

ORGANIZATION OF REGIONAL HUBS FOR THE ADAPTATION FUTURES 2023 CONFERENCE

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The 2023 edition of Adaptation Futures (AF2023) will take place in Montreal, Canada, October 2 to 6, 2023 with a hybrid format to allow innovative online participation. In addition, as an additional option to accommodate and increase participation, AF2023 seeks to establish one or two regional hubs during the conference as a complement and alternative to attending the conference in person in Montreal. More specifically, AF2023 is looking to establish collaborations with the Africa and Latin America regions to showcase adaptation to climate change. These hubs will be hosted by organizations or networks with the financial support of AF2023 and in close collaboration with the Canadian conference organizers to insure a successful and innovative Adaptation Futures event.

AF2023 is looking for strong, experienced and highly motivated organizations or networks based in strategic locations in Africa and Latin America to take the lead with the regional hubs.

Why Adaptation Futures 2023?

Adaptation Futures (AF) is the premier climate change adaptation conference series on the globe and a flagship event of the UN-led World Adaptation Science Program (WASP). It has been an essential venue for diverse state- and non-state actors, especially those based in the Global South, to communicate, identify, share and advance adaptation solutions on sound scientific grounds. Policy makers, funders, NGOs and IGOs, academic, as well as other stakeholders actively participated in AF conferences over the past 12 years.

AF2023 seeks to acknowledge our responsibility as a climate community to “walk the talk” on climate action by contributing to limit GHG emissions and by creating spaces for virtual engagement/participation and regional involvement. To these ends, McGill’s Faculty of Education and Ouranos are collaborating on a 2-year design-based [research project](#) aiming to catalog lessons on the move to hybrid conferencing from across the academic landscape.

Why regional hubs at AF2023?

AF2023 strives to be inclusive, equitable, impactful, and sustainable. As such, it is being held for the first time in a hybrid format. The conference would also like to test a multi-hub format, hosting in-person events synchronously in strategic locations around the world. According to McGill’s Faculty of Education design brief, the benefits of a multi-hub global conference include:

- Adhering the principles of diversity and inclusion by encouraging regionally- and locally-relevant topics and approaches to conference convenings
- Reducing unessential long-distance air travel by enabling regional and low-carbon mobility methods to conference locations (Jäckle 2021);
- Sustaining an in-person conference experience within local and regional networks while achieving a global reach via virtual interaction with other hubs (Parncutt et al. 2021);

Increasing inclusion and equity by accommodating the needs of those facing barriers to traditional on-site or fully-virtual conferencing, such as passport privileges, financial challenges, platform

restrictions and digital inequalities (Scodanibbio & McNamara 2012). Yet, efforts must be made to ensure that the conference experience is equitable across hubs. This can be challenging when we consider the issues surrounding the digital divide and the coordinating capacity of organizing multiple events regionally and globally.

Thus, **AF2023 is looking for strong, experienced and highly motivated organizations or networks based in strategic locations in Africa and Latin America to take the lead with the regional hubs. Mechanisms to ensure a strong collaboration between the hub and AF2023 organizers as well as AF2023 Scientific Committee will be in place.**

What kind of support to expect from the AF2023 organizers:

- Provide funding for the hub organization (exact amount to be confirmed). This will cover logistical aspects (meeting rooms for at least 100 persons; catering; high-speed internet connection, etc.) as well as associated personnel costs (salaries).
- Co-construct the hub scientific program in close collaboration with the hub organizers.
- Manage the registrations for the hub (it will be integrated into the main AF2023 website).
- Actively promote the hub on the AF2023 conference website, as well as social media channels and presentations.
- Provide high visibility for the hub organizer(s).

What is expected from the Hub organizer:

- Coordinate the hub logistics:
 - Identify potential venues for hosting the hub and participate in the final selection
 - Manage all the logistical aspects (venue booking, location, catering, etc.).
 - Coordinate the technological aspects with the Montreal organizers.
- Co-construct a multi-day scientific program of the hub in close collaboration with AF2023 organizers and AF2023 Scientific Committee. This may include interactions with other hubs if there are more than one.
- Propose one or several keynote speakers for the plenaries (to be delivered at the hub).
- Provide a detailed expenses report.
- Actively promote the hub and the conference in its network and possibly attract sponsors to increase the quality of the event.

If you are interested in proposing a hub, please [send an expression of interest](#) (4-6 pages) before January 30, 2023 including the following elements:

- Name of the organization(s)* in charge of the hub
- Location of the proposed hub
- Details about past experiences in organizing conferences of minimum 100 participants
- Preliminary budget
- How you would envision or approach a regional hub?
- Networks and convening power (beyond just organizing a conference) -- i.e., how would you identify and reach researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and other actors in the adaptation space to ensure a solid cross-section of participants at the hub?

*** Note that we strongly recommend multi organisations proposal, for example a strong adaptation network in collaboration with a well-established university used in hosting international conferences.**