



ORGANIZATION OF THE PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES

Secretary General

**Goodwill Message to the Gas Exporting Countries Forum
On the occasion of the 5th Gas Summit of the Gas Exporting Countries
Forum**

Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, November 29, 2019

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (**OPEC**) has the honour to present this goodwill message to the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (**GECF**) and its Secretary General, **His Excellency Yury Sentyurin**, on the occasion of the GECF's **5th Summit of Heads of State**, that is taking place in **Malabo, Equatorial Guinea**, which is both a Member Country of **OPEC** and the **GECF**.

The **GECF** has made an excellent choice in deciding on **Equatorial Guinea** to host this Summit, as the country is renowned for its warm and graceful hospitality. **Equatorial Guinea**, one of OPEC's most recent Members, has dedicated **2019** as a '**Year of Energy**' initiative under the visionary leadership of the President, **His Excellency Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo**, and its **Minister of Mines and Hydrocarbons, Gabriel Mbagi Obiang Lima**.

The **5th Summit**, which also encompasses the **GECF's 2nd International Gas seminar**, is another landmark moment for the GECF. The Organization has made great progress since the First Meeting of Ministers was held in **Tehran**, the **Islamic Republic of Iran** – another country that resides in both OPEC and the GECF – in **May 2001**. This includes the establishment of the GECF Secretariat, the development of the JODI-Gas database and evolving international cooperation.

This was witnessed recently in the landmark memorandum of understanding (**MoU**) between **OPEC** and the **GECF** to strengthen cooperation in research and the sharing of best practices on the sidelines of the **Russia Energy Week** in **Moscow** on **3 October, 2019**.

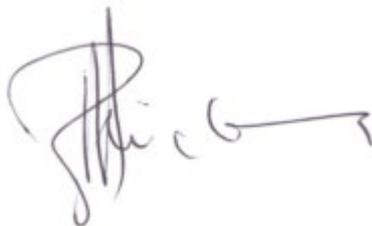
The **GECF** continues to grow from strength-to-strength under the able and diligent leadership of **His Excellency Yury Sentyurin**. **OPEC** feels extremely positive about the expanding cooperation between our two Organizations, and we look forward to it flourishing in the years and decades ahead.

It is clear we have many things in common. We share many of the same Member Countries and we face similar challenges and opportunities as our Organizations navigate the future energy transition. It is essential for our Organizations to work closely together.

Oil and **gas** will continue to be fuels of choice for the foreseeable future and will be instrumental in helping facilitate the energy transition in an orderly and sustainable manner, balancing the needs of people in relation to their **social well-being**, the **economy** and the **environment**.

We support many of the same causes, and share many of the same concerns in relation to such issues as **energy poverty**, **climate change**, **technologies**, **policy developments**, **multilateralism** and more. We hope to deepen the exchange of experiences, viewpoints, information and data through workshops, meetings and other means, to benefit and strengthen both our organizations, and in turn, **producers**, **consumers** and the **world economy**.

We wish you a successful and productive Summit and look forward to many upcoming exchanges within our growing collaboration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo
Secretary General