

GEORGIA

Lasha Khutsishvili, Governor
Minister of Finance of Georgia

Dear President
Honourable Chairman and Governors

Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to thank the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the host Government for organizing this important event. The 35th Annual Meeting of the EBRD offers a good platform for dialogue, networking, and forming new partnerships.

The theme of this year Annual meeting - **“Volatile to versatile - Economies innovating in a changing world”** - we are reminded of the challenges we face and the solutions one must seek in a rapidly changing global landscape.

For emerging markets and developing economies, versatility requires strengthening macroeconomic frameworks, deepening financial systems, and accelerating structural reforms.

In the midst of geopolitical turbulence, economies are changing due to shifts in supplies channels and trade routes but most importantly digital transformation is reshaping industries, enabling productivity gains, and improving public service delivery.

In this context, the role of the IFI's, including EBRD remains essential. The Bank's ability to mobilize finance, provide policy expertise, and foster private sector development is critical in helping countries maneuver through vulnerability to resilience. Its focus on green, inclusive, and digital transitions aligns closely with the priorities of its members.

In this challenging landscape, Georgia's policy priorities remain steadfast: safeguarding macroeconomic stability, mitigating adverse effects and securing the long-term viability of structural reforms, major investment projects, and responses to surrounding geopolitical shifts.

As a result, the economy of Georgia has been growing on average above 9.3% for the past 5 years, while bringing all the fiscal parameters to low-safe levels (1.4% Deficit, 34.4% Debt) and keeping Capex at high 7%-8% of GDP.

Georgia appreciates the EBRD diversified portfolio, valued at approximately USD 5.8 billion. We value the Bank's important portfolio with the private sector, as Georgia values very highly need for greater collaboration between public and private sectors.

Georgia continues to pursue its European aspirations with resolute determination, and we remain committed to investing in Middle Corridor connectivity, such as roads, railways, ports and logistics and Energy transmission and generation projects, with the expectation of the EBRD's interest in financing the investments.

As we look ahead, we trust in our continued partnership in working together to construct more sustainable economies that yield positive and long-term outcomes for a mutual better future.

Thank you!