2026 General Assembly, Santiago, Chile

1986–2026: 40 years of WGMS

At this year's WGMS General Assembly, we will reflect on the achievements and future challenges of glacier monitoring with our National Correspondents and international partner organizations. As in previous years, the General Assembly will comprise three regional meetings, enabling us to focus on regional challenges and networks while reducing the associated carbon footprint by half.
The meeting in Santiago de Chile, for our National Correspondents from the Americas and New Zealand, will take place concurrently with a meeting of UNESCO's Working Group on Snow and Ice (Grupo de Trabajo de Nieves y Hielos).

Venue

UNESCO Regional Office in Santiago, Plaza Pedro de Valdivia, Providencia, Santiago

Programme *(draft 21.10.2026)*

Monday, 23.11.2026 – Arrival and ice breaker **@ UNESCO Regional Office**

17-20	Registration, informal gathering

Tuesday, 24.11.2026 – Background (international monitoring strategy, current initiatives and developments, collaboration networks), status reports on national implementation by WGMS National Correspondents **@ UNESCO Regional Office**

9.00-9.30	Welcome & expected outcome (M. Zemp, K. Verbist, P. Lopez)
9.30-10.00	WGMS country profiles & discussion (S. Nussbaumer)
10.00-10.30	*Coffee break*
10.30-12.30	Country reports & discussion (AR, BO, CA, CL)
12.30-14.00	*Individual lunch*
14.00-16.00	Country reports & discussion (CO, EC, MX, NZ, PE)
16.00-16.30	*Coffee break*
16.30-17.30	WGMS data and information products & discussion (M. Zemp)
18.00-20.00	Walking city tour

Wednesday, 25.11.2026 – Workshops on achievements and challenges, including geodetic glacier change assessments for entire mountain ranges, data submission, and strengthening the regional network **@ UNESCO Regional Office**

9.00-10.30	Global and regional glacier mass change assessments (input M. Zemp, I. Dussaillant & discussion)
10.30-11.00	*Coffee break*
11.00-12.30	Strengthening the regional (monitoring) network (input A. Rabatel/ GLACIOCLIM & discussion)
12.30-14.00	*Individual lunch*

14.00-16.00	Future glacier monitoring: from in-situ and remotely sensed observations (input WGMS & DGA & discussion)
16.00-16.30	*Coffee break*
16.30-17.00	Workshop on data submission (input WGMS & discussion)
17.00-17.30	Summary and next steps (M. Zemp)
20.00-22.00	Dinner

Thursday, 26.11.2026 – Joint meeting with Grupo de Trabajo de Nieves y Hielos (GTNH) and public outreach **@ Universidad de Talca, Sede Santiago de Chile, Quebec 415, Providencia, Santiago**

9.00-10.30	Input UNESCO initiative(s) (K. Verbist, C. Tori, S. Quesada, P. Lopez)
10.30-11.00	*Coffee break*
11.00-12.30	Discussion continued
12.30-14.00	*Individual lunch*
14.00-16.00	Discussion continued
16.00-17.00	*Coffee break and preparation public outreach event*
18.00-20.00	Public outreach event
20.00	Apéro

Friday, 27.11.2026 – Excursion Cordillera de los Andes

8.00-20.00	More details to follow

Saturday, 28.11.2026 – Departure

Accommodation

Travel arrangements and lodging are the responsibility of the participants. Several hotel options are available in the Providencia area, for example Hotel Park Plaza Bonaparte (Mar Del Plata 2171, Providencia, Santiago, Chile).

Weather & climate conditions

Local conditions

Visa requirements

Participants are responsible for their visa applications.

Local Organizing Committee (LOC)