



**ANNUAL MEETING  
THE BAHAMAS**

JUNE 1 - 5, 2026



# PRESS KIT

**Forging the Caribbean's Future:  
Strategic Solutions for Uncertain Times**

**1-5 June  
2026**  
GRAND HYATT  
BAHA MAR,  
BAHAMAS



**#CDBAnnualMeeting2026 #OurCDB**

# ABOUT US

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is the Region's premier multilateral development finance institution, dedicated to reducing poverty and inequality and promoting sustainable economic growth across its member countries. Headquartered in Wilkey, Barbados, CDB provides financing, technical assistance, and policy support to governments, the private sector, and communities across its Borrowing Member Countries, spanning the Caribbean. As a trusted regional partner and knowledge intermediary, the Bank translates analysis into actionable solutions, mobilises resources from international markets and development partners, and convenes the partnerships needed to address the Caribbean's most pressing development challenges. Through its financing, advocacy, and institutional leadership, CDB works to build a more resilient, inclusive, and prosperous Caribbean.

# THE PITCH

## A Region at a Crossroads. A Story Worth Covering.

The Caribbean Development Bank's [56th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors](#) brings together heads of government, multilateral development bank presidents, global thought leaders, private investors, and Caribbean youth in Nassau, The Bahamas from June 1 to 5, 2026. The theme, "Forging the Caribbean's Future: Strategic Solutions for Uncertain Times," frames a week of high-stakes conversations about the Region's development path in an era of geopolitical disruption, tightening fiscal space, and accelerating climate shocks.

The 2026 Annual Meeting is an action oriented, solutions-focused convening designed to sharpen implementation, align partners, and produce commitments that will shape Caribbean development for years to come. For media, it is a concentrated opportunity to access senior decision-makers, capture live policy debate, and report on issues that matter directly to Caribbean citizens.

The programme offers a rich and varied menu of content, from landmark lectures and high-level presidential dialogues to youth-led innovation fora and a private sector investment showcase. Whether your audience is interested in current events, business-oriented, youth-centred, or community-driven, there is a story here for you.

# BROADCAST & PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## Partner With Us. Broadcast or Livestream the Moment.

CDB is actively seeking media partnerships for exclusive and co-branded coverage opportunities across the week. We welcome proposals from individual media houses interested in securing dedicated access to signature events, remote broadcast positions, and featured interviews with principals.

### **BROADCAST PARTNERSHIP | Opening Ceremony**

**Wednesday June 3, 2026 | 9:00 AM**

Live broadcast and/or delayed broadcast in full.

CDB President Daniel M. Best will deliver the keynote, the defining address of the Meeting which will be a landmark moment for Caribbean development discourse.

### **BROADCAST PARTNERSHIP | William G. Demas Memorial Lecture**

**Tuesday June 2, 2026 | 7:00 PM**

Live broadcast and/or delayed broadcast in full.

This year's Lecture will be delivered by The Honourable Mr. Justice Denys Barrow, Judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ). His address will explore the pivotal role of judicial systems in underpinning economic resilience, investor confidence, social stability, and inclusive development across the Caribbean.

# CALENDAR AT A GLANCE



## Schedule of Events

DATE	TIME (All times are AST.)	EVENT	FORMAT
Mon Jun 1	8:30 – 9:00 AM	Youth Forum Opening Ceremony	Forum
	3:00 – 4:30 PM	Youth Panel: An Inter-Generational Dialogue	Panel Discussion
Tue Jun 2	7:00 PM	William G. Demas Memorial Lecture	Lecture
Wed Jun 3	9:00 – 10:00 AM	Opening Ceremony	Ceremony
Wed Jun 3	4:00 – 5:30 PM	President's Chat Financing the Future: MDB Strategies for Uncertain Times	High-Level Dialogue
Thu June 4	8:00 – 9:00 AM	The Breakfast Exchange: A Climate Talk on the Global Economy	Moderated Dialogue
Thu Jun 4	9:00 – 10:30 AM	Seminar 1 Energy Transition: The Key to a More Resilient Caribbean	Seminar

