

CALL FOR BIDS TO HOST THE

2026

**IAVE WORLD VOLUNTEER
CONFERENCE**

IAVE – the International Association for Volunteer Effort – is now calling for bids from interested organizations, communities and countries to host the 2026 IAVE World Volunteer Conference.



IAVE

This document is the official representation of the conference and outlines the process for submitting bids and the timetable for the review and selection process. Please review it in its entirety. All bids must be completed as specified below.

IAVE retains the right to accept or reject any proposals submitted in response to this call and, at its discretion, to alter or terminate the selection process at any time.

The 2026 World Volunteer Conference will be a special occasion for IAVE as it will pick up on the celebration of **the UN International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development (IYV+26)** which will firmly define and move volunteering into the future. As a result, consistent with our ongoing practice, IAVE will continue to play the major leadership role in determining the theme and program content of its 2026 World Volunteer Conference.

The Application Process

There are **four steps** in the application process:

1. Review this document in its entirety, including the guidelines for final proposal submissions. Learn more about IAVE and our currently planned and past conferences on our website, iave.org/convening. Consider whether your organization, community or country is a potential host for the world conference.

2. Register and attend Info Sessions to receive answers to your basic questions as well as stay up to date on the latest information. It is our intention to assist developing and submitting a proposal.

You can register for these sessions here:

- [SESSION 1 — Wednesday 16 October at 12 p.m. noon GMT](#)
- [SESSION 2 — Thursday 7 November at 1 p.m. GMT](#)

3. Interact with IAVE as required to ensure you have all of the information you require to develop a complete, competitive proposal.

4. Submit your final proposal by 15 November 2024, via wvc@iave.org.

Eligibility to Submit a Bid Proposal

Bid proposals may come from any NGO that can demonstrate its leadership role for volunteering, either submitting on its own or as the lead organization of a coalition that may include other NGOs, businesses or agencies of government at any level. **Proposals are not accepted from convention bureaus or convention centers or similar organizations or facilities unless they are submitted in partnership with a qualifying NGO that is designated as the lead organization.**

About IAVE

IAVE is the only global network of NGOs, businesses and individual volunteer leaders that exists for the sole purpose of promoting, strengthening and celebrating volunteering in all of the myriad of ways it exists throughout the world. Established by volunteers for volunteers in 1970, we now have individual and organizational members in some 125 countries, convene the Global Corporate Volunteer Council, work with national leadership organizations for volunteering, conduct research, serve as an advocate for volunteering with the United Nations, and organize world and regional conferences. To learn more about our work, please go to iave.org.

About IYV 2026

The United Nations General Assembly has designated 2026 as the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development. The year's theme is a call for UN member states to incorporate volunteerism into their development strategies. It also recognizes that collective action and solidarity are necessary to address challenges that affect everyone.

IYV+26 represents a key opportunity for volunteering and will bring a global spotlight to volunteering, attracting more than usual interest in this event.

About the IAVE World Volunteer Conference

The IAVE World Volunteer Conference has been held every two years since 1970. The conferences are unique events for the global volunteer community, providing a platform for leaders from throughout the world to meet, discuss critical issues and challenges, share innovations, learn from and support one another. They also are important moments to bring attention to the importance of volunteering as a powerful force to address the world's most critical human, social, economic and environmental problems. In 2001, the conference was the kickoff event for the United Nations International Year of Volunteers; in 2011, it opened IYV+10, the 10th anniversary of the first international year. In 2026 it will complement and enhance the UN International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development.

The conferences attract distinguished international speakers, expert trainers and presenters and participants from NGOs (from grassroots to international in scope), global companies, government agencies, and academia. While there is no "typical" conference, they generally have attendance of 800 to 1,000+ with roughly 50% from the host country or immediate surrounding countries, 25-35% from the broader region/continent in which the host country is located and 15-25% from the balance of the world. For a complete list of past world conferences, please go to iave.org/convening.

Each conference is a unique event, special in its own way, reflective of the culture and traditions of volunteering of the host country but also welcoming to the diversity of volunteering throughout the world. We encourage host countries to create an upbeat conference environment that facilitates interaction and sharing. Typically, the conference is structured to include plenary sessions, forums, workshops, opportunities for informal discussion groups and exhibition space. The official languages of the conference are English, and the national language designated by the host country. In addition, the host organization is expected to provide simultaneous interpretation, at least for plenary sessions, for any other language spoken by 25 or more participants. Typically, this includes Spanish, Arabic and Korean. This should also include efforts towards inclusiveness such as sign language or subtitle translation.

