

19 September 2021

HE Mohamed Arkab
Minister of Energy and Mines
Republic of Algeria

Excellency,

It is with a heavy heart that I received the very sad news of the passing of **former President Abdelaziz Bouteflika**, who will be long remembered for his dedication to our **Organization** and his decisive support for the **Declaration of Cooperation (DoC)**.

Over the course of his **20 years** in the presidency, **President Bouteflika** was a gracious and generous host to many meetings of the OPEC Conference and leading industry events. But he earned a special place in the history books for his skilled diplomacy and crucial backing of the discussions by OPEC and leading non-OPEC oil-producing nations in **2016** that would bring about the **DoC**.

The **170th (Extraordinary) Meeting of the OPEC Conference**, which took place in Algiers five years ago, established a **High-Level Committee** to develop a framework for consultations between OPEC and non-OPEC oil-producing countries, including taking proactive measures that would ensure a balanced oil market on a sustainable basis. This key outcome, on **28 September 2016**, was the initial step in the series of events that would lead to signing of the landmark **DoC** framework on **10 December 2016** in Vienna. On many succeeding occasions, both the OPEC and non-OPEC participating countries paid special tribute to **President Bouteflika** for his influential role in the establishment of the **DoC**.

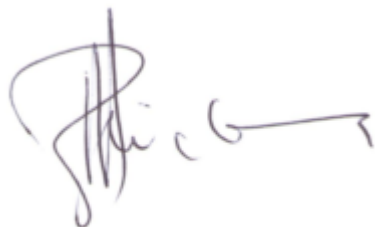
Though the visionary leaders at the time could not foresee a challenge as monumental as the **COVID-19 pandemic**, I believe a large part of the **oil market stabilization** we have seen over the past **18 months** can be attributed to the historic actions undertaken by the countries in the **DoC**. Together, we have averted a far deeper market crisis, helped restore order to the market, and have provided a platform for recovery. We would not be where we are today were it not for the key decisions taken in **Algiers** in **September 2016** that helped pave the way for this historic level of cooperation by OPEC and non-OPEC oil-producing countries.

In addition to his dedication to **OPEC** and the **DoC**, **Abdelaziz Bouteflika** was a hero of the war for independence and went on to become a long-serving diplomat, as **Foreign Minister** in his newly independent country and **President of the 29th UN General Assembly in 1974**. Among his many diplomatic accomplishments, **Abdelaziz Bouteflika** was a tireless supporter of non-aligned nations and ensured they had a powerful voice on the global stage. He will also be remembered as a pan-Africanist who was instrumental, along with the Presidents of Nigeria and South Africa, in establishing the **New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)** in **2001**. In the years that followed, **President Bouteflika** continued to support and promote NEPAD's role within the African Union as a strategic framework to promote socio-economic development, opportunity and cooperation across the African continent.

Excellency, in recalling these achievements, we must never forget the legacy of those visionaries who were instrumental in bringing them about. **Abdelaziz Bouteflika**, who devoted his life to public service, global diplomacy and ultimately the **Presidency of Algeria**, will be among those we shall remember and revere.

On behalf of **OPEC**, I would also like to convey my sincerest sympathies to you, Excellency, and to the **people of the Republic of Algeria**, at this time of monumental grief.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my **highest consideration** and **respect**.

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

Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo
Secretary General