

12 July 2021

HE Timipre Sylva  
Minister of State for Petroleum Resources  
Ministry of State for Petroleum Resources  
Federal Republic of Nigeria

*Excellency*

It is with great pride and pleasure that I write to congratulate you and fellow Nigerians everywhere on the **50th anniversary of Nigeria's membership of OPEC**.

This golden milestone is a unique opportunity to reflect upon Nigeria's rise as a global energy supplier and partner. **Since the 24th OPEC Conference in July 1971**, when Nigeria received a unanimous and enthusiastic welcome as the **11th Member Country** of the Organization, the country has come to symbolize Africa's leadership within OPEC and its pivotal support for global oil market stability.

Moreover, Nigeria has used its influence as a force for positive change by supporting the establishment of the **OPEC Fund for International Development in 1975**, our sister Organization. Over the years, Nigeria has been at the forefront of expanding OPEC's dialogues with **consumer and producer countries**, further contributing to market stability.

Allow me to also use this opportunity to recognize **His Excellency President Muhammadu Buhari**, who is currently the only leader of an **OPEC Member Country** who has participated in the **OPEC Conference** as Minister. His Excellency has been instrumental in many of the Organization's achievements over the years and in fostering consensus that led to both the **Declaration of Cooperation in December 2016** and the **Charter of Cooperation in July 2019**.

Excellency, the past year has been a time of enormous challenges for our world, for our **Organization** and for each **Member Country**. Yet throughout this difficult period, we have demonstrated the enduring importance of OPEC and its **timeless commitment to dialogue, cooperation, multilateralism and respect among all nations**.

In this respect, I wish to express my sincere gratitude for your unwavering commitment to the **Declaration of Cooperation** and your personal leadership since you became **Minister of State of Petroleum Resources in August 2019**. The markets continue to recognize our collective leadership and the vital contributions that **OPEC** and the **non-**

**OPEC Participating Countries** are making to the market's recovery and the global economy as a whole. Together, we have gained widespread trust and respect for the work we carry out with selfless determination.

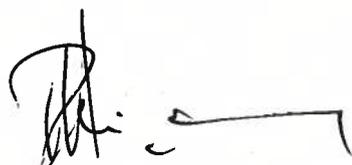
On behalf of all **Participating Countries**, I thank you for your shuttle diplomacy as **Special Envoy of the JMMC to Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and South Sudan** to discuss conformity levels with the voluntary production adjustments and compensation of overproduced volumes. Your **skilled leadership and tactful diplomacy** are a reflection of Nigeria's importance to **OPEC**, the **Declaration of Cooperation**, as well as many regional and international energy organizations.

Excellency, this **Golden Anniversary** is a fitting time to think about the future. **OPEC's** long history of cooperation and trusted partnerships put us in an especially strong position to **support the post-pandemic recovery** and to address **long-term climate and energy requirements** in ways that take account of Africa's specific development needs. To achieve such important goals, it is imperative that **OPEC** and all **Member Countries** continue to advocate for a balanced and inclusive energy transition that promotes all energy sources and **prioritizes the investment needs of Africa**.

It is a great source of pride that Nigeria is blessed not only with **abundant natural resources**, but also a **rich cultural and literary history**. I draw inspiration from one of our many great writers, **Chinua Achebe**, who wrote: *"Every generation must recognize and embrace the task it is peculiarly designed by history and by providence to perform."*

Five decades ago, a group of visionary Nigerians reached out to **OPEC** and together they made history. As we honour and commemorate the **Golden Anniversary** of this cherished relationship, we eagerly anticipate many more decades of cooperation, friendship and success.

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



**Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo**  
**OPEC Secretary General**