



ZERO WASTE FORUM

**Zero Waste Forum 2025
Participants' Guide**



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1. Introduction

On 14th December 2022, the General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution A/RES/77/161 decided to promote zero-waste initiatives as a critical pathway to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The resolution designated 30th March as the International Day of Zero Waste, to be observed annually, and called for the identification and dissemination of best practices with positive impact on human well-being and the environment.

In line with the provisions of resolution 77/161, the Secretary-General established an Advisory Board of Eminent Persons on Zero Waste, serving on a voluntary basis and selected for their knowledge, experience, and expertise, with due regard to gender balance and equitable geographic representation. The Advisory Board is chaired by Her Excellency Mrs. Emine Erdoğan mandated to promote local and national zero-waste initiatives through awareness-raising, partnerships, and knowledge exchange, in close consultation with Member States and in collaboration with UNEP and UN-Habitat within their respective mandates and serves also as the secretariat.

Subsequently, Mrs. Emine Erdoğan, First Lady of the Republic of Türkiye, Patron of the national zero-waste movement, initiated the establishment of the Zero Waste Foundation in 2023 to further the core objectives of resolution 77/161. The Foundation was conceived as an instrument to amplify the work of the resolution and to provide a structured platform for international cooperation, dialogue, and the dissemination of zero-waste practices at the local, national, and global levels.

As part of its mandate, the Zero Waste Foundation, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye, is convening the Global Zero Waste Forum from 17 to 19 October 2025 at the Hilton Bomonti Hotel, Istanbul.

Under the theme “Zero Waste in Action: People. Places. Progress.”, the Forum will bring together governments, city leaders, community organizers, innovators, grassroots movements, local governments, UN agencies, civil society organizations, private sector actors, and vulnerable communities to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and co-create solutions that translate global commitments into concrete local action.

The Forum will serve both as a reaffirmation of commitments under resolution 77/161 and as a living laboratory for practical zero-waste solutions. It will highlight innovations, discuss the mobilization of finance, and build partnerships that cross regions and sectors, turning shared goals into sustained action. Expected outcomes include a reaffirmation of zero-waste living as a pathway for environmental and social resilience, identification of priority areas for multilateral collaboration, and the generation of substantive outputs such as a non-binding Zero Waste Living paradigm and a curated report of innovations as a contribution actions required under the resolution including and if possible the Report on Zero Waste to the General Assembly in 2026.

By convening the Global Zero Waste Forum in Türkiye, the Zero Waste Foundation ensures that the vision of the General Assembly and the leadership of the Advisory Board are anchored in an inclusive, multi-stakeholder dialogue and are translated into tangible action on the ground, in line with both national leadership and global solidarity.

2. Registration

2.1 Online Registration

Participation in the Global Zero Waste Forum is currently open and to all relevant stakeholders who comply with the Forum's registration procedures. These include United Nations bodies and related international organizations, governments, national and local public institutions, civil society organizations, local government associations and networks, the private sector, academia, community-based organizations, youth and women's groups, and other partners.

All participants are required to register through the online registration system (globalzerowasteforum.org). The photo Forum badges required for access to the Forum venue will be issued at the registration desk at the Hilton Bomonti Hotel on the day of the Forum. Participants must present a valid passport or national identification card in order to collect their badge. There will be no On-site Registration.

Online registration will close on 5th of October 2025 (UTC +03:00).

For any inquiries regarding registration, please contact the Global Zero Waste Forum Secretariat at secretariat@globalzerowasteforum.org.

2.2 On-site Accreditation and Badging

Badging for the Global Zero Waste Forum will begin on **16th October 2025, at 08:00 AM** and will close on **17th October 2025, at 9:00**.

All Participants will be required to show proof of identity with a valid national passport or, in the case of Turkish nationals, an official identification card, upon arrival at the badge collection area in order to collect their badge.

As indicated earlier, please note that **on-site registration will not be available**. Only participants who have completed their online registration in advance will be able to collect their badges. To avoid long queues on the day of the official opening, Participants are strongly encouraged to arrive early to collect their badges prior to the start of the sessions.

