions every day. According to you, were there [too many, too few...?] (n=749)**

A majority of the respondents (55%) felt the number of simultaneous sessions was about right while a sizable proportion (31%) felt there were too many; 12% were indifferent and 1% felt there were too few parallel sessions. (In Busan, where there were 15 simultaneous sessions, the proportion of those who felt it was about right was 48% and those who felt there were too many was 39%.)

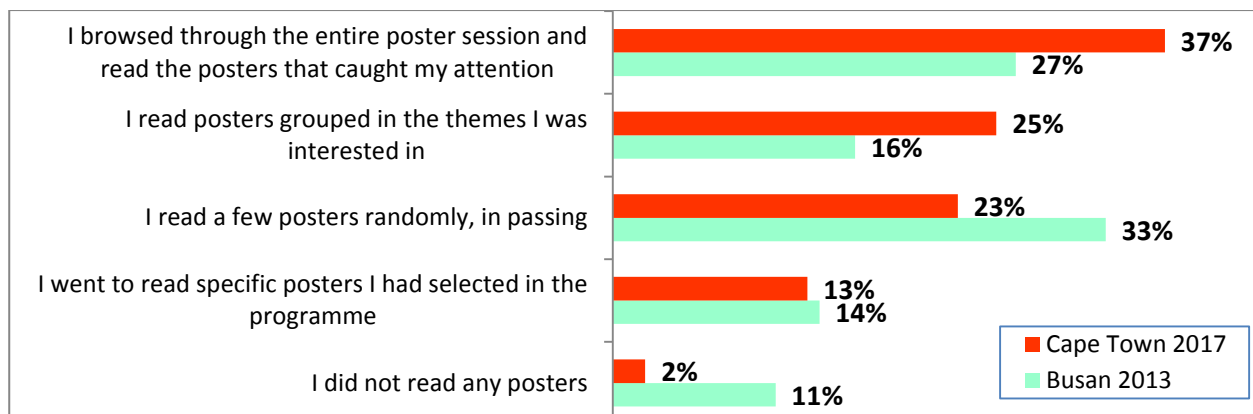


**Q16. Posters were presented in 5 daily Poster Sessions and grouped by theme. Which of the following best describes the way you attended the Poster Sessions? (n=743)**

Most respondents either browsed through the entire poster session and read the posters that caught their attention (37%) or read the posters grouped in the themes they were interested in (25%). Another 23% read a few posters randomly, in passing while 13% went to read specific posters they had selected in the programme. Two percent of the respondents declared that they did not read any posters.

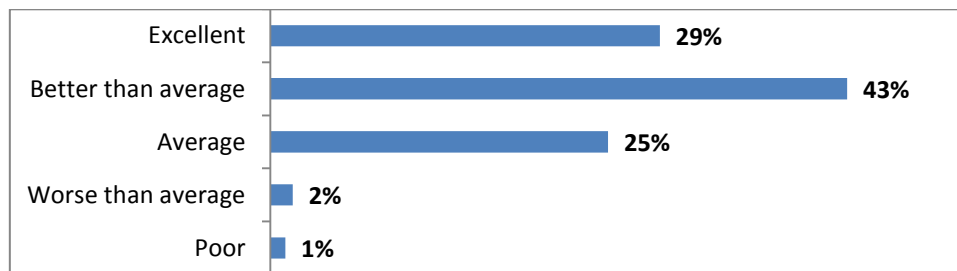


Compared to respondents' answers for the Busan Conference survey, where the largest proportion of respondents read only a few posters in passing (33%), the differences are striking. In Cape Town, more respondents either browsed the entire session or selected the posters they wanted to read. This is probably the result of providing (free) lunches next to the poster sessions.



**Q17. Compared to Poster Sessions at other conferences, did you find that the general set-up for this poster session was... (n=723)**

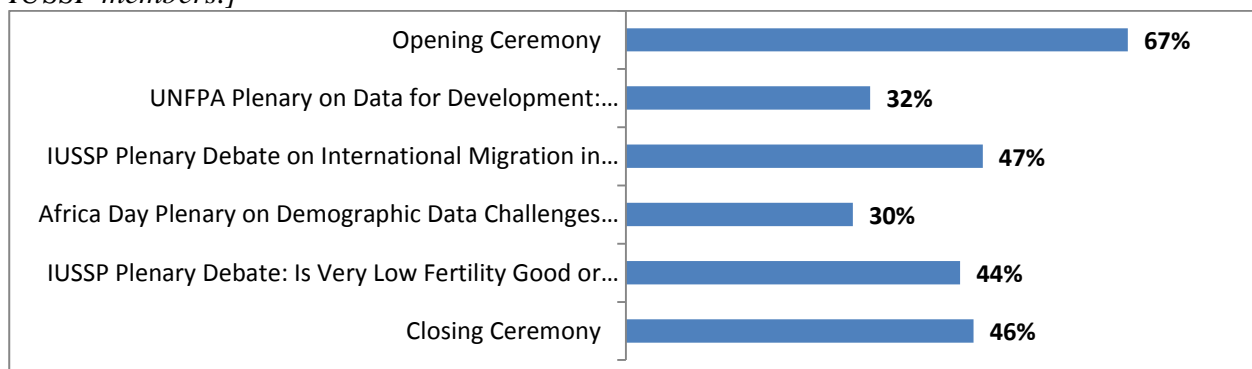
When compared to poster sessions at similar conferences, the general set-up in Cape Town appears to have been an improvement, with 29% of the respondents who found the set-up excellent and another 43% who found it better than average.



Write-in comments (n=81) for this question highlight the positive aspects (60%), which are that the set-up during the lunch and coffee breaks allowed far more people to attend the poster sessions and the space between each poster enabled presenters to explain their poster to an audience. On the negative side (16%), some respondents did not like the mix of food and posters and congestion due to limited space, and would have preferred posters sessions held concurrently with regular sessions.

**Q18. Which plenary sessions did you attend? (Tick as many answers as apply) (n=738\*)**

The opening ceremony was the most attended plenary (67% of respondents), followed by the closing ceremony and the two IUSSP plenary debates (about 45% for all three). The UNFPA plenary and the Africa Day plenary were attended by 30% of respondents. [n=738 includes non-respondents to this question who responded to questions further on in the survey – 202 respondents (27%) did not attend any one of the 4 plenary sessions and 90 respondents (12%) attended no plenary at all, including the opening and closing ceremonies. Attendance at UNFPA and Africa Day plenaries may be underestimated in the survey because respondents are more likely to be IUSSP members.]



**Q19. Did you attend any of the Africa Day Sessions (organized by the South African National Organizing Committee and held on Tuesday and Wednesday) (n=736)**

More than one-third of respondents (35%) attended some of the sessions organized by the South African National Organizing Committee (vs. 32% in Busan and 23% in Marrakech).

**Q20. Did you attend any of the Sponsored Research Leader Sessions? (n=734)**

Almost one-third of respondents (32%) attended at least one Sponsored Research Leader Session.

**Q21. Did you visit the exhibition booths during the Conference? (n=740)**

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

**Q22. Did you attend any of the side meetings organized by various institutions? (n=736)**

Almost half the respondents (47%) attended at least one of the side meetings organized by various institutions.



