



**Introductory Remarks
HE Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo
OPEC Secretary General**

**Delivered on his behalf by Dr. Adedapo Odulaja, Head, Data
Services Department, OPEC**

4th IEF-OFID Symposium on Energy Poverty
Cape Town, South Africa
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Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to be here in Cape Town for this **fourth installment** of the **IEF-OFID Symposium on Energy Poverty**. I am honoured to represent **His Excellency, the OPEC Secretary General, Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo**, who, although he holds the issue of energy poverty dear to his heart, was unable to attend due to a previously scheduled engagement.

I will now proceed to deliver his remarks:

I would like to thank **His Excellency, Jeff Radebe MP**,

Minister of Energy of South Africa, for hosting this very important event here in the magnificent city of **Cape Town**.

Since its debut nearly **10 years ago** in **Johannesburg**, this Symposium has become an important permanent collaboration between the **IEF** and **OFID** in their ongoing efforts to help alleviate the issue of **energy poverty** across the world, and here in Africa. Both of these organizations have taken a **leading role** in rallying global energy partners to do their part and contribute to helping those around the world who continue to **lack access** to vital energy supplies. I commend the co-organizers for the **impressive agenda** you have developed and look forward to delving into the issues outlined therein over the next couple of days. I also think it is of utmost importance that you have dedicated your theme to **Sub-Saharan Africa**, which is home to several of OPEC's Member Countries and non-OPEC partners of the **Declaration of Cooperation**, including: **Angola, the Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Nigeria, Sudan** and **South Sudan**. Of course, **Algeria** and **Libya** are our valued **North African Members**. In the last

few years, it has been exciting to see a renaissance of sorts in terms of OPEC's engagement with Africa, which is also underpinned by OPEC's recent expanding efforts in multilateral energy cooperation.

Delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

The United Nations has described **access to energy** as essential to **economic and social development** and indeed a **human right**. This vital access has **wide ranging implications** for children and adults in developing countries around the world in terms of **health, education** and **social progress**.

Former **UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon** said it well:
“We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security and women's empowerment. Solutions to one problem must be solutions for all.”

According to the OPEC's *World Oil Outlook*, however,

energy poverty continues to be a very **serious** issue with an estimated **one billion people** worldwide still without access to **electricity, half of these in Africa**. There is also an **estimated three billion people, the majority in Sub-Saharan Africa**, who **lack access** to **clean fuels** and proper technology for cooking purposes.

With a rapidly growing global population, **energy demand** is expected to continue rising by around **33%** in the period between **2015** and **2040**. In **Africa**, while this growth in population and economic expansion will boost energy demand, traditional **grid expansions** are expected to be **limited** due to factors such as **reliability** and **affordability**. On the other side of the coin, however, the continent's **rich energy resources**, both fossil fuels and renewables, have the potential to **meet demand** while **furthering sustainable development**.

It is clear that **all energy sources** will be required to meet the long-term needs of the global population, and the global energy industry will need to **re-invigorate long-term**

investments to achieve this. In fact, an estimated **\$11 trillion** in **oil industry investments** will be required until **2040** to meet this rising demand. **Long-cycle investments** are picking up again slowly after the oil market downturn from 2014 to 2016, but not at the rate necessary to meet the aforementioned requirements.

With this in mind, and to ensure we move towards our goal of **closing the gap** on **energy poverty**, we will need a highly effective and coordinated approach as we seek to reach the goals set out in the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. In particular, I am referring to **Sustainable Goal number 7**, which calls for **universal access to energy** and the **eradication of energy poverty**.

At OPEC, we believe that **technological innovation** and advances in **research and development** have an important role to play in creating a **cleaner oil industry** through the reduction of carbon emissions. However, OPEC cannot achieve this alone. Reaching these ambitious targets will require the **contributions** of **all stakeholders** across the value

chain – producers, consumers, the corporate world, as well as government and civil society. I should add here that **OPEC Member Countries** are doing their part by ensuring that the more than **1.2 trillion barrels of proven oil reserves** are not stranded.

Today and tomorrow, we will have an opportunity to build upon this Symposium's **third gathering**, which took place in **2017 in Tunis**, and assess how far we have come towards reaching these targets. We will also have ample opportunities to share experiences and discuss common challenges we may be facing in our march towards ridding this world of energy poverty.

More specifically, OPEC will be participating in the **third session** today entitled “**Key indicators for energy poverty—the role of data transparency**”. This session follows logically in the wake of a very successful **technical session** that was held over the last two days on the topic of **JODI Energy Data Transparency for a Sustainable Future**. This informative and productive workshop confirms that the

ongoing **JODI collaboration** continues to bring benefits to all stakeholders, not only in terms of enhanced **data transparency and reliability** in energy market forecasting but also in areas such as **combatting energy poverty**, which has the potential to impact millions of lives.

Allow me to thank all of our **JODI partners** for their ongoing contributions to this highly valuable process.

Delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

To date, some progress has been made to enhance access to energy, however, much work is yet to be done to achieve the targets outlined in the **2030 Agenda. Africa** in general, and **Sub-Saharan Africa**, in particular, are perhaps the **most urgent of cases**, and should thus be considered of highest priority. I am pleased to see events such as this one, now in its fourth iteration, being organized to help bring the dire needs of this dynamic continent to the top of the development

agenda.

Let me conclude by saying that **OPEC** remains dedicated to seeing **Africa**, and indeed all of the “energy poor”, join the family of nations to enjoy **universal energy access**. This is indeed their **human right**.

In conclusion, I would like to leave you with the wise and hopeful words of the late **South African freedom fighter** and national hero **Nelson Mandela**:

“Poverty is not an accident. Like slavery and apartheid, it is man-made and can be removed by the actions of human beings.”

With that, I wish you all productive and fruitful deliberations.
Thank you.