



2026 GRN Development Banking Research Conference

Public Banks in a Changing Global Financial Architecture

20th-22nd May 2026, Clermont-Ferrand (France)

AGENDA

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 20th

8:15	Registration & Welcoming coffee		
9:00 - 9:45	Conference Opening – Addressing Global Imbalances: Toward More Inclusive and Resilient Development Finance. Pierre Schiano , Vice-President, Université Clermont-Auvergne. Thomas Mélonio , Chief Economist, Agence française de Développement. Patrick Guillaumont , President, FERDI.		
9:45 – 10h15	Keynote speech Prof. Stephany Griffith-Jones , Emeritus Professorial Fellow, IDS, Sussex University. Ex Deputy Governor Central Bank of Chile.		
10:15	Coffee break		
10:30 – 12:00	Private Sector Mobilization and Blended Finance Chair: Jiajun Xu , Peking University. Concessional but catalytic? Insights on DFI blended concessional finance practice. <i>Samantha Attridge (CGDev)</i> Blended Finance as a Lever for Private Sector Mobilization. <i>Diabate Djigui Joseph (BOAD)</i> The Funding Cost Advantage of National Development Banks. <i>Alfredo Schclarek Curutchet (University of Cordoba) & Michael Brei (University of Lille)</i>	The Climate Finance Architecture Chair: Diana Barrowclough , UNCTAD. A Decade of PDB Climate Commitments. <i>Shreya Bansal (Climate Policy Initiative)</i> PDBs and Inclusive Green Finance: Implications for Financial Stability. <i>Joshua Abor (University of Ghana)</i> Public-Public Collaborations as the future of financing green and just transition <i>Rafaela Sa (McMaster University)</i>	Subnational and Regional Development Finance Chair: Ric Amansure , Stellenbosch University. Regional Development Banks in Emerging Markets. <i>Panayotis Gavras, Sofoklis Vogiazas (BSTDB)</i> Public Development Banks in African Regional Development. <i>Norris Larrimore (New York University)</i> Governing Sustainable Finance at the Subnational Level. <i>Fernando Texeira (Universidade Federal Fluminense)</i>
12:00	Lunch Break, La Place, 69 bis boulevard François Mitterrand.		
13 :30- 15 :00	Industrial Policy, Innovation and Structural Transformation Chair: Carl Bernadac , AFD. Capabilities of National Development Banks for Innovation Financing <i>Stephany Griffith-Jones (IDS, Sussex University), Marco Carreras (IDS)</i> A Mission-Aligned World Bank: From ambition to delivery <i>Lara Merling (University College London)</i> Green Industrialisation and Development Finance in BRICS Countries <i>Hou Xiaochen (Fudan University)</i>	Governance, Law and Institutional Frameworks Chair: Thomas Marois , McMaster University. Theoretical inspirations for transformative PDBs <i>Lavinia Barros de Castro (BNDES)</i> PDBs, SDGs and the Law <i>David Ramos Munoz & Carlos Bosque Argachal (Universidad Carlos III, Madrid)</i> The Next Generation of NDBs: Early Lessons from Ghana and Nigeria <i>Christoph Sommer & Yabibal Walle (IDOS)</i>	Capital Markets and Funding Strategies Chair: Florian Léon , FERDI. Capital Markets Usage by Development Banks. <i>Camille Belin (Université Panthéon-Sorbonne)</i> Guarantee Design and Sovereign-Ceiling Mechanics. <i>Igor Zelezetskii (Common Fund for Commodities)</i> Grey zones of green finance: the Canada Infrastructure Bank and the limits of derisking decarbonization. <i>Nicolas Viens (University of British Columbia)</i>



WEDNESDAY, May 20th

15:00	Coffee break		
15:30-17:00	<p align="center">Fostering PDBs as a System</p> <p>Chair: Elif Timur, Head of Independent Evaluation, CEB.</p> <p>Synergy in Development Finance: The Role of MDBs in Empowering NDBs. <i>Florian Léon, Zeïneb Benaïssa (FERDI)</i></p> <p>Strengthening the capacity of NDBs through collaboration. <i>Laura Gutierrez (OECD), Jean-Baptiste Jacouton (AFD), René Orozco (OECD)</i></p> <p>MDBs and NDBs: twofold impact and growing prospects for partnership. <i>Drazenovic Kostelac Drazenka (HBOR)</i></p>	<p align="center">Inclusion, Vulnerability and Development Outcomes</p> <p>Chair: Régis Marodon, Global Research Network.</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">Energy Transition and Climate Transformation</p> <p>Chair: Sarah Bendahou, 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>
17:00	Coffee break		
17:15-17:45	<p align="center">Plenary session - Emerging Scholar Award</p> <p>Thomas Marois, Director, <i>Public Banking Project / McMaster University</i>. Carl Bernadac, Head of Research, <i>AFD</i>.</p>		
18:00	Cocktail – 63 boulevard François Mitterrand.		



