

Southern voices on global transitions

A global video contest on the transitions reshaping development, dedicated to young researchers working in the Global South

The Competition in a Nutshell

More scientific evidence is available today on the boundaries of our planet, natural and social, than ever before. Yet, steering change in the right direction – locally, regionally and globally – remains a major challenge. Scientific evidence remains hard to grasp. It struggles to find its way into public and policy debates. The public understanding of the broad development transitions we are living through at the planetary level remains limited. Efforts to revert this trend, bringing development transitions back into the public discussion, are essential to shaping our collective present and our future.

The Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the Global Development Network (GDN) have joined hands to launch a global video contest targeting young researchers conducting quality work on the transitions that are shaping development today – locally, regionally or globally. Young scholars based and operating in the global South are invited to submit to the contest short, self-produced videos. Drawing from their own scientific endeavors and that of others in their field of work, young researchers are asked to communicate clearly and concisely about the societal challenges and dynamics they are studying. Using a language that is appropriate for a wide audience of non-specialists, the videos should aim at bringing into public discussions quality and up-to-date knowledge on the key development transitions shaping our lives.

Through a two-step competitive selection, the contest will shortlist up to 20 videos. Shortlisted applicants will receive structured feedback and support (from both communications experts and research staff) before they are invited to re-work and submit a final and longer version of their video. All shortlisted participants who go through the revision and resubmission will compete for monetary prizes worth EUR 6,000.

A Jury of senior academics co-chaired by Thomas Mélonio (Executive Director of Innovation, Research, and Knowledge, French Development Agency) and Pierre Jacquet (President, Global Development Network) will assign prizes to the 3 top videos. Both winners and finalists will have a chance to take part in further audio-video productions by AFD and by GDN, with the potential of gaining global visibility.

How can you participate?

To take part in the contest, you are asked to produce (and make available online, following the instructions provided in appendix) an original video of 3-5m, focusing on the development challenge or transition you are currently working on. Note: we do not ask you to

present your current research project or your latest paper, but to discuss in a video format the knowledge emerging from your research field, starting from a well-identified development challenge or transition. We are looking for videos that present research-based knowledge clearly and concisely, to reach the widest possible adult audience.

The video should cover the following questions:

1. What transition will shape development in the next decade?
2. Why do you see an urgent need to communicate about it?
3. What are the roots and ramifications of the transition you are talking about?
4. How does it affect us as a society, and as individuals?
5. What key policies will be important to shape this transition?

If you are shortlisted, you will be expected to revise your video based on multiple feedback from academic and communications experts. Finalists will have access to more research communication activities of AFD and GDN, on products or topics that might differ slightly from the submitted videos.

What topic should your video focus on?

Applicants are asked to focus on a development challenge or transition they are currently conducting research on, one they believe will shape the future of development. The videos should draw on existing evidence (research-based) regarding the roots, the course and the ramifications of the transition/challenge you chose, for a general audience. We want to know what there is to learn about the transition you discuss, based on what researchers have figured out thus far.

Videos can focus on any of the following areas (the list is indicative and not exhaustive):

- Global picture: ODA, sustainable development, SDGs, anthropological and technological revolution, decision making in a complex world, digital revolution, knowledge revolution, etc.
- Climate and energy transition: Energy, climate change
- Territorial and ecological transition: urban development, environmental degradation, natural resource management in all sectors, biodiversity mainstreaming, actions for sustainable living
- Demographic and social transition: demographic trends, migration, gender issues, poverty, inequality, education, health, the future of work, cultural issues, vulnerability and fragility, conflict prevention
- Economic and financial transition: growth, development finance, trade, structural transformations
- Political and civic transition: governance, corruption, political regimes, political participation
- Methodological issues : development measurements, concept of transition, measures of wellbeing, prospective
- Emerging approaches : Sustainability science or Sustainability Transitions Research

How will your video be evaluated?

The selection of videos will go through four different stages.

First, GDN will run an eligibility check. It is important that you check the requirements and contact us if you have any questions (see next section). Only eligible applicants and complete applications will be considered. Note that only original videos will be considered.

