
Opening Remarks by Mr. Thabo Thamane, Chairman of the World Federation of Development Financing Institutions (WFDFI) and AADFI at the launch of a Guidebook for National Development Banks on Climate Risk: An Innovative Agenda for Progress in Latin America and the Caribbean

- **Carlos Linares, President, ALIDE**
- **Moises Schwartz Rosenthal, Sector Manager, IDB**
- **Susan Krohn, Head of Division, International Financing for Climate Action and Environmental Protection, Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety**

1. Welcome everyone to the launch of this exciting and innovative guidebook on climate risk.
2. I am delighted to be here with you today.
3. My name is Thabo Thamane and I am the Chairman of the World Federation of Development Finance Institutions, Chairman of the Association of African Development Finance Institutions (AADFI), and the Chief Executive Officer of Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) in Botswana.
4. For those who may not be familiar with us, the World Federation is an umbrella Association of the continental/regional Development Finance Associations - the Association of African Development Finance Institutions (AADFI), the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP), and the Latin American Association of Development Financing Institutions (ALIDE), the Association of National Development Finance Institutions in Member Countries of the Islamic Development Bank (ADFIMI), and the European Long-Term Investors Association (ELTI).
5. Together we aim to promote development as a unified force, facilitating knowledge-exchange, capacity building, and enhanced cooperation between DFIs across the globe.
6. While much of the world is still grappling with the fight against COVID-19, we are starting to see a glimmer of hope as vaccines roll out, lockdown measures are being reduced, and businesses begin to reopen. We have been waiting so long for things to get back to normal, but in truth, I believe things will never quite be the same. Nor should they.
7. The pandemic has exposed many gaps in our systems and we have less than 10 years left to achieve the SDGs. Now is the time to look ahead, not back to where we once were. If we must rebuild our infrastructure and our economies, why not do so in ways that forge the path to a better and more sustainable future?

8. Ladies and gentlemen, I cannot overstate the importance of building back better or the importance of addressing climate change specifically. Climate change is not going away. In addition, the risks arising from climate change are prevalent. Droughts, floods, hurricanes, raised temperatures; all of these things can cause significant or even devastating disruptions to our societies, businesses and economies. They can disrupt supply chains and cause damage to assets among many other market disruptions.
9. Some sectors may be more sensitive to the impacts of climate change, but no sector is completely immune. This will inevitably threaten the stability of the financial system. Therefore, it is imperative for the financial sector actors like ourselves to intervene.
10. National development banks, as public policy instruments, must play an important role in managing climate change. NDBs are actually at risk to climate change than their commercial counterparts as they may have sector specific mandates for industries that are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
11. NDBs must be proactive in addressing climate-related risks to enhance their own resilience and the resilience of their clients, enhance their access to climate finance and play a leadership role in supporting local financial institutions through knowledge exchange. Our actions today will determine the frequency and severity of impacts in the future.
12. The WFDFI believes that Development Finance Institutions can and should play a critical role in addressing climate change through carefully assessing and managing climate-related risks in their portfolio and deploying capital towards rebuilding a low carbon economy.
13. Because of this, we are delighted to be here today for the launch of IDB's Guidebook for National Development Banks on Climate Risk. Our hope is that this guide pushes NDBs to take action to identifying, assessing and managing the risks associated with climate change to better align their strategy and deliver on their mandate.
14. I'm looking forward to hearing from the speakers during today's sessions and I wish you all fruitful deliberations as I know that what we will take away from these sessions will propel us to greater heights.