



**STATEMENT BY THE  
GOVERNOR FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO  
SENATOR THE HONOURABLE DR. KENNEDY SWARATSINGH**

**Salutations**

Chairperson of the CDB Board of Governors and Brazil's Deputy Secretary for International Affairs and Development, Ministry of Planning and Budget, Ms. Viviane Vecchi Mendes Muller;

Mr. Daniel Best, President of the Caribbean Development Bank;

Distinguished Governors;

Members of the Board of Directors,

Vice-Presidents and the Management and Staff of the Bank;

Government representatives, Development Partners and other Distinguished Delegates.

It is truly a privilege to address you for the first time as the Governor for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago at the 55th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). On behalf of the Trinidad and Tobago delegation, I extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Government and people of Brazil for graciously hosting this year's meeting and to the CDB's management and staff for their diligent work in organizing this event.

The theme for this year's meeting, *"Building the Future: Resilient Institutions for a Greener, Stronger, and Inclusive Caribbean"*, highlights the Bank's unwavering dedication to driving transformative change and adapting to a dynamic global landscape. This commitment is evident through the Bank's continued work on governance reforms, its initiatives to address implementation challenges and its efforts to redefine its strategic priorities. As a client country, Trinidad and Tobago is pleased to be a part of this transformative journey. We value our partnership with the CDB as we work together to bolster institutional resilience and explore innovative solutions to address deep-seated development issues. The Bank's vision aligns closely with the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago's commitment of creating a

prosperous nation, one grounded in inclusivity, innovation and strong leadership. This alignment underscores a shared regional commitment to advance sustainable development and strengthen institutional resilience across the region.

The past year has brought many uncertainties, as the Bank's Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs) grappled with the impacts of climate change, heightened food insecurity due to global tensions and disruptions in supply chains, all while striving to sustain economic growth and advance our development goals. In the midst of this uncertainty, the CDB has remained a steadfast partner in helping its BMCs to navigate the turbulence by forging strategic partnerships and delivering impactful development initiatives. The Bank's efforts to mobilise resources continue to be instrumental in advancing sustainable development across the Region.

The successful conclusion of negotiations for the Eleventh Cycle of the Special Development Fund (SDF 11) stands as a testimony to the commitment of the Bank's shareholders to collaborate in the shared goals of reducing poverty and enhancing resilience. Moreover, the Bank's efforts to strengthen alliances with major Multilateral Development Banks and International Financial Institutions continue to bring significant benefits to all member countries.

We acknowledge that the past year has presented considerable internal challenges for the Bank, particularly in the area of governance. Despite these difficulties, the Bank has demonstrated resilience through renewed and capable leadership, the dedication of its staff and the solid support of its shareholders. These collective efforts have laid the groundwork for meaningful reform, positioning the Bank for renewed trust and sustained development impact. The President's vision of a "Rebirth" is especially timely and resonates strongly in this wave of transformation.

Going forward, we urge that the CDB's influence continues to be rooted in deep engagement and meaningful collaboration. By working in close partnership with governments, civil society and the private sector, the Bank can better tailor its support to meet the unique needs of each member country. Such collaboration ensures relevant and effective interventions, fosters innovation, builds capacity and strengthens accountability. In a region marked by both vulnerability and promise, our collaborative efforts are not just beneficial, they are an imperative.

In the spirit of partnerships, it is worthy to mention that the hosting of this meeting in Brazil offers an ideal opportunity to strengthen collaboration and deepen ties between Latin America and the Caribbean. This platform will allow BMCs and the Bank to exchange ideas, share best practices and jointly address common challenges such as climate adaptation, infrastructure and economic diversification. Strengthened partnerships can serve to unlock new opportunities for trade, investment and technical cooperation. We therefore look forward to productive discussions arising from this forum that lead to tangible and impactful outcomes.

In closing, Trinidad and Tobago reaffirms its strong support for the CDB and our commitment to working together in pursuit of its mission. We value our longstanding partnership and are grateful for the support we've received over the past year. Looking ahead, we anticipate an even more significant role for the Bank in helping to advance our national development agenda.

Thank you.