

STATEMENT OF HUNGARY
EBRD ANNUAL MEETING
London, 15 May, 2025

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the floor.

Each year, the Annual Meeting offers a valuable platform to share different perspectives and approaches. It is a tradition we greatly appreciate, as it fosters dialogue, cooperation, and strategic guidance.

The EBRD operates in an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape. Yet, its mission – supporting private sector development grounded in democracy and market principles – remains more relevant than ever. Hungary welcomes the Bank's commitment to climate leadership, especially the goal to direct half of its annual investment toward climate-related projects. We also applaud the Bank's emphasis on equal opportunities and digitalisation – both vital for inclusive and sustainable transformation.

I would like to reaffirm the continued relevance and added value of investments in Hungary and in the whole Central and Eastern European region. These projects are crucial – particularly in areas such as green transition and energy security – and contribute significantly to the Bank's financial strength and balanced risk profile. A strong presence in Central Europe and the Baltics supports the Bank's ability to operate in more challenging and early-stage transition environments.

Hungary supports the new Strategic and Capital Framework for the next five years, adopted this morning. It offers a clear and timely roadmap, complemented with the various sectoral strategies that will allow the Bank to deepen its impact – scaling up green investments, promoting stronger governance, and advancing inclusive growth. Backed by a capital increase, the EBRD is well-positioned to mobilise greater private finance and meet today's development challenges.

Hungary also supports the Bank's expansion into Sub-Saharan Africa and Iraq, and we are pleased that the amendments to Article 1 and Article 12.1 will soon enter into force.

As far as the General Capital Increase is concerned, Hungary has subscribed to the capital increase and we paid our first instalment accordingly. At the same time, we believe the EBRD must preserve its distinct identity. It should remain focused on Europe and particularly the EU-11 region, which still faces significant transition challenges.

Lastly, we believe that the long-term success of the Bank lies in steady, forward-looking engagement. We call for greater SME financing, especially where it drives innovation and entrepreneurship, and encourage the use of local currency lending whenever possible.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to a productive continuation of our session.