2.3 Media Registration and Facilities

A dedicated media desk will be available at the Zero Waste Forum venue to assist registered members of the press. Please note, however, that **no on-site media registration will be available**. Only those media representatives who have completed the online registration process in advance will be accredited and issued badges at the Forum.

Media representatives who wish to attend are kindly requested to send an email to secretariat@globalzerowasteforum.org to initiate the registration process.

2.4 Change in Registration Details

In case of any changes to the registration details, participants are kindly requested to send the updated information directly by email to: secretariat@globalzerowasteforum.org.

3. Forum Venue & Services

3.1 Forum Venue

The Global Zero Waste Forum, as stated earlier, will take place at the Hilton Istanbul Bomonti Hotel & Conference Center, located in the central district of Istanbul. The venue is located approximately 40 kilometers from Istanbul Airport and 43 kilometers from Sabiha Gökçen Airport, both of which serve as major international gateways to the city.

The hotel is situated in a central part of the City and easily accessible. , with close proximity to vibrant cultural areas, shopping avenues, and popular dining and entertainment districts. Its position offers participants convenient access to the City's main attractions while remaining within a setting designed for professional gatherings and large-scale events.

Comfortable walking routes and nearby public spaces provide opportunities for relaxation and light recreation, offering participants a balanced environment that combines accessibility, urban life, and the professional atmosphere of an international forum.

3.2 Paper-smart principle

Participants are encouraged to bring laptops, tablets, or smartphones, because all Forum documents and materials will be made available online, in line with the zero-waste and paper-smart principles.

3.3 Vehicles and Parking

Access to the Hilton Istanbul Bomonti Hotel & Conference Center during the **Global Zero Waste Forum (17-19 October 2025)** will be available to vehicles which details are **notified in advance** to the Secretariat. It is requested that all Participants inform the Secretariat of any vehicles requiring access, **to ensure appropriate logistical and security arrangements**.

Please send vehicle and driver details by **15th October 2025** to:
secretariat@globalzerowasteforum.org.

Kindly include the following information for each vehicle/driver:

- Full name of the driver
- ID/passport number of the driver
- Vehicle model
- Vehicle license plate number
- Delegation/organization represented

Drivers must present a valid photo ID upon arrival. Access is subject to onsite security procedures and venue capacity.

3.5 Banking and ATM services

An ATM is available inside the Hilton Istanbul Bomonti Hotel & Conference Center, allowing participants to conveniently withdraw cash and conduct basic transactions on site. In addition, the Bomonti area, where the Hotel is located, is a central district of Istanbul with a wide range of bank branches and ATMs within short walking distance.

Most ATMs in the area accept **international debit and credit cards**, making it easy for participants to withdraw cash in local currency. Should any issues arise with ATMs, participants may also visit nearby **full-service bank branches**, which can provide additional assistance with international transactions, currency exchange, and other banking needs.

3.6 Wi-Fi

Free Wi-Fi facilities will be available throughout the Hilton Istanbul Bomonti Hotel & Conference Center, including all meeting rooms. Participants will be able to enjoy internet access for information and documentation prepared for the Forum.

3.7 Restaurants and catering

There are several restaurants, cafés, and dining outlets within the Hilton Istanbul Bomonti Hotel & Conference Center where participants may enjoy a variety of food and beverage options at their own expense.

In addition, the Zero Waste Forum will provide complimentary lunch for all registered Participants, as well as beverages and light snacks throughout the duration of the event.

3.8 Postal and courier services

Postal and courier services are available through the concierge desk located in the Hotel Lobby. The concierge can assist participants with sending and receiving mail and parcels, including international courier services upon request. Services are generally available daily between 09:00 and 15:00 (Türkiye Time, GMT+3), except on weekends.

3.9 Medical services

Basic first aid and medical coordination will be available on-site at the Hilton Istanbul Bomonti Hotel & Conference Center. An Ambulance will also be stationed at the venue throughout the Forum for immediate emergency response.

