

Communiqué from the First Meeting of the NDB High-Level Evaluation Advisory Committee

Meeting: First Meeting of the NDB High-Level Evaluation Advisory Committee (EAC)

Attendees: High-Level Evaluation Advisory Committee - **Alexandre Meira da Rosa, Sergei Shatalov, Vinod Thomas, Xianbin Yao, and Zenda Ofir**; Chair of the NDB Board of Directors - **Dondo Mogajane**; DG Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) - **Ashwani Muthoo**; and **IEO staff**.

Meeting date: 23 May 2023 (Virtual)

Opening Remarks. The NDB Board Chair welcomed the establishment of the EAC, underlining the Committee's important role and contribution in strengthening the work of IEO and NDB more broadly. He expressed deep appreciation to EAC members for making themselves available to be part of the EAC, recognizing the diversity and significance of experience and expertise of each member. He noted the value the Board of Directors attaches to the critical role of IEO in promoting accountability and learning for improved NDB impact.

EAC work plan for 2023. The DG IEO updated members about the EAC work plan for 2023 and noted that he may reach out to individual members bilaterally for additional, ad-hoc, advice on a case-by-case basis on selected topics and evaluations. In addition, IEO will discuss its priorities and work program for 2024 with the EAC, before the same is finalized for Board presentation. Finally, the EAC agreed to hold an in-person meeting at NDB headquarters in the last quarter of the year.

Evaluation Manual. EAC provided extensive inputs on the Evaluation Manual, noting that it should be of use to IEO, NDB and Member Countries in assessing development effectiveness. The members further underlined the importance of NDB Management's participation throughout the process. They encouraged IEO to consider the concept of "New" in developing NDB evaluation methodologies. EAC recommended that the Manual may have to be considered as a living document, updated as and when needed. The EAC emphasized the importance of ensuring that NDB's specific context, values and principles are properly enshrined in the Manual, and that IEO should look beyond the MDBs in identifying good practices of relevance to the Bank, taking advantage of South-South Cooperation experiences.

Evaluation of NDB's financial architecture. EAC recognized the NDB's corporate imperative for this strategic evaluation and highlighted the need for the evaluation to include a forward-looking perspective - informed by a very good understanding of the global shifts and trends that are shaping the future, and therefore likely to influence the trajectory of NDB's evolution. They expressed some concern with the evaluation's broad scope, key questions, and its overly ambitious timelines. EAC invited reflection on whether the evaluation could be undertaken in a phased manner. Given the specific genesis and nature of the NDB, they invited IEO to carefully select peer MDBs for benchmarking purposes and recommended for the evaluation to also assess leveraging of the Bank's resources through co-financing, private sector, and partnerships.

Shanghai, 26 May 2023
