

Letter from the Arab NGO Network for Development

June 7th, 2012

Sir Suma Chakrabarti
President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

The constituency of the Arab NGO Network for Development* would like to congratulate you for your election as President of the EBRD. We look forward for a constructive dialogue and engagement with you, directors of the Bank, and staff members, especially as the EBRD expands its role in Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco.

Within this context, we would like to raise a few points of concern for your consideration:

- While the EBRD is in a learning process in regards to the four new countries under its mandate, and given these countries face a severe development crisis reflected in the highest levels of unemployment and inequalities in the world, the indicators of assessment of transition and success that the EBRD uses for its intervention in the region should reflect on development aspects, especially the employment generation aspect.
- It is essential to enhance and institutionalize transparency and availability of information regarding the process of dialogue that the EBRD undertakes with national authorities around regulatory reform, such as the reform of public-private partnership legal frameworks and competition policies. It is crucial that the EBRD discloses the kind of proposals and models of regulatory reforms that it puts forward to governments in these areas.
- We perceive that the process of constructive engagement between the EBRD and civil society would be strengthened if the consultations expand to address the fundamentals behind the 'business model' that the EBRD operates upon.
- Moreover, it is essential for the EBRD to undertake broad consultations in the selection of operational themes, as well as sectoral level consultations on the selection of the Bank's operational response under each sector. Such consultations should include local authorities, public and private stakeholders active in the specific sector, as well as civil society organization and labor groups.

We thank you for your consideration. For more details on the points raised above, we would kindly refer you to the letter we have raised to the EBRD Directors and staff members on February 29th, 2012 regarding the EBRD's Technical Assessment Report of Egypt and Tunisia, as well as the proposition on the model for consultations between the EBRD and civil society organizations that we raised in April 2012.

We remain at your disposal for any inquiries and further dialogue.

On behalf of the constituency of the Arab NGO Network for Development,

Ziad Abdel Samad
Executive Director

* The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND; www.annd.org) is a regional network operating in 11 Arab countries with 8 national networks and 30 NGO members. ANND's work focuses on economic and social

policies and rights in the Arab region. ANND was founded in 1997 and has its secretariat office in Beirut since the year 2000.