



Rome, 20th of October 2021

Finance in Common Summit (FICS) – Gender Equality

UN Women and AFD unveil new Report on Public Development Banks’ contributions to advancing gender equality

Press release - UN Women and the Agence française de développement (AFD) have launched the [“Public Development Banks Driving Gender Equality”](#) report, with learnings from participating institutions on their contribution to gender equality. The launch took place at the [“Gender Equality, Climate Change and Funding”](#) thematic session on the 20th October, organized by the two institutions in the context of the Finance in Common Summit (FICS) – Gender Equality on 19th and 20th October 2021 in Rome.

The report celebrates accomplishments and renews the sense of urgency, accountability, ambition, and transformative possibility around Public Development Banks’ (PDB) gender equality commitments (financial and otherwise).

“There is tremendous benefit for PDBs interested in understanding how they can address and measure their own gender equality commitments, as organizations and with their partners, to create a more inclusive and equal world. This report highlights how PDBs are currently tackling gender equality commitments, recognizing that this is a journey. UN Women is your ally in this journey. We are here to collaborate, as well as help implement and strengthen the work on gender equality and women’s empowerment”, said Anita Bhatia, Deputy Executive Director, UN Women.

This report offers a unique perspective by providing, through case studies, numerous concrete examples of how leading PDBs with various mandates, histories and methods of engagement have committed and delivered on the gender equality agenda both internally (as organizations) and externally (in programming, investments, and partnerships). **These included the adoption of gender responsive practices, mechanisms and tools, as well as gender mainstreaming approaches in the programming and funding cycle.**

During the event, the nexus between gender equality and climate change was also highlighted as inherent to the achievement of the SDGs. Seven speakers and numerous participants shared the contributions of development banks in this area, and shared research initiatives in this field.

As concluded by Marie-Hélène Loison, Deputy General Director of AFD, “PDBs coalition is a real framework for sharing and exchanging experiences on best practices for the advancement of gender equality and women’s empowerment. The nexus between gender equality, climate change and biodiversity is an utmost priority for sustainable development, and Development Banks have a crucial role to play in this fight”.

The session also introduced the new signatories¹ of the *Paris Development Banks Statement on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment*, namely the Financial Corporation for the Territorial Development S.A. of Colombia (*Financiera de Desarrollo Territorial S.A.*), the Bank of Northeast of Brazil (*Banco do Nordeste*), and the National Bank of Costa Rica (*Banco Nacional*), within a total number of signatories of 36 public development banks.

The Finance in Common Summit (FICS) was the second convening of PDBs to highlight their role in achieving the SDGs and reiterate their joint commitments to joint action for climate and sustainable development.

About the Finance in Common Summit

The first-ever global meeting of Public Development Banks – The Finance in Common Summit – focuses on how Public Development Banks can influence the global financial system to better protect our planet and societies. By rallying and challenging a new and significant global community with enhanced capacity of action, and by promoting sustained collective action, the Finance in Common Summit is a key milestone on the way to the COP26.

About UN Women

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. For more information, visit www.unwomen.org. UN Women, 220 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017, New York. Tel: +1 646 781-4400. Fax: +1 646 781-4496. For more information, visit www.unwomen.org.

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About AFD Group

The Agence française de développement Group (AFD) is a public institution that implements France’s policy in the areas of development and international solidarity: climate, biodiversity, peace, education, town planning, health, governance, etc. Our teams are actively involved in more than 4,000 projects with a high social and environmental impact in the French Overseas Departments and Territories and in 115 countries. We thus contribute to the commitment of France and the French people to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

¹The other signatories are : **ADFIMI** (Association of Development Finance Institutions in member countries of the Islamic Development Bank), **AECID** (Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation - Spain), **AFD** (French Development Agency - France), **AFD Paraguay** (Development Finance Agency), **AfDB** (African Development Bank), **ALIDE** (Latin American Association of Development Financing Institutions), **Bancoldex S.A.** (Colombia), **BANOBRAS** (National Works and Public Services Bank), **BDMG** (Development Bank of Minas Gerais- Brazil), **BICE** (Investment and Foreign Trade Bank - Argentina), **BIO** (Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries), **CABEI** (Central American Bank for Economic Integration), **CBvS** (Centrale Bank van Suriname), **CDC Group** (Commonwealth Development Corporation- United Kingdom), **DBSA** (Development Bank of Southern Africa – South Africa), **DEG** (German Investment and Development Company - Germany), **DFC** (U.S. International Development Finance Corporation), **EIB** (European Investment Bank), **FINAGRO** (Financing Fund for the Agriculture Sector), **FinDev Canada** (Canada), **Finnfund** (Finland), **FIRA** (Trust Funds for Rural Development), **FOGABA SAPEM** (Guarantee Fund Buenos Aires), **HBOR** (Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development – Croatia), **JICA** (Japan International Cooperation Agency), **IFAD** (International Fund for Agricultural Development), **IFU** (Investment Fund for Developing Countries – Denmark), **KfW** (Credit Institute for Reconstruction – Germany), **PROPARCO (France)**, **PT-SMI** (PT Sarana Multi Infrastruktur, Indonesia), **Swedfund** (Sweden), **TSKB** (Industrial Development Bank of Turkey – Turkey), **VEB.RF** (State Development Corporation – Russia).

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