## IV. General Assessment of conference features

### Q10. How would you rate the following aspects of the Conference?

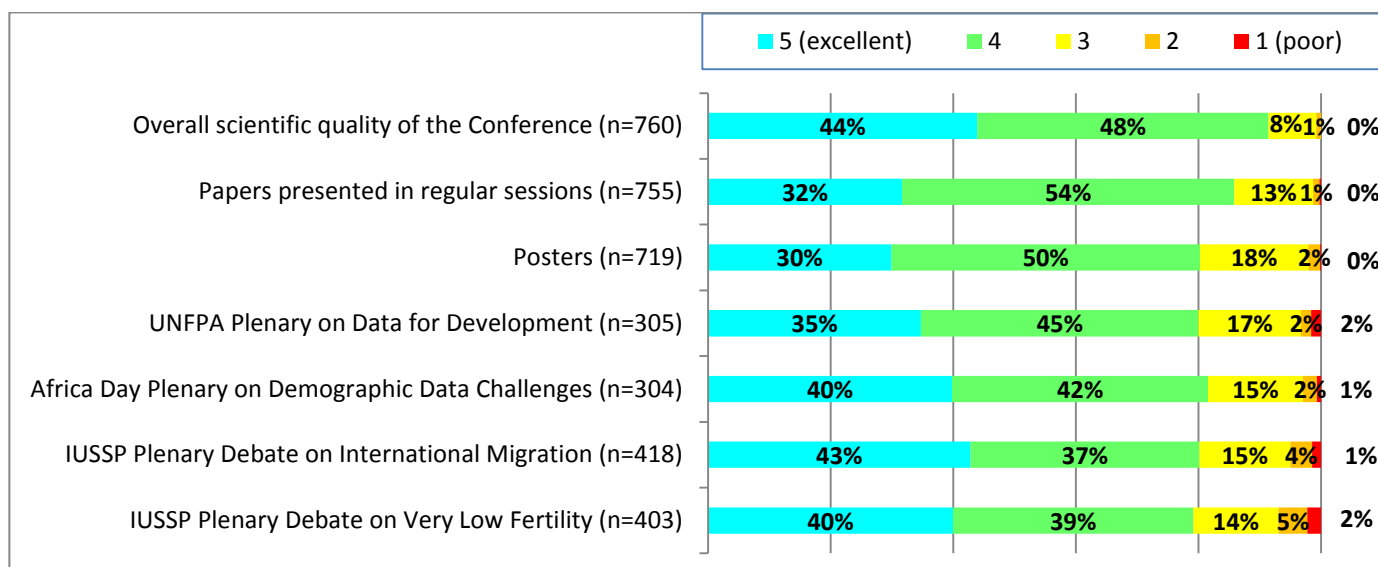
Score each item from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent), or tick N/A if you cannot evaluate the item.

The overall **scientific quality of the conference** was rated excellent by 44% of respondents\* (vs. 39% in Busan and 30% in Marrakech), another 48% rating it 4; total positive (5+4): 91% (vs. 85% in Busan and 79% in Marrakech). (n=760) [\*Respondents who answered N.A. are not included]

Whether this perceived increase is due to a general improvement in the quality of research presented or to the implementation of a double review of submitted abstracts for this conference is not possible to determine.

Ratings for specific scientific aspects were also very positive and better than at previous conferences. Papers were rated excellent by 32% of the respondents (vs. 23% in Busan and 15% in Marrakech) and the total positive (5+4) was 86%. Posters were rated excellent by 30% of the respondents (vs. 19% in Busan and 14% in Marrakech) and the total positive (5+4) was 80%.

The plenary sessions were also well rated (total positive rating of about 80% for each session), with 35% to 43% of the respondents rating them excellent and about 15% rating them average (about 15%) or below (between 3% and 7%).



### Q11. Please rate the following (aspects of the Conference).

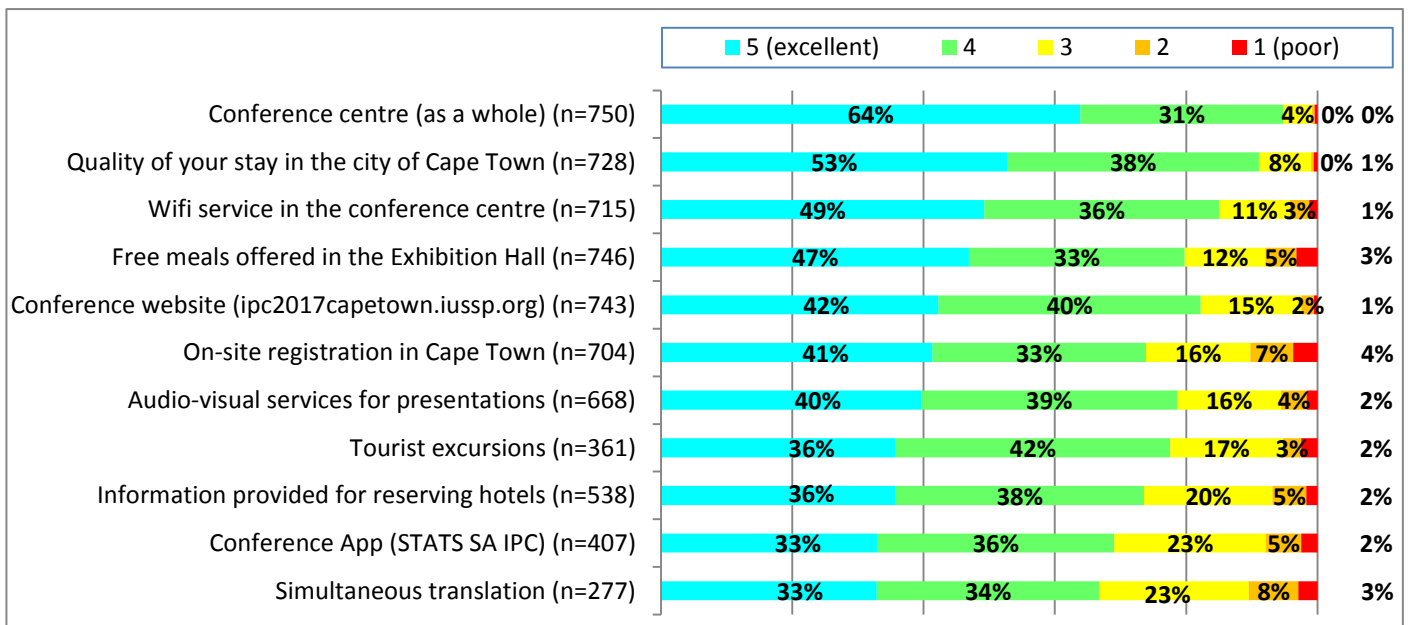
The **conference centre as a whole** was very well rated (64% of the respondents rating it excellent, and in all 95% rated it as positive (responses 4 & 5).

Most services offered in the conference centre were also well rated:

