

EBRD-CSO Newsletter

Keeping you up to date with the EBRD



European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development



Welcome to the
CSO Newsletter

*Annual
Meeting
Edition*

May 2022

Foreword

Dear CSOs,

It was our pleasure to welcome you to the first EBRD Annual Meeting and Business Forum held in Africa, in Marrakech last week. It was also our first physical annual meeting since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and the first time our Civil Society Organisations (CSO) Programme was held in a hybrid format. The programme attracted around 200 civil society representatives from 42 countries.

We were delighted to have the chance to meet those of you who attended our programme in person, be it at our panel discussions or our CSO reception at the end of the first day. This year's open panels underlined the importance of partnerships between the private sector, government and civil society in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the crucial role of civil society in

sustainable development. The meetings with the EBRD Board of Directors, the EBRD President and civil society representatives provided an opportunity to engage in constructive dialogue and present issues of concern, as well as to make recommendations to the Bank for key strategic themes and operations.

This year, we also held a special session on the Evaluation Department and, similar to last year, a session on the Independent Project Accountability Mechanism (IPAM).

In this special edition of the CSO newsletter, we share key highlights from our open panels. We hope to see you next year in Uzbekistan.

We will be back with the next regular edition of the newsletter in July.

Happy reading!

The CSE team



MARRAKECH
2022

CIVIL SOCIETY PROGRAMME

Leaving no one behind

Our high-level panel focused on the challenges inherent in attaining the SDG principle of “leaving no one behind” in an increasingly turbulent context. The panel focused on building partnerships between civil society, government and the private sector, and looked into how partnerships, coordination and alignment between entities can foster new opportunities for growth and impact.

Olena Koval, Head of Private Sector Partnerships and Civil Society Engagement at the EBRD, delivered the opening remarks. Our Impact and Partnerships Managing Director, Ines Rocha, moderated the session. Panellists included: Payal Dalal, Senior Vice President, Social Impact, International Markets, MasterCard Center for Inclusive Growth; Noura Selim, Executive Director, Sawiris Foundation for Social Development; Saleh Saeed, Chief Executive, Disasters Emergency Committee; and Nickie Monga, Country Director, Oxfam Jordan.

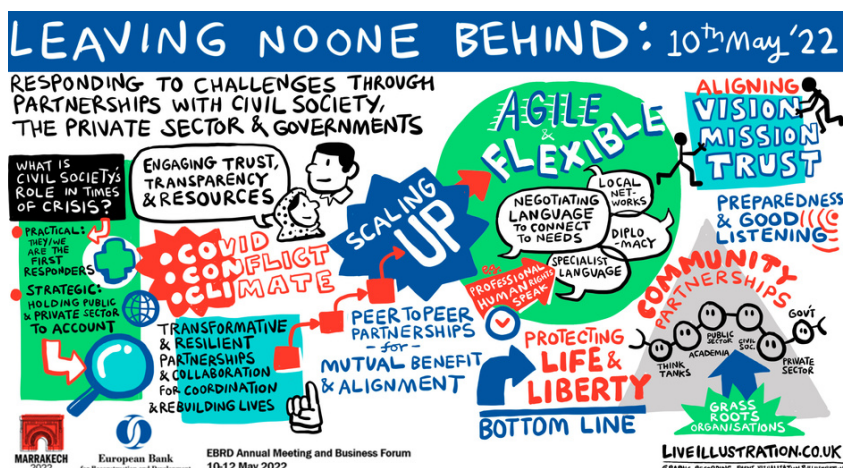


Key takeaways from the panel:

- **Civil society** and **grassroots organisations** are crucial. They not only offer both practical and strategic opinions that are lifesaving and context specific, but also provide an accountability platform. CSOs are instrumental in handling crises, as evident in the war on Ukraine, as they are best placed to meet the immediate needs of those affected and are the ones who operate on the ground after a crisis ends.
- **Cooperation** and **collaboration** between all parties involved is essential. No actor can operate in isolation. Partners must come together with aligned values and vision to ensure long-term, sustainable impact. To this end, they must leverage each other's assets and recognise the unique added value that each institution and partner brings.
- **Donors** need to deploy more flexible and unrestricted funding to CSOs to help them build capacity and increase their resilience.



Replay the session



CIVIL SOCIETY PROGRAMME



Civil society in sustainable energy transitions

This year's programme also featured a CSO panel led by E3G, focusing on the role of civil society and multilateral development banks in the context of the energy transition. Olena Koval, Head of Private Sector Partnerships and Civil Society Engagement at the EBRD, delivered the opening remarks.

Sonia Dunlop, Programme Leader at E3G, moderated the session. Panellists included: Harry Boyd-Carpenter, Managing Director, Climate Strategy and Delivery, at the EBRD; Al-Iskander Erzini Vernoit, Climate Expert; Hassan Agouzoul, Senior Advisor, Moroccan Alliance for Climate and Sustainable Development (AMCDD); and Yossef Ben-Meir, founder and President, the High Atlas Foundation.

The panellists held a thought-provoking discussion focused on:

- How to accelerate a just and sustainable energy transition and what is needed to achieve it.
- The war on Ukraine makes **energy** an even more **politicised topic** and a **tool of geopolitics**, while soaring prices for gas, fuel and energy demonstrate the urgency of accelerating the transition away from a dependency on fossil fuels. This crisis is an opportunity to lay the foundations for the design of public policies based on the convergence of development, adaptation, resilience, decarbonisation and sustainable financing.
- **Civil society** is uniquely positioned to **integrate renewable energy systems** into broader development processes. It is important to ensure that entire ecosystems are developed and sustained to support a long-term energy transition and a more sustainable energy lifecycle. CSOs are facilitators and catalysts of community empowerment, rather than just community planning, enabling action plans that seek not only to address the immediate concerns of the community, but that also build awareness and enhance the understanding of local people, governments and private-sector entities.



Replay the session



SPECIAL SESSIONS



The dedicated IPAM session focused on the “do no harm” principle, the approach taken by development banks and the role of independent accountability mechanisms in the context of the recently published United Nations report, *Remedy in Development Finance: Guidance and Practice*.

**Replay the
IPAM
session**



At the session spotlighting the Evaluation Department, we introduced attendees to the independent evaluation function at the EBRD and its role in ensuring accountability and learning at the Bank, including in times of change and crisis.

MEDIA CORNER

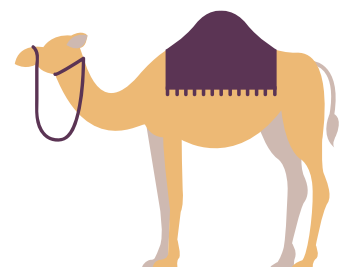
**VIDEO
HIGHLIGHTS OF
THE 2022 ANNUAL
MEETING**



**EBRD PHOTOS
FROM THE
ANNUAL MEETING**



**EBRD
LIVESTREAMS
FROM THE
ANNUAL MEETING**



OTHER HIGHLIGHTS



**We look forward to
welcoming you in
Uzbekistan in 2023!**

Contacts

Civil Society Engagement Unit

Tel: +44 20 7338 7982

Email: csu@ebrd.com

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

One Exchange Square, London,
EC2A 2JN, United Kingdom
www.ebrd.com

Find us on social media



www.youtube.com/ebrdte

www.facebook.com/ebrdhq

www.twitter.com/ebrd

www.linkedin.com/company/ebrd

www.instagram.com/ebrd_official

www.flickr.com/photos/ebrd