



IWG Women and Sport

Host Nation Bid Pack 2026-2030



BID APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants are invited to bid to host the IWG Secretariat 2026 – 2030 and 10th IWG Global Summit on Women and Sport (2030).

Please submit an official letter outlining your Expression of Interest (EOI) including the likely host organisation and funding bodies to the bid. This should be submitted by email to:

IWG Secretary General, Lisa O’Keefe - lisaokeefe@iwgwomenandsport.org

Deadline: EOI to be submitted no later than 13:00 GMT on Thursday 5 December 2024

Please submit your completed bid application by email to:

IWG Secretary General, Lisa O’Keefe - lisaokeefe@iwgwomenandsport.org

Deadline: Bid to be submitted no later than 13:00 GMT on Thursday 5 June 2025

Each bid will be assessed by a panel comprising members of the IWG Global Executive, IWG UK Steering Committee and Secretariat. The panel may ask questions or seek clarity from bidding host nations during the assessment phase and may ask short-listed bidders to present their case via a Zoom or Teams call.

The Bid Panel will present a recommendation to the IWG Global Executive for decision at their meeting in October 2025.

The successful applicant will be informed following the Global Executive Meeting. In collaboration with the IWG Secretariat, a public announcement will be made shortly after.

The new host nation will be invited to attend, present and take part in all parts of the 9th IWG Global Summit, 9 - 11 July 2026 in Birmingham, United Kingdom.



GENERAL OVERVIEW

Established 30 years ago, the [International Working Group \(IWG\) on Women and Sport](#) is the world's largest network dedicated to advancing gender equality in sport and physical activity. The IWG is a truly global organisation and key to that global perspective is moving the host country of the Secretariat and Global Summit every four years.

Our vision is for sport and physical activity to contribute to a world where all women and girls thrive. This is achieved through bringing stakeholders together to make the changes needed to the structures and values of sport globally.

Key stakeholder groups include global organisations such as UN Women, UNESCO, the Global Observatory for Gender Equality in Sport, the International Olympic and Paralympic Committees, and International Sport Federations. At continental and national level, stakeholders include Ministries of Sport, Sports Councils, Sports Federations, Sport for Development Organisations, Women's Sport Advocacy Organisations and Academic Institutions.

A key tool used by IWG Women and Sport is the Brighton Plus Helsinki Declaration. IWG developed and remains guardian of the [Brighton plus Helsinki 2014 Declaration on Women and Sport](#), which now has almost 600 Signatories, providing a road map for those organisations seeking to create more gender equal environments. Impact is tracked through the [IWG Progress Report](#).

Every four years since 1994, IWG has staged the [IWG Global Summit](#) – the largest global gathering on gender equity in sport and physical activity (table 1).

Table 1: IWG Women and Sport – Global Summits

YEAR	CITY	COUNTRY	PARTICIPANTS
1994	Brighton	United Kingdom	284
1998	Windhoek	Namibia	400
2002	Montreal	Canada	550
2006	Kumamoto	Japan	700
2010	Sydney	Australia	500
2014	Helsinki	Finland	800
2018	Gaborone	Botswana	926
2022	Auckland	New Zealand	1850 (1200 in person)
2026	Birmingham	United Kingdom	Projected 1200

The IWG Secretariat and Global Summit 2022 – 2026 quadrennial is being hosted by the United Kingdom through the Sport and Recreation Alliance, made possible by funding from Sport England, UK Sport, Sport Scotland, Sport Wales and the University of Hertfordshire.

The UK Secretariat is focused on delivering the vision and mission through three strategic priorities:



- **Connections:** Creation and maintenance of connected and inclusive digital and in-person communities culminating in the IWG Global Summit from 9-11 July 2026 in Birmingham, UK.
- **Insight:** Ownership of a curated Insight Hub designed to make the world's best knowledge and toolkits available and accessible to all.
- **Advocacy:** Collaboration with Brighton Plus Helsinki Declaration signatories (and others) to demonstrate the value and impact of systemic gender equality. This includes creating a UK legacy based on collaboration and focused on investment, visibility and portrayal, and leadership.

In order to continue to ensure a global perspective and sustain momentum, the [IWG Global Executive](#) is now accepting bids from countries or organisations interested in:

- The position of IWG Co-Chair in 2026 - 2030;
- Hosting the IWG Secretariat from September 2026 - 2030; and
- Hosting the 10th IWG World Conference on Women and Sport in 2030.

Ideally, these three opportunities should be taken on by a single country or organisation. However, a joint bid from more than one organisation / country working together may also be considered as a possibility. Joint bids are to be outlined in your application with details of organisations and how the partnerships work. Candidates bidding for hosting must secure funding for support of all the functions.