In case of emergencies requiring further medical attention, the Hotel staff and concierge can arrange transportation to nearby public hospitals.

Nearby Public Hospitals (short drive away):

- Şişli Hamidiye Etfal Training and Research Hospital – Bomonti Branch
- Şişli Hamidiye Etfal Training and Research Hospital (Main Facility)
- Cemil Taşcıoğlu City Hospital (Şişli)
- Beşiktaş Sait Çiftçi State Hospital

Participants are strongly advised to obtain adequate travel and health insurance covering their stay in Türkiye, because medical and travel insurance is not provided by the Global Zero Waste Forum Secretariat. Neither the Zero Waste Foundation nor the Forum will assume responsibility for any illness, injury, or medical costs, including Ambulance services, incurred by Participants, whether arising during or outside of the Forum. All Participants remain fully responsible for ensuring sufficient insurance coverage at their own expense.

4. Travel & Transport

4.1 Airport Transfers

For Participants who may wish to receive advice or support regarding flight bookings, hotel reservations, or airport transfers, inquiries can be directed to the Global Zero Waste Forum Secretariat at: secretariat@globalzerowasteforum.org.

Participants are responsible for **purchasing their own air tickets** and for ensuring they have valid **travel and health insurance** covering their stay in Türkiye. Participants are encouraged to book their tickets well in advance of the Forum to secure availability and competitive fares.

4.2 Local Transport in Istanbul

From Istanbul Airport (IST):

- **Airport Shuttle Buses (Havaist):** Direct services are available from Istanbul Airport to central districts such as Şişli and Taksim, which are within a short distance of the Forum venue.
- **Metro:** The M11 metro line connects Istanbul Airport to the City. Participants can transfer to other metro lines (such as M2) to reach Şişli/Osmanbey area, located near the Forum venue.
- **Taxi / Ride-hailing services:** Taxis are readily available at the airport. Travel time is approximately 40–60 minutes depending on traffic.

From Sabiha Gökçen Airport (SAW):

- **Airport Shuttle Buses (Havabus):** Shuttle buses connect Sabiha Gökçen Airport to major hubs such as Taksim. From there, the Forum venue can be reached by a short taxi or metro ride.
- **Public Buses:** Municipal bus services provide access to central Istanbul but may take longer due to traffic.
- **Taxi / Ride-hailing services:** Taxis are also available; travel time to the Forum venue is approximately 60–90 minutes depending on traffic.

General Information:

- Participants are advised to obtain an **Istanbulkart**, a rechargeable travel card valid for metro, bus, tram, and ferry, to conveniently use the city's public transport network.
- Travel times may vary significantly depending on peak hours and traffic conditions.

4.3 Tours and Excursions

Istanbul is a unique City that has served as the capital of civilizations throughout history. Participants can explore the breathtaking views of the Bosphorus, enjoy the city's vibrant cultural and social life, and visit the Historic Peninsula, one of the world's most important heritage areas. Iconic landmarks such as Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Palace, and the Blue Mosque offer an unforgettable experience.

In addition, the Beşiktaş district, located close to the Forum venue, is home to some of Istanbul's most remarkable cultural landmarks. Participants can visit the magnificent **Dolmabahçe Palace**, the **Naval Museum**, and the **National Palaces Painting Museum**, all of which showcase the City's imperial and maritime heritage. A short trip also brings visitors to the **Galata Tower**, one of the City's most iconic monuments offering panoramic views of Istanbul.

To further enrich their stay, Participants may discover shopping opportunities across the City, visit modern art galleries, and enjoy the richness of Istanbul's culinary culture.

For further information and recommendations, please contact the Zero Waste Forum Secretariat at: secretariat@globalzerowasteforum.org.



Explore historical and cultural sites on the map — just scan the QR code.

5. Accommodation

Participants, except for those specifically so informed otherwise, are responsible for making their own hotel reservations for their stay in Istanbul. The cost of accommodation is the responsibility of each participant.

