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DOCUMENT OF THE EUROPEAN BANK
FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY FOR MONGOLIA

**REPORT ON THE INVITATION
TO THE PUBLIC TO COMMENT**

PUBLIC

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AIP	Access to Information Policy
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

INTRODUCTION

The objective of this report is to summarise key comments received from stakeholders during the consultation period on the Bank's Strategy for Mongolia and provide the Bank's management responses.

In accordance with the EBRD Access to Information Policy (AIP), the draft strategy for Mongolia was posted on the EBRD website in English and Mongolian for 45 calendar days starting from 29 July 2022. The public was invited to comment on the draft strategy no later than 12 September 2022. The previous strategy was also made available on the EBRD website at <https://www.ebrd.com/what-we-do/strategies-and-policies.html>.

Information about the public consultation process was posted on the EBRD's dedicated "Have your say" webpage, which highlights the latest opportunities for the public to comment on the Bank's policies and strategies under review. Targeted notifications of the consultation process were sent to local and international civil society organisations (CSOs) that have expressed interest in the Bank's work in the country.

During the consultation period, no written responses were received by the EBRD.

In line with the Bank's increased efforts to involve civil society at an early stage of country strategy development, the EBRD organised a virtual consultative meeting with civil society organisations on 30 June 2022. The objective of the meeting was to gather civil society's feedback during the preparatory phase for developing the draft strategy. Two (2) participants from different civil society organisations have participated in the consultation.

The EBRD was represented by the Head of the Resident Office; the Economic, Policy and Governance team; the Country Strategy team and the Civil Society Engagement team. The summary of the meeting and the list of CSO participants to the consultation process are provided in the Annex 1 to this report.

**EBRD Strategy for Mongolia
Consultation with civil society, 30 June 2022
(Virtual Meeting)**

Summary of key messages from CSOs:

Civil Society Organisations endorsed the general directions of the strategy. Especially, the priority on supporting Mongolia's resilient and economic governance was welcomed as a significant necessity for the country.

For CSO representatives, key challenges include the enhancement of judicial transparency, promotion of women-led businesses and youth entrepreneurs, and acceleration of the country's green transition through increased engagement with rural communities.

For the Civil Society, Mongolia is facing, among other, the Government's influence on civil societies, including a discriminatory approach towards different commercial and non-profitable organisations, populist regime, as well as lack of infrastructure for a sustainable green transition. The CSOs urged the EBRD to respond to these challenges, through its operations in the country in line with its mandate.

Good Governance and Transparency

- CSOs welcomed the EBRD's proposed strategic directions to enhance Mongolia's resilience and economic governance through strengthened information channels, aimed at increasing transparency as well as individuals' empowerment and entrepreneurship.
- Civil society representations raised concerns over high number of CSOs registered in the country, despite maintaining a non-functional or non-active status informally. Moreover, a strong governmental presence in form of politically affiliated CSOs tend to disrupt the political reform needed to support the civic space, both, on paper and in practice.
- Freedom of speech: issues during pandemic, media and public had incomplete and rather puzzled information: CSOs are targeting public transparency noted that they would like to see more attention of international organisations in terms of strengthening human rights, empowering media (providing them with more resources).
- New Law on Transparency adopted a few weeks ago: important opportunity for people to get information from the government but, unfortunately, inhabitant of rural areas (especially women) do not have equal access to government's information, raising bribery and corruption.

Gender Equality and Economic Inclusion

- CSOs endorsed the Bank's priority to reduce regional disparities and enhance connectivity as key to promoting women and youth inclusion. In particular, CSOs welcomed the proposed objective to scale up EBRD programmes to improve the business model and digitalisation of women-led businesses, with the potential to extend such programmes to young entrepreneurs. Promoting initiatives for the professional development of young people was recognized as critical in light of the demographic characteristics of the country.

Sustainable Energy and Resources

- The focus on green transition was welcomed by the Civil Society as a key enabler for the transformation of the economy.
- CSOs also praised the EBRD's plans to accelerate the country's green transition, highlighting the importance of preserving its unique natural wealth, through the engagement of rural communities as well as young people.
- CSOs stressed the need for improvement in building human resource capacity establishing up-to-date provincial and national waste regulations.

List of CSOs participating to the consultation process (alphabetically)

1. Globe International Center
2. Mongol Ecology Centre