

EBRD 2025 Governors' Annual Meeting

Statement by the EBRD Temporary Alternate Governor for Italy.

On behalf of the Italian authorities, we thank the Government of the United Kingdom for its hospitality and for hosting the 2025 Annual Meeting of EBRD, as well as President Renaud-Basso for her wise leadership in the current challenging times.

With geopolitical tensions on the rise, global cooperation has never been more critical. In this regard, we call on the Bank to keep strengthening the collaboration with the other Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to enhance the effectiveness of their collective efforts. The recent Mutual Reliance Agreements struck with the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) are an appreciated step in the right direction.

The Italian authorities welcome the proposed Strategic and Capital Framework (SCF) 2026-2030, and in particular the strategic themes of supporting EBRD's Countries of Operations to realize the opportunities from the transition to green economies; of advancing stronger economic governance; and of strengthening human capital and equality of opportunity, amplified through the development and deployment of digital technology and an increase in the mobilisation of private capital as strategic enablers.

Italy expects that the level of ambition underpinned in the SCF will be further detailed and developed in the sectoral strategies and be translated into concrete goals in the next Corporate Scorecard.

Pursuing these strategic mid-term priorities will magnify EBRD's core mandate, leading the Bank to further encourage growth in the private sector -paying particular attention to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)-, maximise the impact of its -limited- public sector investments and identify and implement reform opportunities with all clients.

Leveraging the Bank's core mandate and business model will also be pivotal in preventing and tackling fragility. As such, we commend EBRD's commitment to publish, later this year, an approach on addressing areas of potential and actual fragility. This will enable the Bank to harness its comparative advantages and further amplify its additionality and transformative, systemic impact, allowing its Countries of Operations to better recognize and respond to multiple and multi-dimensional challenges and root drivers of fragility. Among them, we see particular merit in tackling lack of competitiveness, poor infrastructure, weak legal and institutional capacities, corruption, political instability, food insecurity, economic migration, exposure to natural disasters, and vulnerability to cyber-criminality.

We commend the EBRD for retaining as the central strategic objective within the SCF 2026-30 the provision of exceptional support to Ukraine, maintaining livelihoods in wartime and realising a prosperous future within Europe during reconstruction. We praise EBRD's continuous efforts in meeting Ukraine's short-term financing needs, as well as in sustaining its long-term recovery and reconstruction priorities. EBRD's long-established presence on the ground will add a real value during reconstruction, ensuring continuity to the activities of the Ukrainian authorities and support to its population, also thanks to the Bank's first-hand focus on governance.

Against this background, we thank President Renaud-Basso for organizing the High-Level Event on Ukraine, which will pave the way for the upcoming 2025 Ukraine Recovery Conference, to be held in Rome on July 10th and 11th. This is yet again a proof of the partnership between Italy and EBRD and of our joint, active role in aiding Ukraine, be it in coordination fora such as the Ukraine Donor Platform, or

in relation to more concrete initiatives, such as the loan package of EUR 200 million that Italy and the Bank have provided in favour of Ukrhydroenergo, to strengthen Ukraine's energy security.

We are pleased that EBRD's unfaltering support for Ukraine will go hand in hand with increased investment and policy advisory efforts in other current and perspective Countries of Operations, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

Development cooperation with the African continent is a key strategic priority for the Italian Government, as outlined in the *Mattei Plan for Africa*, whose approach and priorities were set by Italy's Prime Minister at the Italy-Africa Summit in January 2024 and have taken center stage during the Italian G7 Presidency in 2024. This approach is based on a model of innovative partnership -equal, forward-looking, and built on mutual trust- with African Countries, focused on concrete investment projects to meet their development priorities.

Italy stands ready to further engage with EBRD and explore the potential for closer collaboration in Africa, building upon the synergies between the geographic and operational scope of EBRD's and Italy's priorities.

Within this framework, Italy reiterates its support to the expansion of operations in SSA and Iraq, and welcomes the representatives of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, and Nigeria, as new Members and expected Recipient Countries of the Bank, with the hope that we could soon be joined also by delegates from Ghana, Kenya, and Senegal.

By leveraging its unique mandate, expertise and competitive advantages, the EBRD can undoubtedly contribute to the private sector development of new Countries of Operations, focusing on areas such as MSMEs, renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure. To streamline efforts as well as ensure additionality and an efficient use of resources, the Italian authorities expect the Bank to coordinate closely, at both the strategic and operational levels, with partners and peer International Financial Institutions, and in particular with the African Development Bank, the IFC and the EIB, and to capitalise on linkages with the EU Global Gateway.

In addition, the Italian authorities commend the EBRD for the remarkable operational and financial levels of activity registered in both number and volume terms throughout 2024, and for meeting -and in many cases exceeding- the Bank's current Corporate Scorecard parameters.

While celebrating these landmark achievements, it is crucial for EBRD to continue optimising the use of its balance sheet and to ensure a focused and disciplined use of donor resources. We commend the Bank for the results achieved so far in implementing the G20 Independent Review of MDBs' Capital Adequacy Framework (CAF), launched under the Italian G20 Presidency in 2021, and we look forward to further progress on the CAF Agenda, including on hybrid capital issuance, also in line with the commitments made in 2023 when approving the increase in authorised capital stock and subscriptions.

Finally, we emphasize the importance of procurement policies and procedures that ensure a high level of quality in all the Bank's operations, while adhering to globally recognized standards and promoting efficiency, competition and transparency.

In conclusion, we reaffirm the Italian authorities' unwavering support for the Bank as it navigates future challenges.