

12th WORLD FZO WORLD CONGRESS



Event Overview | Panama City, Panama | **12 - 14 May 2026**

Join **global leaders, policymakers, investors, and free zone professionals** for three days of discussions, panels, workshops, and networking focused on the evolving role of free zones in a rapidly changing global economy. The Congress will explore strategies for investment, innovation, sustainability, and regional integration.

Congress Vision

The World Congress 2026 will position Panama as a **global platform for transformation** — the Gateway to the Americas. Delegates will explore how visionary leadership, institutional collaboration, and private enterprise can unlock actionable solutions for free zones to drive sustainable growth, act as economic stabilizers, and serve as laboratories of innovation.



Emerging Opportunities for Free Zones

- **Knowledge and Innovation Economies:** Incubators for R&D, startups, and talent.
- **Digital & AI-Driven Manufacturing:** Smart operations supported by digital infrastructure.
- **Green Industrial Transition:** Circular economy practices, renewable energy, and carbon-neutral operations.
- **Regional Value Hubs:** Anchors for resilient production and regional logistics integration.

Growth Vectors: Innovation Catalysts, Public-Private Collaboration, Sustainability Leadership, and Talent & Skills Development.

REGISTER TODAY

Secure your place at this landmark gathering and explore how free zones are shaping the future of trade, investment, and sustainable growth:

www.wfzoworldcongress.com



Sponsorship Opportunities

The World FZO World Congress offers unique opportunities for sponsorship and exhibition, enabling organizations to showcase innovations, solutions, and services to an international audience of decision-makers, industry leaders, and investors.



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◎ Strategic Challenges



Regulatory Adaptation for digital trade, data governance, and environmental compliance



Investment Competition and attracting global capital



Infrastructure Modernization integrating digital, energy, and physical systems



Inclusive Growth benefiting communities, SMEs, and regional economies



Delegates holding passports from the countries listed below require a visa to enter Panama.

If you are traveling from one of these countries, it is essential to begin the visa application process immediately, as processing times can be lengthy, and requirements may vary by country and diplomatic mission.

Please note: Visa requirements are subject to change. Delegates are advised to consult the nearest Panamanian embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date and official information.

Countries requiring a visa to enter Panama

Africa

Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Asia

Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nepal, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, People's Republic of China, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Yemen

Europe

Albania, Republic of Kosovo

North America (including Caribbean)

Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic

South America

Suriname, Venezuela

Program Highlights

Day 1 – Ministerial Roundtables & Executive Leadership Program

- Roundtable of Caribbean Ministers: Building regional industrial clusters
- Global Ministerial Conference: Modern industrial strategies and free zones
- Executive Leadership Program: Leadership masterclass, immersive workshops, certification
- Investor Matchmaking & World FZO Board meeting

Day 2 – Global Vision & Leadership Dialogues

- Opening Ceremony with World FZO leadership and Government of Panama
- High-level plenary panels: Leadership, trade transformation, and sustainability
- Signature workshops: AI & Industrial Foresight, Green Value Chains, Public-Private Collaboration
- Innovation Expo, Investor Matchmaking, Networking Reception

Day 3 – Innovation, Investment & Sustainability

- Focused panels on primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors
- Signature workshops: Resource-based free zones, industrial innovation, knowledge economy
- Investor Matchmaking, World Congress Awards, Networking, Closing Session
- World FZO AGM (members only)

High Impact Panels

Panel 1: The New Global Operating Model – Leadership in Times of Transformation

In a global landscape shaped by economic uncertainty, technological disruption, and shifting societal expectations, leadership is being redefined. This panel explores how public and private sector leaders can navigate complexity to drive sustainable, inclusive, and resilient growth.

Panel 2: Global Gateways – Redefining the Future of Trade and Connectivity

As global supply chains evolve amid AI advances and geopolitical shifts, Zones are becoming critical enablers of resilience and connectivity. This panel examines how advanced infrastructure, digital trade platforms, and smart logistics are reshaping global commerce.

Panel 3: Sustainability as a Competitive Edge – The Green Industrial Transition

As the global economy moves toward a low-carbon future, sustainability is becoming a defining source of competitive advantage. This panel explores how Zones can lead green transformation through circular economy models, green investment, and climate-smart industrial development.

Panel 4: From Supply Chains to Value Networks – Resilience and Regional Integration

In an era of geopolitical realignment and supply chain fragmentation, resilience and regional integration are essential. This panel examines how Zones can evolve into strategic value networks that strengthen regional ecosystems and mitigate global disruptions.