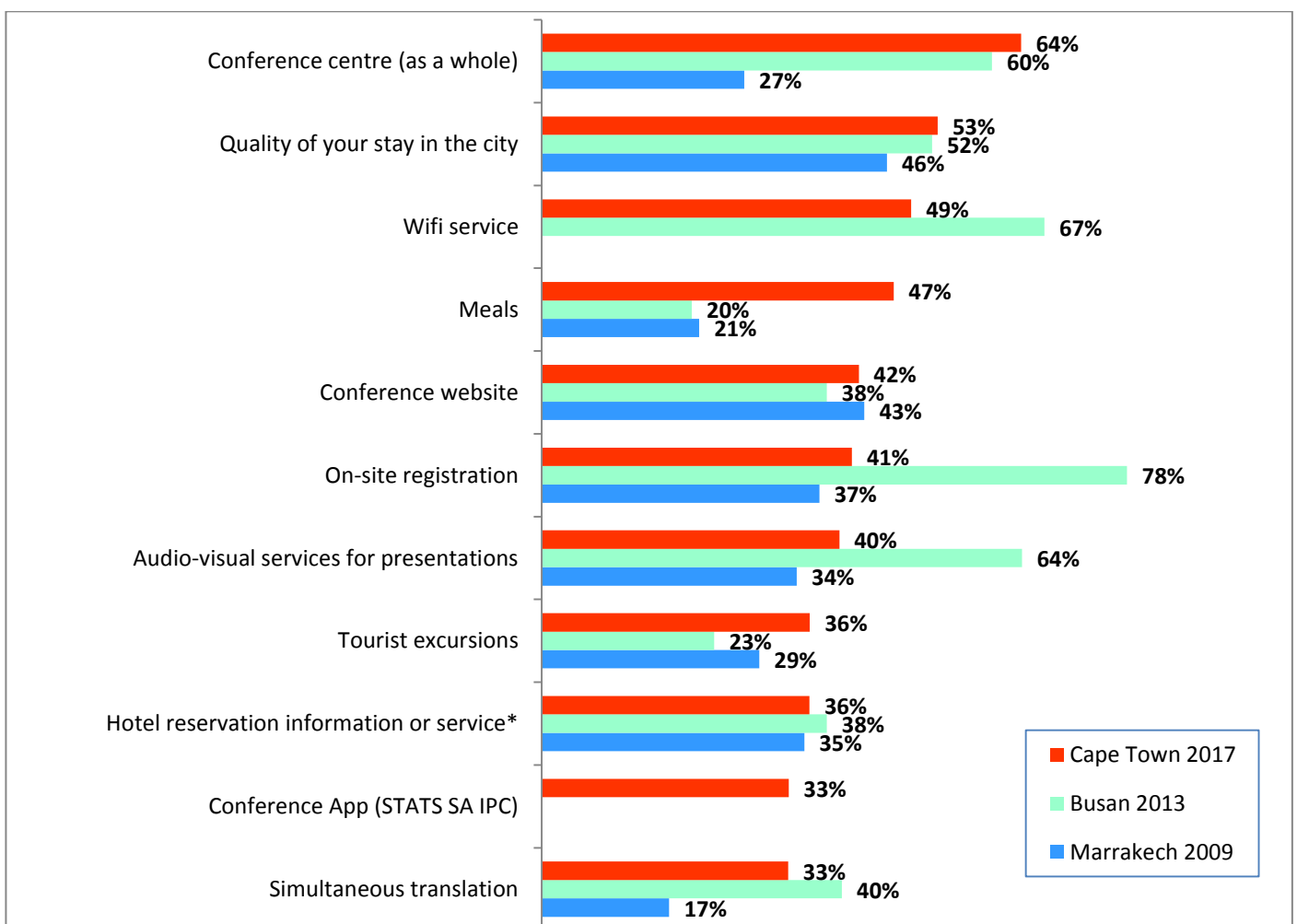
- Wifi service (excellent: 49%; total positive: 85%)
- Free meals offered in the Exhibition Hall (excellent: 47%; total positive: 80%)
- On-site registration (excellent: 41%; total positive: 74%)
- Audio-visual services for presentations (excellent: 40%; total positive: 79%)

Simultaneous translation was the least well rated service, though it was still considered excellent by 33% of the respondents (total positive: 67%). [see specific questions on simultaneous translation page 19]

The **overall quality of the stay in Cape Town** was rated excellent by 53% of respondents (vs. 52% in Busan and 46% in Marrakech) and the total positive ratings (responses 5 & 4) reached 91% (vs. 88% in Busan and 82% in Marrakech).

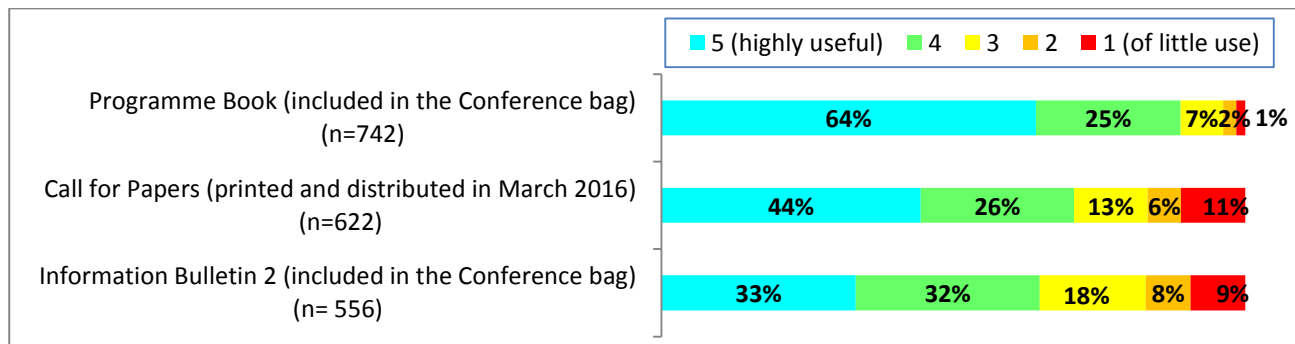


A comparison with previous conferences sheds light on the features which were particularly well rated – the conference centre as a whole and the meals provided in the exhibition hall – and those that were better rated in Busan for instance – wifi, on-site registration, audio-visual services, simultaneous translation.



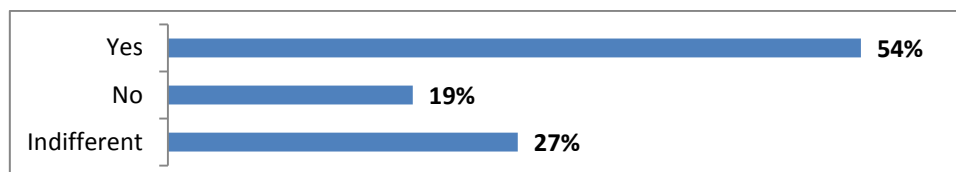
**Q12. Several printed conference documents were produced and distributed to participants. Score the usefulness of each of those documents from 1 (of little use) to 5 (highly useful) or tick N/A if you cannot evaluate the document.**

The Conference Programme was considered very useful by respondents (“highly useful” for 64% of the respondents, total useful (5+4): 90%;  $n=742$ ). The other publications were considered less useful: the printed call for papers was rated “very useful” by 44% of the respondents (total useful = 70%) and the Information Bulletin included in the conference bag was rated “very useful” by 33% of the respondents (total useful = 65%). These figures are comparable to previous conferences except for the Information Bulletin, for which more respondents had found it “very useful” in Busan (46%) and Marrakech (48%).



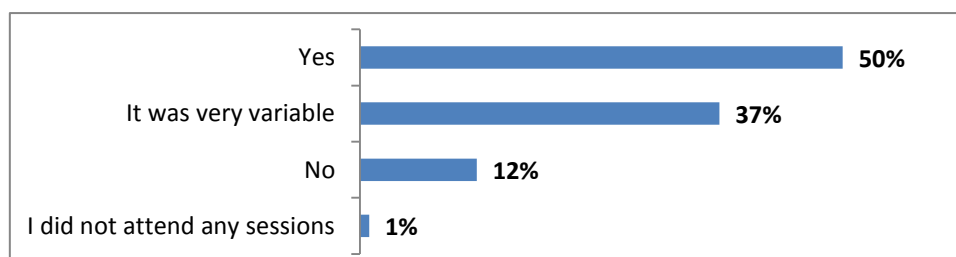
**Q23. A number of sessions had no discussant. Would you have preferred a discussant in all sessions? ( $n=736$ )**

A majority of respondents (54%) would have preferred a discussant for all sessions, while 27% of respondents say that they are indifferent. (These results are similar to those provided by respondents for the past 4 IPCs).



**Q24. For the sessions you attended, did you find there was usually enough time for a general discussion of papers with the audience? ( $n=738$ )**

Half the respondents found there was usually enough time for discussion, while 37% found that it was very variable. For the Busan 2013 survey, the question included only ‘yes’ or ‘no’ and 77% of participants had found that there was usually enough time for discussion.



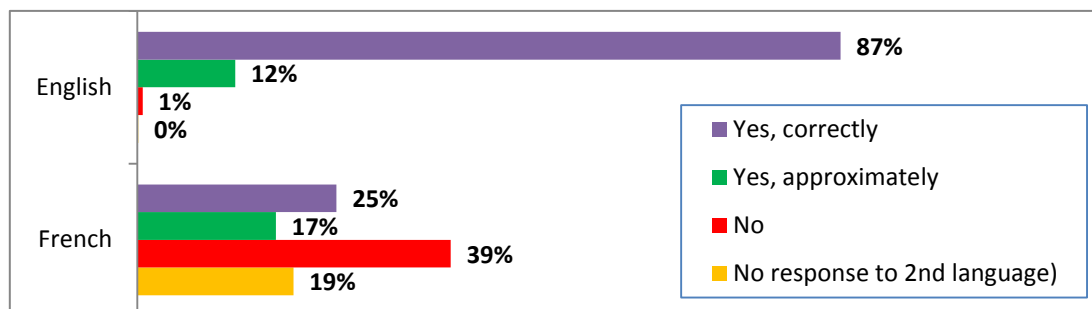
**Q24a. Why was there not enough time for the discussion of papers? ( $n=261$ )**

Those who had responded ‘no’ or ‘variable’ were asked to explain why they felt there was not enough time. Among the 261 responses, the most common factor is that presenters and/or discussants failed to keep to the time they were allocated (or chairs failed to enforce the time allocations). Many comments also suggest alternative ways to organize the paper discussion (grouping questions together... or not).

