



## PRESS RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL FEBRUARY 17, 2017, 11 A.M. AST

### **CDB approves USD306 mn in loans, grants in 2016**

*Bank highlights partnerships, resources for infrastructure, sustainable energy, climate action*

**February 17, 2017, Bridgetown, BARBADOS** - In 2016, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) approved USD306 million (mn) in loans and grants, the highest approval total during the past five years. And of the countries for which funding was approved, Belize, Saint Lucia and Suriname were the three largest beneficiaries of loans. Dr. William Warren Smith, CDB President, made this announcement during the Bank's Annual News Conference today in Barbados.

Dr. Smith pointed out that, in addition to the grants approved in 2016, the Bank began implementing the United Kingdom Caribbean Infrastructure Partnership Fund (UK CIF). UK CIF is a £300 million grant programme for transformational infrastructure projects in eight Caribbean countries and one British overseas territory, which CDB administers. £16.4 mn in grants was approved for projects and technical assistance in Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica and Grenada.

*"We reached noteworthy milestones in deepening our strategic partnerships and successfully mobilising financial resources that our BMCs can use to craft appropriate responses to their development challenges,"* said **Dr. Smith**, noting that UK CIF was among the Bank's partnership highlights in 2016.

Last year, the Bank also signed a Credit Facility Agreement with *Agence Française de Développement*. It included a USD33 million loan to support sustainable infrastructure projects and a EUR3 mn grant to fund feasibility studies for projects eligible for financing under the credit facility.

Also in 2016, CDB entered an arrangement with the Government of Canada for the establishment and administration of a CAD5 million fund to build capacity in the energy sector, The Canadian Support to the Energy Sector in the Caribbean Fund.

These recent partnerships are part of the Bank's drive to raise appropriately-priced resources mainly for financing projects with a strong focus on climate adaptation, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

During his statement, Dr. Smith highlighted that the Bank became an accredited partner institution of both the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund in 2016.

*"The Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund have opened new gateways to much-needed grant and or low-cost financing to address climate change vulnerabilities in all of our BMCs ,"* **Dr. Smith** told the media.



The President also confirmed that, in 2016, CDB completed negotiations for the replenishment of the Special Development Fund (SDF), the Bank's largest pool of concessionary funds. Contributors agreed to an overall programme of USD355 mn for the period 2017-2020, and lowered the SDF interest rate from a range of 2 to 2.5 percent to 1 percent. The programme approved includes USD45 mn for Haiti and USD40 mn for the Basic Needs Trust Fund. This marked the ninth replenishment of the SDF, which helps meet the Caribbean Region's high-priority development needs.

In his statement, Dr. Smith also reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to drive sustained and inclusive income growth, complemented by improvements in living standards in its BMCs. This, he said, was critical, as economic growth across the Region remains uneven, with fragile recovery expected to continue into 2017.

*"At the core of our operations is the desire to better the lives of Caribbean people. That is the context within which we help to design, appraise and evaluate every project we finance,"* **Smith said.**

###

#### **About the Caribbean Development Bank**

The Caribbean Development Bank is a regional financial institution established in 1970 for the purpose of contributing to the harmonious economic growth and development of its Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs). In addition to the 19 BMCs, CDB's membership includes four regional non-borrowing members – Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela and five non-regional, non-borrowing members; i.e., Canada, China, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom. CDB's total assets as at December 31, 2015 are USD2.7 billion (bn). These include USD1.4bn of Ordinary Capital Resources and USD1.3bn of Special Funds. The Bank is rated Aa1 Stable with Moody's and AA/A-1+ with Standard and Poor's. Read more at [caribank.org](http://caribank.org).

#### **Contact:**

Sueann Tannis  
Head of Corporate Communications (Ag)  
Mobile: 246-826-3343  
Office: 246-431-1886  
Email: [tanniss@caribank.org](mailto:tanniss@caribank.org)