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THE FUTURE IS NOT PROMISED. IT IS CONNECTED.



Before dawn, on the slopes of the Ecuadorian Andes, a woman walks through the mist to gather the firewood that will light her household stove. Thousands of kilometres away, in a control centre in southern Brazil, a technical team monitors in real time as an artificial intelligence algorithm optimises the output of a wind farm. Two different scenes, two distant realities, yet connected by the same invisible thread: energy.

For decades, we have been told that Latin America and the Caribbean is a region of “enormous energy potential”. Yet potential that does not translate into infrastructure, jobs and well-being is little more than an appealing adjective. The real challenge is not simply to determine where tomorrow’s electricity will come from, but to decide what kind of society we can build with it.

The global energy map is no longer drawn by climate targets alone. Energy now shapes corporate competitiveness, national security, urban resilience and the ability to attract investment. Meeting this new reality requires moving beyond fragmented responses.

Against this backdrop, the Dominican Republic is opening its doors to host OLACDE’s 11th Energy Week, co-organised with the Ministry of Energy and Mines. Bringing this conversation to Santo Domingo allows us to consider the region’s energy future from the very heart of the Caribbean, while recognising the particular weight of its challenges and opportunities. The objective is not to accumulate speeches, but to bring together, around the same table, the authorities, businesses and institutions responsible for the sector’s most consequential decisions.

That transformation must begin by moving beyond solutions designed behind a desk. The energy transition cannot be conceived for new generations without being built with them. That is why the academic event Connecting Minds, Energising the Future and the 2nd Youth Meeting will connect university research with high-level decision-making.

At the political and technical heart of this effort is OLACDE’s 56th Meeting of Ministers, where the region’s highest energy authorities will confront an uncomfortable truth: regional integration is not built with transmission lines or gas pipelines alone. It also requires the technical and political commitment of 27 Member Countries, clear rules and common criteria capable of turning national ambitions into shared financing and infrastructure. But governments cannot move forward alone. In a strategic high-level forum, the 4th Public-Private Dialogue of OLACDE’s Business Council will bring regulatory certainty face to face with the financing required to turn ambitious goals for energy storage, smart grids and hydrocarbons into viable, bankable projects. Meanwhile, the 2026 OLACDE Energy Excellence Awards will serve as a reminder that the transition is not an abstract promise for tomorrow, but a series of tangible solutions already transforming lives across the region.

From grid optimisation to community development, the Caribbean will bring together political resolve, technical precision and financial certainty. The challenge for Latin America and the Caribbean is no longer to proclaim its potential, but to connect that potential with the realities of its people. That is the commitment of this Energy Week.

HONDURAS AND OLACDE CHART A ROADMAP TO STRENGTHEN ENERGY SECURITY AND ACCELERATE REGIONAL INTEGRATION



Honduras and OLACDE chart a roadmap to strengthen energy security and accelerate regional integration

Honduras and the Latin American and Caribbean Energy Organization (OLACDE) have strengthened their strategic cooperation through a roadmap aimed at advancing energy planning, promoting regional integration, and reinforcing the country's energy security in an increasingly challenging global environment.

During an official meeting, President of Honduras Nasry Asfura and OLACDE Executive Secretary Andrés Rebolledo agreed on a joint agenda focused on national energy planning, regional energy market integration, the electrification of the economy, and the development of human capital through OLACDE's regional training and capacity-building programs across Latin America and the Caribbean.

As part of this agenda, OLACDE will provide technical assistance for the development of Honduras' first National Energy Policy, a milestone that will provide the country, for the first time, with a long-term strategic framework to guide the development of its energy sector. Following the official exchange of diplomatic notes, both parties launched the policy development process and initiated efforts to secure support for its implementation. The initiative is backed by the European Union through GET.transform.

The policy will be developed through a participatory process involving nationwide assessments and consultations, structured around 16 thematic pillars covering hydrocarbons, natural gas, renewable energy, electric mobility, governance, and social responsibility. Its objective is to establish a comprehensive roadmap that aligns the country's energy sector around a shared vision, positioning it as a driver of sustainable, competitive, and inclusive development.

The agreement comes at a time of growing uncertainty in the global energy landscape, characterized by market volatility, rising electricity demand, increasing competition for critical minerals and emerging technologies, and the need to build more resilient energy systems. Against this backdrop, Honduras and OLACDE reaffirmed that long-term energy planning and regional cooperation are essential to strengthening energy security, attracting investment, and enhancing the country's competitiveness.

