

London Climate Action Week 2026

Climate and Development Finance Forum: Unlocking Finance at Scale for Country-led Transformation – Summary Report

(Note: The two sessions in this Forum were held under the Chatham House Rule.)

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[UNSG remarks](#)

[Reuters coverage](#)

[LCAW event page](#)

[LCAW YouTube](#)

Executive summary

Held at Central Hall Westminster—where the first UN General Assembly convened in 1946 to help secure peace after war—during London Climate Action Week 2026, the Forum sought to identify practical solutions to today's defining challenge: addressing climate change in an increasingly fragmented geopolitical landscape. The Forum brought together governments, MDBs, DFIs, public development banks, climate funds, institutional investors, private sector partners, philanthropies and civil society to examine how climate and development finance can support country-led transformation at scale.

The core message was implementation. Participants consistently argued that the challenge is no longer defining climate ambition, but building the institutions, investment pathways and financing partnerships needed to deliver it. The Forum did not reveal a shortage of ideas; it showed that workable approaches already exist, but delivery is slowed by fragmented systems, under-prepared pipelines, constrained concessional finance, and financial rules that often fail to value resilience and long-term opportunity.

The UN Secretary-General's opening remarks at the Forum framed the agenda: climate risk is economic risk, adaptation is no longer a future issue, and resilience should be treated as an economic asset rather than a marginal climate expenditure. This framing shaped the discussion: participants treated adaptation, resilience and transition finance as questions of economic strategy, fiscal resilience, investment quality and international financial architecture reform.



"We need to recognize that climate risk is economic risk. Adaptation must shape national development strategies, fiscal policy, public investment, infrastructure planning, trade policy and financial regulation."

H.E. ANTÓNIO GUTERRES

United Nations Secretary-General

President Surangel Whipps Jr. of Palau reminded participants that climate finance must move at the speed countries need and focus on resilience being the pathway to national security.

Deputy Secretary for Sustainable Development Finance, Ministry of Finance of Brazil, COP30 Presidency Ivan Oliveira emphasised the importance of country-ownership being integral to sustainability and integrating this agenda within COPs and other relevant multilateral processes.

The discussions answered the questions set out for both sessions by identifying practical features of effective country platforms, the financing partnerships needed to respond to them, and the reforms required to mobilise private capital for low-carbon and resilient development pathways.

The discussion reflected an important evolution in thinking. Country platforms are increasingly viewed not as coordination mechanisms for development partners, but as country-owned investment platforms that connect national priorities, public policy, project preparation and multiple sources of finance.

"This critical discussion at London Climate Action Week demonstrated the value of country-driven priorities and projects at the centre of climate action. For the most vulnerable nations like Palau, resilience is the pathway to our national security. By supporting country-owned approaches and strengthening partnerships, we can accelerate energy transition and resilience efforts to ensure communities are better prepared for the challenges ahead. We will tackle these issues head on when we host the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Palau in the first week of September."

H.E. SURANGEL S. WHIPPS JR

President of Palau

Key takeaways and implications for action

1. Climate risk is economic risk

Adaptation and resilience are now issues for finance ministries, economic planning and fiscal stability, and not only environment ministries. As the UN Secretary-General stated, climate change is no longer a distant threat: extreme heat, supply chain disruption, migration pressures and fiscal instability are being felt in real time. Climate disasters can become fiscal disasters if risks are not priced, planned for and financed in advance.

Implications for action:

- ▶ Embed climate risk assessments in national planning, budgeting, regulation and public investment systems.
- ▶ Scale pre-arranged, affordable and grant-based finance for vulnerable countries.
- ▶ Treat resilience as core economic policy, not a peripheral climate expenditure

2. Redefine wealth to value resilience

Participants challenged financial systems that reward existing wealth more than future resilience, natural capital and long-term stability. Current frameworks often value short-term financial flows over resilient communities, energy security – including the stability that clean energy provides against fossil fuel price volatility – and economic stability. If climate risk is economic risk, then resilience is wealth, and financial systems need to recognise and reward it accordingly.

