

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Introduction

The [Global Development Network \(GDN\)](#) is seeking enthusiastic and committed volunteers to support the [Global Development Conference 2025](#), a flagship international forum bringing together researchers, policymakers, development practitioners, private sector leaders, and civil society from around the world. GDC 2025 will host high-level, inclusive, evidence-based debates on current development challenges and priorities, with most participants coming from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). This event provides promising and established researchers with an opportunity to disseminate their work, share their ideas, and foment Global North-South interactions between academics and policymakers aiming to foster a global network.

About the 2025 Conference

The 2025 edition of the Global Development Conference will take place from **October 28-30, 2025** in **Clermont-Ferrand, France**, on the theme "*Inclusive Digital Transformation: Social Impacts and Technological Innovations*". Discussions will explore how digital technologies can foster sustainable and equitable development, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, while managing associated risks and challenges.

This year's event is co-hosted with the [Fondation pour les Études et Recherches sur le Développement International \(FERDI\)](#) and the [Centre d'Études et de Recherches sur le Développement International \(CERDI\)](#), under the **Pôle Clermontois de Développement International (PCDI)**, with support from **Agence Française de Développement (AFD)**.

Scope for Volunteers

Organising an event of this scale, with participants from around the world, requires strong volunteer support. Given the international nature of the 2025 conference, we expect language barriers to be a challenge, making bilingual volunteers (French and English) from the local community essential.

The Organising Committee is seeking volunteers with diverse skills to support different core areas, ensuring a seamless and engaging experience for all participants. Volunteers will be able to indicate their interest and availability, and assignments will be made accordingly. Opportunities include:



1. Participants' Experience

- Assist with the conference **registration process**, including welcoming attendees, handing out badges, and providing information throughout the event.
- **Guide participants** to key areas such as the Plenary Hall, parallel sessions, and the workshops area.
- Supporting **networking** and social interaction among participants

2. Conference Agenda Support

- Assist in managing plenary and parallel sessions, including **operating microphones** during Q&A, moving interpreter headsets between rooms, etc.
- Ensure all required materials and **logistics** are ready in coordination with the Organising Committee.
- Support **session timekeeping** in close coordination with the chairperson, and monitor virtual attendance to pass along online questions when needed.
- Capture **key highlights** of speakers for use in the conference summary, daily communiqués, and social media updates.

3. Logistics Support

- Assist with **catering** by guiding participants to designated lunch areas, coffee breaks, and social events.
- Help with **transport logistics** by directing participants from their hotels to the pre-arranged buses.
- Provide **interpretation assistance** when needed, supporting non-French-speaking members of the Organising Committee in interactions with local participants and vendors.

4. IT and Virtual Engagement Support

- **Troubleshoot** basic technical issues for participants and speakers, and ensure smooth operation of equipment throughout the conference in coordination with session chairs and the IT support team.
- Assist with hybrid **participation tools**, including Zoom and streaming platforms.
- Provide support during virtual sessions by **engaging with attendees via Zoom**, sending questions, monitoring chat, and checking for any issues with sound or interpretation.

5. Cultural and Hospitality Support

- Assisting with **social and cultural events** during the conference
- Supporting **guided visits** and informal networking activities

6. Communications Support



- Prepare **brief overviews of sessions and workshops** for social media and the conference report.
- Assist the Communications Team with filming **interviews** and other media content.

Volunteers will have a contact person from the Organising Committee who they will work with throughout the event.

Recognition and Retribution

Selected volunteers will be able to **join the conference free of charge** and are not expected to be available throughout the entire event – a minimum of 1 day will be needed to be split between the 3 days. They are also invited to all meals, coffee breaks and any associated events. Furthermore, a **certificate will be issued based on their role and responsibilities** at the Conference.

Application Process and Deadline

Interested candidates should send their Expression of Interest to conference@gdn.int with the subject line *Volunteer – GDC 2025* by **Monday, September 22, 2025**. Indicating:

1. Level of proficiency in English
2. Availability divided by morning/afternoon from October 28-30, 2025
3. Scope of activities from 1 to 6 above that you would be interested in supporting and a couple sentences to justify it, including any relevant past experience in those areas (if relevant).

Venue

The conference will be held in multiple venues in Clermont-Ferrand, with main sessions hosted at **Hall 32**. Detailed venue information will be provided to selected volunteers.

Training Session for Volunteers

To help volunteers feel prepared and confident, we will hold a **virtual information session during the first week of October**. This briefing will cover responsibilities, practical logistics, and tips on managing different scenarios during the event. Participation in the session is strongly encouraged, as it will give you the opportunity to ask questions and connect with the Organising Committee before the conference.

Thank you for your interest, feel free to reach out to us at conference@gdn.int if you have any doubts or would like to be engaged, but with a different set of responsibilities!

Learn more at conf2025.gdn.int.