Energy Integration: The Region's Greatest Challenge

Regional energy integration was one of the central themes of the meeting. Honduras and OLACDE agreed that strengthening interconnection among countries will enable more efficient use of available energy resources, complement electricity generation capacities, improve the reliability of power systems, and expand access to secure, competitive, and sustainable energy for all citizens across Latin America and the Caribbean.

Electrification is a key instrument for achieving this objective. Latin America and the Caribbean hold a unique strategic advantage: nearly 70% of the region's electricity generation comes from renewable sources, making it home to one of the cleanest power matrices in the world. Leveraging this potential through greater regional integration will optimize existing infrastructure, facilitate the incorporation of additional renewable energy sources, enhance the efficiency of electricity systems, and ensure a more reliable and affordable energy supply across the region.

Building the Workforce to Lead the Energy Transition

As part of his official visit, OLACDE Executive Secretary Andrés Rebolledo met with authorities from the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) to strengthen academic cooperation and expand regional education and training programs designed to prepare the skilled workforce required for the energy transition. During the visit, the delegation also toured the university's Renewable Energy Laboratory, where they learned about its technical and research capabilities supporting the education of future energy professionals.

This activity was carried out within the framework of the ETRELA Project, funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUKN) and implemented by a consortium comprising OLACDE, the Renewables Academy (RENAC), Global Factor, and the universities participating in the project.

Through its CAPEVLAC initiative, OLACDE has become one of the leading centers for specialized energy training in Latin America and the Caribbean. Every year, thousands of professionals from governments, companies, universities, and public institutions strengthen their expertise through courses, diploma programs, master's degrees, and executive education programs in areas including energy planning, regional integration, artificial intelligence applied to the energy sector, energy transition, gender and energy, energy efficiency, hydrogen, energy storage, regulation, geopolitics, and electric mobility.

A Shared Vision for the Region's Energy Future

The official visit reaffirmed the shared commitment of Honduras and OLACDE to advancing an energy model based on cooperation, regional integration, and long-term planning. With abundant renewable resources, one of the cleanest electricity matrices in the world, and growing potential to develop new value chains in sectors such as hydrogen, biofuels, and energy storage, Latin America and the Caribbean are well positioned to become one of the world's leading energy hubs of the 21st century.

The meeting between President Nasry Asfura and Executive Secretary Andrés Rebolledo reinforces Honduras' commitment to regional energy integration and lays the foundation for a long-term cooperation agenda aimed at strengthening energy security, enhancing competitiveness, and promoting sustainable development in both Honduras and across Latin America and the Caribbean.

BOLIVIA LAUNCHES WOMEN IN ENERGY ASSOCIATION TO BOOST FEMALE LEADERSHIP IN THE ENERGY SECTOR



Bolivia has officially announced the establishment of the Bolivian Association of Women in Energy (AMEB), a national initiative designed to strengthen women's leadership, advance gender equality, and foster greater participation of women in the transformation of the energy sector. The initiative is the result of a process launched in 2025 that brought together more than 250 women from all nine departments of the country, representing the public and private sectors, academia, civil society, and international cooperation organizations.

The launch took place during a series of sessions dedicated to strengthening AMEB's institutional capacity, held from August 13 to 15 in La Paz. The event was supported by the Ministry of Hydrocarbons and Energy, as well as by the ProTransición program, implemented by German Cooperation through GIZ and co-financed by the European Union. The agenda focused on strengthening the association's organizational and leadership capacities, developing operational plans for each committee, and advancing the institutional consolidation of the newly established organization.

During the event, Gloria Alvarenga, Director of Energy Integration, Access and Security at OLACDE, delivered a presentation entitled "Latin American and Caribbean Network of Women in Energy – RedLACME: Towards Regional Integration with a Gender Perspective." In her remarks, she emphasized that women's networks do not replace public policies or private-sector decision-making, but they provide an essential platform for creating opportunities, increasing visibility, fostering mentorship, and coordinating collective efforts. These networks enable younger generations to find role models; help women professionals access greater opportunities for career development; connect researchers and specialists with decision-makers; and allow national organizations to share their experiences and contribute to shaping a regional transformation agenda.