## V. Focus on specific aspects of the conference.

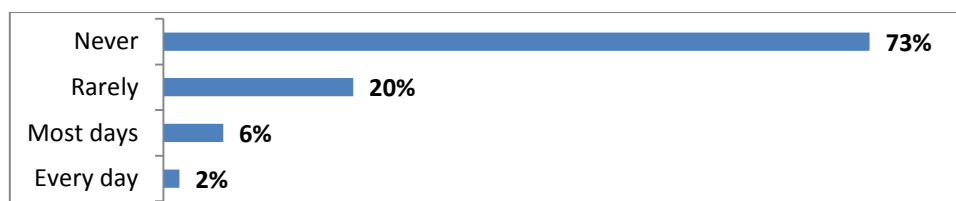
### Q25. Are you able to understand presentations made in each of the languages listed below? (Answer for each language) (n=734 for at least one of the languages)

Almost all respondents have some command of the English language (87% understand it correctly, 12% approximately); only 1% declared that they did not understand English. About 42% of the respondents say that they understand French either correctly (25%) or approximately (17%); 39% declare they do not understand French at all and another 19% did not answer about their knowledge of French though they had answered for English, most of whom probably do not understand French.



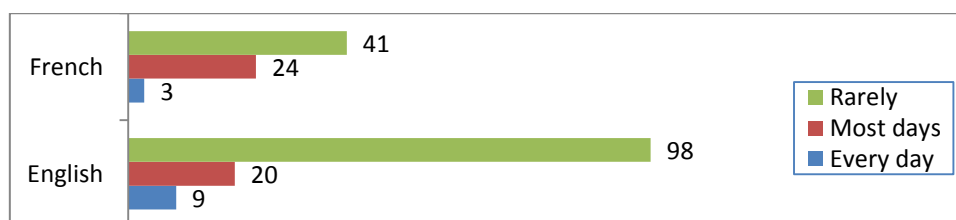
### Q22. Did you use simultaneous translation? (n=732)

A small minority of respondents (8%) used simultaneous translation regularly, either every day (2%) or most days (6%); 20% of the respondents declared that they used it rarely and 73% never. Simultaneous translation was used less than in Busan (total regular use: 18%), and Marrakech (total regular use: 26%).



### Q26a. In which language did you choose to listen to the simultaneous interpretation? (language listened to in the earphone) (n=195)

The majority of those who used simultaneous translation used it to listen to French-speaking presenters (127 of 195 respondents). However, French-speaking respondents used simultaneous translation more regularly (40% every day or most days vs. 23% for English-speakers).



### Q27. Did you present any paper (speaking) in French? (n=735)

Only 4% of the respondents (29 respondents) presented a paper in French



Among these, 14 respondents provided feedback. Some respondents who presented in French complained that most of the audience did not understand French and did not have any headphones, perhaps in part due to the fact that participants were informed too late that a paper was to be presented in French. Others indicated that the simultaneous translation must have been good given that the audience understood and asked questions.

## Dietary restrictions

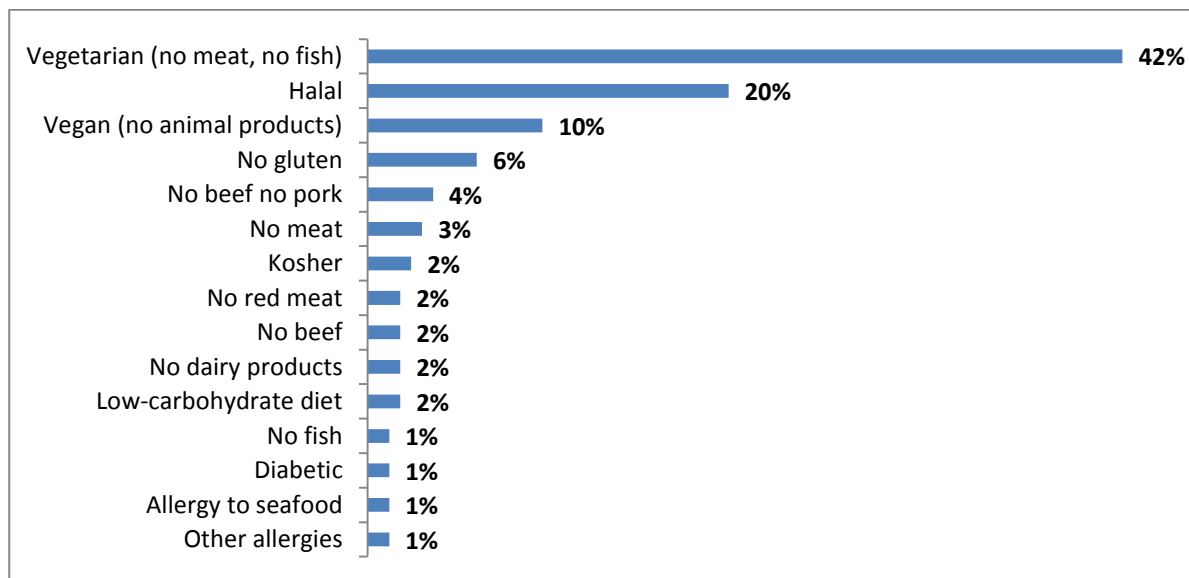
### **Q28. Do you have any dietary restrictions? (n=727)**

Twenty-two percent of the respondents indicated that they had dietary restrictions (same as in Busan in 2013).



### **Q28a. What do these dietary restrictions consist in? (n=163)**

Those who indicated they had dietary restrictions (n=163) were asked to indicate what these restrictions were. The largest proportion reported that they were vegetarians (42% of the 22% of respondents who indicated they had dietary restrictions), halal (20%), and vegan (10%). There are 2% of the respondents who had a kosher diet. The others (25%) ticked “other” and were asked to specify. Their specific diets were added to this graph. The two largest categories are those who do not eat meat or certain types of meat but do eat fish (10%) and those who have a gluten-free diet (6%).



### **Q28b. With respect to your dietary restrictions, were you satisfied with the meals provided at the conference centre? (n=158)**

One-third of those who indicated that they had dietary restrictions declared that they were not satisfied with what was offered.

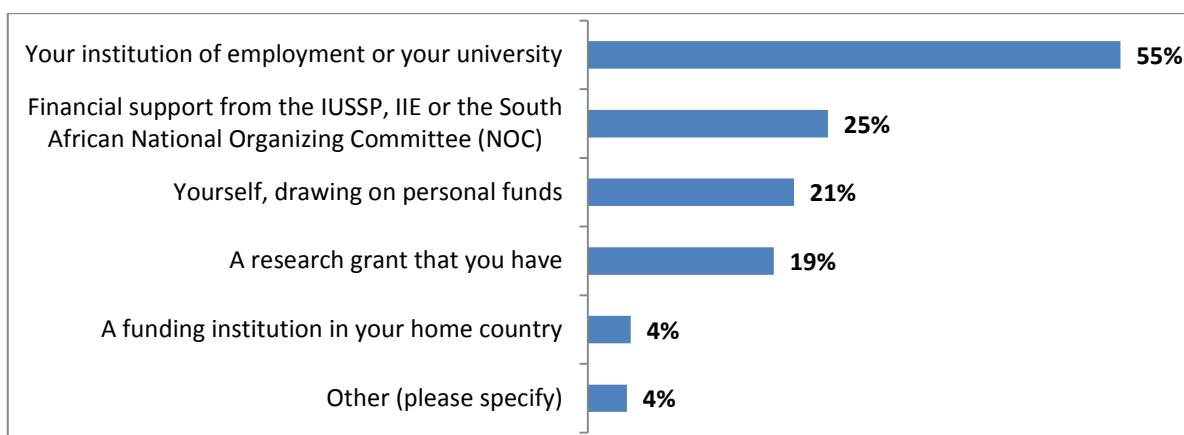
### **Q28b. No (please explain briefly why) (n=53)**

The main reason respondents were not satisfied – mainly vegetarians – was that the choice of vegetarian food was very limited, often exclusively cold and not particularly appetizing. Most important, there were no labels next to the food.

