

**Written statement from EBRD Alternate Governor for the Republic of Belarus, Deputy Economy Minister of the Republic of Belarus, Elena Aleksandrovna Boligatova**

On behalf of the Republic of Belarus, I would like to convey greetings to all participants at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors and to express the hope that this Annual Meeting will serve as a forum for constructive dialogue.

The Republic of Belarus firmly adheres to the principles underpinning the work of international financial institutions: improving economic governance in member countries, developing human capital and enshrining equal opportunities.

Where equality is concerned, however, we urge that this principle also be applied to matters arising between members of the Bank and management.

The EBRD must continue to be a discrimination-free space, founded on the principles of an open market economy in which finance is provided in response to economic feasibility, and not the geopolitics of the moment.

At a time when the world is once again facing fragmentation, we call upon our colleagues to remember that the Bank's effectiveness is measured not by the number of politicised statements, but by real projects that change people's lives for the better.

When considering long-term development, we cannot ignore the influence of external shocks on the real economy. Given the logistical and payment-related restrictions faced by many countries, the EBRD has a growing role to play as a stabilising influence.

We call upon the Bank to return to constructive dialogue, to make active use of the financing instruments available to it and to invest in the real economy of its members with the aim of enhancing their social stability and economic development over the long term.

Dear colleagues, we continue to insist that the optimal operational effectiveness of an international financial institution will only be attained where there is equal opportunity for all member countries and respect for their national interests.

The Republic of Belarus abstains on all matters brought before the Board of Governors for its consideration and expresses its hope that equitable cooperation will resume, with the aim of achieving economic stability and social well-being.