

Briefing on the 2018 Global Infrastructure Forum

Monday, 17 September 2018, 9:30 – 11:00, Conference Room 11, UNHQ

The Global Infrastructure Forum (GI Forum), led by the multilateral development banks, was established by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to improve alignment and coordination among infrastructure initiatives, encourage a greater range of voices to be heard, highlight opportunities for investment and cooperation, and work to ensure that investments are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.

The briefing reviewed progress achieved since the inaugural GI Forum and informed Member States about the preparation for the 2018 GI Forum, which is hosted this year by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and held in Bali, Indonesia on 13 October 2018 under the overarching theme “*Unlocking Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Technology-Driven Infrastructure*”.

This briefing is the latest in a series of meetings that aim not only to keep Member States abreast of the latest development regarding the GI Forum, but also to give Member States an opportunity to provide comments and suggestions in order to further improve the Forum.

Experts from five multi-lateral development banks (MDBs) contributed to this briefing (see agenda below). The first part of which aimed at taking stock of past achievements of the two previous forums respectively organized by the World Bank in 2016 and, IDB and EIB in 2017, the outcomes of which have been reported at the annual ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum.

MDBs representatives stressed that, to date, the Forum has succeeded in generating a collaboration amongst the MDBs at an unprecedented level. It brought the heads of all the MDBs (including the newly established ones) together for the first time to discuss how to move forward infrastructure development in developing countries. This collaboration has also resulted, for example, in several workstreams on topics such as: infrastructure data, standards (contractual provisions), project preparation and credit enhancement. The MDBs have also created joint platforms like the PPP Knowledge Lab. Joint reports on various MDB workstreams were also highlighted, such as those contributing to increased private investment for the SDGs and Sustainable Development (see links below).

The second part of the briefing updated the participants about this year forum and provided more information on the main theme as well as the topics covered in the opening and thematic sessions. More specifically, ADB introduced: *Opening Session A: Sustainable Infrastructure through Technology*, *Opening Session B: The MDBs – Catalyzing Private Finance* and *Session 2: Achieving the Last Mile through Technology*. The Inter-American presented *Session 3: Good Practices in Scaling Up Investments in Infrastructure: Sustainability and Governance*, which is co-organized with the UN and the World Bank. IFC updated the participant on *Session 4: Financing the Global Infrastructure Gap* and ADB on *Session 5: Innovative Climate Finance for Sustainable Infrastructure*. For all these sessions, the organizers have aimed at ensuring a greater gender balance and private sector involvement.

The World Bank concluded the presentations by discussing ideas about the future of this Forum together with inputs from the other MDBs and the UN. The objective was to see how to reinforce this critical platform that supports bringing inclusive, sustainable and resilient infrastructure to developing countries, and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The objective was also to explore how to

move forward the goals of making the GI Forum even more inclusive and bringing additional voices to the discussions. The briefing ended with an interactive discussion with Member States delegates and other UN agencies on different topics, including climate change, social standards and governance issues in infrastructure projects.

Links mentioned at the briefing

Joint Report on MDBs Climate Finance

<https://www.mainstreamingclimate.org/publication/2017-joint-report-on-multilateral-development-banks-climate-finance/>
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2018/06/13/mdb-climate-finance-hit-record-high-of-us352-billion-in-2017>

Mobilization of Private Finance by MDBs and Development Finance Institutions

https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/publications_ext_content/ifc_external_publication_site/publications_listing_page/2018_mdb-mobilization-report

DFI Working Group on Blended Concessional Finance for Private Sector Projects

https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/30635fde-1c38-42af-97b9-2304e962fc85/DFI+Blended+Concessional+Finance+for+Private+Sector+Operations_Summary+R....pdf?MOD=AJPERES

Global Toolbox of MDB Private Sector Investment Instruments

https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/publications_ext_content/ifc_external_publication_site/publications/MDBs-Global-Toolbox

PPP Knowledge Lab (<https://pppknowledgeqelab.org/>)

Agenda

- 09:30-09:40 Opening of the meeting by the chair, Mr. Navid Hanif, Director, Financing for Sustainable Development Office, UN DESA
- 09:40-10:30 Moderated discussion on the Global Infrastructure Forum, moderated by Ms. Shari Spiegel, Chief, Policy Analysis, Financing for Sustainable Development Office, UN DESA
- Mr. Clive Harris, Practice Manager, Public Private Partnerships Group of the World Bank Group
 - Mr. Pablo Pereira dos Santos, Special Advisor for Infrastructure, Inter-American Development Bank
 - Ms. Carlota Cenalmor, Deputy Representative of the European Investment Bank to the US, Washington, D.C. Office, European Investment Bank
 - Ms. Lotte Schou-Zibell, Chief of Finance Sector Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank [via VC]
 - Ms. Albena Melin, Head, Multilateral Engagements G20/G7/OECD/UN/2030 Agenda and Ms. Deborah Ilisevich Feigenbaum, Lead, MDB/IFI Coordination Partnerships, Comms & Outreach, IFC [via VC]
- 10:30-11:00 Interactive dialogue on the Global Infrastructure Forum and concluding remarks