

# NETHERLANDS

## **Governor's Statement EBRD Annual Meeting 2020 – The Netherlands**

Chairwoman Minister Calvino, Acting President Rigterink, distinguished Governors and Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are pleased to see that despite the circumstances all shareholders can gather this week, albeit in a different format than we are used to. At this year's Annual Meeting, a number of important decisions will be made, hopefully including welcoming Iraq as a shareholder to the EBRD.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the EBRD has once again proven the strength of its dynamic and hands-on character. We would like to thank Management and staff for the tremendous efforts made over the past months. We attach great value to the Bank's swift actions to provide support to clients throughout the EBRD countries of operation. I would like to emphasize that our support to the EBRD as a private sector focused bank with a unique political mandate, as stated in Article 1 of the AEB, is as strong as ever.

Economies have been hit hard by the impact of the pandemic. In these challenging times, it is crucial to ensure the EBRD can do everything within its means to provide assistance to its countries of operation. The Netherlands therefore supports the decision to postpone discussions on potential expansion of the EBRD's geographic scope. We have stressed before that more thorough analysis is crucial in order to enable shareholders to assess the Bank's case for expansion of the EBRD's geographical mandate.

In times of uncertainty and economic havoc, support for the private sector is crucial. The Netherlands therefore welcomes the EBRD's efforts to increase its operations, resulting in record-high investments. In this context, we stress that the Bank should keep up the high quality and additionality of its investments.

Moving forward from the immediate crisis response to the recovery phase, it is vital that the EBRD is ambitious and substantiates its intention to tilt to green and to build a sustainable and resilient future, covering all transition qualities: competitive, well-governed, green, integrated, inclusive and resilient. Recovery must be aligned with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on climate change. Furthermore, the EBRD's investments must contribute to a future-proof recovery by focusing on areas such as digitalisation. The Strategic and Capital Framework 2021-2025 and the Green Economy Transition 2.1 lay down the first steps in the right direction to green the Bank's investments, by stating that the EBRD will work towards full Paris alignment and that by 2025 50% of the Bank's investments should be green. The Netherlands of course welcomes these steps and encourages all MDBs to develop and implement the common Paris alignment methodology without delay.

For the EBRD to deliver even greater transition impact, mobilisation of private finance is key. We are strongly supporting that this aspect is one of the core strategic goals for the Bank in the upcoming SCF period. The development of the EBRD's Mobilisation Approach early in the SCF period is a crucial step for the Bank to increase its efforts in this regard.

The Netherlands fully trusts that, under a new presidency and with its skilled staff, the EBRD is equipped to deliver on its aspirations for the period 2021-2025 and beyond, while keeping up the highest standards on its three key principles of transition impact, additionality and sound banking.