

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.

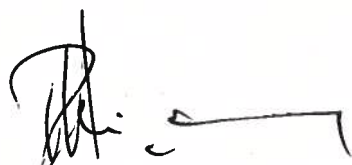
On behalf of all **Participating Countries**, I thank you for your shuttle diplomacy as **Special Envoy of the JMMC** to Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and South Sudan to discuss conformity levels with the voluntary production adjustments and compensation of overproduced volumes. Your **skilled leadership 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