

## **Declaration: 10<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of GECF in Oran**

**April 19, 2010**

1. We the Ministers of the Member states of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum have met in Oran, Algeria on April 19, 2010 to exchange views on the latest and mid-term developments in the natural gas market, assess their impact on the GECF countries, discuss progress of the GECF since our last meeting in Qatar on December 8-9, 2009 and provide guidance for our newly established Secretariat.
2. We express our appreciation to the Government of Algeria for taking the initiative in hosting this meeting. Furthermore we welcome the first Secretary General of the Forum, Mr. Leonid Bokhanovskiy.
3. We welcome the Ministers of Yemen and Angola as guests of X Ministerial Meeting of GECF.
4. We agree that ensuring adequate and reliable supplies of gas at prices reflecting parity with oil prices and the advantages of natural gas is a challenge, taking into consideration that natural gas is an essential part of the fuel mix and plays an important role in satisfying the global need for an environmentally friendly energy source.
5. We support the increase of energy security by means of interactions of both cross investments and technological exchange without unjustified barriers, especially those related to carbon taxation, between gas consumers and producers based on growing interdependence between them. We encourage the model in which a gas consumer participates in upstream and gas infrastructure development projects on a producer-exporter country, while a gas exporter invests in mid and downstream networks and other gas facilities on a consumer side.
6. We launch a framework for the development of the GECF long-term strategy in line with the principles of the GECF Statute. For this purpose we decide to establish a Working Group composed of representatives of Member countries that will work closely with the GECF Secretariat to develop and finalize the GECF five year Strategy.

7. We agree to assess the possibility of organizing the 1<sup>st</sup> Gas Summit of the GECF in 2011.

8. We place emphasis on the fact that GECF is open for accession to other gas exporting states that support the GECF Statute both as Members and Observer Members.