

# Who are OPEC Member Countries?

## Oil Producing Export Countries

The OPEC Statute stipulates that: "any country with a substantial net export of crude petroleum, which has fundamentally similar interests to those of Member Countries, may become a Full Member of the Organization, if accepted by a majority of three-fourths of Full Members, including the concurring votes of all Founder Members".

The Statute further distinguishes between three categories of membership: **Founder Member, Full Member and Associate Member**.

**Founder Members** of the Organization are those countries which were represented at OPEC's first Conference, held in Baghdad, Iraq, in September 1960, and which signed the original agreement establishing OPEC.

**Full Members** are the Founder Members, plus those countries whose applications for Membership have been accepted by the Conference.

**Associate Members** are the countries which do not qualify for full membership, but which are nevertheless admitted under such special conditions as may be prescribed by the Conference.

Country	Joined OPEC	Location
Algeria	1969	Africa
Angola	2007	Africa
Ecuador(**)	rejoined 2007	South America
Indonesia	1962	Asia
IR Iran*	1960	Middle East
Iraq*	1960	Middle East
Kuwait*	1960	Middle East
SP Libyan AJ	1962	Africa
Nigeria	1971	Africa
Qatar	1961	Middle East
Saudi Arabia*	1960	Middle East
United Arab Emirates	1967	Middle East
Venezuela*	1960	South America
<i>*founder Members</i>		
<i>** Ecuador joined OPEC in 1973, suspended its membership from Dec. 1992-Oct. 2007</i>		