# Hosting IAS 2029

## Invitation to submit letter of intent to host IAS 2029, the 15th IAS Conference on HIV Science

The IAS Conference on HIV Science, organized by IAS – the International AIDS Society – is the world's most influential meeting on HIV research and its applications. This biennial conference presents the critical advances in basic, clinical and operational HIV research that move science into policy and practice. Through its open and inclusive programme, the meeting sets the gold standard of HIV science, featuring highly diverse and cutting-edge research. The conference typically gathers approximately 4,000 participants.

Previous host cities:

- IAS 2005 – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- IAS 2007 – Sydney, Australia
- IAS 2009 – Cape Town, South Africa
- IAS 2011 – Rome, Italy
- IAS 2013 – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- IAS 2015 – Vancouver, Canada
- IAS 2017 – Paris, France
- IAS 2019 – Mexico City, Mexico
- IAS 2021 – Virtual
- IAS 2023 – Brisbane, Australia
- IAS 2025 – Kigali, Rwanda
- IAS 2027 – Geneva, Switzerland

You can find the reports about our past conferences here.

## Practical details

The IAS invites all destinations on the Latin American and Caribbean region interested in hosting IAS 2029 to submit a letter of intent (LoI). The letter of intent is expected to be no more than three pages and must include all the information and attachments listed below.

**First, please ensure that you complete Attachment 2, which lays out the essential selection criteria of human rights and health, safety and political stability.**

### 1. Legacy

1.1 Statement of interest
Why is the destination interested in hosting the conference?

1.2 Composition of the bid committee

The bid committee of the destination should support the development of the bid and be responsible for mobilising local stakeholders and securing local funding for the conference.

Typically, it is composed of

- the convention bureau or similar,
- the convention centre,
- local civil society organization(s) and scientific partner organizations.

It should be supported by the government and the private sector.

*What is the composition of your bid committee?*

## 2. Accessibility

### 2.1 Entry restrictions based on nationality or residence

What are the immigration/travel entry restrictions for different nationalities? Visitors from which countries have to apply for a visa and how is the visa process facilitated? How large is the network of embassies and consulates that will facilitate VISA services for our delegates and how is this organised for large conferences?

### 2.2 Immigration support

How do you intend to ensure that the conference will be inclusive and delegates will be able to enter the country? Can you confirm that the government will grant fast-tracking processes and potentially a waiver of visa fees for delegates? Can you state the contact person details for visa and immigration matter enquiries?

## 3. Logistics

### 3.1 Name of the venue

Please state the full name of the venue that would host the conference.

### 3.2 Venue website

Please state the website address of the venue.

### 3.3 Dates when the venue is available

Please state the available dates to hold the conference at the proposed conference venue. Ideally it should be the **week of 24- 28 June 2029 as the conference days.**

The conference takes place over five days and the venue has to be available for a period of eight to ten days, depending on build-up and dismantling needs.

### 3.4 Examples of similar conferences at the venue

Has the city recently hosted similar conferences (size, audience, topic) and/or is planning for upcoming events? Please provide any relevant references for these events.

### 3.5 Venue capacity

Please attach a suggested allocation of space based on the capacity requirements indicated in Annex.

### 3.6 Venue floor plans

Please attach floor plans of the suggested venue and conference areas.

### 3.7 Accommodation – number of rooms within walking distance of the venue

How many hotel rooms are located within walking distance (max. 15 min) of the conference venue? Please disaggregate for 3-, 4- and 5-star rooms.

### 3.8 Number of direct flights to international destinations

Does the city have direct flights to international destinations? If so, how many (per region, per week and per day)? How many international and domestic airlines does the airport(s) host?

## 4. Financial viability

### 4.1 Overview of financial and in-kind support

Indicate potential or expected financial and in-kind commitments from bid committee organizations and government institutions. If your destination is shortlisted, we will require firm confirmations and commitments).

