

REPUBLIC OF CROATIA'S EBRD GOVERNOR STATEMENT
FOR THE 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Croatia supports the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in making its continued commitment to driving systemic transition impact across its countries of operations, and commends the Bank's activities in Ukraine, which suffers under the unprovoked and unjustified Russian aggression that has caused loss of lives and livelihood. We also support the Bank's readiness to participate in the future reconstruction of Ukraine. Stability and prosperity in the region are shared priorities, and therefore we welcome the Bank's decision to make the support for Ukraine the central strategic objective of the new Strategic and Capital Framework (SCF) for 2026–2030.

The flexible approach to strategic planning has proven to be effective and it has enabled the Bank to respond well, even in a time of crisis and unexpected events. We are pleased that the Bank is maintaining its agility and capacity to adapt its tools and approaches while having a clear strategic direction.

Three core strategic themes and enablers outlined in the SCF – addressing climate change, promoting economic governance, and strengthening human capital to foster inclusive growth – are well aligned with the global development agenda. These are all crucial to achieving long-term sustainable development in the countries of operation.

The EBRD has proven to be a valuable partner in Croatia and we see the Bank's added value in the future to come. Having regard to the Bank's proven capabilities and deliverables, Croatia supports the Bank's growth in geographical scope and expansion into sub-Saharan Africa and Iraq, while also maintaining its strong commitment to existing countries of operation in their transition to sustainable market economies. The balanced approach should be kept in mind in order to reinforce the Bank's increasing role on the global stage.

The Bank's strong private sector focus within the new SCF is well aligned with its mandate. Croatia supports the Bank's goal to further increase its level of annual investments to around EUR 18 billion. This would be a significant and welcome step towards development finance scaling.

In addition, Croatia would like to highlight the importance of capital markets integration in Europe and the EBRD's assistance to bring together capital markets of Central and South-Eastern European countries. Such integrated capital market would bring in more global investors resulting in further growth of listed companies and involved economies.

We take note of the Bank's commitment to support countries choosing to graduate through the enhanced *Post Graduation Operational Approach* and replenishing the *Post Graduation Special Fund*. We also welcome the reaffirmation that the graduation is entirely a country-led process.

We acknowledge and support the Bank's activities in seeking operational improvements and exploring enhancement in capital management. Croatia was among the first countries to

subscribe to the capital increase and our mutual goal, in this regard, should remain to be the most effective use of the Bank's resources.

Lastly, we commend the EBRD for recognising the importance of multilateral collaboration. A coordinated system-wide approach among Multilateral Development Banks is key to maximising collective impact and addressing global development challenges.

You may rest assured that the Republic of Croatia remains a stable and constructive partner to the EBRD, its members and countries of operations.