

Call for papers

Conference jointly organized by UNU-WIDER and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation

EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

November 2022, Brussels, Belgium

Background

United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), on behalf of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC) and with the support of the European Union, is organizing an international research conference on the effectiveness of development co-operation.

The conference will provide a forum for presentation and discussion of high-quality research that speaks to the relationship between development aid and development outcomes, including the factors that constrain and influence aid effectiveness and performance. Given current trends in aid allocations and development co-operation, we are particularly interested in papers focused on fragile and conflict-affected countries and in low-income countries, but also welcome research conducted elsewhere, including in countries where the dependence on external concessional finance is less.

The conference will be held in November 2022 (dates TBC) in Brussels. Key findings of the conference will be compiled to provide evidence-based input into the work of the GPEDC and in particular the 2022 GPEDC High-Level Meeting to be held in Geneva.

Four principles of 'effective development co-operation' form the basis of GPEDC's work:

- (1) ownership of development priorities by developing countries
- (2) focus on results
- (3) inclusive partnerships, and
- (4) transparency and accountability to each other.

About the conference

The two-day conference will provide a forum to discuss innovative, theoretical, and empirical research and its policy take-aways. We welcome submissions of individual papers, as well as of panels. Panels will include 3–4 papers and may include a discussant. We welcome qualitative



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and quantitative analyses; analysis drawing on new primary sources or existing data; single or multiple case studies; as well as high-quality reviews of the literature and research findings. We are particularly interested in submissions that speak to questions such as the following:

- What is the relationship between the implementation of development effectiveness principles and development outcomes, including progress on Sustainable Development Goals targets and Leave No One Behind? What factors influence this relationship?
- What is the relationship between the implementation of development effectiveness principles and access to and use of development finance (bilateral, multilateral, global funds, climate finance)?
- What factors and conditions facilitate or hamper the practical implementation of aid effectiveness principles (whether collectively or in terms of particular principles such as local ownership)?
- How do the politics and policies of aid-recipient countries matter to aid effectiveness? What are the implications of this for aid policy?
- What works or does not work in development aid and development co-operation in fragile and conflict-affected contexts? How is this different or similar to other contexts, such as countries for whom external aid is less important?
- What is the relationship between development co-operation, governance, and democracy? What does 'ownership' mean and how can ownership be fostered in non-democratic contexts?

We welcome proposals addressing these questions both at the general level and within specific sectors. Given that development outcomes are likely to be substantially influenced by policies, regulations, resource allocation, targeting, and the delivery of services and infrastructure investments at the sectoral level, we encourage in particular the submission of papers that shed light on these questions within specific sectors.

Papers selected under this Call will be presented at the joint UNU-WIDER-GPEDC conference to be held in November 2022 (dates TBC) in Brussels. Some of the papers may be published in the WIDER Working Paper Series. An edited book with a top academic publisher is also planned by the conference's academic leads, **Dr Rachel Gisselquist**, **Professor Patricia Justino**, and **Dr Andrea Vaccaro**; some selected conference papers will be invited for inclusion.

Submission procedure

Interested applicants wishing to present original research at the conference on the topics discussed above should complete the [online application form](#). We particularly encourage submissions from researchers in the Global South, as well as early-career and female researchers.

Each paper submission will require:

1. An up-to-date CV.
2. An abstract not exceeding 200 words which should summarize the research question, working argument, main methods and data, and the research plan.
3. A full-length draft paper OR alternatively an extended abstract.
 - The first page of the full-length draft paper or extended abstract should include all author names, affiliations, and the above-mentioned 200-word abstract.
 - Full-length papers should be no longer than 10,000 words, inclusive of references,

footnotes, tables, and figures. Full-length draft papers may be accompanied by a brief covering note describing the research plan to improve and finalize the paper for the conference.

- Extended abstracts should be approximately 800-1,000 words long. Extended abstracts should demonstrate that the proposed paper can be completed in time for conference submission, including sufficient detail on the research plan or data to be used in the analysis.
 - in PDF format.
 - written in English¹.
4. One writing sample such as a published article, working paper, dissertation chapter, or conference paper. An unpublished paper is fine. Please send only one writing sample, even for submissions with multiple authors.

Any queries on the call for papers should be sent to callforpapers@wider.unu.edu by **1 April 2022**.

Previously unpublished papers presented at the conference may be considered for publication in the WIDER Working Paper Series and could be invited for submission to the planned edited book.

Only the final decision on whether the paper has been accepted will be communicated to applicants. Applicants must not expect feedback on individual submissions.

Important dates

19 April 2022	Submission deadline 23:59 UTC+3
6 May 2022	Target date for acceptance/rejection notification
26 August 2022	Submission of either a full-length draft paper or a revised extended abstract. Researchers interested in being considered for the WIDER Working Paper Series and/or the edited book are strongly encouraged to submit a full-length draft paper at this stage.
October 2022 [1 month before the conference]	Submission of conference papers
November 2022	Conference

Other considerations

Successful applicants are expected to present their paper and participate in the conference to be organized in November 2022. Depending on the evolution of the pandemic the conference may be organized in hybrid format.

For those attending the conference in person, costs of attendance will be covered and travel arrangements will be made by the EU on behalf of the GPEDC.

Researchers/institutions will retain copyright of conference papers, unless otherwise explicitly agreed with authors for those papers which will become part of the edited book project or another UNU-WIDER publication.

¹ While we welcome and encourage submissions from scholars from non-Anglophone contexts, submissions should be translated into English.