

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr Sun Xiansheng, Secretary General, IEF

**6th IEF-IGU Ministerial Gas Forum
Arts Hotel Barcelona, Spain 21-22 November 2018**

[8:30-9:00 Check against delivery]

Thank you Mr **Francisco Reynes Massanet, Executive Chairman of Naturgy** for your support as **host of the IGU Secretariat** and agreeing to convene this 6th Ministerial session in the beautiful city of Barcelona!

I am also grateful for the opportunity to advance this important dialogue today **under the IGU Presidency of Korea with Mr Joe Kang.**

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to **the 6th IEF-IGU Ministerial Gas Forum!**

The role of gas in the global energy mix is increasingly important. Recognising this trend, the **International Energy Forum Charter** mandates close collaboration with **the International Gas Union** and established, a **biennial Ministerial Gas Forum for Ministers and leaders from the gas industry.** Its aim is to facilitate a constructive conversation among governments and companies from both producing and consuming countries.

Overtime the broadening of the producer-consumer dialogue to natural gas has **made significant progress in a rapidly changing**

Welcome and Opening Remarks

environment. This includes foremost enhanced gas market transparency through **IEF led efforts in the context of the Joint Organisations Data Initiative (JODI-Gas).**

The 5th IEF-IGU Ministerial Gas Forum was hosted by India in December 2016 under the theme “Gas for Growth: Improving economic prosperity and living standards and focused on:

- Gas for growth and sustainability,
- New regional gas market trade prospects, and
- Policies to stimulate gas sector investment across regions.

Ministers and industry leaders noted that an **ongoing dialogue on gas will help to achieve orderly and effective energy transitions.**

New and readily available **gas technologies stand to make a significant contribution to societies across the world.** Gas sector cooperation stands at the centre of the growing interface between:

- Maintaining global energy security,
- Implementing nationally determined contributions to avoid catastrophic climate change, and,
- accelerate sustainable and inclusive growth and development.

Today we meet shortly before **the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** to consider the role of gas technologies and innovation for inclusive growth towards a sustainable energy future. Our discussions should help to develop a **clear vision on what is**

Welcome and Opening Remarks

needed to roll-out new technologies and step-up innovation in three sessions focused on:

1. The Role of Gas Technologies in Low Carbon Energy Systems
2. Gas Demand Growth Beyond Power Generation
3. Enhancing Gas Supply Security and Diversification.

It is my hope that our dialogue on this **shared IEF IGU platform** will foster **greater transparency and cooperation** so that:

- Progress can be made in separate areas simultaneously, and
- Technologies are deployed more rapidly in a mutually reinforcing and cost-effective manner.

Sharing perspectives more widely among IEF member governments, IGU natural gas business leaders, and market stakeholders around the world **strengthens both governance and business prospects.**

We can tackle global challenges faster at lower cost to societies by working together.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen!
I thank you for your presence and active participation in our discussions!