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**DOCUMENT OF THE EUROPEAN BANK  
FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**STRATEGY FOR TAJIKISTAN  
REPORT ON THE INVITATION  
TO THE PUBLIC TO COMMENT**

PUBLIC

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The objective of this report is to summarise key comments received from stakeholders during the consultation period on the Bank's Strategy for Tajikistan and provide the Bank's management responses. The comments received during the public consultation period, if any, were reviewed by the Bank's management and reflected in the strategy as appropriate.

In accordance with the EBRD Public Information Policy (PIP), the draft Strategy for Tajikistan was posted on the EBRD website in English, Russian and Tajik languages for 45 calendar days starting from 19 December 2019 until 2 February 2020. During the consultation period no written comment was received by the EBRD.

Information about the public consultation process was posted on the EBRD's dedicated webpage "Have your say", which highlights the latest opportunities for the public to comment on the Bank's policies and strategies under review. The Communications Department also advertised the public consultation on social media. In addition, 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.

In line with the Bank's increased efforts to involve civil society at an early stage of country strategy development, the EBRD organised a consultative meeting with civil society organisations on 11 November 2019 to gather civil society's feedback during the preparatory phase for developing the draft Strategy. The consultation was hosted by the Resident Office in Dushanbe and attracted 12 participants from 8 different civil society organisations. The EBRD was represented by the Head of the Resident Office; the Economic, Policy and Governance team; the Country Strategy Coordination team and the Civil Society Engagement Unit. The summary of the meeting and the list of CSO participants to the consultation process are provided in the Annex. The summary of the meeting was shared with participants and amended as per feedback received.

## ANNEX

**EBRD Strategy for Tajikistan****Consultation with civil society, 11 November 2019 (Dushanbe)****List of CSOs participating to the consultation process**

CSO Participants [12 present]	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Group for the Environment, Renewable Energy and Solidarity (GERES)</li> <li>2. NGO “Gender and Development”</li> <li>3. Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN)</li> <li>4. The Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation</li> <li>5. National Association of Small and Medium Businesses of Tajikistan (NAMSB)</li> <li>6. The Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia - Tajikistan (EFCA - Tajikistan)</li> <li>7. League of Women-Lawyers of Tajikistan</li> <li>8. Global Water Partnership of Tajikistan (GWP)</li> </ol>
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**Summary of key messages from CSOs:**

According to civil society, the significant concerns are related to the operational conditions. Compulsory state registration, publication of annual financial reports and administrative penalties for unregistered associations shrinking civic space in Tajikistan.

Civil Society indicated that meaningful public-private dialogue platforms are still missing in Tajikistan. A strategic approach is required in social and economic inclusion policies, in particular in closing the unemployment gap, where youth and women are the most disadvantaged.

In the field of governance, more transparency is needed as a measure to curb corruption. The integration of local SMEs in the regional markets should also be regarded as a priority to support closing regional gaps.

The EBRD was encouraged to support educational opportunities, including vocational training, with the objective to support the creation of skilled labour force vis-a-vis the country structural demographic challenges such as aging and migration.

Water and waste management remains a challenging issue, hence, EBRD was requested for a grant support initiatives. Furthermore, civil society highlighted the need for investments in renewables (e.g. wind, hydro and solar) and support to the energy regulatory framework and strategic orientation to address key environmental problems such as access to energy, energy poverty (coal is the only source of energy), regional connectivity and sustainable consumption.