Implications for action:

- ▶ Advance work with public development banks, regulators and credit rating agencies so methodologies better reflect resilience, long-term value and real investment risk, including the risk-mitigation value of clean energy in reducing exposure to fossil fuel price shocks.
- ▶ Ensure prudential regulation increasingly reflects actual conditions in developing markets.
- ▶ Scale financing through an expanded definition of wealth that captures resilience outcomes, recognising energy security and insulation from fuel price volatility as core components of economic resilience.

3. Country-led platforms are moving from concept to delivery

Effective platforms strengthen existing institutions and policy tools rather than creating parallel structures. There is no single country platform model; effective platforms are

tailored to national context while sharing common principles of country ownership, finance ministry leadership and practical implementation.

Private capital follows credible strategies, regulatory certainty and bankable pipelines - capital itself is not the main constraint. Fragmentation, duplicative procedures, slow approvals, weak project preparation and misaligned incentives remain major barriers. As President Whipps of Palau noted, duplicative requirements are "death by a thousand cuts" for small island developing states and least developed countries, draining capacity and slowing access to finance.

Critical success factors identified:

- ▶ Finance ministry leadership and whole-of-government coordination.
- ▶ Enabling policy and regulatory frameworks.
- ▶ Building on existing institutions with established mandates and accountability.
- ▶ Honest, realistic pipeline development, moving beyond coordination to bankable projects.
- ▶ Domestic financial institutions and local capital markets as foundational actors.
- ▶ Flexibility to adapt international partnerships to local realities.

Implications for action:

- ▶ Use country platforms as implementation mechanisms through which countries can deliver the objectives of their national transition strategies and develop project pipelines aligned with NDCs, national development strategies, roadmaps for the transition away from fossil fuels, and broader macroeconomic reforms.
- ▶ Strengthen the role and capacity of national public development banks in implementing country platforms, including through mechanisms such as the PDB guarantee hub.
- ▶ Keep models tailored to country context and include communities early.
- ▶ Harmonise requirements across funds and institutions to reduce fragmentation and administrative burden.
- ▶ Measure success by delivery, not coordination activity.

4. Capital is not the main constraint

Scaling climate and development finance requires a more coordinated system built on mutual reliance, shared standards, joint project preparation, co-investment and a clarity on

areas of comparative advantage among MDBs, DFIs, climate funds and national development banks. Institutions can align around country-led priorities rather than operate through fragmented approaches, while national development banks where they exist can be ecosystem builders that develop pipelines, strengthen local markets and also partner to mobilise private capital.

Implications for action:

- ▶ Catalytic instruments such as blended finance, guarantees (including the PDB guarantee hub engaging national development banks), concessional capital, equity, insurance and local-currency solutions, should be deployed selectively to address genuine market failures, reduce risks and create new markets.
- ▶ Scarce concessional resources can be focused on strengthening domestic implementation capacity, building out bankable project pipelines, increasing affordability of climate action, supporting adaptation and resilience, and targeted risk sharing to crowd in domestic and international capital markets.
- ▶ Continued efforts are needed to reduce persistent barriers such as perceptions of risk, data gaps, credit rating methodologies, prudential regulations and currency risk.
- ▶ Solutions include stronger evidence on real risks, more standardised structures that reduce transaction complexity, and larger, programmatic investment platforms that can attract institutional investors.

5. COP31, COP32 and the next LCAW should test delivery

The Baku-to-Belém Roadmap ambition of USD 1.3 trillion annually by 2035 is fundamentally an implementation challenge. The next milestones should demonstrate that country platforms and public-private partnerships can deliver at scale. COP31 should be remembered as an implementation COP.

Implications for action:

- ▶ Demonstrate between now and the next LCAW that country-led platforms are becoming the practical delivery mechanism for climate-safe and resilient development, including how these are helping speed of access to climate finance.
- ▶ Demonstrate how DFIs are partnering with the private sector to scale investment drawing on specific case studies and metrics that evidence what's working to mobilise capital, build out bankable pipelines, deliver resilience outcomes, and support community reach.
- ▶ Demonstrate evidence of further progress on how to reduce fragmentation across the climate and development finance system.

