



Concept Note

Caribbean Economic Forum 2026 (CEF 2026)

“Capitalizing the Caribbean’s Future: Mobilizing Intentional & Regional Capital for the Caribbean”

The Caribbean Economic Forum 2026 (CEF 2026) is the region’s premier deal-focused investment platform, convening leading global and regional investors, development finance institutions (DFIs), governments, private-sector actors, and project sponsors to convert robust project pipelines into bankable transactions. Moving beyond traditional conferences, CEF 2026 is explicitly designed to accelerate priority projects from concept to execution within 12–24 months, leveraging curated regional pipelines, strong investor appetite, modern public–private partnership structures, and innovative blended finance instruments.

The Forum will be held on 18–19 June 2026 in Barbados and is anchored on four strategic investment pillars: Energy Transition & Resilient Power Systems Infrastructure; Water, Ports & Climate-Resilient Infrastructure; Food & Agriculture Systems Modernization; and Blue Economy, Coastal & Maritime Resilient Projects. Across these pillars, CEF 2026 will showcase utility-scale renewables, water and port PPPs, climate-smart agriculture, and blue-economy investments aligned with CARICOM’s 25-by-30 agenda and global blue-finance commitments.

The design of CEF 2026 prioritizes real transactions through a compact, high-intensity two-day format featuring three complementary room types. Power Rooms are closed-door deal sessions where project sponsors pitch portfolios to institutional investors and DFIs under NDAs, focusing on bankability, risk allocation, mandates and term sheets. Spotlight Rooms are open showcases in which countries, companies and SMEs present transformative projects and multi-sector pipelines to build visibility and cultivate partnerships. Engine Rooms are hands-on finance innovation labs where participants co-design new structures; such as blended finance models, diaspora vehicles, blue bonds and nature-linked instruments, with concrete outputs and follow-through plans.

CEF 2026 targets a carefully curated audience: institutional investors and asset managers; DFIs and EXIM banks; Caribbean governments, regulators, central banks and investment

promotion agencies; and private-sector sponsors including utilities, agribusinesses, tourism operators, logistics firms and developers. This invitation-only format, limited to approximately 150 participants, ensures that decision-makers; ministers, CEOs and MDB deal teams, are directly in the room, substantially increasing the likelihood of commitments and co-financing agreements.

The Forum responds to a pivotal moment for the Caribbean. Post-pandemic resilience, strong tourism recovery, and shifting global supply chains are creating new trade, logistics, and investment opportunities across the “Middle Americas,” including emerging energy developments in Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana, and Suriname. At the same time, over US\$5 billion in blended finance, guarantees, and technical assistance from institutions such as IDB Invest, the World Bank, and CAF is now available, underpinned by G20-driven MDB reforms and modernized PPP frameworks. Against this backdrop, climate vulnerability is driving urgent demand for resilient infrastructure, renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, and blue-economy solutions.

CEF 2026 directly advances SDGs 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, and 17, with strong linkages to SDGs 2, 6, 10, 12, and 15, by channelling capital into bankable projects that deliver both financial returns and measurable development impact. The Forum will culminate in a clear 12-month roadmap of commitments, MoUs, and priority actions, establishing a framework for accountability and ongoing collaboration among regional and international partners. In doing so, CEF 2026 aims to help capitalize the Caribbean’s future by translating intent into investment and investment into tangible, climate-resilient growth