

Closing Address of the WPC Young Professionals
at the
VI WPC Youth Forum: Future Leaders Forum
St Petersburg, Russia
23rd – 27th June 2019

Dear distinguished guests, dear delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

We are extremely pleased to be standing in front of you tonight to close the 6th World Petroleum Council Youth Forum, Future Leaders Forum.

First and foremost, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the individuals in Russia and around the world who contributed to the success of this event. Two years ago, we had a joint dream. You made it a reality.

We therefore thank:

- The dedication and the commitment of the Russian National Committee
- The strong leadership from the Chair and Vice Chair, Alexander Novak and Kirill Molodtsov
- The fantastic hospitality of the Government of Russia, the City of Saint-Petersburg and the Mining University
- The substantial support from the leadership team of the World Petroleum Council
- The extraordinary enthusiasm of all our volunteers
- The fundamental and valuable contributions from all our speakers and moderators

It is an honor to be speaking on behalf of our generation.

From the Mariinsky Theater, through the flows of the Neva to the Constantin Palace tonight, we have been through a bridge across generations and borders.

These historical places remain symbols of modernism and innovation. They are also the emblem that excellence and creativity have no frontier.

And as part of the 6th Future Leaders Forum, we wanted to build this bridge.

This event is indeed essential to understand the history of our industry, its legacy and more importantly to prepare for the future. We are at the forefront of rapid transformations of our society and our industry driven by **technological, environmental and unpredictable geopolitical** forces.

Through the **Future Leaders Forum**, we ambioned to **empower our generation, students and young professionals** with the platform, knowledge and network we need to cross this bridge and be active contributors to the future of our industry.

Remember Lesana when we setup the team to build the program of this event more than a year ago. We invited young professionals from different countries and different backgrounds, to represent the fantastic diversity of our industry and to bring these diverse perspectives that will make a difference. We had this ambition in mind and you all contributed to materialize it.

Our industry is fascinating; it goes beyond any frontier, with operational and technical excellence. And we have seen it throughout the Forum.

Think about it: the oil and gas industry takes us to the moon every day.

As we have highlighted, we extract resources under 2000 m of water; we turn our production into almost everything from clothes to mobility; we distribute everywhere from the megalopolis to the most remote locations of this world; we now even go beyond oil and gas as energy players.

This is not enough! Moreover, we must do it with an urgent sense of responsibility towards the communities and the environment. For our generation and the next generations. Climate change or energy access are part of the critical challenges we have been discussing this week. They must be collectively addressed and encompassed in all our actions.

These realities should be fueling the future of our industry to sustain its unique position as the main energy supplier of the world. They were all reflected in the three pillars of the World Petroleum Council Future Leaders Forum – Innovation, Sustainability and Leadership.

This future calls for new ideas and new mindset to accelerate the transformations of our industry, reduce substantially its impact and bring energy to all.

Now, we would like to address all the representatives of our generation in this room. Indeed, we are the first born and raised in a digitalized world. We have seen climate changing at an extremely worrying path. We have had the unique opportunity to go beyond our borders and to become citizens of the world.

We should therefore bring our ideas to the table, with respect and eagerness to learn, but also a sense of responsibility. “Who if not us, when if not now”.

And we proved that we can do it! You have all come with a lot of ideas and energy. The quality of your papers, the excellence of our young speakers, and the richness of our debates proved it. We now need to go beyond and further.

Therefore, we would like to invite you:

- **To stand for your ideas.** As Jeff Shellebarger said, this industry doesn't run out of oil, it is running out of ideas.
- **To leverage this incredible knowledge** transmitted to you to nurture your ideas and engagement
- **More importantly to build on the strong relationships** you created this week to turn them into reality

Through this journey, the World Petroleum Council and its young professionals will continue to act as the bridge across generations and borders.

We are now extremely delighted to close this wonderful event and we look forward to meeting you all at the **23rd World Petroleum Congress** in Houston next December.

We wish you all an **amazing evening!**

Lesana Kurbonshoeva,

Official Representative of Russia in WPC YPC

Stephane Rousselet,

Chair of the WPC Young Professionals Committee