Joint Co-Chairs' Summary by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and the International Energy Agency

On 11 September 2026, the LNG Producer-Consumer Conference (LNGPCC) 2026 was held in Tokyo, co-hosted by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (METI) and the International Energy Agency (IEA). The main theme of LNGPCC 2026 was “Advancing LNG for the Future: Resilience and Reliability”. Amid various uncertainties in the world, it was reaffirmed that LNG makes critical contributions to energy security and can play a role in transitioning energy systems.

The Co-Chairs hereby summarize the key points discussed during the dialogue between producing and consuming countries as follows:

The recent crisis in the Middle East has once again demonstrated that energy security remains a central pillar of energy policy. Energy security and decarbonization are not competing objectives, and as countries around the world advance the energy transition, participants discussed the options that can both reduce emissions and strengthen energy security. Building secure and sustainable energy systems requires robustness, diversity, flexibility, and resilience in fuels, infrastructure, technologies, and supply chains, so that systems can withstand a wide range of potential disruptions.

Participants agreed that natural gas will remain an important component of the global energy system for years to come. If efforts are undertaken to minimize methane emissions along the supply chain, natural gas and LNG have the lowest greenhouse gas emissions among fossil fuels. LNG can play a role during the transition period including by supporting industrial activity and providing flexibility and stability for power systems. If paired with carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) or used for non-emitting purposes (such as petrochemical feedstocks), gas can even remain part of the energy mix beyond the achievement of net zero emissions, contributing to energy security, economic growth, and the stability of energy systems.

Participants confirmed that the following measures are important to strengthen the resilience of LNG markets:

- First, expanding market participation and enhancing market liquidity, supported by timely investment across the LNG value chain remain essential, particularly in Asia, where demand for stable, affordable, and secure energy is expected to grow, as well as in other regions where LNG demand is projected to increase.

- Second, supply diversification and ensuring sufficient levels of investment across the LNG value chain remain central components of resilience against future supply disruptions and fuel security. Mobilizing the necessary public and private capital will require a predictable and transparent investment environment, including stable policy frameworks and appropriate risk-sharing mechanisms.

- Third, greater efforts are needed to help strengthen supply-demand balancing and the ability to respond to disruptions. Strengthening interregional market linkages, optimizing LNG trade, and deploying flexible infrastructure and technologies can help redirect supply in response to changing market conditions and emergencies.

- Fourth, reducing greenhouse gas emissions throughout the LNG supply chain, including through methane emissions management, is of critical importance. Emissions reductions measures need to be practical and cost-effective.

The co-hosts note that recent crises have reinforced the fundamental importance of energy security and underscored that the energy transition can succeed only if it is secure. Building energy systems that are cleaner, more resilient, more flexible, and more secure will require accelerated investment in renewable energy, energy efficiency and other low-emissions technologies, alongside continued investment to ensure the reliability and stability of the overall energy system, including in natural gas and LNG-related infrastructure.

The co-hosts note that METI and the IEA will continue to strengthen cooperation with public and private stakeholders from both producing and consuming countries and deepen collaboration to enhance the resilience of LNG markets and the broader energy system. They also reaffirm their commitment to supporting measures that enhance LNG market flexibility and to fostering deeper international cooperation on voluntary gas reserve mechanisms among like-minded importers and exporters of LNG.