

**Introduction, and Scene Setting Remarks
Dr Sun Xiansheng
Secretary General, International Energy Forum**

~9.50-10.00

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for the IEF to host the 1st Conference on the water-energy-food nexus in the GCC between Saudi Arabia and the Netherlands.

I am very grateful for the presence of the Ministry of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources, and the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture of Saudi Arabia, host country of the IEF, and other senior representatives from GCC countries.

We warmly welcome HE Guido Landheer, Deputy Vice Minister for Foreign Economic Relations, and the large delegation he brings from the Netherlands, to the International Energy Forum a unique venue for dialogue!

I also wish to express my appreciation of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in partnering with us and convening this timely Conference.

Thank you, and welcome to you all.

The global challenges we face to achieve sustainable development, and climate change goals mean we must become smarter about managing natural resources, and increase the productivity with which they contribute to healthy, secure and inclusive growth.

Of course, water, energy, and food supply chains have always been close and codependent. Here the Dutch experience is epic. Deploying wind power for water management, or natural gas wealth to enhance green house and agricultural development has set a global standard worldwide. The Dutch have a talent for turning challenges into opportunities, and enhance their resource wealth by exploiting synergies between water, energy, and food.

Today, tightening resource and climate constraints must be overcome worldwide. The adoption of the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, and the Paris Agreement in 2015, call for a more dynamic, open, and forward-looking dialogue. Energy security now includes transition, new technologies, energy access, and efficiency too.

To satisfy the water, energy, and food demand of growing populations with ever more sustainable and efficient supply chains is where the Resource Nexus enters the equation.

Sharpening focus on how water, energy, and food sectors can be clustered even more productively, and examining how this Nexus works and is understood in different regions through dialogue, is of critical importance. The Nexus is a vital new element of energy security.

We are thrilled to facilitate this first exchange between the Netherlands and GCC countries and help take this timely initiative forward.

1st IEF-NL Water Energy and Food Nexus Conference 16 November 2017

Ladies and Gentlemen this platform is yours.

I wish you fruitful discussions and look forward to a constructive outcome that will help inform the IEF energy dialogue too.