Second, all eligible videos and applications will be reviewed by a panel of external evaluators, in a triple review. Evaluators will score the videos based on the following list of criteria (equally weighted):

- **CLARITY:** Is a development transition presented clearly? Is the reasoning for choosing this transition, and its urgency, spelled out for the audience without trivializing it? Is the structure of the presentation logical?
- **SALIENCE:** Is the importance of this transition presented in a compelling way? Are the societal ramifications of the transition clearly highlighted? Does the video accompany the audience in understanding the roots of the problem the transition aims to solve? Are the key stakeholders identified?
- **USE OF RESEARCH:** Does the video use and synthesize competently existing research on the topic? Does the video succeed in explaining in non-technical and concise language the substance of the research supporting the narrative?
- **ENGAGEMENT AND ORIGINALITY:** Did the video leave the viewer wanting to know more? Did it capture and maintain the viewers' attention? Was the information presented in a creative way?
- **TECHNICAL QUALITY:** Was the audio quality, visual quality and editing (if any) conducive to a satisfying viewer experience?

Third, the top 20 videos (shortlist) will receive qualitative feedback from academic experts, and one-on-one review with communications experts. Feedback will aim to enable applicants to improve and expand their videos. All shortlisted applicants that take part in the individual feedback and capacity building process, will be invited to produce a second version of their video, of up to 7m.

Fourth and finally, a Jury composed of senior social scientists with a track-record of research on transitions and co-chaired by the top management of AFD and GDN, will review all revised and resubmitted videos. The Jury will award monetary prizes worth EUR 6,000 to the top 3 video. The winners and finalists will be considered by GDN and AFD for the production of professional interviews on their research work, aimed at global circulation.

Before you apply, make sure the contest is for you

Eligibility criteria are as follows:

- **Disciplinary expertise:** The competition is open to researchers with at least a Master's degree in social sciences. Applicants from the natural sciences are welcome to apply if they are currently working in larger multidisciplinary teams with social scientists.
- **Age:** up to 40 years old on July 4th, 2021
- **Professional/academic affiliation:** the contest is open to researchers with at least a Master's degree, and who spend a significant part of their time working on academically informed research, irrespective of the registration status of their institution of affiliation. For example, applicants based in NGOs or think tanks and who conduct academically informed research, are welcome to apply even if they do not have an academic affiliation. This presumes you have a list of publications you can attach to your CV.

- Nationality: the contest is open to all researchers affiliated to an institution based in one of the countries listed in Annexe 1, irrespective of their nationality.
- Language: applicants are requested to submit their videos and application in English or French

If you are eligible and have a great idea, don't forget to apply by July 4th, 2021

To apply, log in at <https://globaltransitionssouthernvoices.awardsplatform.com> between April 13th and July 4th.

The applicants will be asked to submit:

1. Up to date CV, including a list of publications and of ongoing research projects, with links to public information about them whenever possible.
2. A copy of your passport or ID.
3. A copy of your Master's degree certificate.
4. A link to your original video uploaded on YouTube. The visibility of the video will have to be set to private, and only accessible to people with a direct link on YouTube till the end of the competition. Only the URL to the video will need to be submitted as part of the application on the application platform. Please follow the 'How To' document for further details on the video, including links to examples.
5. A copyright transfer declaration, as per the form provided on the application platform, to allow GDN and AFD to review and re-publish your video. This will be available on the application platform.

Timeline

April 13th: Call is launched

July 4th: Call closes

July 9th: Eligibility check is complete

July 30th: Shortlisting is complete

Sept 17th: one-on-one coaching is complete

October 10th: Submission deadline for finalist videos

October 18th to 26th: Jury reviews submissions by finalists at GDN 2021 Conference

