

ACFID National Conference 2023

Global Development 2.0 *disruptive dynamics, inspired ideas*

Concurrent Session Expressions of Interest

The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) is calling for Expressions of interest for concurrent sessions at its National Conference, to be held on the 18th and 19th of October in Sydney.

What is this year's theme?

The theme of ACFID National Conference 2023 is **Global Development 2.0: *disruptive dynamics, inspired ideas***.

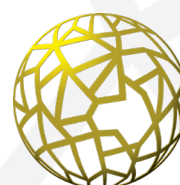
Coming out of the last few years, the world and global development sector is in a state of flux, so much so, that a new word has hit our dictionaries - "permacrisis". This term describes the extended period of instability and insecurity faced by all nations around the world, from the economic turmoil borne from protracted crisis to the degradation of our natural world and repeated ongoing disasters resulting from climate change. From the misinformation and misdirection contributing to division, increased marginalization, and political disparity and disillusionment; to the ongoing recovery from coronavirus, whilst preparing for the next to emerge. It's safe to say the coming years will be hard, particularly for nations already suffering the hardest.

It is easy to become overwhelmed by the challenge ahead.

This year, as our sector comes together physically after three years, ACFID Conference 2023 turns our attention to the passion, the expertise and the energy that can be found in all corners of the world from the innovators, the youth and the extraordinary people and organisations that are not sitting down and waiting.

From what is being overhauled, to what's around the corner.

- What partnerships and collaborations are needed to push systemic change at the top, so grassroots organisations can continue the work on the ground?



- Which donors are prepared to disrupt the current funding models and how can civil society access them?
- What technology is emerging that can be harnessed for collective impact?
- How do we support and elevate the wisdom of traditional knowledge and the vision of our youth?

We know top-down approaches are the way of the past. It's time to truly listen to those most affected and work alongside them in support of a better way.

What are concurrent sessions

Concurrent Sessions are sessions within the conference that take place with a subsection of the delegates. They complement the "plenary" sessions which bring all of the delegates together to hear the same speakers at the same time.

At up to three points of the Conference program, delegates will have a choice out of a range of 4-5 concurrent sessions to attend.

Concurrent sessions provide the opportunity for a deep-dive into specific aspects of the Conference theme and to have formats which promote participation of delegates.

Will this year's Conference be virtual or face-to-face?

This year's Conference will be a hybrid event. After 3 year's of virtual Conferences, the 2023 Conference will return to a face-to-face format, but some elements will be virtual, to retain access to a rich depth of speakers and the opportunities for global participation. Plenary sessions will be streamed to the virtual audience and there will be two streams of concurrent sessions – one stream virtual and one face-to-face.

Unfortunately we will not have access to enough equipment to make individual face-to-face concurrent sessions hybrid – session presenters and the audience will either be fully virtual or fully face-to-face for each session. The potential to negotiate this for a small number of sessions may be possible as planning progresses.

What are we looking for in concurrent sessions?

All concurrent sessions must:

- Contribute to advancing the overall theme of ACFID Conference 2023

In addition, Eols will be highly regarded if they:

- Demonstrate collaboration within and/or beyond the sector
- Support the principles of diversity and inclusion in speaker choice
- Have participatory elements for delegates
- Share practical insights, actionable strategies and/or reflections and learnings
- Incorporate local partners and/or speakers from the Global South

Concurrent session formats

We are seeking expressions of interest for concurrent sessions in a range of formats, including:

Workshops	<p>Workshops are in-depth sessions that combine instruction/information distribution with specific hands-on or 'minds-on' learning elements and tangible takeaways.</p> <p>Things you may need to consider when designing a workshop session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning outcome/s should be carefully articulated; the outcomes also need to go beyond "understanding", "learning about" or "engaging with" – the outcomes should define the intended measurable additions to delegates' knowledge base and/or skill set. • Presenter/s can be used for instruction (delivering content), but this should be balanced with facilitation (guiding delegates to connect content with their own experience/practice). You may consider using a combination of presenters with subject matter expertise plus a moderator/facilitator with facilitation expertise. • Hands-on or 'minds-on' activities should be included and designed so that delegates can connect the workshop content with their own role/work and/or reflect on their own practice. • Consider also designing for 'beyond the workshop' – equip delegates with something that helps them apply their new skill/s or knowledge (for example, a checklist or reference document, a template or action plan).
Learning Labs	<p>Learning labs are facilitated sessions designed to create a specific environment for achieving practical learning outcomes. Learning labs are designed to be as immersive as possible by creating a simulated workplace/field environment, using scenarios and role play or role-thinking, following narrative-based decision trees, exploring different horizon states using interactive forecasting, etc.</p> <p>Things you may need to consider when designing a learning lab session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning outcome/s should be carefully articulated; the outcomes also need to go beyond "understanding", "learning about" or "engaging with" – the outcomes should define the intended measurable additions to delegates' knowledge base and/or skill set. • Learning labs are a social learning experience and should not rely on presentations or formal instruction. • Learning labs rely on delegates acting or thinking their way through scenarios; they are suited to sessions seeking to explore decision-making, problem-solving, assumptions and biases, dealing with complexity, etc.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning labs can include the use of props, staging and role-players. • Time should be allocated at the beginning of the learning lab to set the scene and establish ground rules, and at the end of the learning lab to reflect on the overall process and highlight key takeaways/learnings.
Roundtable discussions	<p>Roundtable discussions are a forum for collective, in-depth discussions and problem-solving where participants and presenters come together as a community to share their experiences and insights.</p> <p>Things you may need to consider when designing a roundtable session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator/s need to be both well-versed in the topic (to provide meaningful summaries and connections) and be effective at managing time and engaging different voices in discussion. • Include no more than 3 presenters as part of your roundtable session – most of the discussion should directly engage delegates. • Presenter/s need to provide concise (5 to 10 minute) presentations that lead into wider group discussion and problem-solving. Provocative ideas or ‘sticky’ issues are the best topics for presenters. • Room layout may be as one roundtable for a large, consolidated discussion; or as multiple roundtables for smaller, rotating carousel-style discussions. • Problem statements/specific challenges/issue-based scenarios should be used to meaningfully surface the experiences, insights and problem-solving contributions of delegates. • Time should be allocated at regular intervals (or at the end of the session) for the moderator/s to summarise the discussion and highlight useful/interesting insights.
Case study presentation	<p>Case study presentations are a forum for individuals and/or organisations to present research findings, project evaluations, policy or system analyses, etc. and to field audience Q&A based on the presented case studies.</p> <p>Things you may need to consider when designing a case study session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideally, case studies should feature innovative, illustrative or unexpected stories that prompt delegates to reflect on their own work, the work of their organisation, or implications for the sector more broadly.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All case studies in a case study session should share a thematic or practice-based link that is more specific/targeted than the overall conference theme. • Each case study should follow a similar structure and be allocated a similar amount of time. • Case study presenters should be encouraged to rehearse their presentation. Presenters should also be aware of the content of the other case studies being presented. • Adequate time should be allocated for audience Q&A – the greater number of case study presentations, the shorter the length of time allocated to each presentation. • A moderator/MC can be used to introduce each case study presentation, manage time allocations, highlight practical or thematic links between case studies and moderate the audience Q&A. The moderator should be well-versed in the content of each case study presentation.
Panel discussion	<p>Panel discussions bring together diverse speakers for a focussed, moderated discussion on a specific topic, followed by audience Q&A. Things you may need to consider when designing a panel discussion session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit the size of your panel to 3 panel speakers and 1 moderator. • The panel moderator should be well-versed in the topic of the panel; they should also be briefed on the backgrounds and expertise of each panel member. • Sufficient time should be allocated to audience Q&A, either by inviting audience contribution at regular intervals or as a consolidated section following the panel discussion. • Time should be allocated at the beginning of the session for the moderator to introduce the panel topic and establish its importance, and to introduce each of the panel speakers. The end of the session should allow time for the moderator to summarise key points from both the panel discussion and the audience Q&A. • Be clear about what the panellists contribute collectively and individually, and design and refine questions accordingly; explore the use of a single question to generate multiple diverse answers versus multiple questions to drill down into the expertise of each panellist (or a combination of both).
Other	Be creative and propose something new and innovative!

Online sessions could also make use of virtual conferencing technology such as polling/surveys/pulse checks, small group activities/discussion in breakout rooms, sharing files and links etc.

Concurrent session Length

Concurrent sessions can run for 30, 60 or 90 minutes – proposed timing should be included in expressions of interest. The majority of session allocations will be 60 minutes.

If selected, what's required

If your expression of interest is selected, you will work with ACFID to prepare your concurrent session. You will correspond with and/or meet regularly with organisers from ACFID to:

- Share the purpose, objectives, and outcomes of your session.
- Refine the format and delegate interactions of your session.
- Confirm the participation and roles of your speakers/presenters.
- Brief your speakers to prepare them for being part of your session.
- Access support in preparing and promoting your session.

Support from ACFID

If your session is selected, ACFID provides:

- A contact point for ensuring alignment with ACFID's requirements, for organising session logistics and support in achieving delivery of stated session objectives and outcomes.
- Platform, audio-visual, and other event support as required and agreed.
- Promotion via the conference program, website, app, and ACFID social media channels.
- Support for conference registration fees with:
 - One 2-day pass for the session organiser
 - Up to four 1-day passes for session speakers
 - Discounted passes for speakers for the other day of the Conference
 - Full access to the conference virtual platform

Questions and More Information

For questions or more information, attend an information session on either:

Friday 19th May 1pm – register [here](#)

Friday 2nd June 1pm – register [here](#)

Or, contact Anne Fitzpatrick at afitzpatrick@acfid.asn.au

Key Dates

Call for Expressions of Interest:	Friday 5th May 2023
Information Sessions	Friday 19 th May 1pm Friday 2 nd June 1pm
Expressions of Interest due to ACFID:	Friday 16th June 2023
Notification of Acceptance:	Monday 3rd July 2023
Confirmation of session details for program:	Monday 7th August 2023
Finalise all details, logistics, speakers:	Monday 4th September 2023
ACFID National Conference:	18th and 19th October 2023

Submission Process

To submit your Expression of Interest:

1. Ensure you have read this Concurrent Session Expression of Interest Information Pack and contact Anne Fitzpatrick at afitzpatrick@acfid.asn.au with any queries.
2. Attend an Info Session to ask any questions or clarifications you have
3. Complete the Concurrent Session Expression of Interest Form, ensuring all sections are answered.
4. Send the Expression of Interest Form to Anne Fitzpatrick at afitzpatrick@acfid.asn.au by COB Friday 16th June 2023.

