

DEVDISCOURSE

Editorial Guidelines

Editorial Standards & Practices

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1. Editorial Mission

Devdiscourse is an open-access Development Intelligence Platform dedicated to helping readers understand the most important developments shaping economies, societies, institutions, public systems, technology, sustainability, and global development.

We do not merely report events.

We explain developments, interpret implications, analyse trends, identify risks and opportunities, and support informed decision-making by policymakers, researchers, practitioners, development institutions, businesses, media professionals and engaged citizens.

Our editorial mission is to answer five questions:

- What happened?
- Why does it matter?
- Who is affected?
- What are the implications?
- What should decision-makers pay attention to next?

2. Core Editorial Principles

Accuracy and verification remain central to all editorial operations. Every report must be fact-checked and verified through credible sources before publication.

Editorial teams must maintain independence from advertisers, sponsors, political entities, and corporate pressure. Commercial interests shall never influence editorial decisions.

Coverage should be fair, balanced, and representative of relevant viewpoints. Opinion and analysis pieces must be clearly labeled to distinguish them from factual reporting.

Stories with meaningful public interest, social impact, or policy relevance should receive editorial priority.

3. Content Standards

News reports should be concise, factual, neutral, and properly attributed. Headlines must accurately reflect article content and avoid sensationalism.

Feature stories and analytical articles should provide context, expert insight, and research-backed perspectives.

AI-assisted editorial tools may be used for workflows such as summarization, categorization, and

translation; however, all AI-generated or AI-assisted content must undergo human editorial review before publication.

4. Source Policy

Preferred sources include government statements, research institutions, international organizations, court records, verified public documents, and expert interviews.

Anonymous sources may only be used when:

- The information serves public interest
- The source faces legitimate risk
- The information cannot be obtained otherwise
- Editorial approval is granted

Plagiarism is strictly prohibited.

5. Ethics and Conduct

Editors and journalists must avoid conflicts of interest and disclose any relationships that may affect coverage.

Coverage should respect diversity, inclusion, and cultural sensitivity. Reporting involving minors, victims, or vulnerable individuals should be handled with compassion and discretion.

6. Corrections Policy

Errors should be corrected promptly and transparently. Significant corrections should include an editor's note explaining the update.

Articles should never be silently altered in ways that materially change meaning or context.

7. Editorial Workflow

All editorial content should pass through:

1. Reporting and drafting
2. Fact-checking
3. Editorial review
4. Legal or sensitivity review where required
5. Final publication approval

High-risk stories involving litigation, elections, national security, or public safety must undergo senior editorial review.

8. Multimedia and Headlines

Headlines must be accurate, non-misleading, and free from inflammatory framing.

Images and videos must be authentic, properly credited, and respectful of privacy and dignity. Graphic visuals should include appropriate warnings when necessary.

9. Social Media Standards

Editorial staff should maintain professionalism across digital platforms and avoid amplifying misinformation.

Breaking news updates must prioritize accuracy over speed. Personal opinions should not compromise organizational credibility.

10. User-Generated Content

Comments and user submissions must not contain hate speech, harassment, misinformation, spam, or unlawful material.

Devdiscourse reserves the right to moderate or remove inappropriate content.

11. Transparency and Accountability

The organization should maintain transparency regarding:

- Ownership and affiliations
- Sponsored content
- Corrections and editorial processes
- AI-assisted publishing workflows

Readers should have accessible channels for feedback and correction requests.

12. Legal Compliance

All editorial content must comply with applicable media laws, copyright regulations, defamation standards, and data protection laws.

Legal consultation should be sought for stories with elevated legal risk.

13. Review and Updates

These editorial guidelines should be periodically reviewed to reflect evolving journalism standards, technological advancements, and best practices in digital media publishing.