## VI. Financial support to attend the Conference

### Q8. Were your travel, registration and/or accommodation expenses partially or totally paid by one of the following? (Tick as many answers as apply) ( $n=771$ )

A majority of respondents had their travel, registration or accommodation expenses covered by their institution or university (55%); 25% received support from the IUSSP, the IIE or the South African NOC; 19% used a research grant; 4% received support from a funding institution in their home country; 3% received support from other sources (mainly grants from other institutions); 21% of respondents drew at least partially on personal funds to attend the Conference. The distribution of funding sources is similar to previous conferences except for the percentage of respondents who declare that they received support from the IUSSP or the NOC (25% in Cape Town vs. 32% in Busan and 38% in Marrakech) and those who declare they received funding from an institution in their home country (4% in Cape Town vs. 7% in Busan and Marrakech).

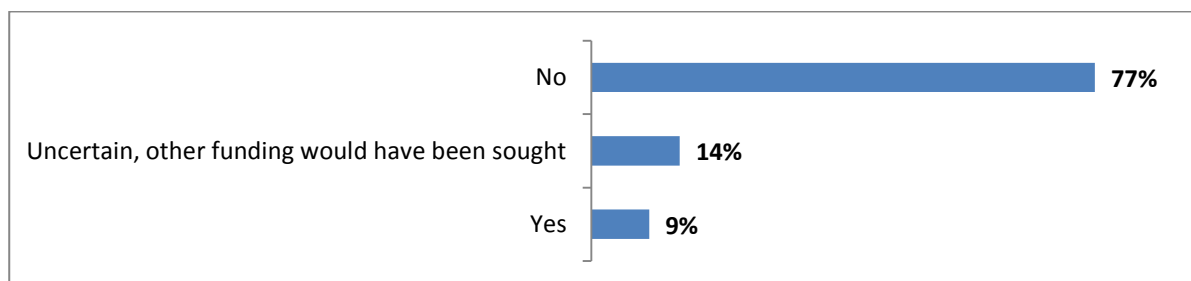


### Q8a. What kind of support (even partial) did you receive? (Tick as many answers as apply) ( $n=191$ )

Of the 25% of respondents who received financial support from the IUSSP, the IIE or the South African NOC (191 respondents), 73% received “full support” (registration fees, accommodation and airfare) while the others received only partial support.

### Q8b. Would you have been able to attend the Conference if you had not received financial assistance from the IUSSP or NOC? ( $n=191$ )

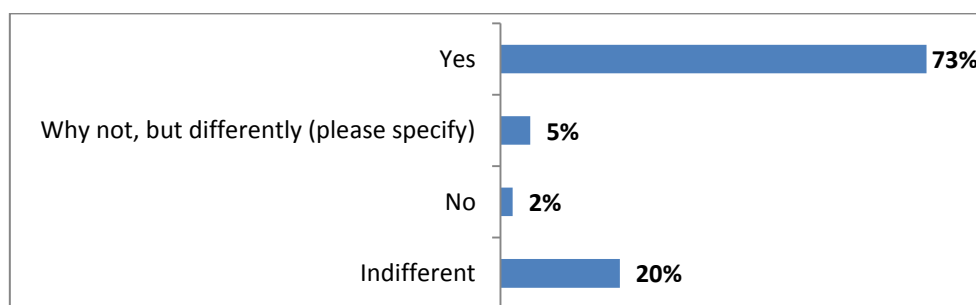
Three-quarters of the respondents who received IUSSP, IIE or NOC support declare that they could not have attended the Conference without that support while 14% declare that they would have had to seek funding from elsewhere and 9% declare that they could have attended anyway.



## VII. Planning for 2021

**Q29. Should the IUSSP organize plenary debate sessions at the 2021 Conference? (similar in format to the ones organized in Cape Town on "Should borders be more open?" and "Is very low fertility good or bad for the family, gender and society?") (n=729)**

A large majority of the respondents favour the organization of plenary debates similar to those organized in Cape Town (72%). Only 2% were opposed to plenary debates while 20% declared they were indifferent (three-quarters of which attended neither of the debates). This distribution of answers is comparable to those for a similar question asked in 2013 except that this time an item was added to allow respondents who did not appreciate these debates but were not opposed to debates in general to propose a different format. Only 5% chose that answer, mainly to suggest less simplistic debates, where speakers could actually present arguments they believe in. There was also a request to invite also more junior scholars to debate.

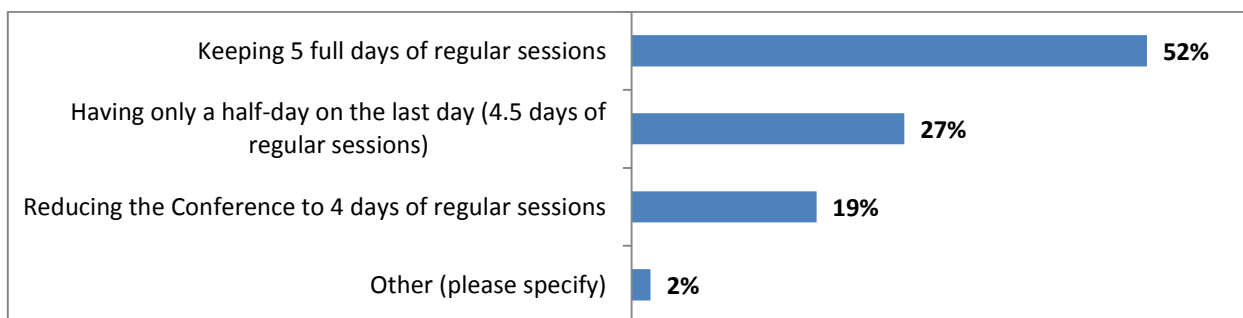


**Q29a. If you have a suggestion for a plenary topic for 2021 please note it below? (n=208)**

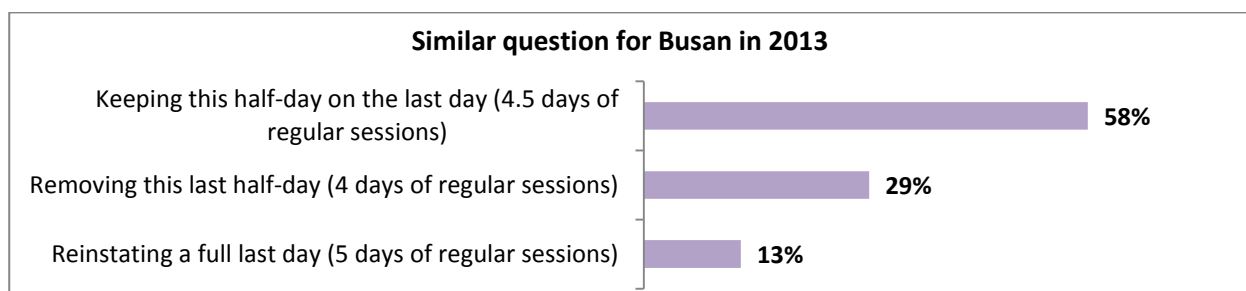
Over 200 respondents provided suggestions for plenary sessions in 2021. [The list will be provided to the organizers of the next conference.]

