

UNITED KINGDOM

Statement by the United Kingdom

EBRD virtual Annual Meeting

- I commend the EBRD for hosting another successful virtual Annual Meeting, though I hope we can all meet together in Marrakech next year.
- I would also like to thank all EBRD staff, here in London, in regional offices, or indeed wherever virtual working has taken them, for the extraordinary support the Bank has provided during the COVID crisis.
- It has deployed its resources at an unprecedented speed and scale, while also safeguarding its financial security, as the 2020 Results show.
- The Bank has demonstrated that, on its 30th anniversary, it is a vital part of the global financial architecture.
- The Strategic & Capital Framework we agreed at last year's Annual Meeting remains the foundation for the Bank's future. At the core of this will always be the Bank's steadfast commitment to democracy and free markets under Article 1. There is no more important principle to guide the Bank's work.
- As we meet today, we will vote on two key Resolutions for the Bank's future, on climate and on the process to determine its potential geographical expansion to sub-Saharan Africa.

- **Firstly, The Climate Ambition Resolution is a landmark moment for the EBRD.** It will unlock new opportunities for the Bank and its countries of operation to pursue just transitions.
- I strongly support the Bank aligning its operations with the Paris Agreement from 31 December 2022. I welcome its enhanced approach to fossil fuel lending and increased support for Nationally Determined Contributions. All reinforce the EBRD's leadership on climate.
- The Bank will need to continue to put this leadership into action on other climate priorities in the run up to COP26 in November. As COP26 host in partnership with Italy, the UK looks forward to the Bank driving progress on mainstreaming nature-based solutions into investments, setting out its plans to mobilise greater private finance, and building its pipeline of adaptation and resilience projects.
- Over its thirty-year history, the Bank and its shareholders have shown incredible determination in tackling urgent challenges. I trust the Bank will rise to the challenge again and help drive increased climate ambition at COP26 and beyond.
- **Secondly, I support setting out a process through which shareholders can assess potential expansion to sub-Saharan Africa.**
- In the SCF, we unanimously confirmed our strategic interest in a limited and incremental expansion to sub-Saharan Africa and Iraq, and that Governors would consider an update on in 2022.

- This could offer an opportunity for the EBRD to leverage its unique business model and international character to support new countries of operation.
- Nonetheless, this would be a major decision for the EBRD and must be subject to thorough assessment by the Bank and its shareholders.
- Given the importance of this decision next year, it is right that the Resolution sets out the key areas for assessment. I urge the Bank to analyse the capital impacts of a limited and incremental expansion, present the legal implications of expanding to a new geographic remit, and identify how and where the EBRD can add most value, complementing and working in partnership with other actors operating in the region.
- I look forward to all Governors taking a clear and informed decision on this important strategic question at next year's Annual Meeting.
- Finally, I am looking forward to joining the Bank as the Vice President for Policy and Partnerships this autumn.