The UK Secretariat will end on 30 September 2026, and handover to the new host. Ideally, the new host will have their team in place four months prior to handover to allow for a smooth transition period, and attendance at the 9th IWG Global Summit.

THE INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP (IWG) ON WOMEN AND SPORT PLATFORMS AND SOCIAL CHANNELS

Website: <https://iwgwomenandsport.org/>
Insight Hub: <https://www.iwginsighthub.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IWGWomenSport/>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/iwgwomensport>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/iwgwomensport/>
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/iwg-women-sport>
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/IWGWomenSportNetwork>

Please refer to the [IWG Women and Sport 2022-26 Strategic Plan](#) for a full picture of IWG's intentions over this quadrennial. This Plan was developed by the IWG UK Secretariat in consultation with stakeholders and approved by the IWG Global Executive. The new host will be required to update this Strategic Plan for 2026 – 2030.



SECTION 1 – POSITION OF IWG CO-CHAIR(S)

The IWG is led by two Co-Chairs. One is from the new host country; they will take overall responsibility and leadership for delivery of the IWG Secretariat and Global Summit 2026 - 2030. The other will be from the immediate past host country (ideally the co-chair 2022 - 2026). If the latter is unavailable, a suitable candidate shall be chosen by the IWG Global Executive according to policy. Between them, the Co-Chairs will decide on a division of labour.

Skills, Competencies, Knowledge Required

The Co-Chair in the bid application should possess the requisite influence within the host country and/or internationally to raise the profile of the IWG's work, seek funding, as well as lead and promote the IWG's initiatives globally and locally. They should also have the support of key stakeholders such as government organisations and non-government organisations locally to support successful delivery.

The following skills, competencies and knowledge are required of the Co-Chair:

- Ability to add value to the design and implementation of strategies for change at a global level.
- Knowledge and understanding of the structure and politics of the international sport and physical activity movement.
- Capability to influence senior decision-makers within political, governmental, non-governmental and sport and physical activity domains.
- Ability to network in person and remotely and develop and nurture relationships with individuals and organisations within and beyond the international sports and physical activity movement.
- Availability and capability of representing the IWG at meetings and conferences globally and locally.
- Skills to operate at a strategic and leadership level with other sport and non-sport agencies.
- Ability to lead and implement partnership strategies among varying agencies, in particular multi-sport games (i.e. the Olympic and Paralympic Movement) and international federations.
- Philosophy and demonstrated commitment to the advancement of girl's and women's sport and physical activity.
- Proven track record of leadership.
- Experience in issues related to sport and physical activity policy. Human rights knowledge welcome.
- Experience in organising national/international events.
- Proven communication skills (written and oral) in English.

REQUIREMENT: Bidder to submit the following as an attachment to the bid document:

1. Candidate's Curriculum Vitae (CV).
2. Personal statement of purpose for serving as IWG Co-Chair for 2026 – 2030.



SECTION 2 – IWG SECRETARIAT (June 2026 – October 2030)

1. Ideally, the IWG Secretariat 2026 – 2030 shall be based in the same country as the 10th IWG Global Summit on Women and Sport 2030. The IWG Secretariat manages the day-to-day work of the IWG globally and provides support for all its activities and initiatives. The Secretariat is the critical link between the IWG Global Executive, members of the network, key stakeholders in the women and sport and physical activity movement, the wider network and the public at large. In this respect communication in English is essential and language skills in French and Spanish are also desirable. The successful bidder to host the Secretariat will appoint an IWG Secretary General to lead the team to deliver for IWG.
2. The IWG Secretariat will support the work of the IWG globally by creating and implementing the IWG Strategic Plan – 2026 - 2030. As an example, see the [2022-2026 IWG Strategic Plan](#).

Key responsibilities include:

- 2.1 Grow and strengthen the IWG network of networks in conjunction with the Global Executive Regional Leads. Ensure the needs of the network are brought into the work of the Secretariat.
- 2.2 Promote, support and monitor the progress and implementation of the Brighton plus Helsinki 2014 Declaration on Women and Sport and proactively add value to the work of the Signatories.
- 2.3 Strengthen IWG strategic partnerships with the UN and other key agencies, governments, NGOs and special interest groups; network and work to influence the gender equity agenda.
- 2.4 Share global best practice, innovations and research via the [IWG Insight Hub](#) (including data collection, analysis and preparation of the [IWG Progress Report](#) for presentation at the 10th IWG Global Summit). Continue to develop the Insight Hub platform and content to meet the needs of stakeholders and the network.
- 2.5 Facilitate the IWG's contributions to forums and conferences worldwide.
- 2.6 Share research and information with media and key influencers, advocating for gender equity.
- 2.7 Maintain and grow awareness and recognition of the [IWG brand mark](#).
- 2.8 Disseminate information regarding the women and sport and physical activity movement via the IWG's communication channels.
- 2.9 Act as steward and delivery agent of the 10th IWG Global Summit on Women and Sport.
- 2.10 Ensure sustained development of the IWG across the four years in a way that is in line with its vision and mission.
- 2.11 Organise the IWG Global Executive AGM annually.
- 2.12 Maintain the IWG's database and resources; manage all policies; oversee the Bid 2030-2034.



