CAF hosting matchmaking forum in Panama

More than 205 international buying companies from the United States, Europe, Asia, and Latin America have already registered for the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean's (CAF) Latin America and Caribbean Business Matchmaking Forum: Connection to the Global Market. The matchmaking forum will bring together more than 2,500 business leaders, investors, government authorities, innovators, global experts and international development agencies to analyse the region's economic outlook and strategic opportunities and help strengthen its position on the global geopolitical map.

The event is scheduled to take place on January 29 and 30, 2026, at the Panama Convention Centre, Panama City. Exporters from across the Caribbean are encouraged to participate, with the call remaining open until December 22, 2025, a release from CAF yesterday said.

It explained that this commercial gathering is part of CAF's flagship annual event, the International Economic Forum—Latin America and the Caribbean 2026.

The confirmed buyers are from Germany, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, the United States, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and the Dominican Republic.

CAF noted the buyers are actively seeking suppliers across a wide range of sectors, including agrifood, textiles and apparel, chemicals, manufacturing, cosmetics, software and technology, and construction materials.

CAF said it expects the forum to host more than 4,000 one-on-one meetings between buyers and 300 exporters from Latin America and the Caribbean, adding that each participating entrepreneur would receive between 16 and 28 pre-scheduled meetings, condensing what would usually require several weeks of travel and individual prospecting into just a day and a half.

"This makes the forum an especially valuable opportunity for Caribbean businesses seeking to scale exports, access new markets, or diversify trading partners," CAF added.

Speaking about the event, Sergio Díaz-Granados, executive president of CAF said, "This business roundtable is a concrete opportunity for entrepreneurs from Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition to participating in the plenary sessions of the International Economic Forum on the challenges and opportunities of the region, companies will be able to establish commercial and business partnerships with buyers who are actively looking for products and services from our region in strategic sectors such as agribusiness, manufacturing and technology."

CAF further noted that by integrating the business roundtable into the international economic forum, CAF is ensuring that highlevel dialogue leads to tangible business outcomes for participants.

The forum's agenda covers trade and investment flows, air connectivity and tourism, artificial intelligence, clean energy, sustainable mining, and the energy transition, topics that are particularly relevant for the region.

CAF is a development bank committed to supporting the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and improving the quality of life in the region.

Its actions promote sustainable development and regional integration and serves the public and private sectors, providing multiple products and services to a broad client base of 24 member countries, private companies, and financial institutions.