



Hosting HIVR4P 2026

Invitation to submit letter of intent to host HIVR4P 2026, the 6th HIV Research for Prevention Conference

The HIV Research for Prevention Conference is the only global scientific conference focused exclusively on the challenging and fast-growing field of HIV prevention research. This conference fosters interdisciplinary knowledge exchange on HIV vaccines, microbicides, PrEP, treatment as prevention and biomedical interventions, as well as their social and behavioural implications. The conference typically gathers approximately 1,500 participants.

Previous and upcoming host cities:

- HIVR4P 2014 – Cape Town, South Africa
- HIVR4P 2016 – Chicago, United States
- HIVR4P 2018 – Madrid, Spain
- HIVR4P 2021 – Virtual
- [HIVR4P 2024 – Lima, Peru](#)

You can find the reports about our past conference at <https://www.iasociety.org/past-conferences>.

Practical details

The IAS invites destinations in the Asia and the Pacific Islands region where ongoing HIV prevention research is taking place and which are interested in hosting HIVR4P 2026 to submit a letter of intent.

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 be 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?

1.3 Visibility of the conference and high-level engagement

Outline the strategy and methods that you intend to use to achieve the most effective visibility of the conference in your city/region/country. What will be your approach to ensure the engagement of high-level stakeholders and celebrities in the conference?

1.4 Letters of support received

Please attach any letters of support. These could be letters from:

- Leaders of the bid committee indicating institutional support and commitment
- HIV professionals and civil society members working in the proposed city and country
- Relevant authorities in other sectors, such as government, health and the private sector
- National and local convention bureau(s) and convention centre(s)

1.5 Relevance of the destination for HIV prevention research

Provide a brief outline of the ongoing research on HIV prevention (for example, antibody-related research, HIV vaccine, MPPs and PrEP).

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?

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(s) 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 during October 2026. The conference takes place over five days (Sunday to Thursday) and the venue has to be available for a period of seven to 10 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 complete offer based on the capacity requirements indicated in Attachment 1: Venue requirements.

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 expected financial and in-kind commitments from bid committee organizations and government institutions.

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 futuredestinations@iasociety.org by 14 June 2024.



The bidding process

STEP 1: Letter of intent to host the conference

22 April 2024	Invitation to submit letter of intent
14 June 2024	Deadline for submission of letter of intent
End of July 2024	Shortlisting process. The IAS Conference Committee will propose a shortlist of 3-4 destinations to be approved by the IAS Executive Board.

STEP 2: Detailed proposals by shortlisted candidate cities

15 August 2024	The IAS sends a detailed request for proposal to each shortlisted candidate with a deadline for submission of the bid.
15 November 2024	Deadline for submission of bids
Q1 of 2025	Detailed technical analysis of bids Site visits Review and analysis of the bids by the IAS Conference Committee
Q1 of 2025	The IAS Executive Board confirms the successful 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. We must have guarantees from the government that it will ensure fast-tracking processes and potentially a waiver of visa fees for our delegates.
- **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 14 June 2024.

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

Attachment 1: Venue requirements

Conference venue	Required surface/capacity theatre style
Plenary room	1,500 pax theatre style plus stage
Session room 1	400 pax theatre style plus stage
Session room 2	400 pax theatre style plus stage
Session room 3	400 pax theatre style plus stage
Session room 4	400 pax theatre style plus stage
Poster area	Approx. 1,500m ²
Meet the Expert lunch	120 pax (seated lunch, round tables)
Delegate lunch	1,380 pax (seated lunch, round tables)
Advocates corner	20 pax
Journalist Fellowship training	25 pax
Interview room	5 pax
Media centre	100m ²
Press conference room	70 pax plus stage plus camera riser
Presentation support	80m ²
Presentation support back office	30m ²
IAS office	80m ²
IAS meeting room	30 pax boardroom
Rapporteur office	20 pax boardroom
Offices	3 x 100m ² 5 x 50m ² 5 x 30m ²
Registration area	8 registration counters plus queuing space



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.

No

2. Are there any city, regional or national elections between 2023 and 2025?

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, people in prisons and other closed settings, sex workers and their clients, and trans people.

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

Yes – please explain the nature of the obstacles.

No