

**MINISTERIAL DECISION
LIII / D / 571**

GAS INTEGRATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

**MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY
09/11/2023**

LIII MEETING OF MINISTERS

CONSIDERING:

THAT Article 2 of the Lima Agreement establishes that OLADE's fundamental purpose is the integration, protection, conservation, rational use, commercialization and defense of the energy resources of the Region.

THAT in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs a), b), d), e), g) and o) of Article 3 of the Lima Agreement, OLADE has among its objectives and functions, to promote the solidarity of actions among the Member Countries for the development and utilization of their resources, in the manner most adequate to their national interests; to join efforts to promote an independent development of the energy resources and capacities of the Member States; to promote an effective and rational policy for the exploitation, transformation and commercialization of the energy resources of the Member States; to promote and coordinate direct negotiations among the Member States with a view to ensuring a stable and sufficient supply of the energy necessary for their integral development; to stimulate among the Members the execution of energy projects of common interest; and, to promote among the Member States the adoption of effective measures to prevent environmental pollution in relation to the exploitation, transportation, storage and utilization of energy resources.

THAT in the Ministerial Declaration issued in the framework of the LI Meeting of Ministers of OLADE held on November 24, 2021, the Energy Ministers of the Latin American and Caribbean States valued the importance of having a coordinated regional approach to deepen the process of energy transitions and its impact on the development of energy systems with low greenhouse gas emissions that allow facing the adverse effects of Climate Change, without affecting energy supply, and appreciating the need to promote the structuring of temporary scenarios for carbon neutrality, in accordance with national priorities and availability of resources, ratified the commitment to accelerate energy transitions towards cleaner and low-carbon energy systems.

THAT in the aforementioned Ministerial Declaration, the Energy Ministers of the Latin American and Caribbean States, assuming that each country will have its own path towards the decarbonization of its energy systems in the times determined by its own national strategies, recognized that natural gas is a transition fuel that allows reducing the emissions intensity of the energy sector and is an important source as well as a viable, affordable and reliable option to accelerate the decarbonization process of some economies.

THAT the OLADE Member States are committed to achieving progress on Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, secure, sustainable and modern energy and Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on September 25, 2015.

THAT as of 2021, Latin America and the Caribbean has proven natural gas reserves of 7,999 billion cubic meters (Gm3), corresponding to 4.3% of the world's total proven reserves, and natural gas production of 229 billion cubic meters (Gm3).¹

THAT significant progress has been made in the region in terms of gas production and integration, the latter through mainly bi-national initiatives with consolidated infrastructure and fairly stable commercial activity.

THAT in December 2005, within the framework of the XXIX MERCOSUR Summit, the governments of Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela issued the Montevideo Declaration on South American gas integration and signed, among their respective energy ministers, the Memorandum of Understanding that laid the foundations to start the actions corresponding to the feasibility studies of the South American Gas Interconnection Project.

THAT in order to make progress towards higher levels of energy integration to ensure energy supply, it is necessary to join efforts to strengthen regional interconnections, the development of infrastructure and the coordination of the actions of all the entities involved.

In exercise of its powers:

DECIDES:

ARTICLE ONE: Instruct the Permanent Secretariat of OLADE to:

- a) Promote actions aimed at strengthening gas commercialization and integration among the Member States of OLADE.
- b) Provide advice and technical assistance aimed at promoting the design and implementation of harmonized policies and regulatory frameworks favorable to the achievement of progress in gas exchanges, transactions and integration.
- c) Promote the development of studies and projects for the identification and management of the barriers that affect the achievement of progress in gas integration.
- d) Provide instances and mechanisms for South-South Cooperation, technology transfer, information exchange and dissemination of best practices among the Member Countries of OLADE in the field of gas integration.
- e) Support the identification of technical and financial resources for the development of projects and initiatives related to gas integration among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

¹sieLAC 2021


ARTICLE TWO: To urge OLADE's Permanent Secretariat to promote a regional energy dialogue aimed at assessing the benefits that natural gas can contribute to the energy transition, suitable to meet the growth in energy demand worldwide, and to make proposals for the design and implementation of a road map for regional gas integration.

ARTICLE THREE: To urge the National Coordination Offices of the OLADE Member Countries to provide OLADE's Permanent Secretariat with the corresponding support in the process of implementing the mandate contained in this Ministerial Decision.

ARTICLE FOUR: To exhort OLADE's Permanent Secretariat to establish synergies with other sub-regional, regional and international instances related to gas production, commercialization and integration.



FLAVIA ROYON
Secretary of Energy
Secretariat of Energy
Ministry of Economy
Republic of Argentina



FRANKLIN MOLINA
Minister of Hydrocarbons and Energies
Plurinational State of Bolivia



ANDRES REBOLLEDO
Executive Secretary
OLADE