



30 August 2019

To: All OPEC Secretariat Staff
Subject: New Islamic Year

As the sighting of a new moon ushers in the **New Hijri Year**, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a **happy Muharram!** I sincerely hope and pray that the year **1441** will be filled with **success, joy, prosperity** and **good health** for all of you.

Muharram is one of the **four** sacred months of the year and is a time when warfare is forbidden. This is a reminder to all of us to think about the **value and importance of peace** in our lives, our homes and in our hearts. Living in Vienna often means we can take peace for granted, but we must always cherish it and work towards it in all aspects of our lives.

The dawning of a new year allows us to reflect on the one that has just passed. The year **1440** was one of **bountiful achievement for OPEC**, but I think a particular highlight has to be the endorsement of the '**Charter of Cooperation**,' which will herald a **new era of dialogue** and even greater **teamwork** between OPEC and our partners. These groundbreaking successes simply would not have been possible without your relentless pursuit of the **highest standards** of **professionalism** and **excellence** in your working lives. For this, the entire **OPEC Family** will be eternally grateful.

Looking ahead to **1441**, I have no doubt that this year will hold its fair share of challenges. Our workload will be intense. Expectations on the high quality of our output have only increased. Nevertheless, I brim with **confidence** that working together, supporting each other and always acting as **one team**, there is simply no summit that we cannot climb.

So once again, allow me to wish you and a **happy Muharram**. May Allah shower all his blessings on you and our great **OPEC Secretariat**.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Barkindo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo
Secretary General