REQUIREMENT: Bidder to submit the following within the bid document:

1. A short summary of the host organisation, outlining its credentials as a potential host for the IWG Secretariat 2026 - 2030. It should include background, vision, mission and aims, day-to-day activities, scope of operations, source(s) of funding and contact information including the organisation's website and email address, name of contact person and his or her email address and phone number.
2. A short purpose statement for serving as host the IWG Secretariat 2026 - 2030 should be included.

SECRETARIAT ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:

The bid panel will use the following criteria to assess all submissions:

- **Commitment/ideology and resources:** Adequate financial support for the Secretariat's four-year term must be secured by the bidding organisation and shown in the bid. The IWG Secretariat must also commit to delivery of the IWG key responsibilities.
- **Support from key national decision-making bodies, both government and non-government, impacts the success of the IWG Secretariat's work.** Commitment may be manifested in a variety of ways, for example: goods and services in kind provided to the IWG Secretariat, financial support for the activities of the IWG Secretariat or assistance with respect to public relations and the promotion of the IWG's work nationally, regionally or internationally. The bidder should demonstrate support.
- **Multi-agency involvement:** It is recommended that the IWG Secretariat work closely with key national/regional organisations during the four-year term. This type of cooperation can help to secure support, facilitate the Secretariat's work, and ensure optimal impact of the IWG Secretariat's term in the host country. The bidder should show how it intends to leverage partner agencies.
- **Legacies/Impacts:** The impact of hosting the IWG Secretariat may be social, cultural and economic. Candidates are encouraged to plan for the lasting effect of the IWG Secretariat's term that will benefit women and sport in the host country in addition to delivery of the key responsibilities. The intended domestic legacy should be identified within the bid.
- **Language capacity:** The ability to effectively communicate in English is a minimum requirement of the IWG Secretariat. French and Spanish language capacities are also looked upon very favorably. Key communication should be presented in all three languages, as a minimum.



- **Financing:** Budget for the IWG Secretariat should include but not be limited to:
 - Full-time staff members for the four-year period (plus ideally a four-month handover period), depending on your needs and IWG workload.
 - Additional staff when needed (i.e. contractors, outside agencies, etc).
 - Administrative costs, office space and supplies (including all equipment, desks, chairs etc.).
 - Travel (attendance at IWG annual meetings, relevant conferences and/or other meetings).
 - IWG website and 'Insight Hub' platform updates, maintenance, content creation and publicity.
 - Ensuring the IWG network of networks continues to grow and strengthen.
 - Conducting the quadrennial IWG Progress Report on global developments in women and sport.
 - Information Technology Services including software and hardware (computers/internet access, printers/ photocopiers, online meeting capabilities, file sharing, mass emailing software, etc.).
 - Accounting services.
 - Legal services.
- **Collaboration:** Please advise how you would intend to collaborate with the IWG UK Secretariat between June and September 2026, for smooth transition of the IWG Secretariat. It is recommended that your office plans to shadow IWG United Kingdom in the run up to the 9th IWG Global Summit.



SECTION 3 – GLOBAL SUMMIT ON WOMEN AND SPORT HOST AND ORGANISER

The IWG Global Summit on Women and Sport is held every four years and is the highest profile event staged by the IWG and the largest independent conference of its kind in the world. The event is action-oriented, and its focus is on realising change and considering the synergies between sport and physical activity, the women's movement and other entities interested in women's empowerment. These Global Summits have a unique purpose and reporting function; however, they are also a milestone in the four-year IWG Secretariat journey and therefore should not be considered as a “stand-alone” event.

The Summits build on the success of the previous event and are linked by a common “change” theme. Between 500 – 1000 (or more if capacity allows) decision-makers, administrators, coaches, scientists and athletes share strategies, approaches, insights and learning. IWG New Zealand staged the 8th IWG Global Summit as a full physical-digital hybrid, IWG UK intends to provide hybrid access to plenary session only.