**Q30. Sessions were scheduled over 5 full days. For the 2021 Conference, would you recommend: (n=724)**

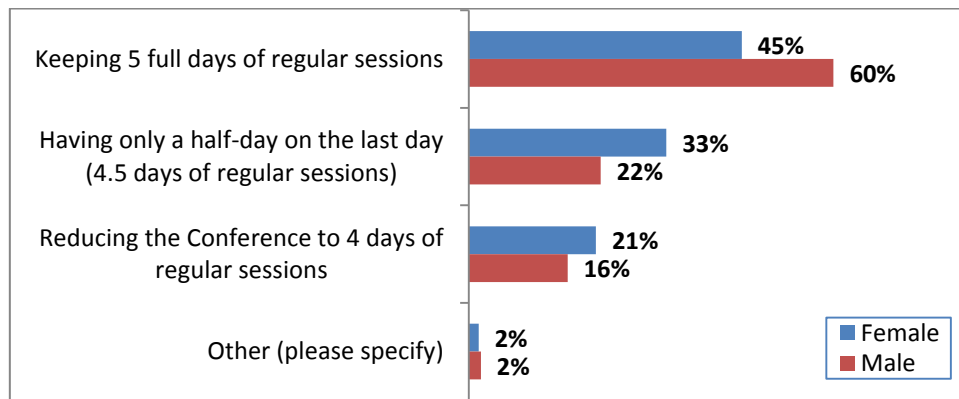
Most respondents (52%) were in favour of keeping 5 full days of regular sessions; 27% were in favour of organizing the sessions over 4.5 days; 19% would prefer 4 days of sessions; and 2% chose "other" mainly to suggest even longer or even shorter or with a break in the middle.



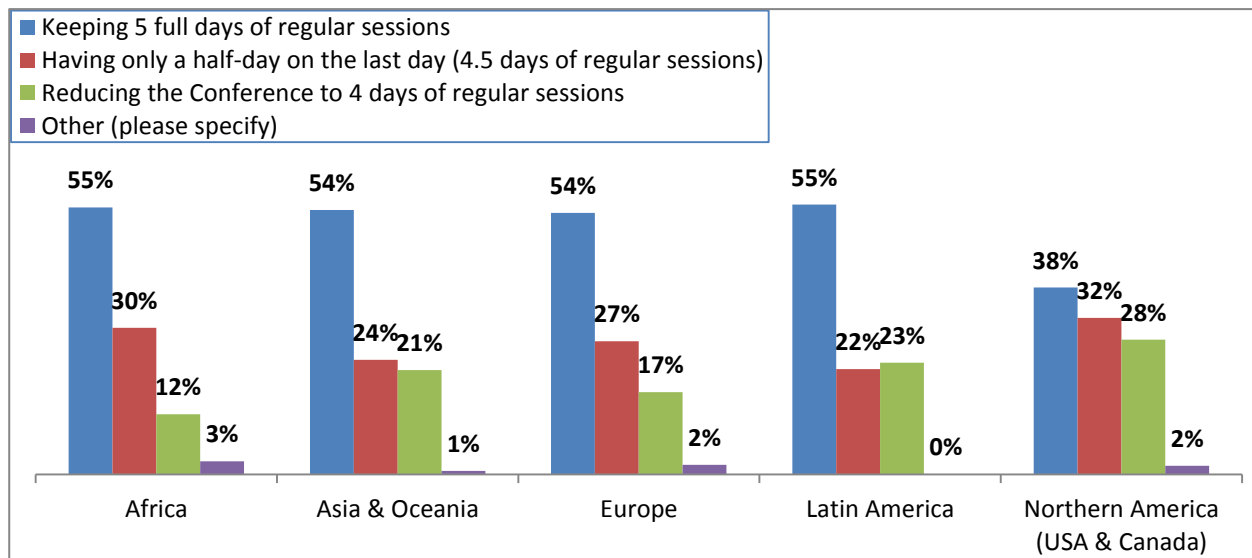
A similar question asked in Busan in 2013 provided entirely different responses, with 58% of the respondents in favour of the 4.5-days format which had been used in Busan and only 13% in favour of a 5 full days of sessions.



**Q30 by gender:** Both women and men preferred the 5 full days of sessions but, as seen in previous conference evaluations, women were more in favour of a shorter conference than men: 53% in favour of 4.5 days (33%) or 4 days (21%).

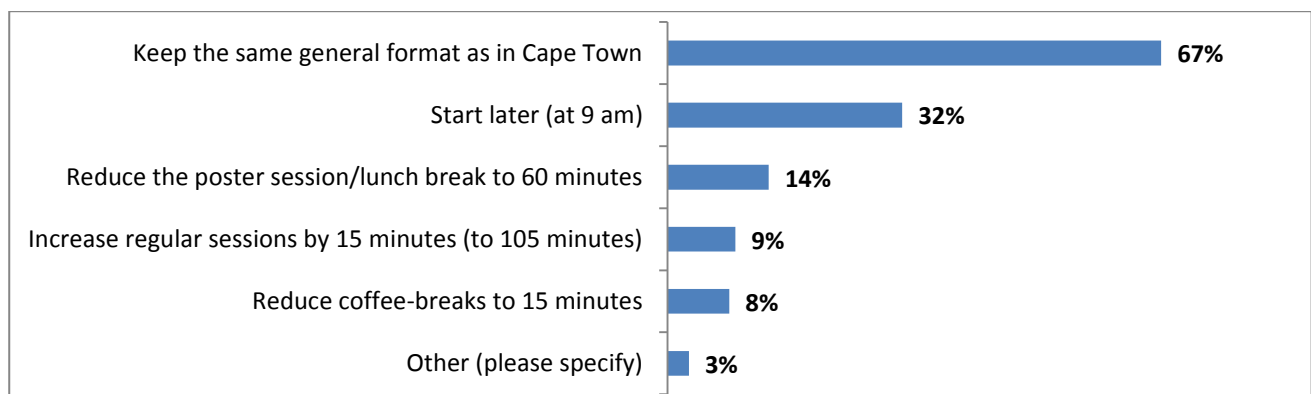


**Q30 by region of residence:** In all regions the majority favour 5 days of sessions. However, as in previous conference evaluations, the proportion of respondents from Northern America who favour a shorter conference is striking (60% vs. 46% for all respondents).



**Q31. Which of the following options would you recommend for the 2021 Conference?** (Tick as many answers as apply) (*n*=732)

A large majority of respondents declared they preferred to keep the general format used for the Cape Town conference (67%); a large proportion (32%) also indicated their preference for beginning at 9 am (instead of 8:30). The other changes proposed were approved by 14% of respondents or less; 21 respondents also made various additional proposals.



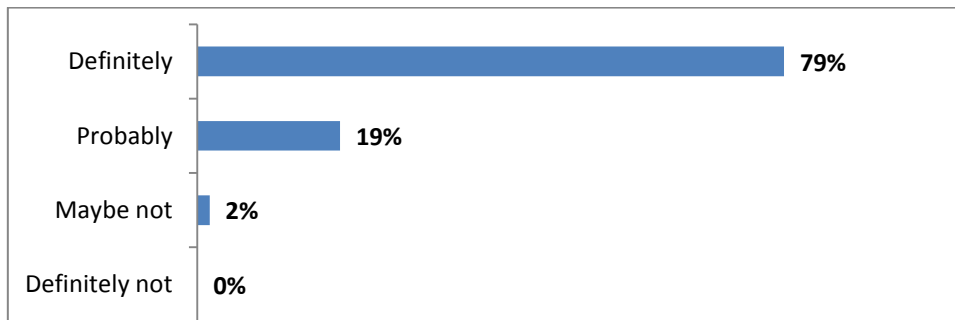


**Q32. Would you like to suggest any topics for the 2021 conference that you feel were given insufficient attention in 2017? If so, please list below up to 3 topics. (n=262)**

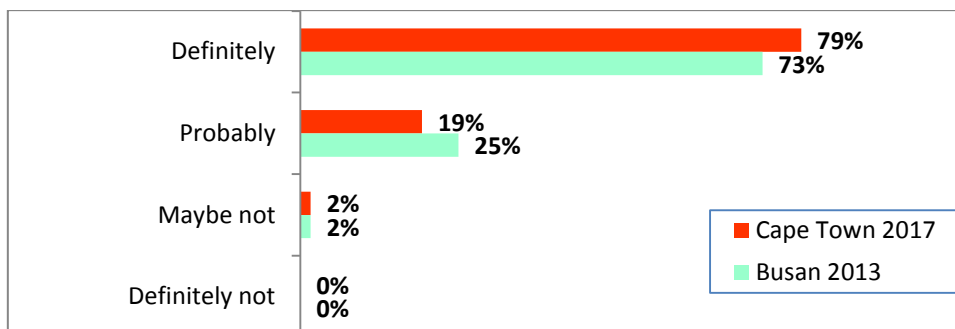
Some 262 respondents suggested topics for the 2021 conference. [The list will be provided to the organizers of the next conference.]