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Thu Jun 4	2:30 – 4:00 PM	Seminar 2: Innovative Debt Solutions: Financing a More Resilient Caribbean	Seminar
Fri Jun 5	10:00 – 11 AM	EDGE X by CDB: Analytics Unlocked Session 1: Stuck in Traffic. What Congestion Is Costing the Caribbean	Expository Presentation
Fri Jun 5	2:00 – 3:00 PM	EDGE X by CDB: Analytics Unlocked Session 2: Shockwaves: How Global Crises Are Hitting the Caribbean	Expository Presentation

# EVENT PITCHES

## Coverage Guide: Event by Event

### Opening Ceremony

Wednesday June 3, 2026 | 9:00 AM | Keynote: CDB President Daniel M. Best

The Opening Ceremony marks the formal start of the Annual Meeting bringing together CDB's Board of Governors, the Bank's highest decision-making body, comprising Government Ministers, development leaders, and executive-level public sector decision-makers representing its [28 member countries](#). This concentration of regional and institutional authority in one place makes the Opening Ceremony a significant moment in Caribbean public life.

President Best will deliver the keynote address where he will frame the Caribbean's development agenda in the context of an increasingly volatile global environment. He will also outline the institution's internal transformation to meet the complex requirements of its Borrowing Member Countries. This address will be the clearest articulation yet of where CDB is headed and what it means for the Region.

- A landmark policy address by one of the Caribbean's most prominent development finance leaders.
- The introduction of the Board of Governors.
- An ideal event for live broadcast, delayed broadcast in full, and post-event news coverage.



## William G. Demas Memorial Lecture

Tuesday June 2, 2026 | 7:00 PM

### Contributions of the Courts to Caribbean Development: The Enduring Importance of Strong Institutions

This year's Lecture will be delivered by **The Honourable Mr. Justice Denys Barrow**, Judge of the **Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ)**, on the topic "*Contributions of the Courts to Caribbean Development: the Enduring Importance of Strong Institutions.*" The address will explore the pivotal role of judicial systems in underpinning economic resilience, investor confidence, social stability, and inclusive development across the Caribbean.

Held under the Annual Meeting theme "**Forging the Caribbean's Future: Strategic Solutions for Uncertain Times,**" the Lecture will place the rule of law and institutional strength at the centre of the Region's development response to global volatility, fiscal constraints, and climate related risks. Justice Barrow is expected to examine how credible, independent courts contribute to sound governance, policy certainty, and long term development outcomes—foundations that are increasingly critical in an era of heightened uncertainty.

The William G. Demas Memorial Lecture honours the legacy of **William G. Demas**, CDB's second President, whose leadership and scholarship helped shape regional thinking on development, integration, and institutional capacity. By spotlighting the intersection of justice and development, the 2026 Lecture reinforces CDB's commitment to strengthening institutions as a cornerstone of sustainable growth and regional transformation.

## President's Chat

**Financing the Future: MDB Strategies for Uncertain Times Wednesday June 3, 2026 | 4:00 – 5:30 PM | Moderated Dialogue, Three MDB Presidents**

**Participants:** **Mr. Daniel M. Best**, President, CDB  
**Ms. Gisela Sánchez**, Executive President, Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI)  
**Dr. Abdulhamid Alkhalifa**, President, OPEC Fund

The Presidents of three influential development banks will sit together for a frank, moderated exchange on how development banks must evolve to remain effective under sustained global uncertainty. This is a rare gathering of regional and international MDB leadership in one place, making it an exceptional opportunity to capture senior voices on the future of development finance, Caribbean-specific challenges, and the reform of global financial institutions.

- Prescriptive guidance from 3 multilateral bank presidents in a single moderated dialogue.
- Topics include MDB reform, innovative financing instruments, debt sustainability, and support for small states.
- Strong angles for business, economics, and policy audiences.



**Mr. Daniel M. Best**  
President, CDB



**Ms. Gisela Sánchez**  
Executive President, Central American Bank  
for Economic Integration (CABEI)



**Dr. Abdulhamid Alkhalifa**  
President, OPEC Fund



## The Breakfast Exchange: A Climate Talk on the Global Economy

Thursday June 4, 2026 | 8:00 – 9:00 AM | Moderated Dialogue

The Caribbean is on the front line of the global climate crisis, yet contributes minimally to the emissions driving it. This session confronts that central injustice directly, examining how escalating climate risk, rising adaptation costs, and constrained fiscal space are converging to limit the Region's ability to invest in its own resilience. Against a backdrop of shifting global development finance and emerging climate funding mechanisms, the discussion will interrogate whether current international systems are genuinely delivering for small and vulnerable states, and what needs to change. Framed as an exchange rather than a formal presentation, the session is designed to generate candid, substantive dialogue between participants.