GLOBAL SUMMIT ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- **Commitment/Ideology and Resources:** Support from key national decision-making bodies, both government and non-government, has been proven to contribute significantly to the promotion of the summit and its success. It also impacts on the credibility of the IWG globally. Commitment and support may manifest in a variety of ways, for example: past initiatives focusing on women and sport and physical activity, financial support for the activities of the candidate organisation, support for national / international events or initiatives aiming to enhance opportunities for women in sport. The host organisation must guarantee financial support for the 10th IWG Global Summit in 2030.
- **Multi-agency involvement:** It is recommended that the organisers work with key national/regional organisations to secure support, design programming, facilitate the effective implementation of follow-up action steps and ensure optimal impact of the summit and work of the IWG globally.
- **Legacies/Impacts:** Impact of the summit may be economic, social or cultural. Candidates are encouraged to plan for anticipated impacts that benefit women and sport and physical activity in the host country and the future of the IWG. Consider what change the host organisation is driving.
- **Location:** Geographical accessibility and balance in relation to past global Summits are both important. The intention behind these conferences is to mobilise action worldwide. Host regions in the past have experienced particular benefits and the varied locations of the Global Summits have allowed for participants from many different regions of the world to take part. You will need to provide the following information in your bid document:
 - Proposed host city and dates for the 10th IWG Global Summit on Women and Sport 2030
 - Proposed summit venue (location, capacity and facility information, accessibility, etc.)



- **Accessibility:** The summit site should be as easily accessible and comfortable as possible for all participants. Candidates should aim to offer a safe and secure environment. The IWG Global Summit must be fully accessible to the disabled delegates, physically and via the presentations.
- **Affordability:** This event aims to attract a diverse profile of participants from both developed and emerging countries. In this respect, a wide variety of accommodation options is necessary and participant costs (registration, meals, social) should be kept as low as possible. Additionally, efforts should be made to offer grants and financial assistance, making it possible for delegates from emerging countries to also attend. In addition, there may be a fee structure offered with discounts for delegates from emerging countries. Young adults also represent an important group and efforts should be made to increase their opportunities to attend.
- **Facilities:** The summit facilities should be accessible and easily reached. Meeting room capacities should include plenary sessions of at least 1000 participants; several, simultaneous, small group sessions; poster presentation space; audio-visual aids, and live support for multiple languages.
- **Accommodation:** Anticipated hotel rates in US DOLLAR.
- **Transport:** Provide information on the following:
 - Nearest international airport(s).
 - Anticipated method(s) of transportation to be used by delegates between the airport and the summit hotels and during their stay.
- **Finances:** The IWG does not have a budget to support the 10th IWG Global Summit. The organiser must secure adequate financial resources and must submit as follows:
 - Details on how the organisation plans to raise the funds necessary to hold a summit of this size in terms of specific support and timing.
 - Details on any governmental support and/or sponsors who have committed to support the application.
 - Details on any other anticipated revenue streams.
 - Estimated registration fee to be charged and what it will include.
 - Draft budget, listing anticipated income and expense items.
- **Translation:** Simultaneous translations of the plenary sessions and workshops into English, French and Spanish, as well as regionally appropriate languages, is highly recommended in order to ensure active participation from a linguistically diverse group of participants. Sign language options needed.
- **Human resources:** In addition to the IWG Co-Chair and Secretariat, personnel dedicated to summit planning are required. Volunteers/support staff during the event are highly recommended.



- **Background information:** to be provided in the bid document
 - Description of the organisation's experience in the international women and sport and physical activity movement and related national/international events or initiatives.
 - Organisation's statement of purpose for serving as host the for hosting the 10th Global Summit on Women and Sport.
- **Summit dates:** Traditionally IWG Global Summits on Women and Sport have been held in either May or June over 3 or 4 days and have gathered up to 1,200 participants from around the world for several days of exchange and discussion. Consideration will be given to alternative dates where shown to be more appropriate.
- **Themes:** In cooperation with the IWG Global Executive, the host selects a summit theme and prepares the summit program, focusing on salient issues and the needs of participants. To date, each of the previous hosts back to 1994 has created a theme using the word "change". The needs of the network should guide the selection of Summit content.
- **Collaboration:** kindly provide information on possible collaborations such as:
 - Status of support for the organisation's bid to host the 10th IWG Global Summit on Women and Sport by national, regional, Government and city authorities and/or sports organisations.
 - Key national/international organisations, networks or other bodies with which the organisation intends to collaborate with in order to deliver a successful Summit.
 - How you would intend to collaborate with the UK Secretariat between June and September 2026, for smooth transition of the IWG Global Summit IP and knowledge.

REQUIREMENT: a bid document expressing the bidder's vision for the IWG Global Summit and its answer to the above. Express how the bidder will move the global women and sport movement forward.

QUESTIONS: The UK Secretariat is available to answer additional questions regarding the bid process.

Contact the IWG Secretary General, Lisa O'Keefe by email: lisaokeefe@iwgwomenandsport.org