

TUNISIA

Statement by Tunisia
Annual Meeting of the EBRD Board of Governors
Sarajevo 2019

Mr Chair

EBRD President

Governors

Ladies and gentlemen

I am honoured to be the head of the Tunisian delegation for the second year in a row at the EBRD Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors that is to take place this year in Sarajevo between 7 and 9 May.

I would like to congratulate Bosnia and Herzegovina on their excellent organisation of this unmissable event.

I should also like to congratulate the EBRD President, Mr Suma Chakrabarti, the Board of Directors and all EBRD staff for their excellent work and the financial and operational results for 2018.

Let me also pay tribute to the EBRD for its continued commitment to Tunisia in consolidating our position among the Bank's members. This commitment is clearly demonstrated by the Bank's performance in Tunisia for 2018, when record levels of private sector financing were achieved (around €180 million of new commitments). I call on the Bank to step up its efforts to mobilise support in terms of technical assistance and appropriate financing so as to build capacity within public enterprises, including by developing and setting up public-private partnerships.

Institutionally, choosing Tunisia as the location for the next SEMED Forum further illustrates the Bank's commitment to supporting political transition and economic development in Tunisia. This was formally reaffirmed when President Chakrabarti visited in February 2018. I would like to thank the Bank for making this choice and also highlight the progress that Tunisia has made in strategic areas, particularly in the business environment, where our country has taken great strides forward. Evidence of that progress includes the fact that we have moved up the world rankings in the *Doing Business* report and that, last April, the Assembly of People's Representatives adopted a law on improving the business environment.

I welcome the EBRD's decision to accept Libya's application to become the 70th member of the Bank and to begin discussions with the Algerian government about Algeria's future membership of the Bank.

Finally, I should like to highlight the potential for bilateral and trilateral economic cooperation that Tunisia can offer as a Mediterranean and African country. This potential should be more fully realised through the Bank's considerable technical and financial assistance, and could form part of its new strategy to expand its activities towards sub-Saharan Africa.