

2025 FiCS Summit Session Concept Note



Side Meeting

Global Roundtable of Chief Economists “The Future of Development Banking: Harnessing Innovation for Sustainable Growth”

February 27 / 17:15-18:45 / Room: Westin Seal & Robben Island

Coordinator(s)

Romy Calderon, Head of Research and Information Program, Latin American Association of Financial Institutions for Development, rcalderon@alide.org

Eduardo Vasquez Kunze, Head of the Institutional Relations Program, Latin American Association of Financial Institutions for Development, evasquez@alide.org

Detailed information about the session

Detailed information about the session		Guidance
Rationale	<p>Following the engaging discussions held at the previous edition of FiCS, the Global Roundtable of Chief Economists will once again be organized by the Latin American Association of Financial Institutions for Development (ALIDE), as President of the World Federation of Development Finance Institutions (WFDFI), seeking to foster a broader debate by bringing together professionals from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe, who will share their experiences, insights, and analyses of innovative public policies, present research findings, and formulate evidence-based recommendations for policymakers in development banking.</p> <p>Through constructive dialogue, arguments will be contrasted, stimulating analytical thinking, and generating new approaches that contribute to advancing knowledge on economic development and public banking policy.</p>	<p>The rationale is well articulated, pertinent, and convincing.</p>

2025 FiCS Summit Session Concept Note



It is worth highlighting the resurgence of the development banking system at the global level, albeit uneven across regions. This movement can be traced to the recognition of its role not only in promoting economic development –now focused on proving itself to be sustainable, inclusive, and resilient—and harnessing innovative solutions for sustainable growth, but also of acting as a stabilizing element of economic activities during periods of crisis.

Development banks are fulfilling their role by addressing market gaps through innovative solutions, creating markets where they do not exist and efficiently enhancing the existing markets in key areas for structural economic transformation. That includes sectors like agriculture, infrastructure, energy, education, health, small and medium enterprises, and innovation. At the same time, they are facing the global challenges and priorities of a world in constant change.

As the role that development banks must play in the coming years becomes clearer, regional associations like ALIDE, the WFDFI, the banking clubs, multilateral organizations and other initiatives that encompass diverse development banks, have been essential in advancing this process. These institutions become catalysts in the dissemination and analysis of the global development finance agenda, identifying future challenges, producing information, sharing best practices, leveraging innovation, and interconnecting actors of the development banking ecosystem at global and regional levels.

Furthermore, development banks occupy a privileged position as agents of change, identifying cutting-edge sectors that will enable their countries to compete in the future, produce an environmentally friendly development model, and encourage potential entrepreneurs who are creating the economy and companies of the future. They identify new areas or sectors for sustainable development, and open pathways by supporting projects in new sectors or products for which market information is incomplete or nonexistent. In addition, they empower and provide financial and non-financial tools to entrepreneurs who are creating the economy and companies of the future. They function as important indicators of business and market opportunities, act as pioneering institutions in the financing of

2025 FiCS Summit Session Concept Note



	<p>environmental projects, and also serve as references for innovative projects or products.</p>	
<p>Objective</p>	<p>In this context, a roundtable discussion will be organized with the objective of highlighting the importance and relevance of development banking, generating ideas and strategic recommendations to strengthen the role of development banks. Participants will discuss about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of development banking and its relevance in the different regions. • The levels of resource mobilization and its contribution to development and sustainable growth. • The role of innovation in shaping the future of development banking. • The main challenges faced by these banks and efforts to identify opportunities to maximize their impact. • The barriers or limitations –institutional, economic, regulatory, social or environmental– they face in increasing financing. • The presence of national development banks in global organizations and initiatives, where highly important issues are discussed, that have a great influence on global financing. 	<p>The objective is clear, strategic, relevant, and realistic.</p>
<p>Target audience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief economists of financial institutions and experts in banking and finance for economic development: Professionals interested in exchanging knowledge and experience with other experts in the field of development finance. • Development bank representatives: Executives from development banks at the regional and international level, seeking to share best practices and explore ways to maximize their impact, having a strategic vision of where development banking is going. • Economic policy decision-makers: Economic policymakers in governments and organizations, seeking key information and perspectives. • Academics and students of economics: Individuals interested in hearing from experts and getting an updated view of the challenges and approaches to development finance. • Non-governmental organizations and civil society actors: NGOs and actors committed to sustainable economic development, seeking to strengthen their knowledge and establish connections with other relevant actors. 	

2025 FiCS Summit Session Concept Note



<p>Outcome of the event</p>	<p>The Roundtable of Chief Economists is expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide evidence to assess the importance of development banking and its relevance in mobilizing resources, leveraging innovation and financing development; as well as identifying the main challenges, barriers or limitations to increasing financing. • Generate ideas and strategies from the national development banks themselves on how to move forward to have a greater presence in global organizations and initiatives where issues that influence development financing are discussed. • Generate significant results in terms of recommendations to strengthen the role of development banks in sustainable economic development. • These discussions and collaborations are expected to foster informed decision-making and promote the implementation of policies and projects that drive inclusive and sustainable economic development. 	<p><i>The outcome is concrete and clear.</i></p> <p><i>The outcome promotes or encourages new thinking on the role of PDBs in sustainable/ carbon neutral/resilient development.</i></p>
<p>Session format</p>	<p>Roundtable (O-shaped)</p>	
	<p>Duration: 90 minutes</p> <p>I. Welcome and Opening remarks from the moderator</p> <p>II. Discussion Roundtable with interventions of 8-10 minutes for each panelist Each panelist will share their knowledge and experience, share information, discuss current challenges; evidence on the relevance of development banking and suggest strategies to have a greater influence on the major global issues of development financing, and seek to identify ways to maximize the impact of development banks in their countries.</p> <p>The discussion will address topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels of resource mobilization and their contribution to development and sustainable growth. • Main challenges faced by these banks and opportunities to maximize their impact. • Barriers or limitations –institutional, economic, regulatory, social or environmental– they face to scale up financing to more projects and sectors. • Strategies to have a greater influence on the major global issues of development financing. • Collaborative approaches and partnerships for more effective activity development. 	

2025 FiCS Summit Session Concept Note



	<p>Q&A Session: moderator opens the floor to questions or comments from the audience</p> <p>Conclusions and closing remarks by the moderator</p>	
Session partners	<p>WFDFI and Regional Associations members: ALIDE, AADFI, ADFIAP, ADFIMI, ELTI</p>	
Moderator	<p>Edgardo Alvarez, General Secretary, ALIDE</p>	
Run of show	<p>Moderator and opening remarks: Edgardo Alvarez, General Secretary, ALIDE (5 min)</p> <p>Roundtable: (8 min each panelist)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enrique Florencio, Secretary General, Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP) 2. Cyril Okoye, Secretary General, Association of African Development Finance Institutions (AADFI) 3. İlhami Öztürk, Secretary General, Association of National Development Finance Institutions in Member Countries of the Islamic Development Bank (ADFIMI) 4. David Denzer-Speck, Head of EU Affairs, European Association Long-Term Investors (ELTI) 5. Anderson Caputo, Division Chief of Connectivity, Markets and Finance, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) 6. Romy Calderon, Head of Economic Studies & Research, ALIDE 7. Sebastian Nieto-Parra, Head of Latin America and the Caribbean, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) <p>Presentation: White Paper «National Development Banks: The Unsung Heroes of the Global Development Finance Architecture» (15 min)</p> <p>Diana Smallridge, CEO, Momentus Global</p> <p>Questions and answers (10 min)</p> <p>Closing remarks : Edgardo Alvarez, General Secretary, ALIDE (5 min)</p>	