



Gas Exporting Countries Forum

H. E. Secretary General opening speech to the 16th Executive Board meeting

GECF Headquarters, Doha, Qatar

18th and 19th June, 2013

Distinguished Chairman of the Executive Board, Alternate Chairman and members of the Executive Board, Distinguished Observers, Ladies and gentleman,

Good morning and welcome to the 16th Executive Board Meeting and the headquarters of the GECF.

A special welcome to H.E. the Chairman of the 16th Executive Board Meeting Mr. Mohammed Nasser Al-Hajri and the Alternate Chairman Mr. S.M.A. Khatibi Tabatabaei.

This will be the last EB before the 2nd Gas Summit in Moscow. In less than four years the Forum has held two Summits. This is a huge achievement for an organisation celebrating its fifth year as a recognised international intergovernmental organisation, a testimony to the commitment and determination of Member countries in facilitating cooperation through the GECF.

This distinguished body continues to play a key role in the development of the Forum; I want to thank Your Excellencies for your dedication to service and duty.

We have a number of issues to discuss here today including, preparation for the 2nd Gas Summit, incorporation of Peru to the GECF as an Observer Member and the report on the High Level Working Group for Long Term Strategy and other similar status reports and administrative issues in the Forum.

The Secretariat is ready to provide all necessary support to this distinguished body to ensure the success of these upcoming events, namely the Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting and the 2nd Gas Summit.

This year is yet another milestone achievement for the Forum; with your support we will continue to strengthen our position as a global gas leader in the energy landscape.

I look forward to working closely with you to realise these and other objectives of the Forum.

Please do not hesitate to ask any of the Secretariat staff for any assistance should you require any and we will be happy to help.

I wish you fruitful and useful deliberations. Thank you for your presence.