

## INTRODUCTION TO THIS SPECIAL EDITION OF *LAW IN TRANSITION*

A commitment to the rule of law is enshrined in the Agreement Establishing the EBRD and promoting good governance, fostering the development of sound legislation and facilitating access to justice have remained critical dimensions of its transition mandate ever since.

The Office of the General Counsel (OGC) plays a key role in this respect. We protect the Bank against legal and reputational risk by handling all of the legal and policy aspects of EBRD governance, administration and operations. We also engage in legal reform work, including through the Legal Transition Programme, which is dedicated to creating a better legal environment for business in the EBRD regions. As this special edition of the *Law in Transition* journal demonstrates, our legal reform work draws on the support the OGC provides to investments and on our contribution to shaping the institutional framework of the Bank.

Over nearly three decades we have become the centre of EBRD knowledge on legal and regulatory frameworks affecting the investment climate in the jurisdictions in which we operate. In addition, we are a centre of expertise on the legal and policy frameworks that play a critical role in the Bank's governance and in the development of its funding and investment modalities.

OGC lawyers are a diverse group, representing 37 different nationalities and speaking as many languages. Most have legal expertise gained in their home country and are qualified to practise the law of their local jurisdiction in addition to UK or US law.

The OGC is known for its support to internal EBRD clients and recognised for helping other departments in the Bank to deliver their work plans. However, the way in which OGC lawyers contribute to the delivery of the EBRD transition mandate, by using their knowledge to deliver innovation and impact, is less visible to our internal and external clients.

This special edition of the *Law in Transition* journal is an opportunity to showcase the skill, innovation and dedication of lawyers across the OGC and to illustrate how we contribute to the delivery of transition and allow the Bank to fulfil its mission.

I hope that you will find the stories, written by OGC lawyers for this special edition of the *Law in Transition* journal, to be informative and enjoyable.



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