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TEXTUAL

REGULAR MEETING OF THE

INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT (CIDI)

APRIL 25, 2023

ON:

**CLIMATE FINANCE IN THE AMERICAS, TOWARDS A COLLABORATIVE**

**REGIONAL BLUEPRINT**

BIOGRAPHY OF THE INVITED SPEAKERS

REGULAR MEETING OF THE

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APRIL 25, 2023

BIOGRAPHY OF THE INVITED SPEAKERS

* **Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility**

Mr. Rodríguez is the CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility since June 2020.

The former Costa Rican Environment and Energy Minister was a pioneer in the development of Payment for Ecosystem Services initiatives and strategies for forest restoration, ocean conservation, and de-carbonization, and is an internationally recognized expert on environmental policy, multilateral environmental negotiations, and financing for nature conservation. During his three terms as Minister of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica doubled the size of its forests, made its electric sector 100 percent clean and renewable, and consolidated a National Park System that has positioned the Central American country as a prime ecotourism destination.

Mr. Rodríguez has held various technical and political positions over the past 30 years. In the early 1990s, he worked as Director of Costa Rica’s National Parks Service and is also founder and board member of many environmental NGOs and tropical research institutes. Since the 1992 UN Sustainable Development Summit in Rio, he has participated in all multilateral environmental negotiations, as an expert negotiator in UNFCCC, CBD, and UNCCD, and participated in negotiations for the creation and implementation of the GEF and the Green Climate Fund.  After his second tenure as Minister, he was Vice-President for Global Policy at Conservation International, for 12 years, working in 30 tropical countries in Central and South America, Africa, and Southeast Asia.

* **Saliha Dobardzic, Team Leader, Programming and Innovation, Adaptation Fund**

Ms. Dobardzic is Senior Climate Change Specialist with the Adaptation Fund. Previously, she was with the Global Environment Facility’s climate change adaptation program (Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund), and with the World Bank’s MENA region, working on environmental, international waters, and integrated coastal zone management projects. She has also supported the World Bank’s MENA region in devising and implementing the first corporate climate change strategy for the region, and the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction in support of mainstreaming climate change considerations in ex-ante disaster risk management. She is a co-author of a number of books, studies, and reports on climate change adaptation and other environmental issues. Saliha has a Master’s of Science in Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology from the University of Maryland, College Park.

* **Cayetano Casado Gomez, Regional Manager, Green Climate Fund**

Mr. Casado Gomez is the Regional Manager at the Green Climate Fund. He has been a Climate and environmental management professional with 15+ years of experience in project development and supervision, relationship and alliance building and research and knowledge management with a diverse range of international organizations. He has experience working at the NDC Partnership -Regional Manager Latin America and the Caribbean, UNDP, WWF, and World Bank. He holds degrees for the University of Cordoba and Yale.

* **Valerie Isaac, Environmental Sustainability Unit Coordinator, Caribbean Development Bank**

Ms. Isaac is an Environmental Sustainability Unit Coordinator at the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). She is responsible for leading the CDB's efforts to integrate environmental sustainability into its operations and to promote sustainable development in the Caribbean region. Ms. Isaac has over 20 years of experience in the fields of environmental management, sustainable development, and project management. She has worked in both the public and private sectors, including at the United Nations Development Programme and the Inter-American Development Bank.

Ms. Isaac holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from York University in Toronto, Canada, and a Master's degree in Environmental Management from the University of the West Indies in Barbados. She is also a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and a member of the Project Management Institute (PMI).

* **Martha del Castillo, Director, Biodiversity and Climate Technical Advice, CAF-Development Bank of Latin America**

Ms. del Castillo is the Director, Biodiversity and Climate Technical Advice at the CAF-Development Bank of Latin America. She is an Economist from the *Universidad de los Andes*, Ms.C in Environmental Economics and Natural Resources of the joint program *Universidad de los Andes* - University of Maryland, with experience in the subject of climate change for more than 10 years. She is currently part of the Climate Change Unit team of CAF's Corporate Directorate of Environment and Climate Change. She holds degrees from the University of Maryland, *Universidad de los Andes* Graphic, and *Universidad de los Andes.*

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