By Oct 26th: AFD and GDN announce winners

Annexes

- 1. List of eligible countries
- 2. 'How-to' guide for applicants

Annex 1. List of eligible countries

1. Afghanistan
2. Albania
3. Algeria
4. Angola
5. Argentina
6. Armenia
7. Azerbaijan
8. Bangladesh
9. Belarus
10. Belize
11. Benin
12. Bhutan
13. Bolivia
14. Bosnia and Herzegovina
15. Botswana
16. Brazil
17. Bulgaria
18. Burkina Faso
19. Burundi
20. Cabo Verde
21. Cambodia
22. Cameroon
23. Central African Republic
24. Chad
25. China
26. Colombia
27. Comoros
28. Congo, Dem. Rep.
29. Congo, Rep.
30. Costa Rica
31. Côte d'Ivoire
32. Cuba
33. Djibouti
34. Dominica
35. Dominican Republic
36. Ecuador
37. Egypt, Arab Rep.
38. El Salvador
39. Eritrea
40. Ethiopia
41. Fiji
42. Gabon
43. Gambia, The
44. Georgia
45. Ghana
46. Grenada
47. Guatemala
48. Guinea
49. Guinea-Bissau
50. Guyana
51. Haiti
52. Honduras
53. India
54. Indonesia
55. Iran, Islamic Rep.
56. Iraq
57. Jamaica
58. Jordan
59. Kazakhstan
60. Kenya
61. Kiribati
62. Korea, Dem Rep.
63. Kosovo
64. Kyrgyz Republic
65. Lao PDR
66. Lebanon
67. Lesotho
68. Liberia
69. Libya
70. Macedonia, Rep. of North
71. Madagascar
72. Malawi
73. Malaysia
74. Maldives
75. Mali
76. Marshall Islands
77. Mauritania
78. Mauritius
79. Mayotte
80. Mexico
81. Micronesia, Fed. Sts.
82. Moldova
83. Mongolia
84. Montenegro
85. Morocco
86. Mozambique
87. Myanmar
88. Nauru
89. Namibia
90. Nepal
91. Nicaragua
92. Niger
93. Nigeria
94. Pakistan
95. Papua New Guinea
96. Paraguay
97. Peru
98. Philippines
99. Romania
100. Russian Federation
101. Rwanda
102. Samoa
103. São Tomé and Príncipe
104. Senegal
105. Serbia
106. Sierra Leone
107. Solomon Islands
108. Somalia
109. South Africa
110. South Sudan
111. Sri Lanka
112. St. Lucia
113. St. Vincent and the Grenadines
114. Sudan
115. Suriname
116. Swaziland
117. Syrian Arab Republic
118. Tajikistan
119. Tanzania
120. Thailand
121. Timor-Leste
122. Togo
123. Tonga
124. Tunisia
125. Turkey
126. Turkmenistan
127. Tuvalu
128. Uganda
129. Ukraine
130. Uzbekistan
131. Vanuatu
132. Venezuela, Bolivarian Rep. of
133. Vietnam
134. Palestine, State of
135. Yemen, Rep.
136. Zambia
137. Zimbabwe

This list is based on the World Bank Country Classifications:

Developing countries are defined according to their Gross National Income (GNI) per capita per year, as calculated by the World Bank Atlas method, December 2020.

Annex 2. 'How to' Guide for Applicants

Content

You are asked to produce a video discussing a development challenge or transition issue. Remember your video should **be based on research**, but should **not be a summary** of it.

Remember your video should cover the answers to the following key questions:

- What transition will shape development in the next decade?
- Why do you see an urgent need to communicate about it?
- What are the roots and ramifications of the transition you are talking about?
- How does it affect us as a society, and as individuals?
- What key policies will be important to shape this transition?

Here are a few tips on how to communicate your content in a compelling way.

- You are bringing development transitions into public discussion. Keep it **simple** so that people who are not necessarily experts can understand.
- **Avoid using jargon** and choose words that are familiar to everyone. If needed, always explain words that might not be understood by people who are not in your field.
- Keep your **sentences short and simple**. Each sentence should contain **only one idea** and have a simple **subject–verb–object structure**. Use the **active voice** rather than the passive voice. *It is better to say "He ate an apple" than "The apple was eaten by him."*
- Provide the background, but also provide **specifics**. Examples are good: humanize your research, let your audience feel why they should be concerned by what you are saying.
- We welcome films in almost any style (see below). However, whatever style you chose, **structure** is key.