Practical ways countries can continue to share and learn from one another on an ongoing basis is available from the Global Capacity Building Coalition (GCBC) at the [knowledge portal](#) whilst its [accelerator](#) is a potential way organizations working on country platforms can receive support as well as the IIED Climate and Development Ministerial [country platforms action toolkit](#).



Organisers of the Climate and Development Finance Forum (E3G, BII, EBRD, and Country Platforms Hub) with UN Secretary-General António Guterres, President Surangel S. Whipps, Jr. of Palau, Ambassador Ilana Seid from Palau, and Ivan Oliveira, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Finance of Brazil.

Responses to the questions set out (considering no one size fits all)

Session 1: Country platforms as delivery vehicles

Overarching message: country platforms are not primarily about coordinating development partners; they are about helping governments organise investment around national priorities.

What governance and coordination arrangements are proving most effective?

The discussion reinforced that there is no single model for a country platform. Successful platforms build on existing national institutions rather than creating parallel mechanisms and are tailored to national context and development priorities. Finance ministries increasingly play a central role in providing strategic direction, linking climate ambition to fiscal policy, public investment and broader economic planning, while environment and

sector ministries contribute technical leadership. Public development banks, sovereign wealth funds and other domestic financial institutions were repeatedly identified as critical delivery partners because they can translate government priorities into investable programmes and engage directly with investors.

Participants emphasised that country ownership goes beyond governance structures. Platforms work best when countries are honest about where they are in their journey, openly acknowledge that investment pipelines are still under development, and invite development partners and investors to help shape them. Effective platforms are practical implementation mechanisms rather than coordination exercises, and investors need clear institutional leadership and accountability, so they know who is responsible for delivering results.

How can platforms connect macroeconomic reform, transition planning and project preparation?

Participants agreed that platforms should begin with national development priorities, rather than climate finance opportunities, and then connect these priorities to investment planning, policy reform and capital mobilisation. The discussion highlighted project preparation as the critical bridge between ambition and investment. Rather than pursuing unrealistic lists of projects, countries should focus on developing credible, well-prepared pipelines that progressively build investor confidence.

A recurring message was that platforms must be closely connected to the wider economy and financial system. Investment planning should be integrated with macro-economic and macro-fiscal policy, industrial strategies and market development, while project preparation should incorporate appropriate risk allocation from the outset. Public development banks and specialised national financing institutions were recognised as particularly important in turning political ambition into bankable investments.

Participants also noted that scale should not be understood simply in terms of project size. Smaller countries and Small Island Developing States may offer fewer large projects, but can demonstrate depth, innovation and integrated approaches around resilience, nature and adaptation that provide valuable lessons for others.

How can platforms clarify who finances what, when and under what conditions?

The discussion emphasised that effective platforms require a clear understanding of the different roles played across the capital stack. Private capital remains the largest potential source of investment, but it requires clear policy direction, credible institutions, well-prepared pipelines and transparent governance before it will engage. Public finance should focus on creating enabling conditions and supporting project preparation, while concessional finance should be deployed strategically to reduce risk, improve affordability and mobilise larger pools of commercial capital.

Participants stressed that countries cannot rely solely on international finance. Developing domestic capital markets, mobilising local institutional investors and using local currency

financing can reduce risk, strengthen market confidence and encourage international investors to participate. Credit guarantee mechanisms were highlighted as particularly effective tools for lowering financing costs and unlocking new sources of private capital.

The discussion also recognised that the international development finance system is not always well aligned with country-led approaches. Development partners need to become more responsive to country leadership, engage earlier in the investment planning process and adapt their own ways of working, rather than expecting countries to adapt to fragmented financing instruments and lengthy approval processes. As concessional resources become increasingly constrained, participants stressed the importance of deploying scarce public finance more strategically to catalyse much larger flows of domestic and private investment.



Leslie Maasdorp, Chief Executive Officer of BII, at the Climate and Development Finance Forum.

