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PRESS RELEASE

Belize Participates in the 39th Meeting of IDB Governors for Central America

Belmopan, February 10, 2026.

Belize participated in the 39th Meeting of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for Central America, Panama, and the Dominican Republic, held in Panama as part of preparations for the 2026 IDB Annual Meetings. Belize was represented by Mrs. Narda Garcia, Alternate Governor of Belize to the IDB and Chief Executive Officer, Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Investment and Civil Aviation, and by Ms. Cinnamon Bottaro, Belize's Representative on the Board of Directors at the IDB.

The high-level regional meeting brought together Governors and Ministers of Finance from Central America, Panama, and the Dominican Republic to strengthen regional dialogue, align public policy priorities, and advance coordinated actions at a critical juncture for the region. Through direct engagement with IDB Senior Management, the meeting served as an important consensus-building forum to define shared priorities, promote regional integration, and ensure coordinated participation with the IDB ahead of the 2026 Annual Meetings.

The meeting highlighted initiatives aimed at strengthening competitiveness and inclusive growth, notably the launch of Talent Up, a regional initiative designed to expand digital skills, attract investment, and improve productivity. For Belize, Talent Up aligns closely with the Global Digital Services Project, funded by the Inter-American Development Bank, which supports the development of Belize's Global Digital Services Investment Policy. Together, these initiatives seek to upskill entry-level workers and business process outsourcing (BPO) professionals, address skills gaps, and better position Belize to meet global demand for higher-value digital services. Through the partnership between Google and the IDB, Belize will be granted 10,000 scholarships to provide skills in cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and data analytics.

In addition, the meeting facilitated strategic bilateral engagements that enabled countries to advance national priorities within a broader regional framework. On the margins of the meeting, Belize held productive bilateral discussions with IDB President Ilan Goldfajn, as well as with the Ministers of Finance of Costa Rica and Guatemala. These discussions explored opportunities to strengthen Belize's engagement with regional partners and identified areas where joint action can amplify development impact.

Belize reaffirmed its commitment to regional integration and to working closely with the IDB and partner countries to promote sustainable development, competitiveness, and inclusive growth across Central America and the wider region.

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