**Q36. Based on your experience of the Conference, would you recommend to your colleagues that they attend the next IUSSP conference? (n=728)**

Seventy-nine percent of the respondents indicated they would *definitely* recommend attending the next IUSSP conference to their colleagues; 19% would *probably* recommend it. Only 2% indicated that they may not (and no respondents indicated they would definitely not recommend attending it).



The percentage of those who would definitely recommend attending the International Population Conference increased by 6 points compared to the last conference (from 73% in Busan to 79% in Cape Town).



**If you have any other comments on the 2017 Conference or suggestions that you would like to make for the 2021 Conference, please note them briefly in the space below. (n=182)**

These 182 additional comments, too numerous and varied to be included in this report, were most instructive and will be included, along with all the other write-in comments, in the documents used for the preparation of the next International Population Conference.

## Annex 1 – IPC2017 Evaluation questionnaire (English version)

Thank you for attending the XXVIII International Population Conference in Cape Town. We hope it met your expectations. While it is still fresh in your memory we would like to get your feedback on what worked well and what should be changed or improved for the next conference. We would be very grateful if you could take 10-15 minutes of your time to answer this anonymous survey to help us prepare the next conference.

NOTE:

This questionnaire is anonymous. It contains 36 main questions. Please respond to every question. If you exit the survey before completion you can return to this questionnaire using the link sent by email until the survey closes on 31 December 2017.

### In which language would you like to take the survey?

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

- English
- Français

### Q1. Did you attend the IPC2017 in Cape Town?

- Yes, I attended the IPC2017 Conference held at the Cape Town International Conference Center (CTICC). *[Filter → Go to question Q2]*
- Yes, but I attended only the Opening Ceremony. *[Filter → Go to question Q1b]*
- No, I attended only a side meeting organized during the IPC2017.
- No, I registered to attend but in the end, I was unable to participate.
- No, other reasons (please specify)

### Q1a. Please state briefly, if appropriate, why you were unable to attend the Conference and please provide your name so that we can take note that you did not attend the conference.

*[Filter → Go to last 4 sociodemographic questions]*

### Q1b. Please state briefly, if appropriate, why you were unable to attend the entire Conference and please provide your name so that we can take note that you did not attend the entire conference. *[Filter → Go to last 4 sociodemographic questions]*

### Q2. What were the primary means of communication that made you aware of the Conference?

*(Tick as many answers as apply)*

- An email directly from the IUSSP
- An email forwarded by my institution, my professional network or a colleague
- The IUSSP Bulletin
- Facebook
- Twitter
- The IUSSP website
- Another website
- An IUSSP exhibit booth at another conference
- A poster
- The printed call for papers
- Word of mouth
- Other (please specify)

**Q3. What were your main reasons for attending the International Population Conference?**

*(Tick as many answers as apply)*

- To present your research as a paper or a poster
- To participate in a side meeting organized before or during the conference
- To learn about new research and methodological developments in the population field
- To learn about current population policy issues and how these are being addressed
- To meet and network with researchers from other countries and regions
- To search for employment or learn about career opportunities in the population field
- I took part in the organization of this conference
- Other (please specify)

**Q4. The IUSSP sent emails to inform participants about various aspects of the Conference. What is your feeling regarding these emails?**

*(Tick as many answers as apply)*

- These emails were generally useful
- I received too many emails about the Conference
- The information in these emails was not clear
- I would have liked to receive more emails about the Conference

**Q5. Did you yourself submit a paper for the Conference using the online submission system (Confex)?**

- Yes
- No *[Filter → Go to question Q6]*

**Q5a. How would you describe the online paper submission procedure?**

- Simple and clear
- Difficult / I experienced problems but the problems were resolved *[Filter → Go to question Q5b]*
- I experienced problems that were not resolved *[Filter → Go to question Q5b]*

**Q5b. Why was the online paper submission difficult for you?**

*(Tick as many answers as apply)*

- I had trouble understanding the instructions I have poor Internet access
- I had trouble adding authors
- I had trouble uploading the abstract or the paper
- I had trouble setting the language of the paper or presentation
- I had trouble when I returned to edit and make changes to my submission
- Other (please specify)

**Q6. The online conference programme provided access to abstracts and papers. Were you able to access this online programme?**

- Yes, I was able to access sessions, papers, and author information with no problems
- Yes, I used the online programme but had difficulty navigating and finding the sessions and papers I was looking for.
- No, I tried but was not able to open the programme or access paper abstracts
- No, I could not find the link to the online Conference Programme
- No, I did not try

Comment field:

**Q7. What was your role in the scientific programme?**

*(Tick as many answers as apply)*

- Theme Convener or Session Organizer
- Reviewer
- Chair of a session
- Discussant for a session
- Presenting author of a paper in an oral session
- Presenting author of a poster
- Co-author of a paper or a poster
- Speaker in an invited, sponsored or plenary session
- Presenter, discussant or organizer of a side meeting
- Exhibitor
- Part of the conference organizing teams
- Participant, no formal scientific programme role
- Other (please specify)

**Q8. Were your travel, registration and/or accommodation expenses partially or totally paid by one of the following?**

*(Tick as many answers as apply)*

- Your institution of employment or your university *[Filter → Go to question Q9]*
- A research grant that you have *[Filter → Go to question Q9]*
- Yourself, drawing on personal funds *[Filter → Go to question Q9]*
- A funding institution in your home country *[Filter → Go to question Q9]*
- Financial support from the IUSSP, IIE or the South African National Organizing Committee (NOC)
- Other (please specify) *[Filter → Go to question Q9]*

**Q8a. What kind of support (even partial) did you receive?**

*(Tick as many answers as apply)*

- Registration fees
- Accommodation
- Airfare

**Q8b. Would you have been able to attend the Conference if you had not received financial assistance from the IUSSP, IIE or the NOC?**

- Yes
- No
- Uncertain, other funding would have been sought

**Q9. How long did it take you to register on-site in Cape Town and get your badge?**

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

**9.b How long did it take you to get your bar-code, conference bag and printed programme?**

- I got them in a just few minutes
- I waited in line for less than 30 minutes
- I waited in line for over 30 minutes
- I did not get any bar-code, conference bag and printed programme

**Q10. How would you rate 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.*

- Overall scientific quality of the Conference
- Papers presented in regular sessions Posters
- UNFPA Plenary on Data for Development: Strengthening National Capacity in Population Data
- Africa Day Plenary on Demographic Data Challenges for Reporting on the SDGs in Africa
- IUSSP Plenary Debate on International Migration in the 21st Century: Should Borders Be More Open?
- IUSSP Plenary Debate: Is Very Low Fertility Good or Bad for the Family, Gender and Society?