Remember your video should cover the following questions:

- What transition will shape development in the next decade?
- Why do you see an urgent need to communicate about it?
- What are the roots and ramifications of the transition you are talking about?
- How does it affect us as a society, and as individuals?
- What key policies will be important to shape this transition?

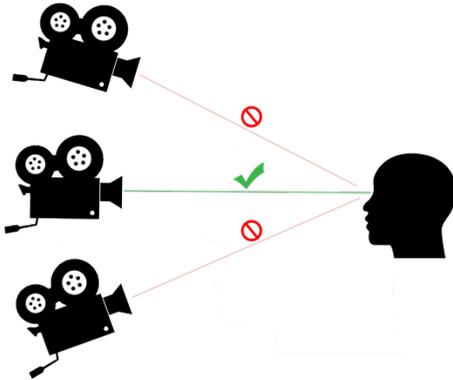
You can choose to address these questions one by one in the same order as above or mix them up and change the order. Whatever you choose to do, prepare your script in advance, and keep these few rules in mind:

- It always helps to determine what your **main argument** is. You will be discussing many ideas but try to determine **one single question** all these ideas can fall under. **Every sentence or idea** you present in the video should serve your argument.
- Have a **clear introduction, middle and conclusion**. Starting the video with an unexpected or catchy idea is always a good way **to grab your audience's attention**. You can use surprising statistics for example, a shocking question, a short powerful story, etc. However, remember that the topic of the video should be clearly stated early on.

*[Here is a good example of a video](#) in terms of content. The narrator transitions from questions to implications to research evidence on what options exist to change the issue. The use of references from popular culture also helps capture the viewer's attention. **Remember, this is an example for reference purposes. We do not expect you to use the same style and format and we do not require high levels of editing.***

Shooting tips

- Film yourself in a **quiet, well lit room**.
- Use a camera or good quality phone camera in **landscape mode (horizontally)**.
- Make sure the **light is behind the camera** and shining on you or your prop. Do not stand in front of a window or another source of light.
- The lens of your camera should be positioned at **eye-level**, not too high and not too low (see figure below).



- Your **camera should be steady**. Do not film while holding it manually. Use a phone holder or tripod. (If you do not have the proper equipment, use a book or something steady to hold your phone straight. There are also lots of easy do-it-yourself videos on the internet!)
- Film yourself in Medium close-up (above your head down to about midway on your torso.) (See picture below)



- Set the stage a bit. Less is more! Make sure the background where you shoot is not cluttered. A clean, featureless wall, with a simple piece of furniture will do. The focus should be you/what you are showing us, not the setting.
- **Style:** You may submit a monologue, vlog, interview style, short documentary /presentation style video. The first is the easiest to accomplish if you do not have much experience in shooting a video. The magic is in the words you use and the messages you convey.
- You can use **props** if needed. If you must choose a map, or an infographic, please choose one, and a clear one to focus on for a short while. We want to see you talk, though.
- Avoid edits as much as possible. Do not employ fades, dissolves and other editing effects.

Rights

- Please do not plagiarize content from other research or films (or use content without full written permission). Please add credits to the end of the film, for any research, music or images you use.
- Please know that you will own full copyright for the production. If shortlisted, AFD/GDN will likely share your video publicly, and you will be required to allow GDN to do this.
- You will be granting AFD/GDN permission to use clips as needed for promotional and other program material, including after the end of the contest. Please check this permission box on the sign in platform, to enable us to do so.

Format and how to submit

- You may save your video in .MP4 or .WMV files before uploading it to your YouTube account. Save your film in 16x9 project format, and the saved film should be good for viewing on a computer. (Display at 854x480 pixels, Aspect ratio: widescreen).
- The video should be no longer than 3-5 minutes in length, including credits.
- Please upload your video on YouTube and submit a link along with the rest of the required materials through the online application platform. You'll need to ensure that the video is set as private. Please ensure you follow YouTube's rules for uploading a video.

Note: If you have a solid topic to discuss, and are stuck only because you have a question – or questions – about how to make a video, please write to communications@gdn.int for some quick advice.