

PLATFORM FOR INNOVATION WITH PURPOSE

**Innovation with Purpose promotes transformations that improve
the lives of millions of people in Latin America**

National and international organizations from the multilateral, nonprofit and private sectors met in Washington D.C. for the presentation of the Platform for Innovation with Purpose, which brings together advanced science and technology with social innovation and new business models, in order to produce large-scale changes in the region

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On November 17th in Washington, D.C., [CAF - Development Bank of Latin America](#), [Fundación Avina](#), the Alfredo Zolezzi Foundation (AZF), the [Social Progress Imperative](#), and [World-Transforming Technologies](#) (WTT) held an event to present the Platform for Innovation with Purpose, an alliance to accelerate high-impact solutions and large-scale transformations in favor of sustainable development in Latin America. The event was followed by the signing of a Cooperation Agreement between CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and Fundación Avina, and preceded by the first meeting of the Board of Directors to define the Platform’s 2017 strategy.

All five organizations, widely recognized for their work in support of innovation and sustainable development, have joined forces to advance this new Platform to integrate global, regional, national, and local organizations in the search for solutions to the most pressing problems that affect the vast majority of Latin Americans.

The signing of the agreement between CAF – Development Bank of Latin America, represented by Executive President Enrique García, and Fundación Avina, represented by Board Chair Sean McKaughan, made the organizations’ institutional alliance official. Alfredo Zolezzi, President of AZF, Luke Greeves, COO of the Social Progress Imperative, and Valdemar de Oliveira Neto, CEO of WTT, served as witnesses.

According to García, “with this Platform, which is open and collaborative in nature, and which brings together social innovation with innovation in technology and business, we are formalizing a strategic alliance between CAF and Fundación Avina to benefit the vast majority [of Latin Americans]. Through this alliance, we will be able to help create partnerships among leaders from diverse sectors and disciplines, cultivate synergies between different initiatives in the region, and promote processes focused on a shared agenda and collective impact.”

“Transformation in Latin America requires scale, cross-cutting innovation, and rapid acceleration, all of which are impossible to achieve when one organization is working unilaterally. The impact that Latin America needs requires the development of a new social architecture like that of the Platform for Innovation with Purpose, the first of its kind,” stated Gabriel Baracatt, CEO of Fundación Avina.

Currently, more than 7,000 organizations and leaders working in the private, public, nonprofit, and academic sectors in 21 Latin American countries are involved in the Platform's 9 main program areas: inclusive recycling, access to water, sustainable cities, migration, political innovation, technology for social change, climate action, conservation of the South American Chaco, and the implementation of the Social Progress Index.

According to Alfredo Zolezzi, "the increasing global social unrest reflects the fact that the current models are not working. It is time to innovate, and to do it we only need a new way of looking at things. On this premise, we developed the Integrated Objectives Model (IOM), one that makes Innovation with Purpose sustainable and scalable. It articulates diverse group of players with new business and execution models so that each achieves its own objectives and because of the joint effort, the collective impact generated will be directed to and remain with those most vulnerable. The Platform for Innovation with Purpose is the space we chose to scale the impact of our model."

"The Social Progress Imperative is excited to be part of this new approach to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals across Latin America," said Michael Green, CEO of the Social Progress Imperative. "We look forward to scaling disruptive solutions across traditional sectors to overcome challenges like water scarcity and climate change while improving the lives of everyday people."

Representing WTT, de Oliveira Neto affirmed that his organization's work "only makes sense as part of a collaborative innovation ecosystem that is able to produce state-of-the-art technologies and profitable impact businesses that can change the world. The Platform for Innovation with Purpose is the institutional space that makes our mission possible."

The Platform has already achieved notable results; combining social, technological, and business innovations has brought improved access to drinking water and sanitation for 3.3 million Latin Americans, led to laws concerning the democratic governance of water in 4 countries, and provided 37 concrete solutions for access to water that were financed by private enterprises exercising corporate water responsibility.

The Platform is expected to benefit 4 million more Latin Americans by the end of 2017, through changes in public policies and improvements in the access, range, and quality of public goods and services. Any institution that would like to increase collective impact in this space is welcome to participate in the Platform.

The organizations promoting the Platform for Innovation with Purpose are:

CAF – Development Bank of Latin America

The mission of CAF is to provide sustainable development and regional integration through the efficient mobilization of resources and timely provision of multiple financial services, with high value added, to clients in the public and private sectors of shareholder countries. CAF was created in 1970 and is owned by 19 countries - 17 from Latin America and the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal - as well as 14 private banks. It is one of the main sources of multilateral financing and an important center of knowledge creation in the region.

The CAF Social Innovation Initiative serves as a space for experimentation to capture and test ideas, processes, and models with the potential to develop useful and sustainable solutions to the social problems facing Latin America, as well as to contribute to social innovation ecosystems.

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Fundación Avina

Fundación Avina is a Latin American foundation created in 1994 and focused on producing the large-scale changes necessary for sustainable development by fostering collaborative processes among leaders from different sectors, thereby contributing toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Fundación Avina has identified, incubated, and supported collaborative alliances, institutions, and endeavors centered around opportunities for systemic change, state-of-the-art technology, innovative social initiatives, and new business models.

Website: www.avina.net

Contact: carlos.march@avina.net

Alfredo Zolezzi Foundation (AZF)

AZF is a nonprofit organization created in 2014 with the goal of promoting and enabling connections between technological innovation and efforts to address poverty, social distress, environmental issues, corporate sustainability, and other problems that can only be resolved through a non-traditional approach. These connections are made possible by the Foundation's proprietary Integrated Objectives Model (IOM), which serves as the basis for the Foundation's work in promoting Innovation with Purpose.

Contact: info@az-foundation.org

Social Progress Imperative

The Social Progress Imperative's mission is to improve the lives of people around the world, particularly the least well off, by advancing global social progress by: providing a robust, holistic and innovative measurement tool—the Social Progress Index; fostering research and knowledge-sharing on social progress; and equipping leaders and change-makers in business, government and civil society with new tools to guide policies and programs.

Web: www.socialprogressimperative.org

Contact: partner@social-progress.org

World-Transforming Technologies (WTT)

The mission of WTT is to create innovation-centered businesses that produce and scale solutions to the most pressing social and environmental challenges in Latin America.

Website: <http://www.wttventures.net>

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