26th World Gas Conference – the countdown begins
Jerome Ferrier, IGU President, officially invites delegates to agenda setting event

20th January, 2015: Between 1-5 June this year, Paris will host the global gas community at the 26th World Gas Conference. The industry’s most important gathering has already attracted participation from more than 70 countries and expects to welcome over 4,000 senior delegates attending 70 conference sessions spanning all aspects of this critically important industry.

At a pivotal point for the global energy sector, the conference will address the major gas industry challenges facing the world today, including sustainability of supplies, the role of gas as a transition fuel, the development and application of new technologies and progress towards a comprehensive global energy mix. The triennial event has already drawn a significant following for 2015, with a record number of abstracts received (more than doubling those gathered for the 2012 World Gas Conference), and has garnered support from the highest ranks of the oil and gas industry.

With the economics of hydrocarbon exploration and production continuing to dominate the performance of global markets, the World Gas Conference will bring together this year’s largest gathering of senior industry leaders, who will contribute to a dynamic and wide-ranging debate about the industry’s short term prospects and long term future.

More than 435 speakers have already been confirmed to date, and the conference programme continues to develop to ensure that it addresses the most pressing issues. Confirmed speakers include; Patrick Pouyanné, Chief Executive Officer, Total SA; Gérard Mestrallet, Chairman and CEO of GDF Suez; Sheikh Khalid Khalifa Al Thani, Chief Executive Officer, QatarGas; Ben Van Beurden, Chief Executive Officer, Royal Dutch Shell plc; Hamad Rashid Al Mohannadi, Chief Executive Officer, RasGas Company Limited; and Alexey Miller, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors, Gazprom.

The event will set in context the industry’s challenges and opportunities both in the global energy mix and across wider social and economic development issues. This is especially important given the increasing demand for cleaner energy and the crucial importance of natural gas not only as a transition fuel but the foundation for stable, long-term energy security.

Jerome Ferrier, President of the IGU, commented:

“2015 will be an unprecedented year both for the global gas industry and for the French energy sector in particular. The World Gas Conference represents a rare opportunity for the global sector leadership to set out its ambitions for the gas industry and, more crucially, the role it can play in meeting the world’s most urgent development issues amid extraordinary energy market turbulence. In the lead up to COP21, potentially the most important climate negotiations since
Kyoto, establishing the role that gas can play as a foundation for a more balanced and, ultimately, lower carbon global economy, could not have greater urgency.

“Natural gas can increase energy market stability, reduce CO2 emissions and enhance the sustainability of supplies for communities around the world. But achieving this requires investment, innovation and public support. In 2015, through the World Gas Conference and COP 21, we have the opportunity to make progress against all of these crucial objectives.”

The conference will feature discussions and debates on some of the most pressing issues and solutions within the gas industry today, including:

- Natural gas as a core pillar for a sustainable future of the planet
- Gas, renewables and electricity
- Natural gas as a growth factor for new economies
- Human Capital for the future of the gas industry

Sponsors of this prestigious event include Total SA, GDF Suez, Qatar Gas, Shell, RasGas, Gazprom and Chevron.

With a comprehensive 45,000 m² exhibition space, the 26th World Gas Conference will showcase exhibitors and sponsors from across the industry, bringing together the latest technologies, industry solutions and lessons learned from tried and tested practices.

As the event draws closer, the early registration discount comes to an end on 6 February. The early discount is €480 per delegate place and bookings can be made on the official event website www.wgc2015.org.

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**Notes to Editors:**
About the World Gas Conference

Since 1931, the International Gas Union has been organising the World Gas Conference once every three years. The triennial World Gas Conference is the biggest and most important global gas industry event,
attracting 4,000 industry professionals from all over the world and showcasing the latest developments, with information on policies, strategies technologies, challenges and opportunities. The 26th World Gas Conference will take place in Paris, France, 1-5 June 2015 with the theme “Growing together towards a friendly planet”.

About the International Gas Union

The International Gas Union (IGU) was founded in 1931. It is a worldwide non-profit organisation whose objective is to promote the technical and economic progress of the global gas industry. The members of the IGU are associations and entities of the gas industries in 91 countries which account for over 97% of the natural gas traded around the world, and maintain very close ties with many other international energy organisations. It consists of a total of 142 members, from 91 countries.