

28 January 2021

HE Dr Abdulhamid Alkhalifa
Director-General
The OPEC Fund for International Development
Parkring 8, 1010
Vienna, Austria

Dear Abu Saleh,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the **OPEC Fund**, our sister organization in Vienna, on the occasion of its **45th anniversary**, a landmark achievement for an organization you have so ably and astutely led since **November 2018**.

We are extremely proud to recall that the **OPEC Fund** was conceived at the **First Summit of the Sovereigns and Heads of State of the OPEC Member Countries** that took place in **Algiers** in **March 1975**, with the **OPEC Fund** (then ‘**The OPEC Special Fund**’) established the following year by Member Country finance ministers. It was a **pioneering act**; the first development finance institution founded by developing countries themselves

The focus back then was on promoting cooperation between **Member Countries** and other developing countries as an expression of **South-South solidarity**. It is clear that in its **45 years** of operations the **OPEC Fund** has delivered on its mandate and served the interests of developing countries well.

The **OPEC Fund** today is a globally renowned multilateral development finance institution working in over **130 countries**, with a focus on **strengthening infrastructure** and **human capacity** across interrelated fields such as energy, transportation, agriculture, water and sanitation, health, and education. At **OPEC**, we truly admire the work you have done 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.

The **OPEC Fund** is also a beacon for **multilateralism**. Your close cooperation and work with many bilateral and multilateral agencies should be widely lauded. At **OPEC**, we also see **multilateralism** as the only way forward, given that the challenges our planet faces require **solutions** from **every corner of society** – **developed** and **developing** nations. No-one can act alone.

This is evident in the **United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and its associated and interconnected **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** that provide a development focus for the OPEC Fund's operations. It is also a core emphasis for **OPEC**, with **SDG number seven** centred on ensuring access to **affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all people**.

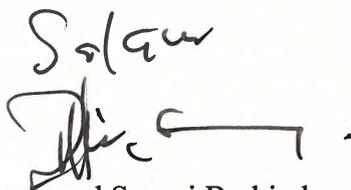
We wish you every success with the celebrations for your **45th Anniversary**, despite the restrictions we all face as a result of the **COVID-19 pandemic**. This follows on from **OPEC's 60th anniversary on 14 September** last year. In this regard, I would like to thank you for your kind words in **congratulating OPEC on this historic landmark** and for the **OPEC's Fund's** contribution to **OPEC's 60th anniversary book**.

The past year has truly been an extraordinary one for us all, with the vital roles of both the **OPEC Fund** and **OPEC** coming to the fore. The **OPEC Fund** for its much needed development assistance to help overcome the **huge challenges posed by COVID-19** for developing country economies and communities. **And OPEC** and its **non-OPEC** partners in the **Declaration of Cooperation** for taking action to help rescue the oil industry from the edge of a steep precipice in **April 2020**, with positive knock-on impacts for the global economy.

Looking ahead, with multilateral organizations like the **OPEC Fund** and **OPEC** helping lead the way, I truly believe we can find a **sustainable path** out of the pandemic that helps advance future prosperity, opportunity and well-being for all countries and peoples across the world.

At OPEC, we look forward to further **evolving our shared history** and **expanding our relationship** with the OPEC Fund.

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



Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo
Secretary General