



## 2026 GRN Development Banking Research Conference

### Public Banks in a Changing Global Financial Architecture

20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026, Clermont-Ferrand (France)

#### PROGRAM

The Global Research Network on Public Development Banks (GRN), together with Finance in Common (FiCS) and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), are pleased to organize the 2026 Development Banking Research Conference. This event, will take place on May 20th-22nd, 2026 in Clermont-Ferrand, France. Held in partnership with the FERDI and the CERDI, the conference will bring together researchers, academics, think tanks, and practitioners to debate the role of public development banks. Throughout its various sessions, the conference will contribute in shaping concrete policy recommendations that will inform the priorities of the French Presidency of the G7.

The conference will be mainly structured around academic sessions dedicated to the presentation of research work of international level. Each article will be the subject of a moderate discussion in order to promote in-depth exchanges. The program will also include sessions with a political dimension, aimed at translating research results into concrete recommendations for public policies. The policy sessions will explicitly link to G7 priorities, and one of them will be specifically dedicated to building on T7 findings.

The conference will result in a structured set of public policy recommendations to contribute to the work of the G7. The publication of a special issue in an academic journal is also envisaged.

This event is supported by the international relations department of Clermont Auvergne Métropole.

#### LOGISTICAL DETAILS

The conference will take place in the building of the Institut d'Auvergne Rhône-Alpes du Développement des Territoires (IADT), located 51 Bd François Mitterrand, 63000 Clermont-Ferrand.

More information can be found on the website of the conference, practical information: [2026 GRN Development Banking Research Conference - Sciencesconf.org](https://www.sciencesconf.org/2026-grn-development-banking-research-conference)

**WEDNESDAY, May 20<sup>th</sup>**

8:00	<b>Welcoming coffee</b>		
8:45	<p><b>Conference Opening – Addressing Global Imbalances: Toward More Inclusive and Resilient Development Finance.</b></p> <p>Pierre Schiano, Vice-President, <i>Université Clermont-Auvergne</i>.          Thomas Mélonio, Chief Economist, <i>Agence française de Développement</i>.          Patrick Guillaumont, President, <i>FERDI</i>.</p>		
9:45	<p><b>Keynote speech:</b> Prof. Stephany Griffith-Jones, Emeritus Professorial Fellow, IDS, Sussex University.          Ex Deputy Governor Central Bank of Chile.</p>		
10:15	<b>Coffee break</b>		
10:30	<p><b>Capital Markets and Funding Strategies</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>TBC</b></p> <p>Capital Markets Usage by Development Banks.  <i>Camille Belin (Université Panthéon-Sorbonne)</i></p> <p>The Funding Cost Advantage of National Development Banks.  <i>Alfredo Schclarek Curutchet (University of Cordoba) &amp; Michael Brei (University of Lille)</i></p> <p>Guarantee Design and Sovereign-Ceiling Mechanics.  <i>Igor Zelezetskii (Common Fund for Commodities)</i></p>	<p><b>Subnational and Regional Development Finance</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Ric Amansure</b>, Stellenbosch University.</p> <p>Regional Development Banks in Emerging Markets.  <i>Panayotis Gavras, Sofoklis Vogiazas (BSTDB)</i></p> <p>Public Development Banks in African Regional Development.  <i>Norris Larrymore (New York University)</i></p> <p>Governing Sustainable Finance at the Subnational Level.  <i>Fernando Teixeira (Universidade Federal Fluminense)</i></p>	<p><b>The Climate Finance Architecture</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Diana Barrowclough</b>, UNCTAD.</p> <p>A Decade of PDB Climate Commitments.  <i>Shreya Bansal (Climate Policy Initiative)</i></p> <p>PDBs and Inclusive Green Finance: Implications for Financial Stability.  <i>Joshua Abor (University of Ghana)</i></p> <p>Public-Public Collaborations as the future of financing green and just transition  <i>Rafaela Sa (McMaster University)</i></p>
12:00	<b>Lunch Break, La Place, 69 bis boulevard François Mitterrand.</b>		
13:30	<p><b>Industrial Policy, Innovation and Structural Transformation</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Carl Bernadac</b>, AFD.</p> <p>Capabilities of National Development Banks for Innovation Financing  <i>Stephany Griffith-Jones, Marco Carreras (IDS)</i></p> <p>A Mission-Aligned World Bank: From ambition to delivery  <i>Lara Merling (University College London)</i></p> <p>Green Industrialisation and Development Finance in BRICS Countries  <i>Hou Xiaochen (Fudan University)</i></p>	<p><b>Energy Transition and Climate Transformation</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Sarah Bendahou</b>, I4CE.</p> <p>Market Shaping for a Just Energy Transition  <i>Ric Amansure (Stellenbosch University)</i></p> <p>Brazil's National Development Financial System role in the climate agenda.  <i>Eduardo Djanikian (ABDE)</i></p> <p>The role of NDBs in shaping the future of energy systems  <i>Lucile Dufour (Oil Change International)</i></p>	<p><b>Governance, Law and Institutional Frameworks</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Thomas Marois</b>, McMaster University.</p> <p>Theoretical inspirations for transformative PDBs  <i>Lavinia Barros de Castro (BNDES)</i></p> <p>PDBs, SDGs and the Law  <i>David Ramos Munoz &amp; Carlos Bosque Argachal (Universidad Carlos III, Madrid)</i></p> <p>The Next Generation of NDBs: Early Lessons from Ghana and Nigeria  <i>Christoph Sommer &amp; Yabibal Walle (IDOS)</i></p>



