

28 January 2022

HE Dr Abdulhamid Alkhalifa
Director-General
The OPEC Fund for International Development

Dear Abu Saleh,

On behalf of OPEC, I would like to congratulate the **OPEC Fund**, our sister organization in Vienna, on the occasion of its **46th anniversary**.

In particular, we would like to congratulate Your Excellency and your able staff at the OPEC Fund for your exceptional performance in the successful management of the Fund in accordance with the ideals of the founding fathers in **Algiers in March 1975**, where the concept for the OPEC Fund was formed at the **First Summit of the Sovereigns and Heads of State of the OPEC Member Countries**. The ground-breaking decision to establish the OPEC Fund (then ‘The OPEC Special Fund’), the very **first development finance institution** founded by developing countries themselves, was implemented the following year by the Member Country Finance Ministers.

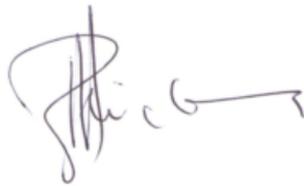
Over the past 46 years, the OPEC Fund has gone from strength-to-strength and evolved into an internationally renowned multilateral development finance institution working in over **130 countries**. At OPEC, we truly admire the work you have done and success you have had in improving people’s lives, through initiatives related to eradicating **energy poverty** and helping evolve a **sustainable future** for poorer, low-income countries as they pursue social and economic advancement.

We also value **our long** and **shared history** and we have been pleased to further **expand our relationship** over the past year. This includes through the **third annual legal workshop** between the **OPEC Secretariat**, the **OPEC Fund** and the **Energy Charter Secretariat** in **October 2021**, as well as in the OPEC Fund’s support for the pioneering **Vienna Energy Scholar Programme** (VESP),

a new and innovative programme held in the same month, under the auspices of the **OPEC Academy**.

Your Excellency, both our organizations are firm believers in the **multilateral approach** given that the challenges our planet faces, such as those related to **climate change**, the **energy transition** and **sustainable development**, require **solutions** from **every corner of society** – **developed** and **developing** nations. We wish you many years of continued success. With this in mind, I very much hope we can find and evolve further platforms on which we can jointly work together in the coming years.

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



Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo
Secretary General