



**TASK FORCE ON
GREEN FINANCE
PANAMA**

**COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE TASK FORCE ON GREEN FINANCE ON THE ISSUANCE OF
GREEN AND SOCIAL BONDS IN PANAMA**

The Task Force on Green Finance (TFGF) is very proud of the announcement made by Bolsa de Valores de Panamá (Panama Stock Exchange), the Inter-American Corporation for Infrastructure Finance and MMG Bank for the issuance of the first green bonds in Panama, as well as for the issuance of the first social gender bond in Latin America made by Banistmo, a subsidiary of Grupo Bancolombia, and IDB Invest, a member of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Group.

This momentous issuance of thematic bonds represents an opportunity for the Panamanian financial sector, to channel the national and international capital markets towards green investments and in compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Meeting climate commitments and the SDGs require that funding be directed toward investments and activities that support these goals.

These bonds are intended to finance sustainable development projects, such as wastewater treatment, recycling and diversion of waste, renewable energy, sustainable transportation, sustainable agriculture, ecotourism, and other innovative projects that meet the goal of not only minimizing environmental and social risks but of being profitable projects that generate greater prosperity for our countries by promoting, for example, the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises.

For Aimeé Sentmat de Grimaldo, Chief Executive Officer of Banistmo, the issuance of the social gender bond responds to the “interest of Grupo Bancolombia, and in this particular case of Banistmo, to contribute to the development of the country with initiatives that allow us to close the gaps to have access to capital by women-led enterprises. With an ally, such as IDB Invest, we have the chance of having a shared value proposal that will allow us to contribute to finance projects with a high social impact in Panama.”

The Executive Vice President and General Manager of BVP, Olga Cantillo, stressed that this pioneering issuance of green bonds in the country allows the integration of investment alternatives with sustainable, responsible impact and under ESG (environmental, social and governance) standards. Additionally, she stated that BVP, who serves as the TFGF Secretariat, is confident that these steps reinforce the sustainability goals promoted by this group for the Panamanian financial sector.

About the TFGF

The TFGF is made up of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of Environment, the Superintendency of Banks, the Superintendency of Insurance and Reinsurance, the Superintendency of the Securities Market, Bolsa de Valores de Panamá, the Panama Banking Association, Asociación Panameña de Aseguradores, Cámara Panameña de Administradores de Sociedades de Inversión y

Fondos de Pensión, Confederación Latinoamericana de Cooperativas de Ahorro y Crédito, Cámara Panameña de Mercado de Capitales, Consejo Nacional de la Empresa Privada, and Banco Nacional. This initiative is supported by the Central American Bank for Economic Integration, Asociación Nacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza and UNEP-FI.

The TFGF was established in September 2018 with the objective of working together to position Panama as a green finance center. This group has the most representative participation of the financial sector in the region, turning this initiative into a role model to build the foundations for the development of a greener and competitive financial sector.