**WEDNESDAY, May 20<sup>th</sup>**

15:00	<b>Coffee break</b>		
15:30	<p align="center"><b>Private Sector Mobilization and Blended Finance</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Jiajun Xu</b>, Peking University</p> <p>Concessional but catalytic? Insights on DFI blended concessional finance practice. <i>Samantha Attridge (CGDev)</i></p> <p>Blended Finance as a Lever for Private Sector Mobilization. <i>Diabate Djigui Joseph (BOAD)</i></p> <p>Grey zones of green finance: the Canada Infrastructure Bank and the limits of derisking decarbonization. <i>Nicolas Viens (University of British Columbia)</i></p>	<p align="center"><b>Fostering PDBs as a System</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Elif Timur</b>, Head of Independent Evaluation, CEB.</p> <p>Synergy in Development Finance: The Role of MDBs in Empowering NDBs. <i>Florian Léon (FERDI)</i></p> <p>Strengthening the capacity of NDBs through collaboration. <i>René Orozco (OECD), Jean-Baptiste Jacouton (AFD)</i></p> <p>MDBs and NDBs: twofold impact and growing prospects for partnership. <i>Drazenovic Kostelac Drazenka (HBOR)</i></p>	<p align="center"><b>Financial Instruments and Innovation</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>TBC</b></p> <p>Scaling up local currency financing: Insights from a FiCS Financial Innovation Lab. <i>Annina Kaltenbrunner, Bruno Bonnizi, Karina Patricio Ferreira Lima &amp; Ivan Weigandi (University of Leeds)</i></p> <p>De-dollarization, PDBs and Digital Currencies. <i>Jean-François Ponsot (Université Grenoble Alpes)</i></p> <p>Game Changers for Development: Strategic engagement of African Diaspora. <i>Siyanga Knudsen Paddy (Africa Non-state Actors Platform on Migration and Development)</i></p>
17:00	<b>Coffee break</b>		
17:15	<p><b>Plenary session - Emerging Scholar Award</b></p> <p>Thomas Marois, Director, <i>Public Banking Project / McMaster University</i>. Carl Bernadac, Head of Research, <i>AFD</i>.</p>		
18:00	<b>Cocktail</b> – 63 boulevard François Mitterrand.		



**THURSDAY, May 21st**

8:30	<b>Welcoming coffee</b>		
9:00	<p align="center"><b>Financial Architecture and Transformational Mandates: Will Development Banks Deliver Collectively on Climate?</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Nicolas Picchiottino</b>, Secretary General, IDFC.</p> <p>The Global PDB System as Essential Infrastructure for Climate Aligned Development Finance. <i>Thomas Marois (McMaster University), Régis Marodon</i></p> <p>PDBs' support for transformational climate outcomes. <i>Sarah Bendahou (I4CE)</i></p> <p>Development Cost of Maintaining Triple-A Ratings by MDBs. <i>Jiajun Xu, Yulu Tian (Peking University)</i></p>	<p align="center"><b>Macroeconomic Coordination and Financial Architecture</b></p> <p>Chair : <b>Jean-Baptiste Jacouton</b>, AFD.</p> <p>PDBs and the Monetary Architecture Approach <i>Mark Swilling (Stellenbosch University)</i></p> <p>PDBs and Macro-coordination in EMDEs <i>Matthew Ocran (University of Western Cape)</i></p> <p>Boundaries of the size of PDBs <i>Pawel Uminski (BGK)</i></p> <p>Sovereign Debt Dynamics at the Brink of Default. <i>Sanne Zwart (EIB)</i></p>	<p align="center"><b>Climate and biodiversity risk</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>TBC</b></p> <p>Development finance institutions and biodiversity <i>Sesele Masedi (DBSA)</i></p> <p>Agricultural Public Development Banks as a Stress-Test for Public Development Banking. <i>Madalitso Chafulumira (IFAD)</i></p> <p>Unlocking Climate Finance Through Insurance: The Role of PDBs. <i>Taarika Peres (CPI)</i></p>
10:30	<b>Coffee break</b>		
11:00	<p align="center"><b>Inclusion, Vulnerability and Development Outcomes</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>TBC</b></p> <p>Public Development Banking for the Most Vulnerable Nations. <i>Ulrich Volz (SOAS University), Diana Barrowclough (UNCTAD)</i></p> <p>Review of the selectivity of multilateral development banks. <i>Sosso Feindouno (FERDI)</i></p> <p>Geocoded Official Development Assistance Dataset (GODAD) <i>Charlotte Robert (Heidelberg University)</i></p> <p>ODA's Role in Shaping Subnational DFI Investments. <i>Nicolas Bau (University of Geneva)</i></p>		<p align="center"><b>African PDBs as catalysts of development finance</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>TBC</b></p> <p>How African Development Banks Can Mobilize Resources for Green Structural Transformation. <i>Nimrod Zalk (University of Cape Town)</i></p> <p>The evolving role of PDBs: Lessons from Côte d'Ivoire. <i>Sima Kammourieh (Finance for Development Lab)</i></p> <p>The European Investment Bank in Sub-Saharan Africa: constrained expansion. <i>Anissa Bougrea (European University Institute)</i></p>



