

Devex Opinions Guidelines (2026)

Devex regularly publishes relevant and insightful opinion articles (also known as op-eds or guest columns) authored by leaders, practitioners, and researchers in global development. We are looking for analytical, behind-the-scenes, institutionally grounded insight that helps our readers understand how decisions are made, who shapes them, and the dynamics at play in the global development industry.

The ABC of Devex opinions:

A - Analyze current affairs, broader industry trends, and institutions:

- Articles should be timely, pegged to a news hook, policy shift, or organizational re-shuffle and explain not just what happened but why, why it matters to the reader, what the underlying forces are.
- Be anchored in how global development works as an industry: focus on financial flows, points of influence, and governance frameworks, etc.
- Dissect why major development institutions (World Bank, IMF, U.N. agencies, U.S. State Department and other government agencies, other bilateral donors' agencies, regional banks, philanthropic funds, INGOs, etc.) behave as they do.

B - Bring proven or new ideas to the table — and how to execute them:

- Successful op-eds offer concrete, experience-based insights — what has worked, what hasn't, and why — grounded in real institutional or policy processes.
- Introduce new ways of framing a problem, reforming a system, or rethinking incentives within development finance and governance.
- Move beyond “what should be done” to explain what could realistically change, who would need to act, and what trade-offs or political constraints stand in the way.

C - Challenge conventional wisdom

- Thoughtful critiques, unexpected insights, and evidence-based reassessments are welcome.
- They must touch on the mechanisms of influence within the sector.
- It is vital they be forward-looking and, if relevant, offer paths to scale impact.

Examples of strong topics:

- How the architecture of “a new financing facility” shapes who gets funded — and who doesn’t
- The internal politics of a major agency reform, and what it reveals about priorities
- The Kenya-US health deal is pragmatic, but could have been done better

We will not accept op-eds that are:

- Purely inspirational or high-level reaffirmations of goals.
- Descriptive program summaries or project promotions.
- Thinly veiled public relations pieces for a single organization.
- Pieces that state problems without institutional context or analysis.

The basics:

Submissions: All submissions should be sent in full (we do not accept pitches without seeing the full draft) to: editor@devex.com, where it will be reviewed by our team of editors. As we receive a high number of submissions we will not be able to respond to every email, but if we wish to pursue publication we will aim to get back to you within five working days.

Admitted length:

- Article body: 800 words.
- Headline length: 70 characters max.
- Dek or standfirst: 200 characters max, starting with “Opinion”.

Example headline:

Taxing smarter is the key to thriving in an era of declining aid

Example dek or standfirst:

Opinion: Scaling up tax mobilization is a necessary condition to succeed in the post-aid era of development.

Fact-checking: Devex thoroughly fact checks all editorial content, as per our [Ethics & Standards policy](#). All facts and figures in a guest column should be backed up with reports, studies, or news articles that are hyperlinked within the body of the article. If it is not possible for our team of editors to fact check something, we will consider alternative wording or pulling the info from the piece.

Writing tips:

Your column should be conversational and easy to digest - overly academic, or niche technical language will be changed at the editing stage.

Don't bury the lead: Topload your insight. State your analytical thesis in the first paragraph — why should this matter to the intended reader today?

Context: Avoid lengthy problem statements; focus on why the issue is unfolding the way it is. Provide evidence / context (and newshook if relevant) / institutional detail.

Argument: Flesh out the point of view you have stated in your lead, with practical suggested actions, potentially including real-life examples, and don't be afraid to include failures and what can be learnt from those.

Conclusion: Summarize key implications, and where appropriate, suggest practical takeaways or questions for decision-makers, not just abstract solutions.

Final considerations:

Exclusivity: Devex only publishes original, exclusive content that has not already been published elsewhere. For more details, please see the "Reprint" section below.

Byline: Please provide a short author bio with the initial submission. Upon acceptance, Devex will provide a link to upload a 50 word bio and headshot for the author(s), which will accompany the piece on the published page.

Audience: The Devex audience is made up of your peers — impact-driven and global development professionals and leaders looking for strong, forward-looking, visionary opinions. Your column should be directly relevant to the global development community's work, with practical ideas about how to make an impact.

Timeline: The publication turnaround time depends on a number of factors and can vary from 24 hours to up to 1 month. As much lead time as possible is always appreciated. Please note the specific event, news hook, or day your submission is targeting in your original email.

Photo: Your column will run with an illustrative photo. If you have rights to any relevant photos or would like to suggest where we might find a relevant photo, please share this information with us. Please include a descriptive caption, as well as the name of the person or organization we would credit for the photo.

Publication: Our guest columns are published on Devex’s homepage, news page, and opinions page. They are promoted on social media (we appreciate you promoting the piece in your networks, tagging us via @devex) and may be used in our newsletters.

Reprints: 48 hours after publication on Devex, other websites, including your own blog or organizational website, may reprint the first three paragraphs of the column before linking to the complete column on the Devex website, stating that this article was first printed on Devex. Please contact the Devex editor with questions about this policy.

Repeat submissions: We typically let 6 months pass before publishing by a same author or organization to allow for diversity of views from our global community.

Sponsored content: Devex’s Partnerships Editorial team publishes paid guest columns or opinion pieces that allow you to focus on your company or organization, or a specific program or initiative. Our sponsored content is identified as paid content and provides an opportunity for you to showcase the achievements of your company or organization as it relates to the global development space — especially those which could help other actors operate more effectively. If you have a promotional budget and would like to discuss guest column op-ed placement with Devex, please contact partnerships@devex.com and browse further sponsored content opportunities here.

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