Assistance from IAVE During the Application Phase

It is to IAVE's advantage that bids received are as complete as possible, are responsive to our expectations and requirements, are presented in a way that will facilitate our evaluation and reflect consideration of significant risk factors.

To that end, it is our intention to interact with and to give preliminary feedback to those developing and submitting a proposal. We are happy to provide additional information and consultation, as requested, during the application phase.

Timetable for the Selection Process

15 November 2024 Deadline for submission of final proposals

This will be **an accelerated, and multi-step review process** that will include telephone interviews, requests for additional information and a potential site visit. We anticipate a decision will be made by 1 March 2025.

Guidelines for Submitting a Bid Proposal for the 2026 IAVE World Volunteer Conference

Section A: About the Host Organization

Please tell us about the organization that will give leadership to the conference.

1. Name
2. Contact person and title
3. Contact information: address, telephone, fax, email, web site
4. Description of the organization's purpose
5. Overview of the organization's activities
6. Scope of operations (international, national, local)
7. Size of the organization: number of paid and volunteer staff, budget
8. Source of the organization's funds AND annual operating budget (in both domestic currency and USD conversion)
9. Names and positions of members of the Board of Directors
10. To what extent do the organization's board and staff reflect the diversity of its country?
11. Past and current relationship to IAVE
12. What other IAVE conferences have you attended
13. Copy of the financial situation – independent financing
14. How well known is your organization inside and outside the country?
15. Sample budget (using [official format](#))

Please note: If a group of organizations proposes to collaborate to host this event, please provide details of all collaborating organizations and **clearly state which is the lead organization and will be the one signing a final Memorandum of Understanding.**

Section B: Conference Planning

Please tell us your preliminary plans for the 2026 IAVE World Volunteer Conference.

1. Proposed dates (and how these were determined, for example avoidance of religious holidays, weather, local events).
2. Proposed location (both city and the specific venue or describe the process to be used in selecting a venue – photographs of the proposed venue/s are encouraged).
3. Planned number of delegates (from host country, from immediate region and from rest of the world).
4. Estimated registration fee to be charged and what it will include.
5. Estimated budget, including projected expenses and projected revenue.
6. Projected sources of revenue and percentage of total revenue (registration fees, government support, contribution within host country, international contributions, etc).
7. Number and nature of scholarships to be offered (please specify the type of scholarship, for example, waived registrations, travel and/or accommodation).
8. Official language/s of the conference (including languages to be provided via simultaneous interpretation).
9. Any anticipated “patrons” or “sponsoring committee”.
10. Membership and structure of the host committee.
11. Number and source of paid staff and volunteers working on conference planning and management and the functions each will perform.
12. Preliminary ideas about theme, nature of the program etc.
13. Why will this be an important meeting in your country at this time? What ongoing benefits would you expect your country to gain from hosting the conference?
14. Are there any factors which would restrict participants from attending the conference in your country (transportation difficulties, visa restrictions, lack of facilities for people with disabilities, etc)?
15. Describe how the planning, management and execution of the conference will reflect the racial, ethnic and/or cultural diversity of the host country.
16. Please describe what help, if any, you believe you would require from the IAVE Secretariat to successfully plan and deliver the conference.

Please note: While the Conference Bid Committee takes the entirety of the bid into consideration when considering its recommendations to the IAVE Board, it is important to note that IAVE considers scholarships for delegates to be an important means of supporting the involvement of a wide diversity of IAVE members and key stakeholders who can support IAVE’s mission of promoting, strengthening and celebrating volunteering worldwide.

Section C: Form of Application

Applications must include all information requested above, in numbered order and **must include a formal resolution of commitment from the Board of Directors of the host organization.**

Section D: Memorandum of Understanding

Upon awarding the conference to the successful bidder, the host organization will be expected to sign a jointly negotiated memorandum of understanding with IAVE. **A draft copy of a representative MOU will be sent upon submission of your “expression of interest.”**

Please read the draft MOU carefully before submitting your bid as bid submission implies general acceptance of the terms of the MOU pending final agreement between IAVE and the successful bidder. If there is anything in the draft MOU that will not be possible for the host organization to meet this should be stated in your bid, with information about the reasons and possible alternatives or solutions.

Submitting Bid Proposals

Your bid proposal must be submitted as a PDF file via email to wvc@iave.org by **15 November 2024**.