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PRESS RELEASE

Belize Reviews Draft Country Gender Assessment

Belmopan, November 26, 2026.

The Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs, in collaboration with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), is convening a validation workshop today at the Grand Resort Hotel and Residences in Belize City to review the findings and recommendations of Belize's draft Country Gender Assessment.

Commissioned by CDB and prepared by Shidaa Sustainable Development Solutions Ltd., the 2024/25 assessment builds on Belize's 2016 Country Gender Assessment. It looks at where Belize has made progress on gender equality and where barriers remain. The draft examines differences in access to education, employment, and leadership opportunities, as well as the impact of unpaid caregiving and gaps in services for survivors of gender-based violence.

The opening programme features a welcome by Starla Bradley, Director of the Family Support and Gender Affairs Department, and remarks from Adele Catzim-Sanchez, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry, and Elbert Ellis, Portfolio Manager and Social Analyst at CDB. The assessment team will present the draft findings before participants review the report in working groups and discuss their feedback in plenary.

The workshop gives participants an opportunity to identify gaps, assess whether the findings reflect their experience, and consider which recommendations should take priority. Their feedback will inform revisions to the report, which is intended to guide national policy, programme planning, and future CDB support in Belize.

Ends