

## **Key Discussion Outcomes from the LPG for Development Summit 2019**

*Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 24 September 2019*

### **Context**

1. There is growing attention paid to LPG in a development context, particularly in the last 2-3 years. Stakeholders must capitalize on this momentum. The LPG industry has about a 10-year window in which LPG is the most efficient and scalable, truly clean cooking solution in the developing world. 2030 is an important milestone.
2. Clean cooking is now recognized as an urgent area for action; leading international organizations like the World Bank and WHO are committing to act to improve clean fuel access. Developing countries want LPG. Stakeholders must make clean cooking a priority in both the energy sector and the health sector; relying on the business case to develop organically is not enough.
3. The world is undeniably in a transition towards greener energy. The LPG industry must consider its role in this transition — such as through innovations including bio-LPG — from now through 2030 as a key clean fuel option, and beyond 2030.

### **Key Issues**

4. Information gaps are an obstacle to LPG having its proper seat at the international development table. Stakeholders must improve evidence-based communications about LPG and its role in health, climate, etc., especially when the evidence may be contrary to established thinking. Donor and host governments with finite funds need the evidence to be able to prioritize LPG as a solution.
5. Stakeholders should change the conversation around LPG to move beyond affordability. In many developing countries, affordability is no longer the main issue, even in rural areas. The main obstacle to scaling up LPG use is improving access and extending the supply chain. Also needed are political will, consumer financing tools, R&D and human-centered design to achieve greater adoption and sustained use of LPG.

6. Culture and context matter in determining whether LPG is the best clean cooking fuel solution. Is the main competitor fuel a paid fuel, or firewood which is collected for free? What are the existing awareness levels about clean cooking? Stakeholders need to take a human-centered design approach in efforts to improve LPG adoption and sustained use, and to reduce fuel stacking.
7. Consumers need to understand why they must switch from dirty fuels to LPG. The LPG industry must play a key role in communicating the human benefits of LPG as a fuel. The health sector must be engaged to actively “prescribe” clean air. Increased consumer awareness will drive demand, which in turn will drive the business case.
8. Behavior change is not just about information and awareness-raising, but also about reducing barriers using consumer financing tools such as microfinance and pay-as-you-cook business models. Data on the benefits and viability of LPG as a clean cooking solution are clear; what is needed now from the industry is more innovation and a track record of companies able to take LPG to the mass market and to low-income populations.
9. Clear LPG policies (e.g., on cylinder ownership) and regulations at the national level will drive domestic and foreign private sector investment in, and financing for, LPG. This in turn can drive interest from global institutions in providing catalytic funding through technical assistance grants or direct investment. The government has a key role, and coordinated national planning is important, because the required actions may span different sectors or government ministries. The LPG industry, for its part, must convey to policymakers what is necessary to create an enabling environment for investment.