All letters of intent must be submitted as a combined effort on behalf of the potential members of the bid committee. The letters of intent should be addressed to Ariane Brusselmans, Director, Conferences, and sent by email to ariane.brusselmans@iasociety.org by Friday 8 January 2026

# The bidding process

### STEP 1: Letter of intent to host the conference

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| 11 November 2026 | Invitation to submit letter of intent |
| 8 January 2027 | Deadline for submission of letter of intent |
| End January 2027 | Shortlisting process. The IAS Conference Committee will propose a shortlist of 2-3 destinations to be approved by the IAS Executive Board. |

### STEP 2: Detailed proposals by shortlisted candidate cities

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| Mid February2027 | The IAS sends a detailed request for proposal to each shortlisted candidate with a deadline for submission of the bid. |
| 30 April 2027 | Deadline for submission of bids |
| April- May 2027 | Detailed technical analysis of bids<br>Site visits<br>Review and analysis of the bids by the IAS Conference Committee |
| May- June 2027 | The IAS Executive Board confirms the successful host city |
| July 2027 | Negotiations and appointments<br>Public announcement of the host city. |

# Selection criteria

- **Health, safety and political stability**: A requirement is that the host city will work with us to ensure high-standard health and safety protocols for all delegates, staff and speakers in a politically stable climate.
- **Human rights**: A key selection criterion is that the host city provides a safe environment and equal treatment for people most affected by HIV. HIV disproportionately affects some of the most marginalized people, and finding an environment where such communities feel safe and can express themselves freely is central to selection.
- **Legacy**: The IAS wishes to provide a lasting scientific, community or political legacy for the destination. In other words, we wish to select destinations where the IAS can leave a meaningful legacy.
- **Accessibility**: The venue and related services must be accessible to all delegates, and immigration for delegates must be facilitated.
- **Logistics (venue, accommodation and transportation):** In-person participation requires a venue, accommodation and travel infrastructure large enough to host such an event.
- **Financial viability**: The cost of the venue and logistics and confirmed financial support from the host country must enable a conference budget that ensures sufficient funding for participatory programme planning and scholarships.
- **Programmatic independence**: The Organizing Committee must be able to operate independently. It must be empowered to create a conference programme shielded from outside vetting or influencing.
- **Sustainability**: The host city has to be able to demonstrate its commitment to environmental and social responsibility.

The basic selection criteria of human rights and health, safety and political stability are covered in Attachment 2: Restrictions on the organization of IAS conferences. It is essential that you complete Attachment 2 as part of your letter of intent.

Please note that a detailed bid proposal, including programmatic independence, sustainability and more detailed funding information, is required only from shortlisted cities that received an invitation to submit a full proposal, as per Step 2 above.

**The submission deadline for letters of intent is 8 January 2025.**

For more information, please contact futuredestinations@iasociety.org.

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# Attachment 1: Venue requirements

| Conference venue | Required surface / for session rooms capacity in theatre style incl. a min. 12 m x 3 m stage |
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| Session room 1 / plenary | 3,000 pax |
| Session room 2 | 500 pax |
| Session room 3 | 500 pax |
| Session room 4 | 500 pax |
| Session room 5 | 300 pax |
| Session room 6 | 300 pax |
| Session room 7 | 300 pax |
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| Registration area | 1,000 sqm |
| Media centre | 200 sqm |
| Press conference room | 100 pax |
| Rapporteur centre | 120 sqm |
| Speaker centre | 250 sqm |
| Positive Lounge | 200 sqm |
| Exhibition area (incl. exhibition, posters and internet café) | 5,000 sqm |
| Volunteer room | 300 sqm |
| Office - IAS | 250 sqm |
| IAS meeting room | 40 pax in U-Shape |
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| IAS meeting room | 20 pax in Boardroom |
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| Sponsor / donor office | 100 sqm |
| Sponsor / donor office | 100 sqm |
| Sponsor / donor office | 100 sqm |
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| Other office | 50 sqm |
| Other office | 50 sqm |
| Other office | 30 sqm |
| Other office | 30 sqm |
| Other office | 30 sqm |

# Attachment 2: Restrictions on the organization of IAS conferences

Please answer the following questions:

1. Are there any entry restrictions or punitive laws in your country for people living with HIV, gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, people in prisons and other closed settings, sex workers and their clients, and/or trans people?

☐ Yes – please list the applicable restrictions and laws.

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☐ No

2. Are there any city, regional or national elections between 2025 and 2027?

☐ Yes – please indicate the dates of city, regional and national elections and any anticipated leadership transitions at all three levels.

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☐ No

3. If there are elections, please describe the effect (if any) it may have on entry or travel for foreign nationals and/or people living with HIV, gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, people in prisons and other closed settings, sex workers and their clients, and trans people.

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4. Are there any obstacles to hosting the conference – political, cultural, human rights, developments or otherwise – that the IAS should be aware of?

☐ Yes – please explain the nature of the obstacles.

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☐ No