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Secretary General International Energy Forum**

Speaking Points

Energy Data Transparency

**2017 EIA Energy Conference
Washington Hilton, Washington DC USA
27 June 2017**

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen!

I am honoured that on my first official visit to the United States as Secretary General of the IEF, the EIA has granted me the opportunity to address such an impressive gathering of the nation's policy makers and energy experts at the heart of government – in this amazing capital city.

I am further delighted that they have asked me to speak about “Energy Data Transparency”. This is a topic and key pillar of the IEF's work programme.

For those of you who do not yet know us -- the IEF -- or International Energy Forum -- is the global facilitator of inclusive, open, and informed energy dialogue among and between government officials, experts, and representatives from industry and the financial sector –

of 72 producer and consumer countries – that together account for 90% of the global supply and demand for oil and gas.

Our members recognise their interdependence in the field of energy and choose to co-operate under the neutral framework of the Forum to foster greater mutual understanding and awareness of common energy interests in global energy security and healthy energy markets. The United States and four other standing member countries of the the UN Security Council sit on our Board.

In early 2000 -- IEF Ministers collectively recognized the need to exchange and freely disseminate timely and accurate energy market data from official sources to improve market transparency -- and thereby to help mitigate uncertainty – and speculation – which affect producing and consuming countries alike.

To deliver upon the Ministers’ aspirations for global data-sharing, the IEF co-ordinates a key energy data transparency platform called the “Joint Organisations Data Initiative – **JODI**”.

Originating as an informal exercise, the JODI Partnership is now a well-established collective of International Organisations that cooperate on an unprecedented level.

APEC, Eurostat, GECF, the IEA, the IEF, OLADE, OPEC, and the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) -- regardless of differences in their institutional mandates – all work tirelessly under the JODI banner to achieve greater energy data transparency in the common interest.

JODI is a unique source for nationally sanctioned data -- especially from the emerging economies that will drive future energy market trends.

Each month the JODI Partners collect and disseminate almost 10,000 key oil and gas supply and demand data points from over 100 countries.

The IEF works hard to increase the visibility of the JODI databases through enhanced data accessibility. The next major advance will come later this year when JODI data will be made available for dissemination on industry media platforms as well.

This major milestone has the potential not only to disseminate JODI data on an unprecedented scale, but equally importantly – provides the opportunity for the partners to receive feedback from a truly global -- and well-informed user-base.

I don't wish to intrude too long on your precious lunch time with a lengthy introduction to JODI, but if you remember only one thing from my speech - let it be this message:

“If all other countries gathered and reported energy data to the same standards of timeliness and accuracy that the US EIA does, the IEF’s mandate to enhance energy data transparency across the globe would be achieved.”

The EIA is one of the most influential and well-respected sources of energy market data in the world. We believe that the EIA’s leadership in this field is predicated on three key factors.

Firstly - A dedicated team of well-trained professionals,

Second - A strong data-user feedback loop and community engagement supported by impartial and in-depth analysis,
and

Third - A robust data collection mandate within a legal framework.

Energy markets and the supply chains that feed them are incredibly complex, data-rich environments. The consistent provision and public

dissemination of timely, accurate data is important to well-functioning markets.

Over the last 12 years, the IEF and its JODI Partners have designed and delivered a series of capacity building workshops that have now trained more than 500 officials responsible for energy data collection in the national agencies of emerging economies around the globe. The EIA is regularly cited in JODI workshops as a model to aspire to – especially for those emerging nations that are still developing their national statistical agencies.

A core feature of these technical workshops is that they establish a sense of community among the participants, and facilitate the study of good practice that is essential to developing the statistical expertise that is the backbone of the Initiative.

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In addition to the ongoing and overarching challenge of living up to SDG7 - “Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all” - three issues are currently high on the agenda of energy policy-makers and other decision-makers world-wide.

1. Uncertainty over the future direction and level of oil prices.

Having dropped more than 50% since June 2014, WTI stands at \$47 today. Producers are trying to reinforce the price by constraining production as a means of bringing an over-supplied market back into balance. Shale waits in the wings. And the performance of the global economy is not uniformly positive. These factors and more - impact policy and investment decision-making – which will affect us all.

2. World leaders Paris Climate Change Agreement have agreed that our common path to a sustainable energy future must be a low carbon one. 195 countries signed, but the recent decision by the USA to pull out of the agreement impacts us all. US leadership, financial backing and technology all played key roles in formulating the agreement – US absence from the table casts uncertainty over the viability of the Paris Agreement, but also the long-term sustainability of our planet. All world leaders have an obligation, not only to current generations, but also to future generations.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentleman.

The IEF is committed to strengthening JODI – a concrete outcome of the dialogue -- and to work with our JODI Partners to further develop this unique example of cooperation among the International Organisations.

WORK TOGETHER WITH EIA AS BROTHER Institution. Ministerial outlooks and others. Welcome to join us.

It is the collective belief of the JODI Partner organisations that the consistent provision of accurate, timely data -- facilitates well-informed decision-making by policy-makers and regulators -- and serves to boost investor confidence -- Both of which are necessary and supportive elements of stable and sustainable energy market development.

In closing – statistics play a critical role in our increasingly time-sensitive and data-driven markets – and the JODI Partner Organisations believe in the mantra – **BETTER Data – BETTER Decisions!**

I encourage you to learn more about JODI and international cooperation frameworks on energy data transparency by attending the upcoming session on “Energy Data Transparency”.

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I thank the Energy Information Administration for hosting us so well --- and all of you for your kind attention.