



Hosting AIDS 2026

Invitation to submit letter of intent to host AIDS 2026, the 26th International AIDS Conference

The International AIDS Conference is the premier global platform to advance the HIV response. As the world's largest conference on HIV and AIDS, it sits uniquely at the intersection of science, advocacy and human rights, bringing together scientists, policy makers, healthcare professionals, people living with HIV, funders, media and communities. Since its start in 1985, the conference has served as an opportunity to strengthen policies and programmes that ensure an evidence-based response to HIV and related epidemics. The conference typically gathers approximately 15,000 participants, the majority of whom travel from abroad.

Previous host cities:

- AIDS 2002 – Barcelona, Spain
- AIDS 2004 – Bangkok, Thailand
- AIDS 2006 – Toronto, Canada
- AIDS 2008 – Mexico City, Mexico
- AIDS 2010 – Vienna, Austria
- AIDS 2012 – Washington DC, USA
- AIDS 2014 – Melbourne, Australia
- AIDS 2016 – Durban, South Africa
- AIDS 2018 – Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- AIDS 2020 – Virtual
- [AIDS 2022 – Montreal, Canada](#)
- AIDS 2024 – Munich, Germany

You can find reports about our [past conferences here](#).

Practical details

The IAS invites all destinations in Latin America and the Caribbean interested in hosting AIDS 2026 to submit a letter of intent (LoI).

The letter of intent should be no more than three pages and must include the following:

- Statement of interest: Why is the city interested in hosting the 26th International AIDS Conference and how would a conference held in this location create a lasting impact on the HIV response?



- Composition and information on the bid committee: The bid committee of the destination should be composed of the convention bureau or similar, the conference venue, local civil society organization(s) and scientific partner organizations, and be supported by the government and private sector.
- Dates: Indicate available dates to hold the conference at the conference venue during **June or early July 2026**. The conference takes place over five days (Monday to Friday) and the venue has to be available for a period of 10 to 12 days.
- Examples: Indicate recently hosted similar conferences (size, audience, topic).
- Conference venue: Explain how the venue meets the standard and capacity as per the requirements in Appendix 1.
- Accommodation: What is the total number of hotel rooms available for delegates? Include:
 - The number of 3-star rooms, the number of 4-star rooms and the number of 5-star rooms
 - The number of rooms available within a maximum 15-minute walking distance of the venue, per star category
- Commitments: Indicate expected financial and in-kind commitments from bid committee organizations and government institutions. For past AIDS conferences, the average cash contribution from bid committee organizations and government institutions was USD 3-4 million.
- Restrictions: Describe any restrictions that may impact the organization of the 26th International AIDS Conference or access by conference delegates, specifically pertaining to laws and regulations regarding key populations (people living with HIV, gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, prisoners and other incarcerated people, sex workers and their clients, and trans people), as well as any other relevant obstacles. Please fill out Appendix 2 specifying such restrictions.

All letters of intent must be submitted as a combined effort on behalf of the potential bid committee. The letters of intent should be addressed to Ariane Brusselmans, Director, Conferences, and sent by email to futuredestinations@iasociety.org **by 15 July 2023**.



The bidding process

STEP 1: Letters of intent (Lols) to host the conference

15 July 2023	Deadline for submission of letter of intent
August-September 2023	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

September 2023	The IAS sends a detailed request for proposal (RFP) to each shortlisted candidate.
31 December 2023	Deadline for submission of bids
January-February 2024	Detailed technical analysis of bids Site visits Review and analysis of the bids by the IAS Conference Committee
Second quarter of 2024	Confirmation of the successful host city for AIDS 2026 by the IAS Executive Board
Third quarter of 2024	Announcement of the successful host city for AIDS 2026



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.
- **Logistics (conference venue, accommodation and transportation):** In-person participation requires a conference venue, accommodation and travel infrastructure large enough to host such an event.
- **Accessibility:** The conference venue and related services must be accessible to all delegates, and immigration for delegates must be facilitated. We must have guarantees from the government that it will ensure fast tracking processes and potentially a waiver of visa fees for our delegates.
- **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 for such communities to feel safe and 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Sustainability:** The host city has to be able to demonstrate its commitment towards environmental and social responsibility.

Please note that a detailed bid proposal and budget are 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 15 July 2023.

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



Appendix 1. Venue requirements

Conference venue	Required surface/capacity theatre style
Session room 1/plenary	5,000-6,000 pax
Session room 2	1,500 pax
Session room 3	1000 pax
Session room 4	800 pax
Session room 5	800 pax
Session room 6	600 pax
Session room 7	600 pax
Session room 8	500 pax
Session room 9	400 pax
Session room 10	400 pax
Exhibition area (incl. exhibition, posters and internet cafe)	13,000 sqm
Global Village	8,000 sqm
Global Village session room 1 (next to the Global Village)	300 pax
Global Village session room 2 (next to the Global Village)	300 pax
Global Village Youth Pavilion (next to the Global Village)	200 pax
Global Village screening room (next to the Global Village)	200 pax
Registration area	1,500 sqm
Media centre	800 sqm
Press conference room 1	300 pax
Press conference room 2	150 pax
Speaker centre	300 sqm
Rapporteur centre	120 sqm
Positive Lounge	500 sqm
IAS office	500 sqm (approx. needs: 3 x 25pax boardroom, 2 x 40pax boardroom, staff room, finance office, ED office)
UNAIDS office	500 sqm
Volunteer area	500 sqm
MIS / donor / funder / other office	50-150 sqm
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Appendix 2. Restrictions to the organization of the 26th International AIDS Conference

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, prisoners and other incarcerated people, sex workers and their clients, and/or trans people?

Yes – please list the applicable restrictions and laws.

No

2. Are there any city, regional or national elections between 2023 and 2026?

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

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, prisoners and other incarcerated people, sex workers and their clients, and trans people.

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

Yes – please explain the nature of the obstacles.

No