Session 2: Partnerships for mobilising private capital at scale

What is needed to scale collaboration across MDBs, DFIs, national development banks and climate funds?

The system needs more mutual reliance, shared standards, joint preparation, co-investment and clearer division of labour. Institutions should coordinate upstream around country-led demand rather than arrive with fragmented instruments and separate reporting requirements. National development banks and public financial institutions should be treated as ecosystem builders, not only lenders.

Participants highlighted that collaboration among DFIs has improved dramatically in recent years, with new asset classes emerging and innovative fund structures attracting interest from insurance companies and pension funds. DFIs and partners demonstrated this progress through new fund structures.

However, the discussion acknowledged persistent challenges. Progress remains slow and transactions are still too small to meet the scale required. Participants noted a "traffic jam" of actors trying to create structures in the same markets, pointing to coordination failures that need to be addressed through mechanisms such as some MDB private sector investment labs.

The collective MDB contribution will reach USD 100 billion for low and middle-income countries in 2025, with targets of USD 120 billion annually by 2030 and roughly one-third allocated to adaptation. Achieving these targets will require stronger institutional alignment and clearer division of labour across development finance actors.

How should catalytic instruments be deployed?

Blended finance, guarantees, concessional capital, equity, junior capital, insurance and local-currency solutions should be used where they unlock markets or address genuine risks that commercial capital cannot absorb alone. Scarce concessional resources should not substitute for commercial finance where projects are already viable; they should be targeted at preparation, affordability, resilience, first loss and market creation.

Participants emphasised that blended finance is as much about risk bearing as risk sharing, and that it can be more efficient to share risk than to bear it entirely. Different investors need different things from catalytic capital—the system cannot simply replicate billion-dollar fund after billion-dollar fund without tailoring structures to investor needs.

A critical concern was the scarcity of concessional capital, as blended finance cannot be built on shrinking concessional capital bases. Several participants argued that scarce concessional resources should not flow to places where commercial viability already exists. Instead, concessional capital should focus on creating investable assets, supporting first-loss positions and unlocking frontier markets where commercial capital cannot yet operate alone. For example, a DFI allocates up to 25 percent of its capital to frontier markets/LDCs, recognising that increased MDB and DFI mobilisation efforts risk driving institutions toward middle-income countries and away from the markets that most need support.

The discussion also highlighted equity scarcity within DFIs as a constraint on mobilisation. Participants noted that strategically structuring funds is essential, though the process takes far too long. Local currency financing and developing domestic capital markets were identified as foundational—cross-border investment follows more readily when domestic ecosystems are in place. Participants noted that institutional investors want to increase exposure to frontier markets, and that sometimes what is needed is not concessional capital but junior capital willing to take risk.

Participants also pointed to new pools of capital that remain underleveraged, including philanthropy and private donors, citing the scale of philanthropic giving as a potential complement to traditional development finance.

What more is needed to overcome persistent barriers to private capital mobilisation?

Participants pointed to risk perceptions, data gaps, credit rating practices, prudential regulation, currency risk, scale constraints and complex transaction structures. The next step is to build a stronger evidence base on real risks, simplify structures where possible, update methodologies that undervalue resilience, and make platforms large enough or

programmatic enough to attract institutional capital. See [E3G/IDFC report on PDBs, prudential regulation and credit ratings](#).

Credit rating agencies emerged as a focal point of discussion. Participants observed that CRAs do not adequately understand national development banks, and that their methodologies fail to capture the risk-mitigation value of resilience investments. One participant noted challenges in how CRAs assess NDBs, while others called for more investment data beyond the Global Emerging Markets Risk Database (GEMs) to address the credit rating problem systematically.

Participants also questioned whether global prudential regulation remains fit for purpose. Public partners need to think about the structural transformation required, including the regulatory dimension, and consider investing public capital in policy-based financing and technical assistance alongside project finance. Governments need to support the financing system through better data to address perceived risk, improved CRA practices and updated prudential frameworks.