THURSDAY, May 21st

8:30	Welcoming coffee		
9:00-10:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Financial Architecture and Transformational Mandates: Will Development Banks Deliver Collectively on Climate?</p> <p>Chair: Nicolas Picchiottino, 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 style="text-align: center;">Macroeconomic Coordination and Financial Architecture</p> <p>Chair: Jean-Baptiste Jacouton, AFD.</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 style="text-align: center;">Climate and biodiversity risk</p> <p>Chair: Thierry Latreille, IFAD.</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	Coffee break		
11:00-12:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Scaling Development Finance: Currency, Innovation, and Resilience</p> <p>Chair: Ulrich Volz, SOAS University of London.</p> <p>Public Development Banking for the Most Vulnerable Nations. <i>Ulrich Volz (SOAS University), Diana Barrowclough (UNCTAD)</i></p> <p>Scaling up local currency financing: Insights from a FiCS Financial Innovation Lab. <i>Annina Kaltenbrunner, Bruno Bonnizi, Karina Patricio Ferreira Lima & Ivan Weigandi (University of Leeds)</i></p> <p>De-dollarization, PDBs and Digital Currencies. <i>Jean-François Ponsot (Université Grenoble Alpes)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">African PDBs as catalysts of development finance</p> <p>Chair: Samantha Attridge, Center for Global Development.</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> <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>	



THURSDAY, May 21st

12:30	Lunch Break , La Place, 69 bis boulevard François Mitterrand.		
14:00	Keynote speech: Prof. Ugo Panizza, <i>Geneva Graduate Institute</i> .		
14:30	Plenary – Revisiting the Landscape of Public Development Financial Institutions Worldwide Presentation: Jiajun Xu, Associate Professor, <i>Peking University</i> .		
15:00-16:30	<p align="center">Domestic Coordination in the Mid-transition</p> <p>Chair: Laura Sabogal, FiCS.</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>Andrea Carvajal (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">PDBs, entrepreneurship and employment</p> <p>Chair: Lucie Charrier, AFD.</p> <p>Countercyclicality of development banks: Evidence from Latin America. <i>Florian Léon (FERDI)</i></p> <p>The ties that bind: Ukraine's EU integration via capital investment. <i>Matthias Thiemann (Sciences Po)</i></p> <p>Impact of financial support for entrepreneurship on economic performance in Senegal <i>Yasser Boina (Université Cheikh Anta Diop)</i></p>	<p align="center">Pitching session</p> <p>Come and pitch your next research project!</p>
16:30-18:00	<p>Launch of SDSN Sustainable Development Report 2026</p> <p>Introduction and chair: Guillaume Lafortune, Vice-President and Head of the Paris Office, <i>SDSN</i>.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manon Coulon-Gavalda, Head of institutional relations and partnerships, UN Global Compact - Aline Mosnier, Scientific Director, FABLE - Diana Barrowclough, Senior Economist, United Nations Trade & Development. 		
18:45	<p>Reception – Clermont-Ferrand Town Hall – 10 rue Philippe Marcombes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Julien Bony, Mayor of Clermont-Ferrand. - Rémy Rioux, Chairman, Finance in Common. - Patrick Guillaumont, President, FERDI. 		



FRIDAY, May 22nd

8:30	Welcoming coffee.
9:00-10:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Plenary Session – Contributing to policy dialogue: cross-perspective on the T7 and Global Research Network on PDBs</p> <p>Introduction and chair: Carl Bernadac, Head of Research, AFD.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rémy Rioux, Chairman, Finance in Common. - Shanti Bobin, Deputy Director for Multilateral Financial Affairs and Development, Direction Générale du Trésor. - Sébastien Treyer, Executive Director, IDDRI. - Martin Kessler, Executive Director, Finance for Development Lab. - Jiajun Xu, Professor, Peking University. - Bruno Cabrillac, Director General, FERDI
10:30	Coffee break
11 :00-12 :30	<p style="text-align: center;">Plenary Session - Climate and Nature Economic Policy Scenarios: a coordination tool for Ministries of Finance and Public Development Banks?</p> <p>Introduction and chair: Etienne Espagne, Lead Climate Economist at AFD.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hélène Djoufelkit, Deputy Director, Sustainable Finance & Economy at AFD. • Jiajun Xu, Associate professor at Peking University. • Lavinia Barros de Castro, Advisor to the President of BNDES. • Stephany Griffith-Jones, Emeritus Professorial Fellow, IDS, Sussex University. • Sebastian Nieto-Parra, Head of Regional Development Dynamics, OECD Development Centre. • William Hynes, Senior Climate Economist at World Bank.
12:30	Closing session
12:45 – 14:15	Closing Lunch – Holiday Inn, 59 boulevard François Mitterrand
14:30-16:00	GRN Steering Committee (open to all panelists and chairs) – 65 boulevard François Mitterrand

