



April 22, 2017

# 2017 Global Infrastructure Forum

## Delivering Inclusive and Sustainable Infrastructure

Inter-American Development Bank, Enrique V. Iglesias Conference Center  
1330 New York Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20577

## Outcome Statement

The 2017 Global Infrastructure Forum was organized under the theme “Delivering Inclusive, Sustainable Infrastructure”. The 2017 Forum focused on meeting the challenges and finding innovative solutions to facilitate investment in sustainable infrastructure in the different regions of the world.

### Introduction

As set out by the [2030 Sustainable Development Agenda](#), sustainable, inclusive and high-quality infrastructure is of cross-cutting importance to increasing economic growth, attaining the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) and meeting the ambitions of the [Paris Agreement \(2015 COP21\)](#). In pursuit of the achievement of the SDGs, the 2015 [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) (AAAA) called on the MDBs to establish the **Global Infrastructure Forum (Forum)** in order to “*improve alignment and coordination among established and new infrastructure initiatives*” while bringing together the full range of stakeholders.

In view of the enhanced importance of infrastructure, many countries are now scaling up their plans based on their ownership of the SDGs and to meet their strategic infrastructure targets and their NDCs.<sup>1</sup> MDBs historically have focused their efforts on increasing infrastructure investments with particular emphasis on developing economies. In line with their commitments under the [Billions to Trillions Agenda](#), MDBs are increasingly seeking to devote a substantial part of their annual financing resources in support of sustainable infrastructure investments.

### Progress achieved by the MDBs since the 2016 Global Infrastructure Forum

1. The first Global Infrastructure Forum held in April 2016 highlighted the wide range of initiatives that are under way by the MDBs and other stakeholders to bolster the scale and quality of infrastructure investment in both advanced and developing economies over the period to 2030. Sustained achievement will require policy commitments to be implemented by all countries and support from all Development Partners in order to achieve the scale-up

<sup>1</sup> Nationally Determined Contributions, see [http://unfccc.int/focus/indc\\_portal/items/8766.php](http://unfccc.int/focus/indc_portal/items/8766.php).





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of activities, quality and sustainability of investments needed and the expansion of resources available from both the private and the public sectors.

The attached Annex on MDB Actions sets out the progress being made on objectives identified at the 2016 Forum.

2. In line with the orientations of the 2016 Forum, MDBs continue to extend their collaboration to overcome upstream constraints and to mobilize additional infrastructure investment and finance including from the private sector. MDBs continue to build on their track record of strengthening capacities and the knowledge required for public and private investment in infrastructure, in the financing of projects and programs and in the mobilization of private and public capital resources.
3. The follow-up to the first [MDB Joint Declaration of Aspirations](#) to support infrastructure investment is expected to be published in June 2017 and to cover the period to 2019. As part of this Joint Declaration, the MDBs will reaffirm their commitments to work together to scale up their support for sustainable infrastructure investment, including for project preparation, enhance its quality and to attract private sector capital, subject to the constraints of investment demand as well as their own guidelines, governance and mandates.
4. The MDBs also agreed in April 2017 *Principles to Crowd in Private Sector Finance* and have agreed on their strategy to achieve this objective. The implementation of these principles and strategy will be of particular importance for scaling up investment in sustainable infrastructure. The MDBs are also working on a Joint MDB Statement of Ambitions, to be published in July, for Crowding in Private Sector to Support Infrastructure, which include specific commitment focusing on the operationalization of the Principles.





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5. The MDBs agreed definitions and methodologies to measure private investment mobilized by their operations. The [First Joint MDB Report on Mobilization of Private Finance](#), reporting on 2016 commitments, was published on April 20th 2017 and shows that out of \$163.6 billion of private finance mobilized, \$ 68.7 billion went to infrastructure in 2016. The MDBs will continue to report jointly annually on the basis of the agreed definitions.
6. The 2017 report of the MDBs to the G20 in respect of the joint Action Plan on Balance Sheet Optimisation, to be published in May 2017, will show strong continuing progress of the seven participating MDBs in respect of the five measures identified, with some of the measures (notably those relating to capital efficiency and optimal use of concessional windows) at or close to successful completion. Efforts undertaken in the context of the Balance Sheet Optimisation Action Plan also include collective initiatives such as Exposure Exchanges. Non-Sovereign Guaranteed Risk Transfer and Mobilization also continues apace.

