



Date
10 February 2026

Time
14.30–16.00

Info
Plenary Hall, open to all
delegates

Moderator
Melissa Bell
CNN Senior International
Correspondent and Senior
Financial Reporter

LEADERS' DIALOGUE

New frontiers for IFIs: Financing Rural Development at the First Mile

The development finance landscape is undergoing significant change. To maximize the impact of limited resources, development actors are increasingly called on to work in more coordinated and catalytic ways. International financial institutions (IFIs), with their ability to leverage balance sheets, pool financing and deploy diverse tools, are central to this shift. Considering the current financial landscape, there is growing momentum for coordinated, country-aligned approaches that unite partners around government-defined investment pipelines. By doing so, larger, blended financing packages can be mobilized, reducing duplication and better meeting development needs. In agrifood systems, such coordination is crucial: it can unlock up to US\$4.5 trillion in annual business opportunities, create over 120 million decent rural jobs – especially for youth – and support climate and ecosystem regeneration.

Building on the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) and the recent launch of the AgriConnect initiative, and looking ahead to the Fourteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, this session will explore innovative, IFI-led partnership approaches. It will examine how these approaches can support a new generation of financing models anchored in government leadership, built on partnerships and able to mobilize capital at scale.

Event Highlights

Following the welcoming remarks by Ms Melissa Bell, CNN Senior International Correspondent and Senior Financial Reporter, a fireside chat will bring together leaders from IFIs to discuss investment needs, opportunities and investment models that multilateral development banks have found successful. It will be followed by an open and interactive discussion with the audience on the tools, partnerships and approaches needed to maximize development impact through IFIs.

Panellists

- **Ms Federica Diamanti**, Associate Vice-President, External Relations Department, IFAD
- **Mr Aki Nishio**, Vice-President for Development Finance, World Bank Group
- **Mr Matteo Patrone**, Vice-President for Banking, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- **Mr Musab Alomar**, Vice-President for Strategy, OPEC Fund
- **Dr Ludger Schuknecht**, Vice-President – Strategy and Policy, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank