

Remarks by IEF Secretary General Joseph McMonigle
Vienna Energy Forum Virtual Series
Accelerating energy transition “Energy-Industry Nexus” Framing session
Vienna, Austria
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Thank you for inviting me to participate in this first virtual session on the Energy-Industry Nexus in the build-up to the Vienna Energy Forum in 2021.

The IEF hosts the global producer-consumer dialogue on energy security, energy market transparency, and clean technologies for orderly energy transitions to achieve UN sustainable development and climate goals.

In addition to the United Nations the IEF mission is closely linked to the objectives of the G20. As the COVID-19 pandemic shows, dialogue and cooperation agendas on IEF and G20 platforms rely on each other to reduce risks and enable a swift and sustainable global economic recovery.

The Virtual G20 Energy Ministers Meeting held under the Presidency of Saudi Arabia on 27-28 September endorsed the Circular Carbon Economy Platform and its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Remove) to strengthen government policies that will accelerate the integration of sustainable energy in industry and ensure transformational development outcomes.

The advent of COVID-19 and the associated fall-out in demand has put greater pressure on industry to seek sustainable solutions. The energy sector is by far the largest source of greenhouse gas emission. While major global energy demand scenarios find that hydrocarbon consumption will remain robust over the next decades, industry can take three key steps to ensure a more sustainable and productive energy-industry nexus:

- Integrate UN Sustainable Development Goals into company strategies
- Advance Clean Energy Technologies through research and development and new business models
- Accelerate progress through dialogue and collaboration on the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) and International Energy Forum (IEF) Platforms

Consumer and producer countries are already reshaping the energy – industry nexus by laying the foundations for the Circular Carbon Economy. In addition to net zero strategies announced by European Oil and Gas majors, Saudi Aramco has integrated sustainable strategies into its Vision and already incorporates various clean technologies to mitigate the impacts of climate change and increase efficiencies. Most recently, Saudi Aramco and the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ) collaborated with SABIC to send the first shipment of blue ammonia, created from blue hydrogen, from Saudi Arabia to Japan to be used for generating zero-carbon power.

The IEF aims to accelerate orderly energy transitions by advancing inclusive dialogue on the policy and technology solutions envisioned by net-zero emission strategies from Europe to China. Stimulus measures to overcome the COVID-19 crisis should reinforce investment in

various carbon management options to achieve energy access and emission reduction goals faster and build back better.

Government ambitions to deploy hydrogen in hard to decarbonise sectors will reduce hurdles to investment in Carbon Capture Use and Storage as well. Coupling industry processes across sector and national borders will further help build the scale that change requires.

Enhanced dialogue and collaboration on the IEF Platform will:

- Ensure that distinct policy and technology pathways can complement each other strengths to step up world-wide momentum and that no country, region, or market segment is left behind.
- Create a more predictable environment for investment, trade, and technology transfer that reduce market hurdles and transition costs to build momentum.

A more holistic strategy towards carbon management will allow producers and consumer countries to return to growth trajectories that are compliant with the Paris Agreement and achieve Sustainable Development Goals faster.

Finally, the IEF hosts the Joint Organisations Data Initiative to enhance greater energy market transparency. Industry will benefit from greater data transparency on carbon management options, data, and metrics and will allow better assessments of progress in Circular Carbon technologies. Making data on CO₂ storage and added value options more freely available and readily comparable will also help to measure compliance with the policy standards governments set.

Interconnected global energy markets require collaborative efforts and dialogue between producer and consumers to address global challenges in a timely and cost-effective manner.

The IEF looks forward to strengthening collaboration among producers and consumers on clean energy policy and technology pathways at the

- 17th International Energy Forum Ministerial in 2021 – the largest gathering of energy ministers including producers, consumers, and transit states, and
- The Vienna Energy Forum organised in collaboration with UNIDO and the UN High-level Dialogue on Energy in 2021

Thank you very much.