



ORGANIZATION OF THE PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES

Secretary General

7 October 2018

HE Vladimir Putin
President of Russia
Office of the President
Moscow
The Russian Federation

Your Excellency,

On the occasion of your birthday, I would like to extend, on behalf of OPEC, our sincere congratulations and best wishes to you on this auspicious day.

Your strong and visionary leadership, commitment to duty and statesmanship continue to set an inspirational example. This has been particularly apparent through the indispensable and decisive role the Russian Federation has played in the '**Declaration of Cooperation**' process. Indeed, you have made a pivotal contribution to ensuring that the efforts by OPEC and non-OPEC countries led to a recovery in the global oil industry. This recovery would not have been possible without the exemplary leadership you displayed, to the acclaim of all industry stakeholders, including OPEC and non-OPEC nations. These efforts were of **epoch-defining importance**, given that the oil industry had experienced the most severe downturn in its history from **2014-2016**.

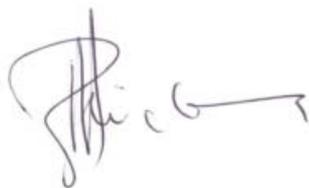
You have presided over a historic transformation of the Russian Federation into a **global powerhouse** to be reckoned with by all nations of the world. This truly astonishing feat is testimony to your outstanding leadership skills.

On a personal note, it has been a profound honor for me to work closely with you over the last few years. You were particularly gracious and hospitable in taking the time to meet with me on **4 October 2018**, on the margins of **Russian Energy Week**. Our extremely fruitful discussions once again demonstrated your unwavering commitment to working towards oil market stability in the interests of producers, consumers and the global economy.

The flourishing relations between **Russia** and **OPEC** are at an all-time high. I would like to sincerely pay tribute to you for making this the case. I have no doubt that working together, we can continue to achieve remarkable success in the future.

Again, allow me, Your Excellency, to convey my heartiest congratulations to you and wish you continued **good health, long life** and **many more years of dedicated service** to Mother Russia and the international community.

Please accept Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Barkindo', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo
Secretary General