**Q11. Please rate the following.**

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

- On-site registration in Cape Town
- Conference website ([ipc2017capetown.iussp.org](http://ipc2017capetown.iussp.org))
- Conference App (STATS SA IPC)
- Simultaneous translation
- Audio-visual services for presentations
- Wifi service in the conference centre
- Conference centre (as a whole)
- Free meals offered in the Exhibition Hall
- Information provided for reserving hotels
- Tourist excursions
- Quality of your stay in the city of Cape Town

**Q12. 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.*

- Call for Papers (printed and distributed in March 2016)
- Information Bulletin 2 (included in the Conference bag)
- Programme Book (included in the Conference bag)

**Q13. Which days did you attend the Conference?**

*(Tick as many answers as apply)*

- Sunday 29 October (Opening ceremony)
- Monday 30 October
- Tuesday 31 October
- Wednesday 1 November
- Thursday 2 November
- Friday 3 November

**Q14. There were four daily time periods during which regular sessions were held. How many regular sessions did you attend each day, on average?**

- None
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 or more (I stayed for 1-2 papers and then went to another session)

**Q15. There were 12 simultaneous sessions every day. According to you, were there:**

- Too few
- Too many
- About right
- Indifferent

**Q16. Posters were presented in 5 daily Poster Sessions and grouped by theme. Which of the following best describes the way you attended the Poster Sessions?**

- I did not read any posters
- I read a few posters randomly, in passing
- I browsed through the entire poster session and read the posters that caught my attention
- I read posters grouped in the themes I was interested in
- I went to read specific posters I had selected in the programme

**Q17. Compared to Poster Sessions at other conferences, did you find that the general set-up for this poster session was:**

- Excellent
- Better than average
- Average
- Worse than average
- Poor

Comment field:

**Q18. Which plenary sessions did you attend?**

*(Tick as many answers as apply)*

- Opening Ceremony
- UNFPA Plenary on Data for Development: Strengthening National Capacity in Population Data
- IUSSP Plenary Debate on International Migration in the 21st Century: Should Borders Be More Open?
- Africa Day Plenary on Demographic Data Challenges for Reporting on the SDGs in Africa
- IUSSP Plenary Debate: Is Very Low Fertility Good or Bad for the Family, Gender and Society?
- Closing Ceremony

**Q19. Did you attend any of the Africa Day Sessions *(organized by the South African National Organizing Committee and held on Tuesday and Wednesday)***

- Yes
- No

**Q20. Did you attend any of the Sponsored Research Leader Sessions?**

- Yes
- No

**Q21. Did you visit the exhibition booths during the Conference?**

- Yes
- No

**Q22. Did you attend any of the side meetings organized by various institutions?**

- Yes
- No

**Q23. A number of sessions had no discussant. Would you have preferred a discussant in all sessions?**

- Yes
- No
- Indifferent

**Q24. For the sessions you attended, did you find there was usually enough time for a general discussion of papers with the audience?**

- Yes *[Filter → Go to question Q25]*
- No
- It was very variable
- I did not attend any sessions *[Filter → Go to question Q25]*

**Q24a. Why was there not enough time for the discussion of papers?**

**Q25. Are you able to understand presentations made in each of the languages listed below?**  
(Answer for each language)

English      French

- Yes, correctly
- Yes, approximately
- No

**Q26. Did you use simultaneous translation?**

- Every day
- Most days
- Rarely
- Never *[Filter → Go to question Q27]*

**Q26a. In which language did you choose to listen to the simultaneous interpretation?**  
(language listened to in the earphone)

- English
- French

**Q27. Did you present any paper (speaking) in French?**

- Yes
- No *[Filter → Go to question Q28]*

**Q27a. If you presented a paper in French, feel free to provide your feedback in the comment box below:**

**Q28. Do you have any dietary restrictions?**

- Yes
- No *[Filter → Go to question Q29]*

**Q28a. What do these dietary restrictions consist in?**

- Vegetarian (no meat, no fish)
- Vegan (no animal products)
- Halal
- Kosher
- Other (please specify)

**Q28b. With respect to your dietary restrictions, were you satisfied with the meals provided at the conference center?**

- Yes
- No (please explain briefly why)

**Q29. Should the IUSSP organize plenary debate sessions at the 2021 Conference?** (*similar in format to the ones organized in Cape Town on "Should borders be more open?" and "Is very low fertility good or bad for the family, gender and society?"*)

- Yes
- No
- Indifferent
- Why not, but differently (please specify)

**Q29a. If you have a suggestion for a plenary topic for 2021 please note it below:**

**Q30. Sessions were scheduled over 5 full days. For the 2021 Conference, would you recommend:**

- Keeping 5 full days of regular sessions
- Having only a half-day on the last day (4.5 days of regular sessions)
- Reducing the Conference to 4 days of regular sessions
- Other (please specify)

**Q31. For this Conference, regular sessions started at 8:30 am and lasted 90 minutes; the poster session/lunch break also lasted 90 minutes; coffee-breaks lasted 30 minutes. Which of the following options would you recommend for the 2021 Conference?**

*(Tick as many answers as apply)*

- Keep the same general format as in Cape Town
- Start later (at 9 am)
- Reduce coffee-breaks to 15 minutes
- Reduce the poster session/lunch break to 60 minutes
- Increase regular sessions by 15 minutes (to 105 minutes)
- Other (please specify)

**Q32. Would you like to suggest any topics for the 2021 conference that you feel were given insufficient attention in 2017? If so, please list below up to 3 topics.**

- Topic 1
- Topic 2
- Topic 3

**Q33. Which IUSSP International Population Conferences did you attend?**

*(Tick all that apply)*

- Cape Town 2017
- Busan 2013
- Marrakech 2009
- Tours 2005
- Bahia 2001
- Beijing 1997
- Montreal 1993
- New Delhi 1989
- Florence 1985
- Manila 1981
- Mexico City 1977
- Liège 1973



- London 1969
- Belgrade 1965
- Ottawa 1963
- New York 1961
- Vienna 1959

**Q34. What other Conferences have you attended in recent years?**

*(Tick as many answers as apply)*

- African Population Conference (UAPS)
- AIDELF conference
- Asian Population Association Conference (APA)
- European Population Conference (EAPS)
- Latin American Population Association Regional Conference (ALAP)
- Population Association of America Annual Meeting (PAA)
- Another population conference (e.g. national population association)
- Conferences in other fields or disciplines (please list the main ones)

**Q35. Are you a member of the IUSSP?**

- Yes
- No *[Filter → Go to question Q35c]*

**Q35a. How many years have you been a member?**

- I just joined this year in order to attend the Conference
- I joined in the last 5 years *[Filter → Go to question Q36]*
- I have been a member for 5-10 years *[Filter → Go to question Q36]*
- I have been a member for more than 10 years *[Filter → Go to question Q36]*

**Q35b. Do you plan to remain a member and renew your IUSSP membership one year from now?**

- Yes, most certainly *[Filter → Go to question Q36]*
- Yes, probably *[Filter → Go to question Q36]*
- I really do not know *[Filter → Go to question Q36]*
- No, probably not *[Filter → Go to question Q36]*
- No, I am certain I will not renew my membership *[Filter → Go to question Q36]*

Comment field:

**Q35c. Do you plan to become a member or renew your membership?**

- Yes, most certainly
- Yes, probably
- I really do not know
- No, probably not
- No, I know I will not join or rejoin the IUSSP

Comment field:

**Q36. Based on your experience of the Conference, would you recommend to your colleagues that they attend the next IUSSP conference?**

- Definitely
- Probably
- Maybe not
- Definitely not

**If you have any other comments on the 2017 Conference or suggestions that you would like to make for the 2021 Conference, please note them briefly in the space below.**

**PLEASE FILL IN THESE 4 LAST QUESTIONS**

**A. In which sector do you work?** (*Tick as many answers as apply*)

- Research institute or university
- Government
- Private sector
- Non Governmental Organization
- International Organization
- I'm a student
- Other (please specify)

**B. In which region do you reside?**

- Africa
- Asia & Oceania
- Europe
- Latin America
- Northern America (USA & Canada)

**C. In which age group are you?**

- Under 25 years
- 25 to 29 years
- 30 to 34 years
- 35 to 39 years
- 40 to 44 years
- 45 to 49 years
- 50 to 54 years
- 55 to 59 years
- 60 to 64 years
- 65 to 69 years
- 70 years and over

**D. What is your gender?**

- Male
- Female
- Other (specify, if you wish to)

Thank you for answering this questionnaire. */Merci d'avoir répondu à ce questionnaire.*