



Hosting IAS 2025

Invitation to submit letter of intent to host IAS 2025, the 13th 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 6,000 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](#)

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

Practical details

The IAS invites all destinations on the African continent interested in hosting IAS 2025 to submit a letter of intent (LoI).

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

- Statement of interest: Why is the city interested in hosting the 13th IAS Conference on HIV Science 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 convention centre, 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 proposed convention centre during **June or early July 2025**. The conference takes place over four days and the venue has to be available for a period of eight to ten days.
- Examples: Indicate recently hosted similar conferences (size, audience, topic).
- Capacity: Explain how the venue meets the standard and capacity as per the requirements in Appendix 1. If not, then please specify if and how the venue could meet the capacity requirements with use of temporary structures.
- What is the total number of hotel rooms available for delegates? Include:
 - The number of 3-star rooms, the number of 4-star rooms, the number of 5-star rooms
 - The number of rooms available within walking distance of the venue (maximum 15-minute walk)
- Commitments: Indicate expected financial and in-kind commitments from bid committee organizations and government institutions.
- Restrictions: Describe any restrictions that may impact the organization of the 13th IAS Conference on HIV Science or access by conference delegates, specifically pertaining to laws and regulations regarding key affected 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 Attachment 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.



The bidding process

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

14 February 2023	Announcement of the regional focus selected by the IAS Executive Board upon consultation with the IAS Governing Council. IAS 2025 will be organized on the African continent.
30 March 2023	Deadline for submission of letter of intent
30 April 2023	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 May 2023	The IAS sends a detailed request for proposal (RFP) to each shortlisted candidate with a deadline for submission of bids.
15 August 2023	Deadline for submission of bids
September 2023	Detailed technical analysis of bids Site visits Review and analysis of the bids by the IAS Conference Committee
December 2023	Confirmation of the successful host city for IAS 2025 by the IAS Executive Board



Selection criteria

- **Health, safety and political stability:** A requirement is that the host city will work with us to ensure high health and safety protocols for all delegates, staff and speakers in a politically stable climate.
- **Logistics (venue, accommodation and transportation):** In-person participation requires a venue, accommodation and travel infrastructure large enough to host such an event.
- **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.
- **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 30 March 2023.

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



Attachment 1. Venue requirements

[illegible]



Attachment 2. Restrictions to the organization of the 13th IAS Conference on HIV Science

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

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

☐ Yes – please explain the nature of the obstacles.

☐ No