

TUNISIA

STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA
at the 27th Annual Meeting of the EBRD Board of Governors
Jordan 2018

Mr Chair of the Board of Governors,
Mr President of the Bank,
Governors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a genuine pleasure for me to be participating in the work of this 27th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which will take place this year in the Kingdom of Jordan, one of the countries of the SEMED region.

Let me begin by applauding the efforts of the Jordanian authorities in their excellent organisation of this meeting. I also welcome the EBRD's ongoing commitment to strengthening its activities in the countries of the SEMED region. That commitment is particularly demonstrated by the fact that this Meeting is being held in a SEMED region country for the first time since the EBRD was founded, as well as by Lebanon becoming a member of the Bank, and an economic forum being organised in Cairo in 2017. On this point, I should mention that Tunisia will have the honour of hosting that forum in 2019.

I must also congratulate the EBRD President, Mr Suma Chakrabarti, the Board of Directors and the Bank's entire staff for the quality of the reports they have prepared, as well as for the outstanding financial and operational results achieved by the Bank in 2017, in spite of a challenging regional and global environment.

I am pleased to note that, regardless of these circumstances, the EBRD achieved a net profit of €600 million and increased the annual volume of its investments to a record level of €9.7 billion in 2017.

The year 2017 was also a landmark in terms of financial and technical cooperation between Tunisia and the EBRD, highlighted by a record investment of €300 million (public and private sectors).

This year, the Annual Meeting coincides with a major event in Tunisia's process of transition to democracy, which began in 2011. On 6 May, the first free and democratic municipal elections are to be held since the revolution in 2011.

Last April, the Assembly of the Representatives of the People adopted the code on local authorities. In light of that, these elections will act as the inauguration of local governance.

The new local authorities that are elected will be responsible for putting in place both mechanisms for participatory democracy and the principles of open governance, so as to meet different needs in terms of municipal, road and environmental infrastructure.

On this point, I would like to highlight the support which the EBRD could provide in terms of technical assistance and suitable financing for local development investments and projects.

I would like to end by thanking the EBRD for agreeing to support the Tunisian authorities in organising the international conference on new public-private partnership legislation, which will be held this June.