Related but separate from the Optimization Action Plan, collaborative work between MDBs in the context of the Global Emerging Markets ('GEMs') database is also delivering effective outcomes, notably through the provision of reliable risk data for emerging markets and the sharing of best practice between MDBs.

7. In addition, the MDBs and other IFIs have established a Working Group on Blended Finance for Private Sector operations which will work toward establishing a set of common principles, terminology, implementation guidelines as well as data-sharing and disclosure standards for the use of blended finance in private sector projects, building on and further strengthening the procedures for the use of concessional finance as agreed by the IFIs in October 2013. This Working Group is expected to complete its work by October 2017, the results of which will be shared.

### Outcomes from the 2017 Global Infrastructure Forum

8. The 2017 Forum emphasized the challenges and the need to deliver solutions required for infrastructure investments in the different regions of the world.





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9. The MDBs reaffirmed their future priorities to work and innovate to overcome the challenges to the delivery of sustainable and inclusive infrastructure, consistent with the objectives of the Paris Agreement. The MDBs also agreed that their concerted efforts, including those of their stakeholders and Development Partners should focus on the following main priorities consistent with their mandates:

9.1. The **strengthening of investment capacity, policy and governance frameworks of public authorities and Governments at national and sub-national levels** to address the infrastructure challenges of each country.

- the sharing of international best practices and the joint development of common principles and norms;
- the vital need to scale up and enhance the quality of investments in infrastructure in view of the implementation of the SDGs;
- increased access to basic infrastructure services remains a critical challenge in many parts of the developing world where infrastructure investments are needed to respond to greater urbanization and to improve energy, water, communication and transport services;
- the improvement of infrastructure governance and efficiency to ensure the best value out of the existing and future infrastructure assets;
- the consolidation of planning and project preparation capacities at the national and sub-national levels, including through scaling up project preparation funds in order to build pipelines of projects that are bankable and sustainable;
- the importance of enhancing sustainability in all its dimensions: good governance, economic, financial, social, and environmental;
- the substantial opportunities that are opening up to accelerate renewable energy generation and the development of smart cities.





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9.2. The **enhancement of private sector involvement and finance** by creating an enabling environment.

- market development and deployment of instruments for efficient leverage; risk mitigation; securitization; mobilization and catalyzation of private finance
- the enhancement of the use and effectiveness of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and blended finance where appropriate;
- the major expansion of private sector involvement and finance including by attracting long-term institutional investors into infrastructure as an asset class.

9.3. The **enhancement of the catalytic role of MDBs**, which have long acted as a bridge between the public and private sectors.

- the continuous development of specialized financial products and programs, as well as through knowledge sharing, policy advice and development of capacities of public and private sector clients;
- domestic resource mobilization including through development and better use of public resources; and greater international collaboration including on concessional finance.

10. The 2017 Forum also demonstrated the substantial roles of National Development Banks (NDBs) and Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) as valuable development partners for the MDBs to help achieve the goals of Sustainable and Inclusive Infrastructure. The NDBs played a key role in the organization of this year's Forum and, by sharing their expertise as well as providing the necessary national resources and expertise that complement the MDBs, they are creating additional roles through which they collaborate.

11. The MDBs expressed their appreciation of the Convening Power of the UN and the UN Agencies through the Forum in support of the goal of delivering inclusive and sustainable infrastructure. The MDBs reaffirmed their commitments to continue to hold the Global





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Infrastructure Forum in 2018 and annually thereafter in collaboration with the UN to review progress. The responsibility for hosting the Forum will rotate among the MDBs. Preparations for the Forum will continue to be carried out in an inclusive manner, in cooperation with the UN system through UN-DESA. The outcomes of the Global Infrastructure Forum will be reported to UN Member States via the Financing for Development Forum.

