

**Dr Sun Xiansheng,  
Secretary General, International Energy Forum, Riyadh  
Speaking Opening Session and Remarks (9:00-9:45)**

## **OPENING STATEMENT**

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen. **Welcome to the Eighth Annual IEA-IEF-OPEC Symposium on Energy Outlooks at the International Energy Forum!**

For their presence here today, please join me in thanking:

- His Excellency **HE Khalid Al-Falih, Minister of Energy, Industry, and Mineral Resources of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,**
- His Excellency **Alexander Novak, Minister of Energy of the Russian Federation,**
- His Excellency **Aziz Rabah, Minister of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development of Morocco,**
- His Excellency **Abdallah Osman Abdallah Fadul, Minister of Petroleum and Gas of the Republic of Sudan,**
- His Excellency **Mohammed Barkindo, Secretary General of OPEC,**
- **Mr. Keisuke Sadamori, representative of Mr. Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency, and**
- **Mr. Charles Mead, Assistant Administrator of the Energy Information Administration at the U.S. Department of Energy.**

**Thank you, it is a great honour to welcome you to the International Energy Forum.**

As the host of the International Energy Forum, I acknowledge with deep appreciation **the leadership role that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** fulfills in advancing the international energy dialogue. **Thank you, your Excellency!**

We are also grateful for the support of the Russian Federation, Republic of Sudan and new partner Morocco, **represented by His Excellency Alexander Novak, His Excellency Abdalrahman and His Excellency Aziz Rabah**. Thank you, it is an honour to welcome you all to the IEF.

Over the years the Joint Symposium on Energy Outlooks has gone from strength to strength, **thanks to the excellent collaboration between the International Energy Agency and the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries** this Forum enables.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome **His Excellency and my good friend Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo, the Secretary General of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries**. Thank you, Your Excellency for your presence, and for the support from your strong team from whom we greatly benefit.

I am equally grateful for the presence of **Mr Keisuke Sadamori, Director Energy Markets and Security, representing the Executive Director of the International Energy Agency, Fatih Birol**. The Agency is equally well represented by various senior experts.

**We have come a long way since Ministers agreed on the Trilateral Programme of Work with the IEA and OPEC at the 12<sup>th</sup> IEF**

Ministerial in Cancun in 2010. The 15<sup>th</sup> IEF Ministerial hosted in 2016 Algiers encouraged us to expand on this model.

It therefore also gives me great pleasure **to welcome Charles Mead, the Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Energy Information Administration** to join our discussions.

As I look into the crowd, I can see that this meeting **is exceptionally well attended by** Ministers, senior level government officials and experts, delegates from international organizations and representatives of companies from diverse producer and consumer countries.

**Your presence shows how important inclusive dialogue on global energy security, energy data transparency, and orderly energy transitions has become for our shared energy future.**

This year's comparative analysis of short-, medium-, and long-term outlooks of the IEA and OPEC has led to better data outcomes and a sharper focus. **Comparing outlooks is not an easy job, but through the joint effort of the IEA, IEF and OPEC, the dialogue on varied producer and consumer perspectives is better informed and more collegial.**

**The three key issues that concern us most today are:**

- 1. The shifts in global energy demand and supply patterns that can impact energy security,**
- 2. The role and resilience of unconventional production,**

### **3. The speed with which we attain sustainable development goals, including energy access, and energy transitions.**

The ancient Chinese philosopher, Zeng Guofan defined his standard for clever decision-making – that is, the wisdom to observe the tiniest changes in the short-term, but still having the ability to foresee trends in the long-term.

This Outlooks Symposium aims to be **the premier global high-level energy Outlooks Symposium in the world** based right here in Riyadh. Through our joint effort, we can achieve this goal. In the end, this Symposium will help everyone in the energy community to become clever energy people.

**I look forward to continuing our journey with lively session discussion that will take place under Chatham House Rule.** Media and press is welcome to join us in networking breaks and the concluding session when we shall report on the outcomes of our discussions.

I would now like to invite **His Excellency Minister Falih** to share his wisdom with us.

*[Falih Speaks]*

Thank you, your Excellency for your kind words and ongoing support. Your continued leadership is essential to the global energy dialogue.

I will now invite **His Excellency Alexander Novak** to make his opening remarks.

*[Novak Speaks]*

Thank you, your Excellency for your strong support and for coming today. We really appreciate it.

Now it is my pleasure to pass the floor to **His Excellency and my good friend Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo**. Your Excellency the floor is yours.

*[Barkindo Speaks]*

Thank you, your Excellency for your comprehensive overview and strong words of support!

I now have the pleasure to invite **Mr Keisuke Sadamori**, representing the Executive Director of the International Energy Agency to welcome you.

*[Sadamori Speaks]*

Thank you, Keisuke-san for these perspectives from the International Energy Agency and kind words of support for the dialogue.

**This then concludes our opening session.**

I would now like to invite Ministers and Delegates to join us outside for the Group photo that will be taken in front of the IEF entrance.

