

Honourable Ministers, Honoured Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is always a pleasure for me to work with the IEF, an organization I have been personally associated with since inception, and even before then.

Today, I am delighted to be here in Doha for the Sixth Asian Ministerial Roundtable. And I am particularly pleased to be part of this session on renewables, as they are part of OFID's overall vision for energy access for all.

OFID and the IEF have also been long-standing partners in the fight against energy poverty. Back in 2011, in response to a call from IEF Ministers, OFID and the IEF joined forces by convening in our Headquarters in Vienna the *2nd IEF - OFID Symposium on Energy Poverty*, with the purpose of investigating the most effective means to alleviate energy poverty – looking at both traditional and renewable energy sources - and to review the roles of different stakeholders.

We have come a long way since then. In 2012, responding to the instructions from our Heads of State at the Summit in Riyadh in 2007, OFID Finance Ministers issued the Declaration on Energy Poverty, in which they committed a minimum of US\$ 1 billion to our Energy for the Poor Initiative. Following the success of our operations and the high demand from partner countries, this commitment turned into a revolving pledge.

As a matter of fact, between 2012 and September 2015, we have provided US\$ 1.5 billion towards energy access efforts through our various operating windows, co-financing both large and small-scale, traditional and renewable energy projects in Asia and Africa. Let me illustrate with a few examples:

- **Solar Power Project in Jordan, US\$ 25 million (PSF)**

OFID provided a US\$25m loan to the Jordan Solar One project and the Falcon Ma'an Solar Power project, which together will generate a combined 98GW/h of electricity annually.

- **Two wind farms in Pakistan through the PSF**

Through our Private Sector Facility, we are co-financing the construction of two wind farms in Pakistan, which will add 100 MW of power to the national grid.

- **Solar lanterns to off-grid people, Shell Foundation**

We have helped to bring solar lanterns to off-grid populations who have little or no access to electricity through our partnership with the Shell Foundation to support a pilot scheme of d.light.

Excellences, Ladies, and Gentlemen;

In addition, we started lobbying the oil and gas industry to lend their support to this noble cause. I am pleased to say that it was here in Doha, during the 20th World Petroleum Council, that the seed was planted for what we now call the Energy Access Platform (EAP). Together with the CEO of SE4All, we formally announced the Platform during the WPC Leadership Conference in Tromso, Norway. We also took this initiative to the Oil and Gas Climate Initiative in Paris earlier this month, which was attended by ten oil and gas companies.

The objective of the platform is to align the oil and gas industry with the new sustainable development agenda of inclusive growth over the coming decades. It is clear that the industry's vast pool of resources and expertise puts it in an ideal position to contribute in achieving this worthwhile goal.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, I want to invite all oil and gas companies to join the Platform. We all agree that we no longer want our recommendations for the eradication of energy poverty to be empty words. Through the Energy Access Platform, we want them to provide real orientation as we step up the pace of delivery.

Activities within the EAP cover a wide range of areas, including renewables – whenever they are a viable option - and the expansion of the role of natural gas, which will play an important bridging role when it comes to shaping our common low-carbon future. We are confident that you will find great benefit from joining the EAP, and we look forward to working closely with all of you to ensure that the efforts of energy poverty alleviation are sustained, strengthened, and successful.

THANK YOU.