Due to the fact that the Forum will take place at the **Hilton Istanbul Bomonti Hotel & Conference Center**, Participants seeking hotel information may consult the Secretariat regarding hotels located in close proximity to the venue by contacting: secretariat@globalzerowasteforum.org.

6. Emergency Contact Numbers

- **Türkiye Emergency Call Center (General): 112**

This single number connects callers to all emergency services in Türkiye, including police, fire, ambulance, coast guard, and forest fire response.

7. Visa & Entry Requirements

All Participants are required to ensure that they hold a valid passport with a minimum validity of at least six (6) months from the date of entry into Türkiye. Participants who require a visa to enter Türkiye are strongly advised to begin the Application process well in advance of the Forum.

Participants from countries eligible for Türkiye's e-Visa system may apply online through the Official Republic of Türkiye electronic visa application portal: <https://www.evisa.gov.tr>. The e-Visa is valid for touristic and business purposes only, and the Application process is fully online. Applicants are required to enter their personal and passport details, upload any required information, and complete the payment by credit or debit card. Once approved, the e-Visa will be sent by email in PDF format. Participants should print a copy of the e-Visa or keep a digital version for presentation upon arrival.

Participants from countries **not eligible for the e-Visa system** must apply for a visa directly at the nearest Turkish Embassy or Consulate. When applying through diplomatic missions, applicants are advised to present their Forum registration confirmation together with their visa Application. It should be noted that registration for the Forum does not guarantee visa issuance. Visa approvals are subject solely to the country bilateral agreements and policies and discretion of the Government of Türkiye.

The Global Zero Waste Forum Secretariat will issue official invitation letters to registered Participants who may require them for visa purposes. These letters may assist with the visa Application, but do not guarantee visa approval.

For all visa-related inquiries or requests for invitation letters, participants may contact: Global Zero Waste Forum Secretariat at: secretariat@globalzerowasteforum.org

8. General Information on Türkiye

Capital: Ankara ,the administrative and political center of the Republic of Türkiye.

Host City: Istanbul , with a population of approximately 16 million, Istanbul is Türkiye's largest city and serves as the country's cultural, commercial, and historical hub. Straddling Europe and Asia across the Bosphorus Strait, the city uniquely combines ancient heritage with modern vibrancy.

Official Language: The official language of Türkiye is **Turkish**. The **working language of the Forum will be English**. In addition, **simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the official languages of the United Nations** for designated sessions.

Currency: The official currency is the Turkish Lira (TRY). Major international credit and debit cards are widely accepted in hotels, restaurants, and shops. ATMs are available throughout Istanbul and generally support international cards. Currency exchange services are available at airports, banks, and licensed exchange offices.

Time Zone: Türkiye operates on UTC +3 year-round (no daylight saving time).

Mobile Connectivity: Prepaid SIM cards and mobile internet packages are widely available from major local providers. Free Wi-Fi will be available at the Forum venue (Hilton Istanbul Bomonti Hotel & Conference Center).

Local Transport: Istanbul has an extensive public transport network including metro, tram, bus, ferry, and funicular systems. Participants may wish to consider obtaining an **Istanbulkart**, a rechargeable smart card valid across all modes of public transport. Taxis and ride-hailing services are also widely available.

9. Weather

In October, Istanbul typically experiences mild autumn weather. Average daytime temperatures range between **15°C and 20°C**, with cooler evenings. Light jackets, sweaters, and layered clothing are recommended for comfort. Occasional rain showers may occur, so carrying an umbrella is advisable.

10. Electricity

The standard electricity supply in Türkiye is **220V, 50Hz**. Power sockets are of type F (European standard, two round pins). Participants whose devices use a different plug type should bring appropriate **plug adapters and/or voltage converters**.

11. Security & Safety

Istanbul is generally a very safe city for visitors. However, as in all major metropolitan areas, participants are advised to remain attentive in crowded areas and public spaces. Forum badges should be worn at all times within the venue, and valuable items are recommended to be kept securely in the hotel safe.