On pipeline development, an example was given of work underway by one of the private sector arms of an MDB to build bankable deals, noting that tendering processes should not be a race for lowest cost but should require investors to bring innovative solutions to the table. The balance of risk between public and private sectors needs to be addressed fairly, with PPPs playing an important role in setting standards and providing examples for sectors.



Baroness Jenny Chapman, Minister of State for International Development and Africa, FCDO, at the Climate and Development Finance Forum.

Another example was mentioned involving a regional MDB, which is preparing a new coalition for project preparation in adaptation and resilience, to be launched at COP31, focused on understanding risks, building pipelines and identifying appropriate capital types. Country-specific initiatives such as a certain LDC-led platform demonstrate that adaptation-focused approaches can generate momentum and create models for replication.

Finally, participants stressed that context matters. Each market has unique features, and what works in one country may not transfer directly to another. Understanding local markets deeply, including debt sustainability conditions, regulatory environments and demand characteristics, is essential for making capital work effectively.

Suggested follow-up actions

1. Subsets of participants to identify and execute co-financing opportunities and share learnings at future convenings.
2. Have subsequent convenings to focus on two or three practical bottlenecks: project preparation and pipeline development, interoperability across institutions, and resilience valuation in risk frameworks.
3. Document and share practical case studies showing how country platforms have moved projects from concept to financial close, including the role played by public institutions, climate funds, guarantees and domestic capital.
4. Continue strengthening peer learning between countries through the Country Platforms Hub, GCBC Knowledge Portal and practitioner exchange series.
5. Link the Forum follow-up to various strategic moments including World Bank Annuals, COP31, FiCS 2027, COP32 and the next LCAW as implementation milestones rather than new agenda-setting moments.



Participants in the roundtable discussion at the Climate and Development Finance Forum

Participants

Keynote, Opening and Closing Speeches

- ▶ H.E. Mr. António Guterres – Secretary-General, UN
- ▶ H.E. President Surangel S. Whipps, Jr. – President of Palau
- ▶ Ivan Oliveira – Deputy Secretary for Sustainable Development Finance, Ministry of Finance of Brazil, COP30
- ▶ Baroness Jenny Chapman – Minister of State for International Development and Africa, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)
- ▶ Gianpiero Nacci – Managing Director, Climate Strategy and Delivery, EBRD
- ▶ Leslie Maasdorp – CEO, BII
- ▶ H.E. Bernadette Arakwiye – Minister of Environment, Rwanda
- ▶ Nick Mabey – CEO and Founding Director, E3G

Roundtable Participants

- ▶ Achala Abeysinghe – Director, Investment Services, Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- ▶ Alex Michie – CEO, Global Capacity Building Coalition (GCBC)
- ▶ Alexia Latortue – Head of Secretariat, Future of Development Cooperation Coalition (FDCC)
- ▶ Amal-Lee Amin – Managing Director, Climate, Gender & Diversity and Advisory, BII
- ▶ Antonio Ortiz – Deputy Subdirector for Sustainable and Digital Finance, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation, Spain
- ▶ César Sánchez – President, Grupo Bicentenario, Colombia
- ▶ Christopher Marks – Managing Director, Head of Growth Markets, Innovative Finance & Portfolio Solutions, EMEA, MUFG
- ▶ Daniel Schriber – CEO, Symbiotics Asset Management
- ▶ Delano Dalo – Head of Public Financing Division II, PT Sarana Multi Infrastruktur, Indonesia
- ▶ Dharshan Wignarajah – Director, UK & Europe, Climate Policy Initiative (CPI)

