IEF Speaking Points  
G20 Energy Transitions Working Group 13-14 June 2018 Bariloche, Argentina

Wednesday 13 June 2018 04:00 pm – 05:30  
ETWG Session III & IV Energy Access and Data Transparency  
(G20 Presidency granted IEF 3-minute speaking time)

Thank you Mr Chairman

As the home of the Joint Organisations Data Initiative, and one of the first organisations to give international prominence to Energy Access, the IEF is grateful to take the floor.

Just this April in New Delhi the 16th International Energy Forum World Energy Ministers called for:

— Reliable, and realistic transformations that all can afford, and  
— Rational responses to global energy challenges we face together

To recall what was said in the first ETWG Meeting in Buenos Aires transparency has always been at the heart of the IEF Energy Dialogue, and the Mission of the G20.

Transparency cuts across all agendas on the G20 ETWG table, from energy security to energy transitions, energy efficiency, new energy technologies, subsidies, digitalization and others. Because these are all closely interlinked agendas that cannot be pursued in isolation, transparency and collaboration are critical to make progress

Nowhere, however, does enhancing energy data transparency fulfill such a critical need when it comes to enhancing energy access and affordability for all.

We all know the headline numbers by now. Yet at the regional ground level we lack good and reliable data. This was one of the key findings of the 3rd Symposium on the eradication of energy poverty in Africa, that IEF organised together with the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Renewable Energies of Tunisia last year.

IEF and OFID will continue their collaboration on the eradication of energy poverty and agreed to step up their efforts to build capacity on related energy
data collection together with JODI Partners and other relevant international organisations that will meet again in Africa next year.

The Symposium noted that efforts to eradicate energy poverty must be technology neutral. Renewable energy technologies offer new opportunities to overcome energy poverty and achieve a secure and sustainable provision of modern energy services in Africa where economics permit.

But foil and gas, and new energy technologies continue to be important to meet growing energy demand and ensure equitable development on the African continent.

Poor countries cannot be deprived of energy to grow their economies and keep up with demographic trends during the transition to a more diversified and sustainable energy mix.

- Enhancing access and affordability is not a development issue alone. It is an indispensable requirement for equitable societies across the world.

- In the European Union up to 50 million households have difficulty to attain adequate heating, pay their bills on time and live in healthy homes. The EU Observatory on Energy Poverty that was opened in January this year will help foremost to gather better data.

- Symposium Delegates also noted that the challenge to enhance energy access and affordability is much bigger than any stakeholder can overcome individually. There is a clear need to broaden partnership and strengthen international cooperation for efforts to be well targeted and successful.

- The IEF therefore supports the proposal made by China to establish an Energy Access Hub