

In the Name of God, the Compassionate the Merciful

H.E. Mr. Alexander NOVAK, Minister of Energy of Russian Federation,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Panelists,

Distinguished Participants:

First of all I would like to thank the organizers of 4th International Forum of Innovative Solutions and Technologies for Oil, Gas and Mining Industry for arranging such a wonderful international gathering in the field of energy which is an essential topic for our countries. I should also extend my sincere word of thanks to all distinguished speakers and participants in today's gathering.

Ladies & Gentlemen

Energy is an essential factor for sustainable development and poverty eradication. It is estimated that in 2015 still about 1.1 billion do not have electricity, 3 billion people rely on wood, coal or animal waste for cooking and heating. Energy is the dominant contributor to climate change, accounting for around 60% of total global greenhouse gas emissions. To overcome these challenges, the 7th Goal of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services. To achieve this goal by 2030 enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technology and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology.

One of the main strategies of the I.R. Iran's "Energy Diplomacy Strategy" is the cooperation and collaboration with our neighbor countries in many aspects specially trade and transfer of energy. In this regard the countries of Caspian Region, which have common points of view with Iran on many international energy and environment issues, have a special position.

The littoral states of Caspian Region, which possess rich hydrocarbon resources and unique geographical location between Asia and Europe, play an important role in ensuring "Energy Security" in the world. These countries have common interests in the global energy markets and can achieve their common goals through cooperation and negotiation. In this regard, Iran and Russia have significant positions.

We believe that the low oil and gas prices disrupt the flow of investment in this industry and can affect the production of oil and gas in the mid-term and long term, which damage the Energy Security of supply. The Islamic Republic of Iran supports any effort including OPEC- Non OPEC negotiations to achieve fair market prices for all producers and consumers and to attain the balance in the energy markets.

The regional energy connectivity will contribute to enhancing energy security. Energy security has two main parties. It involves policies and interests of both producers and consumers, as well as exporters and importers. Obviously, connectivity requires strong determination and investments from both sides which ensures more effective cooperation and coordination among them and leads to enhancing energy security. When producers, consumers and investors in energy

sector cooperate with each other, the sustainable "Energy Security" will be achieved.

The Islamic Republic of Iran as a member of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) maintains that the global energy market should enjoy the stability and to achieve this goal, cooperation and collaboration of all countries in the region is necessary.

We emphasize that imposing any unilateral and multilateral sanctions on energy and financial sector would endanger the Energy Security and should be avoided.

We underline, utilization of hydrocarbon recourses should not provide the opportunity for foreigners to interfere in the region, contrary wise should provide the occasion for cooperation and collaboration between countries in the region with consideration to the environmental issues.

Iran and Russia are members of many international energy organizations such as Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) and International Energy Forum (IEF), the common positions of two countries in international energy organizations and constructive cooperation between them is an opportunity for Caspian Region countries.

Iran as the second oil producer in OPEC and Russia as the largest oil producer in the world can encourage other oil producers for sustainability of world oil market.

The joint initiative of two countries resulted in establishment of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) to secure the interests of major Gas producers, which now has 12 members and 6 observers.

Natural Gas plays a key role in the “Low Carbon Economy” to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the field of energy. Replacing the Natural Gas instead of Coal in power generation reduces the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions significantly.

In this regard, the adoption of Paris Agreement on 21st Climate Change Convention Conference in 2015, is the opportunity for Gas producers and GECF members to promote the use of Natural Gas in energy sector. As you know, the 22nd Conference of Parties (COP22) of the Climate Change Convention is being held in Morocco and the common interests and positions of our countries in this event like the previous one in Paris in 2015, is an opportunity to attain our goals regarding the climate change challenge.

Iran as a signatory of the 2015 Paris climate deal that calls for a global action to combat climate change and global warming, considers the strategic planning for utilizing low carbon fuels in Iran’s Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) as a major step to fulfill its 4% contribution to mitigate its GHG emission by 2030 and in this regard, the role of natural gas is substantial.

In conclusion I would like to reiterate that Iran and Russia are among the key players in the global energy market, particularly in gas. They shall be also among the players who are giving shape to the future

global energy architecture, which is supposed to be supportive of a low-carbon global economy.

I hope this event end up to successful results for the countries of the region.

Thank you All