



Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC)

Keynote Address

**“The Role of Gas in Attaining the Sustainable
Development Goals in the Arab Countries”**

H.E. Mr. Abbas A. Al-Naqi

**Secretary General
(OAPEC)**

The 5th Session of the UNECE Group of Experts on Gas

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Mr. Scott Foster, Director of Sustainable Energy Division,

Mr. Francisco de la Flor, Chair of Group of Experts on Gas,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Distinguished Delegates and Participants,

Good Morning,

First of all, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to **Mr. Scott Foster**, Director of Sustainable Energy Division and to the UNECE for the kind invitation to me to participate in the **Fifth Session** of the groups of experts on gas and address this distinguished gathering. I believe this annual meeting among policy makers, opinion leaders and gas professionals has become one of the key platforms to discuss the current gas



issues to materialize the full potential of natural gas and its sustainability.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year 2018, OAPEC is celebrating its **Golden Jubilee** after fifty years of establishment in 1968 by the governments of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries. Since then, OAPEC and its 11 member countries have made great efforts to develop and promote the petroleum industry, taking into consideration its role in attaining sustainable development.

OAPEC will continue to work closely with its member countries and in cooperation with other concerned bodies within the **United Nations**, the **league of Arab States "LAS"**, **OPEC** and other concerned organizations to achieve sustainable future in the field of energy as one of the 2030 UN goals aiming to “**ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and clean energy for all**”, and in line with **the Sustainable Energy for all** Initiative "**SE4ALL Initiative**" aiming to ensure universal access to modern energy services, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency and double the share of the renewable energy in the global energy mix.



Proven oil reserves in OAPEC member countries at the end of 2017 were estimated as 706.8 billion barrels, representing about 49% of the world's total oil reserves. **While proven gas reserves** were estimated as **53.5** trillion cubic meters, representing about **27%** of the world's total gas reserves. OAPEC member countries also represented about **29%** of the world's total Oil/NGLs production in 2017

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Owing to numerous successful development projects, gas production has grown in the MENA region more than **four times** over the last three decades, at an annual growth rate of **5.5%**, which is the highest rate worldwide. In 2016, OAPEC members' gas production represented about **15%** of the global gas production.

In conjunction with their oil/gas production boom, OAPEC member countries have adopted policies and initiatives aimed at reducing gas flaring in the upstream sector. In this context, total flared gases in OAPEC member countries slumped to less than **20%** of the global gas flaring volume in 2016.



From the demand side, the share of gas in the MENA energy mix has increased significantly, reflecting **51%** of the total primary energy in 2016. The reliance placed on gas, as a reliable and clean source of energy, achieved benefits in many sectors .

In power generation, gas has become “**the fuel of choice**” accounting for **65%** of the total electricity generated in the region.

The expansion of gas usage in the power sector in conjunction with upgrading of transmission and distribution (T&D) networks effectively contributed to achieve an electrification rate of around **88%**, higher than the global rate of **85.2%**.

In the residential sector, the share of gas raised significantly, reflecting **25%** of the total fuel consumption in **2016** compared with **6%** in 1990.

Other sectors such as industry sector also receive their contribution of gas, in which it is not only used as a fuel but also as a feedstock for chemical and petrochemical industries. Gas has become the main energy source in the industry sector, satisfying more than **50%** of its energy needs.



In the transportation sector, the gas usage started at the beginning of 1990's

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Securing availability and accessibility to reliable energy sources is imperative for sustainable energy future.

Gas has the potential to play a greater role in the world's future energy, due to its availability in various regions of the world and its acceptability by the global environmental rules and regulations.

Such advantages will lead the way to underpin gas usage in many sectoral areas of the global action agenda of the “**UN Sustainable Energy for All Initiative**”. In particular, improving supply efficiency, access to modern energy services & fuels and transportation sectoral areas.

Thank you for your kind attention and wishing all success to the meeting.