

MOROCCO

STATEMENT FROM MOROCCO

EBRD ANNUAL MEETING 2020

7 OCTOBER 2020

Madam Chair of the Board of Governors

Acting President

Governors

Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me, on behalf of the Kingdom of Morocco, to begin by congratulating the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development for all the efforts it has made to organise this virtual 29th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors.

We would also like to send our congratulations to the Acting President, to the Board of Directors and to all the staff at the Bank both for their operational achievements and the results for 2019. In fact, investments of around €10 billion in 452 operations for 38 Members and a net profit of €1.4 billion made 2019 a year for records.

In the same vein, a record €757 million has been mobilised from grants, which has enabled us to enrich the funds provided. We would like to thank the various donors and urge them to boost their support, especially in the current climate, which requires us all to remain vigilant and show solidarity.

These satisfactory results will certainly allow the Bank to enhance its work on the social and economic inclusion of our citizens and its support for the countries of operations in facing this unprecedented Covid-19 crisis.

Madam Chair

Ladies and Gentlemen

We should note that the EBRD has, in its usual manner, demonstrated a responsive, flexible and creative approach to meeting its clients' immediate needs resulting from the crisis.

We must congratulate the EBRD for this, especially for setting up the Covid-19 Solidarity Package, which enabled the necessary cash resources to be provided to finance working capital requirements for both the private and public sectors.

We also pay tribute to the EBRD's teams, whose engaged involvement allowed these measures to be implemented rapidly.

On this point, we call on the EBRD to adopt the same creative, flexible and rapid approach to support the recovery phase, as we navigate through this crisis.

In our view, the private sector is the main driver for kick-starting growth, and with this in mind, we encourage the Bank to further step up its support in this sector.

We also call on it to promote Public Private Partnerships (PPP), especially in social sectors such as education and health.

Similarly, we urge the Bank to make its PPP expertise available so as to develop innovative instruments that will enable small and medium-sized enterprises to get involved in operations of this kind.

Madam Chair

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Covid-19 crisis required a reappraisal of the Strategic and Capital Framework 2021-2025 to adapt it to new requirements.

As part of this, we support the new strategic directions for 2021-2025 and are pleased to note that the Bank has sufficient capital to support its strategy.

In this regard, we welcome the directions set out in the Strategic and Capital Framework 2021-2025, especially for the countries of operations that are less advanced in transition, including the countries in the SEMED region.

In the initial phase of the Strategic and Capital Framework, it would be sensible to focus the Bank's efforts on preserving the transition gains that the countries of operations have already made, as they now face the economic shocks of the pandemic.

The Bank is also urged to prepare itself, when the time comes, to be able to support a transition acceleration as soon as these countries start their recovery.

Lastly, we welcome the directions set for expanding the Bank's operations beyond its current geographical scope, and reaffirm our support for a sequenced, gradual expansion into sub-Saharan Africa.

Madam Chair

Ladies and Gentlemen

We note with interest the Bank's concerns that, in handling the consequences of the Covid-19 crisis, we risk weakening the political will to combat climate change.

We must stress how important it is to incorporate the climate emergency into future economic recovery plans. This is what Morocco has chosen to do about the issue.

The current crisis has also helped highlight that digital transition is now a necessity for all public and private entities.

That is why we believe the Bank should support the countries of operations in their strategies to develop the skills required for the digital transition and assist them with the tangible investments they need to do this.

Madam Chair

Ladies and Gentlemen

Before concluding, we must mention our immense satisfaction that the Board of Governors has given its approval for the 31st EBRD Annual Meeting to be held in Morocco in 2022. I reiterate my country's commitment to contributing to the success of this major event in partnership with the Bank.

Nor must we forget to congratulate ourselves for the results we achieved during the two terms of office of Mr Suma Chakrabarti as President of the EBRD, and to recall that one of the highlights of this period has been the expansion of the Bank's activities into the southern and eastern Mediterranean region where Morocco has become one of the EBRD's most important countries of operations.

Thank you