**THURSDAY, May 21st**

12:30	<b>Lunch Break</b> , La Place, 69 bis boulevard François Mitterrand.		
14:00	<b>Keynote speech:</b> Prof. Ugo Panizza, <i>Geneva Graduate Institute</i> .		
14:30	<b>Plenary – Revisiting the Landscape of Public Development Financial Institutions Worldwide</b> Presentation: Jiajun Xu, Associate Professor, <i>Peking University</i> .		
15:00	<p align="center"><b>Domestic Coordination in the Mid-transition</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Laura Sabogal</b>, FiCS (TBC)</p> <p>Methodological options for macro-fiscal scenarios of the mid-transition period. <i>Etienne Espagne (AFD)</i></p> <p>NDBs' integration into national and international policy processes and strategies. <i>Frédérique Dahan (ODI Global)</i></p> <p>From Prudential to Promotional Policies: how central banks can help national development banks drive green structural transformations. <i>Richard Kozul-Wright (SOAS University)</i></p>		<p align="center"><b>PDBs, entrepreneurship and employment</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>TBC</b></p> <p>Countercyclicality of development banks: Evidence from Latin America. <i>Florian Léon (FERDI)</i></p> <p>Impact of financial support for entrepreneurship on economic performance in Senegal <i>Yasser Boina (Université Cheikh Anta Diop)</i></p> <p>The ties that bind: Ukraine's EU integration via capital investment. <i>Matthias Thiemann (Sciences Po)</i></p>
16:30	<b>Coffee break</b>		
17:00	<p><b>Launch of SDSN Sustainable Development Report 2026</b></p> <p><b>Introduction and chair:</b> Guillaume Lafortune, Vice-President and Head of the Paris Office, <i>SDSN</i>.</p> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Niels Pedersen</b>, Executive director and Representative for France, UN Global Compact</li> <li>- <b>Aline Mosnier</b>, Scientific Director, FABLE</li> <li>- <b>Diana Barrowclough</b>, Senior Economist, United Nations</li> </ul>		
19:00	<b>Cocktail</b> – Clermont-Ferrand Town Hall – 10 rue Philippe Marcombes		



Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>

8:30	Welcoming coffee.
9:00	<p><b>Plenary Session – Contributing to policy dialogue: cross-perspective on the T7 and Global Research Network on PDBs</b></p> <p>Introduction and chair: <b>Carl Bernadac</b>, Head of Research, AFD.</p> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Shanti Bobin</b>, Deputy Director for Multilateral Financial Affairs and Development, Direction Générale du Trésor. (TBC)</li><li>- <b>Adama Mariko</b>, Secretary General, Finance in Common. (TBC)</li><li>- <b>Sébastien Treyer</b>, Executive Director, IDDRI. (TBC)</li><li>- <b>Martin Kessler</b>, Executive Director, Finance for Development Lab.</li><li>- <b>Jiajun Xu</b>, Professor, Peking University.</li><li>- <b>Bruno Cabrillac</b>, Director General, FERDI</li></ul>
10:30	Coffee break
11 :00	<p><b>Plenary Session - Climate and Nature Economic Policy Scenarios: a coordination tool for Ministries of Finance and Public Development Banks?</b></p> <p>Introduction and chair: <b>Etienne Espagne</b>, Lead Climate Economist at AFD.</p> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Hélène Djoufelkit</b>, Deputy Director, Sustainable Finance &amp; Economy at AFD.</li><li>• <b>Jiajun Xu</b>, Associate professor at Peking University.</li><li>• <b>Lavinia Barros de Castro</b>, Advisor to the President of BNDES.</li><li>• <b>Stephany Griffith-Jones</b>, Emeritus Professorial Fellow, IDS, Sussex University.</li><li>• <b>Richard Kozul Wright</b>, Professor at SOAS University. (TBC)</li><li>• <b>William Hynes</b>, Senior Climate Economist at World Bank.</li></ul>
12:30	<p><b>Closing session</b></p> <p><b>Adama Mariko</b>, Secretary General, <i>Finance in Common</i>. <b>Representative, Asian Development Bank.</b></p>
12:45	<b>Closing Lunch</b>
14:30	<b>GRN Steering Committee</b> (closed-door meeting on invitation only) – 63 Boulevard François Mitterrand

