Transparency Forum CAF–IATI

Open Development Data for Trust, Accountability and Effective Global Governance

CONCEPT NOTE, updated 28 August 2026

A high-level side event co-hosted by **CAF - Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean** and the **International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)**, in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Week 2026.

Date & time	Thursday 24 September 2026 1:15 - 2:30pm 75 minutes (light lunch served)
Venue	United Nations Development Programme HQ, New York ; in person, with virtual access and recording
Format	High-level remarks and a moderated expert panel, followed by interactive dialogue
Languages	English and Spanish (simultaneous interpretation)
Co-hosts	CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean; International Aid Transparency Initiative IATI

Background

Development cooperation is under strain. Resources are constrained, the financing landscape is more complex and fragmented, and trust between providers and partner countries is harder to sustain. In this context, transparency is not a peripheral concern but a foundation for effective cooperation and sound global governance; Open, comparable data on *who* is financing *what*, and *where*, can lead to lower transaction costs, strengthening coordination, and underpinning the accountability on which trust depends.

The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) reaffirmed this. The *Sevilla Commitment* renews the political commitment to revitalise development effectiveness, with transparency and mutual accountability among its core principles. The document explicitly recognises the role of the International Aid Transparency Initiative in fostering transparency of development cooperation (paragraph 40(d)). This event takes that commitment from text to practice.

The Sevilla Commitment also recognizes the distinct nature and principles of South-South cooperation, including respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference and mutual benefit, complementing other forms of cooperation. It encourages broader reporting using the voluntary Conceptual Framework for the Measurement of South-South Cooperation, with UNCTAD serving as co-custodian for SDG indicator 17.3.1.

Triangular cooperation can further strengthen this agenda by bringing together the knowledge and experience of Southern partners with the complementary technical expertise and resources of other development partners and international organizations. When grounded in country ownership, horizontal partnerships and mutual learning, it can support interoperable data systems, strengthen institutional capacities and facilitate the responsible use of development data.

Through the IATI Standard, more than USD 3.9 trillion in international development and humanitarian cooperation is now visible, across over one million activities, published by close to 2,000 organisations. Around two-thirds of global ODA is accessible through IATI, and the initiative is currently working on a pilot together with APC Colombia to enable the publication of South-South cooperation data in IATI for the first time, consistent with the UNCTAD framework.

The value of this data lies in its use: by governments planning and coordinating resources, by institutions managing their portfolios, and by citizens holding decision-makers to account.

A regional story with global relevance

CAF, the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, offers a compelling demonstration of what regional leadership on transparency looks like. Building on its *Access to Information and Institutional Transparency Programme*, CAF began publishing to the IATI Standard in 2024 and released its first Transparency Report in 2025, today sharing data on more than 150 development activities across 14 countries, totalling over USD 5 billion. CAF's experience shows how a multilateral development bank can adopt international transparency standards in a way that is sustainable, comparable across institutions, and useful for the region it serves.

This event will draw on that experience to ask a broader question: how can good practice from Latin America and the Caribbean be scaled across the multilateral system and other regions — and what will it take, in partnerships, capacity and political commitment, to get there?

Objectives

- Position transparency and open development data as foundational to trust, accountability and effective global governance, connecting the discussion to FfD4 / Sevilla Commitment follow-up and the wider "publish once, use often" agenda.

- Ensure that the transparency agenda recognises the distinct contributions and principles of South-South and triangular cooperation, while creating space for Southern perspectives and country-led approaches to data, measurement and accountability.
- Showcase CAF's experience adopting the IATI Standard and the lessons from Latin America and the Caribbean as a model for regional development banks and multilateral institutions.
- Explore how good practice can be scaled through partnerships among governments, development banks, international organisations and civil society, supported by technical assistance and capacity-building.
- Identify practical next steps for advancing open data, interoperability and accountability across the international cooperation architecture.

Format and indicative flow

A 75-minute in-person session at UNDP Headquarters, structured as follows.

Welcoming remarks (5 minutes)
Yemesrach Workie, Executive Director, IATI

Keynote remarks (10 minutes)
CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean

Moderated high-level panel discussion (35 minutes)
Bringing together government, multilateral and civil society perspectives.

Proposed Moderator:
TBC