- ▶ Dominic Michel – Investment Director, Novastar Ventures
- ▶ Dorah Modise – Executive Director, Presidential Climate Commission, South Africa
- ▶ Gisele Saralegui – Global Climate Head, Global Transaction Advisory, International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- ▶ Heike Henn – Director General for International Climate Action, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN), Germany
- ▶ Holger Rothenbusch – Managing Director & Head of Infrastructure and Climate, BII
- ▶ Jacob Thoppil – Head of External Relations and Partnerships, Climate Investment Funds (CIF)
- ▶ Jiwoo Choi – Chief of Strategic Initiatives, Acumen
- ▶ Jo Fry – Investment Director and Head of Intermediated Credit, BII
- ▶ John Murton – Senior Sustainability Advisor, Standard Chartered
- ▶ Jonathan First – Senior Advisor, Climate Policy Initiative (CPI)
- ▶ Leonardo Pereira – Head of the Department of Infrastructure, Energy Transition and Climate Change, BNDES
- ▶ Lori Kerr – CEO, FinDev Canada
- ▶ Luz Martinez – Head of Sustainability, ILX Management
- ▶ Marcos Neto – UN Assistant Secretary-General; UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support
- ▶ Mathilde Mesnard – Deputy Director, Environment Directorate, OECD
- ▶ Meral Murathan – Executive Vice President, TSKB
- ▶ Mürsel Akbulut – Head, Department of Climate Finance and Incentives, Presidency of Climate Change, Türkiye
- ▶ Nana Maidugu – Head of Sustainability and ESG, Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority
- ▶ Nick Hurd – Chair, GSG Impact
- ▶ Nicola Mustetea – Director and Head of Climate, BII

- ▶ Noelle O'Brien – Director, Climate Change, Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- ▶ Pablo Vieira – Global Director, NDC Partnership
- ▶ Paul Butarbutar – Deputy Head, JETP Indonesia Secretariat
- ▶ Randi Kristiansen – Executive Director, JETP, GFANZ
- ▶ Remy Rioux – Chairman, Finance in Common (FiCS)
- ▶ Ruel Yamuna – Papua New Guinea's Special Envoy for Climate and Environment; COP31 Pacific Climate Envoy for Access to Climate Finance
- ▶ Sam Mugume – Assistant Commissioner, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda
- ▶ Simon Cooke – Head of Impact Debt, Ashmore Group
- ▶ Stacy Swann – Managing Director/Division Chief, Blended Finance, IDB Invest
- ▶ Sue Lund – Head, Just Energy Transition Investment Plan Project Management Unit (JET IP PMU), The Presidency, South Africa
- ▶ Sung-Ah Kyun – Associate Director, Head of Policy, Research and Partnership Team, EBRD
- ▶ Tavraj Banga – Partner & Co-Head, Climate Investments, Helios Investment Partners
- ▶ Tina Stege – Climate Envoy, Marshall Islands; COP31 Pacific Climate Envoy for Oceania (keeping 1.5 °C within reach)
- ▶ Valerie Harrington – Senior Fund Manager, Blended Finance, BlueOrchard
- ▶ Veronica Nyhan Jones – Global Manager, Partnerships & Cross-Sector Expertise, Climate Department, International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- ▶ Xiheng Jiang – Director General, Strategy, Policies and Partnerships Department, New Development Bank (NDB)
- ▶ Xing Zhang – Senior Climate Policy Specialist, Strategy, Policy and Budget Department, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

ABOUT E3G

E3G is an independent think tank working to deliver a safe climate for all. We drive systemic action on climate by identifying barriers and constructing coalitions to advance the solutions needed. We create spaces for honest dialogue, and help guide governments, businesses and the public on how to deliver change at the pace the planet demands.

ABOUT BII

BII is the UK's development finance institution and impact investor with a mission to help solve the biggest global development challenges by investing patient, flexible capital to support private sector growth and innovation.

ABOUT EBRD

EBRD works across three continents to support the transition to successful market economies. It focuses on delivering prosperity by enabling a well-run and sustainable private sector. EBRD does this with its unique business model, combining financing, advice and policy reform.

ABOUT THE COUNTRY PLATFORMS HUB

The Country Platforms Hub was launched as part of COP30's Solutions Acceleration Plan. The Hub is designed to: enhance country ownership in structuring climate and just transition investment pathways; connect demand with supply by linking national platforms to technical assistance, concessional finance, and blended instruments and reduce fragmentation through coordinated engagement with MDBs, DFIs, and private capital.

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