



Keynote Speech

3rd Namibia Oil and Gas Conference (NOGC2025)

HE Eng. Mohamed Hamel

Secretary General

Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF)

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Your Excellency, Deputy Prime Minister Natangwe Ithete,

Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy,

Honourable Kornelia Shilunga, Special Advisor and Head of

Upstream Unit, Office of the President of Namibia,

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Namibia for its gracious invitation and warm hospitality.

It is a profound honour to address you today in this extraordinary land — Namibia — a country of vast horizons, deep-rooted heritage, and rising energy ambition.

This is my first time on Namibian soil, but it was long before — as a student in Algiers — that I first heard of the heroic struggle of the Namibian people for their independence. I am thus deeply honoured to pay tribute to your proud national legacy — from the leadership of Chief Samuel Maharero and Jacob Morenga, to the courage of Anna Mungunda — whose stories continue to inspire generations across the African continent.

Namibia's long and dignified journey to freedom and sovereignty, achieved only 35 years ago, stands as a powerful reminder that the right to develop natural resources is inseparable from the right to chart one's own destiny. Today, as Namibia enters a new phase in its energy story, it does so not merely as a site of exploration, but as a pathway to opportunity, justice, and shared progress.

Excellencies,

I have the privilege of speaking on behalf of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) — the intergovernmental organisation that unites the world's leading gas-producing nations to foster cooperation, promote energy dialogue and market stability, and uphold the sovereign rights of countries over their natural gas resources.

With twenty member countries from Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and Eurasia, the GECF represents over 70% of the world's proven gas reserves and half of global gas exports.

Nine of these member countries are from Africa. In fact, the three most recent countries to join the Forum — Mauritania, Mozambique, and

Senegal — are all new African LNG exporters. I have no doubt that Namibia will soon join this family of natural gas exporters.

Excellencies,

We meet at a time of profound shifts in the global energy landscape.

Demand continues to rise, investment needs are growing, and market dynamics are being reshaped by geopolitics, innovation, trade policy, and climate imperatives.

Amid this transformation, natural gas has emerged as a stabilising force — a fuel that is available, reliable, affordable, and low in emissions, with a critical role in meeting the world's rising energy needs and development aspirations.

At the GECF, we are convinced that natural gas is not just a bridge fuel — it is a destination fuel. It is a pillar of energy security and sustainable development.

According to the GECF Global Gas Outlook, global energy demand is projected to increase by 18% by mid-century, underpinned by economic growth and a population surge of 1.8 billion people — with 1 billion of those in Africa alone.

Africa's energy demand is expected to nearly double, yet per capita consumption is expected to remain stagnant — a stark reminder that access to modern energy is not keeping pace with population growth.

Today, 630 million people on this continent still lack access to electricity, while more than a billion depend on wood and charcoal for cooking, a situation that disproportionately affects women and children, who shoulder the burdens of fuel collection and face exposure to harmful emissions.

Natural gas offers practical, scalable solutions: for reliable electricity, for clean cooking, for fertiliser production, and to power industrialisation. Our projections show that Africa's gas demand will grow three times faster than the global average, reaching nearly 400 billion cubic meters by 2050.

At the GECF, we remain firmly committed to supporting Africa's energy development journey. The Algiers Declaration, adopted at the 7th GECF Summit of Heads of State and Government, reaffirmed the sovereign rights of countries over their natural gas resources and expressed resolute support for African countries in eradicating energy

poverty, advancing industrialisation, and ensuring equitable and inclusive socio-economic development, in line with the United Nations 2030 Development Agenda and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Excellencies,

Namibia's natural gas resources position the country to become a clean energy hub —by developing associated gas, investing in LNG infrastructure, and integrating gas into local manufacturing, transport, and electrification. Recent offshore discoveries—such as Venus, Graff, and Mopane—have placed Namibia firmly on the map as one of Africa's most promising energy frontiers.

Namibia stands today not only as a new energy player, but as a symbol of what is possible when vision meets leadership. With natural gas as a pillar, Namibia can accelerate its development, strengthen its sovereignty, and inspire a continent.

The Gas Exporting Countries Forum wishes you every success in your energy journey and stands firmly with you as a partner and friend.

Thank you.