

EBRD ANNUAL MEETING 2026
STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR PIETRO LAZZERI, ALTERNATE GOVERNOR
ON BEHALF OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION

Switzerland values its strong partnership with the EBRD and supports the strategic direction outlined in the Strategic Capital Framework (SCF). The SCF provides a solid basis for the Bank's work in a challenging global context. We welcome its clear focus on impact and the reaffirmation of Ukraine as the Bank's highest priority.

Switzerland underscores the importance of the EBRD's sustained engagement in Ukraine. The successful General Capital Increase demonstrates strong shareholder support. To maximize the impact of its continued and scaled up support, the Bank should focus on strengthened economic governance, private sector engagement and a well-resourced presence on the ground. We also reiterate the importance of the Bank's engagement in less advanced transition economies in line with its mandate and comparative advantage.

Switzerland commends the Bank's for its high ambition in climate action, inclusion and gender equality. We welcome the recent adoption of the new sectoral strategies. It is essential that high quantitative targets on climate finance and green mobilization are upheld, alongside clear limits on fossil fuel financing and alignment with international agreements, notably the Paris Agreement. We encourage the Bank to further strengthen its operations to achieve system-level decarbonization and nature-related outcomes, prioritizing long-term, systemic impact over short-term, project-level approaches.

Advancing economic governance must remain at the heart of EBRD's mandate. This is pivotal for achieving transition impact and creating an enabling environment for private sector investment. We specifically call on the Bank to strengthen policy dialogue and deliver measurable reform outcomes. Switzerland welcomes the EBRD's efforts in private capital mobilization and encourages the Bank to further leverage its comparative advantage to crowd in private finance at scale, including from Swiss sources, prioritizing long-term market transition over transactional volume.

Switzerland appreciates EBRD's relevant role in opening new opportunities for the private and financial sectors. This creates renewed potential for productive cooperation with the Swiss private and financial sector, which offers innovative and sustainable solutions in infrastructure, clean tech, life sciences and technology. Complementing this, we underline the need to strengthen the broader SME ecosystem through the effective implementation of the Bank's new SME Offer.

Safeguarding the Bank's impact and credibility depends on full compliance with high environmental, social and governance standards across all operations, including in complex supply chains. We emphasize that fair and transparent procurement processes – oriented toward high quality and aligned with international obligations – are equally fundamental. We expect robust independent evaluation and accountability functions, to ensure transparency, foster learning, and drive continuous improvement.

Switzerland strongly supports MDBs working better as a system. A well-functioning, rules-based multilateral system built on selectivity and complementarity among MDBs, as demonstrated in Ukraine as well as in other contexts, contributes to maximizing impact. We ask the Bank to further deepen cooperation and partnerships with other MDBs through the harmonization of policies and the use of mutual reliance frameworks. We also emphasize the need for the effective and transparent use of both the Bank's own resources and donor concessional finance, while preserving financial sustainability and strong credit rating.

Switzerland expects the EBRD's expansion into Sub-Saharan Africa and Iraq to follow a coordinated and selective approach, with a strong focus on complementarity with other IFIs. The Bank should prioritize private sector operations and maximize the use of existing donor and concessional facilities, while ensuring that its engagement remains well balanced with its existing countries of operation, including Ukraine.

Switzerland expresses its sincere appreciation to President Renaud-Basso for her leadership, and to the EBRD Management and staff for their dedication and professionalism in advancing the Bank's mission. We look forward to continuing our close and constructive cooperation.