

Communiqué

from the First NDB-UAE Joint High-Level Technical Workshop

Meeting date: November 11, 2024. The full agenda can be found [here](#).

1. Introduction: On 11 November 2024, the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the New Development Bank, in partnership with the UAE Ministry of Finance (MoF), co-organised a high-level technical workshop in Dubai under the theme **“Learning from Global Experiences on Approaches and Practices for Sustainable Development Projects: Evaluation, Internal Audit, Compliance and Investigation”**. This marked the first NDB workshop held in the UAE since the country became a member of the Bank in 2021.

2. The main objectives of the workshop were to: (i) foster exchanges of global best practices and insights in independent evaluation, internal audit, and compliance and investigations in infrastructure projects among a wide group of stakeholders; and (ii) explore future cooperation opportunities and partnerships on knowledge-sharing, South-South and Triangular cooperation, and capacity-building in audit, compliance and evaluation between NDB, the UAE and other countries from the Global South.

3. Participants: The event was attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Finance of UAE, including: H.E. Younis Haji AlKhoori, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance and Alternate Governor of the UAE to NDB; Mr. Ali Abdullah Sharafi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for International Financial Relations; Ms. Thuraiya Hamid Alhashmi, Director of International Financial Relations and Organisations, and a member of NDB Board of Directors; Ms Noora Ayoob, Director of the Internal Audit Department; and others. The NDB team included Mr. Ashwani Muthoo, Director General of IEO, Mr. Lourival Rangel De Mattos, Director General of the Internal Audit Department (IAD), Mr. Morgan Pillay, Chief of the Ethics and Investigations Division (EID) and others.

4. Overall, the event brought together more than 100 attendees from government entities in the UAE, United Nations specialised agencies, multilateral development banks (including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank), the private sector and representatives from



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various embassies of NDB member states in the UAE.

5. Key messages: At the workshop, H.E. Younis Haji AlKhoori recognised the pivotal role that NDB plays in promoting sustainable development projects across its member countries; and reiterated that the UAE-NDB collaboration is instrumental not only in driving initiatives that are aligned with country strategies and priorities, but also for achieving a wider objective of sustainability in its projects and initiatives. He reaffirmed the UAE’s full support to NDB’s mission as well as the expansion of its membership. He also emphasised the important roles that the internal audit, compliance and independent evaluation functions play in promoting accountability, transparency, learning and sustainable outcomes of the NDB-financed projects, and recognised this workshop as an important platform for promoting capacity-building and fostering dialogue and knowledge-sharing among countries from the Global South.

6. The workshop included three technical sessions, led respectively by IEO, IAD and EID, on their main areas of work and functions. They each highlighted elements of their policies, strategies, methodologies, processes and activities. The participants appreciated the complementarities between audit, compliance and evaluation, and how such functions are critical for government organisations, multilateral organisations, private sector entities and others, to strengthen organisational oversight, governance and development impact as well as to ultimately increase public trust and investor confidence. They were delighted to learn about NDB’s experience in these areas, and shared numerous observations that will assist the Bank in fine-tuning its own approaches.

7. In his closing remarks, Ali Abdullah Sharafi underscored that the impact of this technical workshop was beyond knowledge-sharing alone; it was also crucial for strengthening the partnership between UAE and NDB in exploring approaches to address unique challenges faced by emerging markets and developing countries.

8. Next steps: The workshop documents, including the agenda and presentations, delivered by the speakers will be posted on the [IEO - Events section](#) of the IEO webpage on the NDB official website. Given the keen interest of the participants and to further facilitate knowledge-sharing and dialogue, a technical report will be prepared to capture the discussions held in this workshop and duly shared with stakeholders. Beyond this, the Ministry of Finance and other participants expressed strong desire to build on the success of this initial technical workshop by deepening engagement with NDB through appropriate channels and organising future workshops of a similar nature.



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