

**Welcome and Opening Remarks
Followed by Moderation of Session 1 Gas market developments in
the short, medium and long term**

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**3rd IEA-IEF-OPEC Symposium on Gas and Coal Market Outlooks
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Dear **Dr Fatih Birol** thank you for hosting this important and timely 3rd gathering of the **IEA-IEF-OPEC Symposium on Gas and Coal Market Outlooks on behalf of the IEA.**

Dear **Mr Oswaldo Tapia** it is a great pleasure to open this important meeting alongside OPEC represented by yourself and see former colleagues as well!

Ladies and Gentlemen!

On behalf of the International Energy Forum it is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this **3rd Session of the IEA-IEF-OPEC Symposium on Gas and Coal Market Outlooks.**

The IEA-IEF-OPEC Symposiums on Energy Outlooks are **key to advance the producer consumer dialogue** in accordance with the Trilateral Programme of Work that Ministers agreed at the 12th IEF Ministerial Meeting in 2010 in Cancun Mexico.

At their recent gatherings platforms provided by the **G20, and 15th IEF Ministerial, Energy Ministers have further welcomed this fruitful collaboration and encourage its continuation, including**

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work on enhancing energy market data transparency through the Joint Organisations Data Initiative I have the privilege to coordinate on behalf of the IEF with our Partner Organisations APEC, Eurostat, GECF, IEA, OLADE OPEC and finally the UNSD.

Our discussions on gas and coal market outlooks and interactions **have only become more timely important since:**

- **The “Paris Agreement” entered force, on 4 November 2016**
- **Coal remains king to fuel the world’s economic growth and backup renewable energies**
- **New policies are considered to optimise coal and gas market interactions, while also**
- **Carbon Capture and Storage-, Highly Efficient Low Emission Generation-, and other technologies are available and ready for use**
- **UN Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Goals can be achieved on an energy technology neutral basis**

IEF has just recently concluded **the 5th IEF-IGU Ministerial Gas Forum that the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas HE Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, hosted just last week on 6 December in New Delhi India.**

I recommend all participants to **take note of the concluding statement. This sends a powerful message on how growth economies view the contribution that gas can make to fuel**

Welcome and Opening Remarks
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the short, medium and long term

economic growth and increase economic prosperity and living standards **in an economy that remains largely coal dependent.**

Against these backgrounds, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to this timely and important **3rd Session of the IEA-IEF-OPEC Symposium on Gas and Coal Market Outlooks.**

I thank the IEA for deciding to host this unique event as part of our successful trilateral work programme.

More dialogue and energy market outlooks and data transparency is clearly needed. **IEF stands ready to do its part and shall spare no effort to build on the successful cooperation with IEA and OPEC.**

Thank you, I look forward to our discussions.

Introductory remarks for Moderation in Session One

The big challenges we face **are threefold at two levels:**

A) On **the global level** these are:

- 1. Economic development goals,**
- 2. Climate change,**
- 3. Energy transitions.**

B) That require of the **global energy scene** to:

- 1. Moderate and respond to energy market fluctuations,**
- 2. Reduce energy sector emissions and waste,**
- 3. Achieve sustainable access to efficient energies.**

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Governments and market participants around the world have strengthened their resolve to address these challenges. For this both enhanced data transparency and a deeper dialogue on gas and coal market outlooks and inter fuel competition is necessary.

Neutral, inclusive and data driven dialogue is critical to **enable an orderly energy transition** and effectively respond to the three plus three big challenges in time.

- **Gas may well play a larger role for longer**, especially in major growth economies but growth has slowed recently despite lower prices.
- **Coal can become part of the solution** when more advanced technologies such as CCS or HELE are deployed more rapidly.
- **Energy efficiency gains can be achieved at greater speed across energy importing and exporting countries**, for instance through better knowledge sharing and technology transfer more time is available to enable an orderly transition.

Well informed and inclusive dialogue on energy markets **has never been more necessary. I look forward to hear the contributions from our distinguished speakers and our further discussions.**

Thank you.