The OPEC Fund For International Development Supports Large-Scale Regional Project on Clean Cooking in West Africa with US$200,000 Grant to The Global LPG Partnership

New York City, NY, August 24, 2017 – The OPEC Fund For International Development (“OFID”), an international advocate for sustainable development, capacity-building and South-South partnerships on access to energy, water and food in the developing world, has announced a US$200,000 grant to the Global LPG Partnership (“GLPGP”). OFID is the development finance institution established by the Member States of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (“OPEC”).

GLPGP assists developing countries to plan, finance and implement national-scale availability and use of liquefied petroleum gas (“LPG”) as a clean cooking solution. This helps prevent the 4 million annual premature deaths globally from Household Air Pollution, severe forest loss, and vast impact on women’s and children’s labor time caused by societal dependence on unhealthy, environmentally destructive solid fuels for cooking.

The grant, combined with co-financing from GLPGP and other donors, will be directed towards development of a regional policy framework focused on the enabling conditions necessary to scale up adoption of LPG for clean cooking across the 15 member countries of the Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS). It will be consistent with the countries’ own national targets for clean cooking with LPG, and follow the same process that led to successful existing ECOWAS regional policies for energy efficiency and renewable energy. Over time, it is hoped that such a policy for clean cooking could benefit up to 60% of the residents in ECOWAS countries, or approximately 240 million people. Funds from OFID will also support continuation and expansion of an ongoing microfinance project in Cameroon, which provides loans to help local consumers afford the initial purchasing costs of the equipment needed to make the switch to using LPG for cooking in their homes.

Kimball Chen, Chairman of GLPGP, said: “We are very grateful for OFID’s endorsement of GLPGP’s work. This new grant will enable GLPGP and ECREEE to accelerate their work together to develop a regional LPG policy framework, which will improve LPG affordability and availability for the ECOWAS consumer population. The urgently needed benefits of increased West African use of LPG will be reduction in deforestation, and better health for families in rural and underserved areas as they switch over to LPG for clean cooking.”

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