Coverage angles include:

- The widening gap between global climate finance commitments and what Caribbean countries are actually able to access and deploy.
- How changes in global economic and financial conditions are reshaping the climate resilience outlook for small island developing states.
- The real cost of climate inaction for Caribbean economies, governments, and communities.
- What more responsive, accessible, and scalable climate financing would look like in practice for the Region.

## Seminar 1: Energy Transition: The Key to a More Resilient Caribbean

Thursday June 4, 2026 | 9:00 – 10:30 AM | High-Level Seminar

The Caribbean spends more on energy than almost anywhere in the world, yet the Region's renewable energy potential remains largely untapped. This seminar brings together policymakers, financiers, and technical experts to address regulatory, financing, and capacity barriers slowing the transition, against a backdrop of an estimated USD 11 billion clean energy investment need by 2030. For media audiences interested in climate, energy security, and economic competitiveness, this session provides substantial, data-rich content.

- High electricity costs directly affect businesses, households, and national competitiveness across the Region.
- The USD 11 billion clean energy investment gap is a concrete, newsworthy figure with real policy implications.
- Discussion includes blended finance, public-private partnerships, and regulatory reform pathways.
- Strong angles for energy, environment, economics, and consumer-focused journalism.





## Seminar 2: Innovative Debt Solutions: Financing a More Resilient Caribbean

Thursday June 4, 2026 | 2:30 – 4:00 PM | High-Level Seminar

Public debt is one of the most consequential economic challenges facing Caribbean governments. This seminar examines how innovative financing mechanisms, including debt swaps, multi-guarantee instruments, and MDB-backed conversions, can unlock fiscal space and redirect resources toward development priorities. The Regional Multi-Guarantee Debt-for-Resilience initiative, a coordinated effort by CDB, IDB, CAF, and the World Bank, will feature prominently as a model for scalable debt relief linked to measurable outcomes.

- Debt sustainability affects every government's ability to invest in health, infrastructure, and social protection.
- The Multi-Guarantee Debt-for-Resilience initiative represents a concrete, multi-institution collaboration with direct implications for Caribbean citizens.
- Participation by credit rating agencies and international investors alongside governments and MDBs.
- Strong angles for economics, public finance, and policy journalism.

## EDGE X by CDB: Analytics Unlocked

Two Sessions | Friday June 5

EDGE X is CDB's new analytical platform, launching at the 56th Annual Meeting. It translates the Bank's research and data into focused, public-facing insights through short sessions and interactive dialogue. Two sessions are scheduled at this Meeting, each addressing a distinct development challenge with direct relevance to Caribbean citizens. EDGE X sessions are accessible, data-driven, and built for broad audiences, with opportunities for media to engage directly with the Bank's technical experts for deeper insight and analysis.



### Session 1: Stuck in Traffic: What Congestion Is Costing the Caribbean

Friday June 5, 2026 | 10:00 – 11:00 AM

- Traffic congestion is a structural development problem in Caribbean economies, not just an urban inconvenience.
- Measurable impacts on productivity, commute times, fuel costs, emissions, and business efficiency.
- Policy and investment solutions to address a challenge that resonates with everyday audiences.
- Accessible, human-interest angle with broad audience appeal across news, business, and community media.

### Session 2: Shockwaves: How Global Crises Are Hitting the Caribbean

Friday June 5, 2026 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM

- A data-led examination of how global instability, from tariff shifts to Middle East conflict, is affecting Caribbean economies in real terms.
- Covers rising food and fuel prices, tightening financing conditions, and inflationary pressures.
- Directly relevant to citizens experiencing the cost-of-living consequences of global events.
- Strong angles for news, economics, and consumer-focused journalism.



## **Youth FIRE Forum: Youth as Co-Architects of the Caribbean's Future**

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **Monday June 1**

8:30 – 9:00 am

Youth Forum Opening Ceremony

#### **Tuesday June 2**

3:00 – 4:30 pm

Youth Panel: A Multi-Generational Discussion

# CONTACTS 05

All sessions will be streamed on [CDB's website](#) and our [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages.

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JUNE 1 - 5, 2026

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