



PRESS RELEASE

GOB and IDB Host National Validation Workshop

Belmopan, January 29, 2026.

In a collaborative effort, the Ministry of Economic Transformation (MET), the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management (MSDCCSWM), with support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), convened a national validation workshop bringing together key stakeholders to review findings and refine recommendations to inform an updated National Climate Finance Strategy.

The session opened with remarks delivered by Mr. Carlos Pol, Chief Executive Officer, MET, alongside contributions from Ms. Milagro Matus, Chief Executive Officer, MSDCCSWM, and Mr. Gerard Alleng, Senior Sector Specialist, Climate Change, IDB.

CEO Pol emphasized Belize's proactive approach to climate leadership, stating, "Although Belize contributes minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions, we remain highly vulnerable to climate impacts. Yet, Belize has chosen leadership by building strong partnerships and strengthening our national systems to adapt, mitigate, and protect our people."

CEO Matus underscored the importance of collective action, noting, "Effective climate finance is not achieved in isolation. Collaboration across ministries, institutions, and partners is essential to ensure that our climate goals translate into tangible results on the ground."

Ms. Karla Gonzalez, IDB Group Country Representative for Belize, delivered the closing remarks, underscoring the importance of coordinated national action to strengthen climate finance planning and delivery.

A central feature of the workshop was the presentation of key findings and draft recommendations, providing an evidence-based snapshot of what has worked, where gaps remain, and the practical steps needed to improve implementation going forward.

The workshop then transitioned into facilitated breakout group discussions, including sessions on validating lessons learned, stress-testing recommendations, and operationalizing the updated Climate Finance Strategy. This was followed by a plenary segment to consolidate key messages and agree on next steps. Participants highlighted the importance of increasing collaboration, increasing consultation with stakeholders, and shifting from a project-based to a programmatic approach to strengthen coordination and support more effective implementation.

This new Climate Finance Strategy aims to inform donors of Government priorities in order to access the necessary technical and financial resources, as outlined in the Medium-Term Development Strategy (MTDS) and the Nationally Determined Contributions 3.0 (NDC 3.0). It will also strengthen the Climate Finance Unit's (CFU) capacity to continue mobilizing climate finance to support Belize's climate resilience and sustainable development efforts.

Ends

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