

FOSTERING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Only 10 years remain until 2030, the target date for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and time is running out to accomplish the shared prosperity and sustainable world the goals envisage. Recent reports show significant progress globally, particularly in reducing poverty. Yet, many areas still call for urgent collective attention, especially those related to climate action.

The EBRD is a strong supporter of, and contributor to, the Sustainable Development Agenda. We are proud to be helping economies in central and eastern Europe, Central Asia and the southern and eastern Mediterranean transition to vibrant market economies. For the past three decades, the Bank has combined its investment programme with technical cooperation projects to bring about change for the better in these regions. The Legal Transition Programme, in particular, which this publication covers, has pride of place at the forefront of this change.

It is widely accepted that “good laws make for good economies”. Year after year, our programme has successfully put this theory into practice in the economies where we invest. More recently, however, we have expanded the scope of our work to reflect that the SDGs themselves have a strong legal dimension and that legal and institutional reforms play a crucial role in achieving them.

Indeed, SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) is directly linked to law. Its introduction underlined the development contribution of

organisations such as ours that work to further the rule of law. Nevertheless, several other SDGs also call for the adoption or improvement of legal frameworks and institutions, such as SDG 5 (Gender Equality); SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth); SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure); and SDG 13 (Climate Action). SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) is also very relevant to our reform work, as it calls for proper buy-in from national authorities and coordination among organisations that provide aid.

This issue of the *Law in Transition* journal showcases the EBRD’s work in upgrading legal regimes for business and investment in the economies where we invest. In particular, the various stories highlight the strong links between our activities and the SDGs. By sharing our experience of what has worked and what has not, we hope to stimulate debate on current and future reforms. As the United Nations Secretary-General noted in *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019*, leaders everywhere now have “an opportunity to get the world back on track and to kick-start a decade of delivery for people and the planet”. In that spirit, I hope that our journal enlightens policymakers and supports all those working to create a better legal environment for business and development.



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