



## **16TH V20 MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE PROSPERITY, STABILITY, AND SECURITY IN AN ERA OF PLANETARY INSTABILITY**

*14 April 2026 (Tuesday) | 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM (ET)  
MC 13-301, World Bank Headquarters, Washington, D.C.*

---

Excellencies, we know the facts. We know that our region is highly vulnerable to natural hazards, and that disaster damage as a ratio of GDP is 4.5 times greater for small states than larger ones, but six times higher for Caribbean countries. The impact of economic shocks lingers on our small open economies longer than our larger neighbors.

Ladies, and gentlemen, debt restructuring should therefore not be viewed predominantly as an emergency response to distress. Used well, it is a strategic tool, one that can strengthen resilience, unlock investment, and reposition economies for sustained growth. It is from this perspective that the Caribbean Development Bank is working with the World Bank, CAF, and IDB on a multi-guarantor debt swap facility. The objective is to enable countries to exchange high-cost, short-maturity debt for longer-term, lower-cost obligations backed by guarantees from multiple development partners.

By sharing risk, these arrangements can meaningfully reduce borrowing costs, extend maturities, and operate at scale. Just as importantly, they allow debt relief to be directly linked to critical investments. Timing is equally critical, and this brings me to countercyclical financing. Too often, affordable financing becomes scarce during periods of stress, precisely when it is needed most. Here, MDBs have a central role to play. We are uniquely positioned to provide long-term, predictable financing when markets retreat, helping countries navigate shocks without sacrificing development objectives.

At CDB, we are strengthening our capacity to play a stabilizing role for all Caribbean countries who face repeated climate and external shocks. This brings me to the continued importance of concessional resources.

In this respect, our recent replenishment of our Special Development Fund of US\$460 million, targeting our most vulnerable countries is extremely important, and timely. Taken together, these efforts reflect a clear conviction. Debt restructuring, countercyclical financing, and concessional resources must be treated as part of a single, coherent development framework.

Ultimately, fiscal, and debt sustainability is not achieved by managing decline, but by financing growth. With the right mix of restructuring, concessional capital, and strong multilateral partnerships, we can help countries move decisively from adjustment to resilience, and from vulnerability to stability.

Thank you.

**MR. DANIEL BEST**

President

Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)