

COMMUNIQUÉ

ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPACT THROUGH EVALUATION

Knowledge-sharing seminar organised by the Independent Evaluation Office

MAY 12, 2026 • MOSCOW, RUSSIA



On Tuesday, 12 May 2026, the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the New Development Bank (NDB) - in collaboration with NDB's Eurasian Regional Centre (ERC) and in agreement with the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation and the NDB Board of Directors (BoD) - hosted a knowledge sharing seminar in Moscow under the theme "*Enhancing Sustainable Development and Impact through Evaluation*". The main purpose of the seminar was to share and discuss lessons, good practices and knowledge from the more than 20 evaluations completed by IEO thus far in various NDB member countries, as well as for IEO to explore partnerships and concrete activities with Russian institutions on evaluation-related matters moving forward. This was the first such seminar organized by IEO in Russia, bringing together more than 130 on-site and online participants.

The seminar was opened by remarks from Mr. Pavel Snisorenko, Alternate Director for Russia on the BoD, and Dr. Duncan Pieterse, current Chair of the BoD from South Africa. In addition to expressing their appreciation to IEO for organizing this knowledge sharing seminar, among other issues, they underscored evaluation's critical role in driving sustainable development outcomes in NDB member countries, highlighting how evidence-based insights can strengthen project design, implementation, and long-term impact and sustainability. Thereafter, Professor Ramesh Chand, former Member (Union Minister of State) of NITI Aayog in the Government of India, delivered the keynote address in the inaugural session, highlighting how robust evaluation frameworks are essential for translating development finance into tangible, lasting improvements in living standards across emerging economies. Mr. Ashwani K. Muthoo, Director General IEO, and Ms. Maria Smirnova, ERC Principal Professional, also shared their perspectives in the inaugural session.



In addition to a high-level presentation by Mr. Chao SUN, IEO Principal Professional, on cross-cutting findings and lessons from IEO evaluations, two technical panel discussions were held during the day, respectively, on private sector operations and environment, social and governance matters. The seminar's technical sessions featured distinguished panelists comprising Mr. Sergey Storchak, Senior Banker at VEB.RF and former Chair of the BoD, Ms. Izabella Teixeira, former Minister of Environment of Brazil, Mr. D.J. Pandian, Director General, NDB's Indian Regional Office, Ms. Matlale Serobe, Professional in NDB's Africa Regional Centre, Mr. Sergey Ulatov, Chief Economist at the Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development, Dr. Xianbin Yao, member of the NDB High-Level Evaluation Advisory Committee, Ms. Polina Lion, Chief Sustainability Officer at Rosatom, and Professor Igor Makarov, Head of the School of World Economy and Director of the Institute for the Economics of Natural Resources and Climate Change at National Research University Higher School of Economics.

Some of the main findings from the panel on private sector operations included: the need for NDB to leverage opportunities for co-financing especially with national development financial institutions and increase its risk appetite for expanding non-sovereign operations (NSOs); the need for MDBs in general to better understand the priorities of the private sector; the importance of introducing exit strategies from the inception of NSO designs to ensure sustainability of benefits; for development finance institutions to consider sector financing for greater impact rather than just focusing on project-based lending; and others.

Similarly, some of the main takeaways from the ESG panel included: the need for NDB to balance robust infrastructure delivery with rigorous ESG safeguards; integrate ESG value creation into project design to deliver tangible, equitable local benefits and operational resilience; prioritize meaningful early stakeholder engagement over token consultation; develop context-specific ESG frameworks aligned with both national regulations of the Global South and international good practices; ground ESG priorities in empirical evaluation evidence; and strengthen ESG implementation and evaluation capacity across partner institutions, among other points.

Throughout the seminar, participants expressed strong support for NDB's efforts to embed independent evaluation and learning into its activities, and also noted the importance of the role of the BoD in ensuring evaluation recommendations are implemented and tracked systematically. There was a call for: enhancing south-south knowledge sharing and peer learning, promotion of real-time evaluations to enable adaptive management during implementation for better impact at completion, training and capacity building of Russian institutions on evaluation methodologies and processes based on IEO's experience in other member countries, and others.

For more information on the event, please visit the [event page](#)

**Independent Evaluation Office, New Development Bank
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