Building on this vision, OLACDE is advancing a regional gender and energy agenda, backed by the mandate of its Member Countries, aimed at integrating a gender perspective into energy-sector planning and decision-making. This work is carried out through technical assistance, evidence generation, capacity building, and support for initiatives designed to close gender gaps and expand opportunities for women and girls to participate and take on leadership roles across the energy sector.

ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA AND BRAZIL STEP UP COORDINATION TO EXPAND REGIONAL GAS TRADE



The Latin American and Caribbean Energy Organization (OLACDE) brought together representatives from Argentina, Bolivia and Brazil to advance coordination on the conditions needed to expand natural gas trade among the three countries during the upcoming spring–summer period.

The meeting built on work launched in 2025 to facilitate the transit of Argentine gas to the Brazilian market through Bolivia. One of the main issues discussed was the differences between the transportation products available in the three countries, particularly the terms governing interruptible transportation and the costs these asymmetries can generate across the value chain. Participants also addressed tariffs and contracting conditions, the coordination of operational schedules and gas quality requirements.

Participants included representatives from Argentina’s National Gas and Electricity Regulatory Authority, Transportadora de Gas del Norte (TGN); Bolivia’s Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales Bolivianos (YPFB), YPFB Transporte, the Ministry of Hydrocarbons and Energy and the National Hydrocarbons Agency (ANH); as well as Brazil’s National Agency of Petroleum, Natural Gas and Biofuels (ANP), the Ministry of Mines and Energy and Transportadora Brasileira Gasoduto Bolívia-Brasil (TBG).

Producers and traders operating across different segments of the gas value chain also took part.

During the meeting, participants agreed that the upcoming spring–summer season presents an opportunity to increase regional gas flows. Argentina said scheduled maintenance is expected to have less impact on transportation capacity than in the previous year and highlighted regulatory and tariff changes introduced in 2026. Producers and traders also pointed to growing interest in Argentine gas from the Brazilian market and stressed the need to develop transportation products and conditions that reflect the interruptible nature of Argentine exports, reduce additional costs and provide greater operational flexibility.

Bolivia said it is working on alternatives to provide greater flexibility for gas transit, including a service designed to respond to potential supply disruptions from Argentina, while also reviewing its regulatory framework and tariff structure. Brazil, meanwhile, is reviewing the regulation and tariffs governing its gas transportation system amid increasing market openness and competition.

“We still have challenges to address in three major areas: technical issues, operational aspects and tariff conditions. Advancing this optimization agenda can lead to better prices, greater competitiveness, increased investment and stronger intraregional trade, while helping replace imports from outside the region and strengthening energy security,” said Guido Maiulini, Head of Strategic Advisory at OLACDE.

Coordination is particularly important given the outlook for the coming months. During the spring–summer season, priority demand for natural gas in Argentina declines, increasing the availability of exportable volumes through the country’s northern pipeline system. Forecasts of a strong El Niño could further extend that window: while it could improve hydrological conditions in the Paraná and Uruguay river basins, it could reduce hydropower availability in northern Brazil and the Amazon basin, potentially increasing demand for thermal power generation and natural gas.

The meeting is part of OLACDE’s ongoing work with MERCOSUR countries and Chile to deepen regional gas integration. Building on the challenges identified, authorities, regulators and industry stakeholders will continue coordinating efforts to gradually move beyond seasonal exchanges toward conditions that enable a more fluid, competitive and sustained regional gas market.

BOLIVIA LAUNCHES USEFUL ENERGY BALANCE TO BOOST ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND GUIDE ENERGY POLICY



Bolivia has entered a new phase in its energy strategy with the launch of the Useful Energy Balance (BEU, by its Spanish acronym). The project aims not only to quantify national energy consumption, but also to assess how much energy is effectively used by households, industries, businesses and the transport sector. The initiative is supported by the Ministry of Hydrocarbons and Energy, the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), the European Union's EUROCLIMA programme, and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).

Unlike a conventional energy balance—which measures energy supply and overall consumption—the BEU examines the share of energy that is effectively converted into end-use services such as lighting, heating, cooling and mobility. This approach marks an important milestone in the country's energy planning: understanding how much energy is consumed is no longer enough; it is also essential to determine how it is used and how efficiently. By identifying energy losses and technological gaps, the data collected will provide a basis for designing public policies on energy efficiency, economic diversification, emissions reduction and energy security.

The BEU will make it possible to accurately identify the sectors with the greatest potential for efficiency improvements, helping prioritize investments and accelerate the adoption of new technologies. The project also incorporates sustainability, territorial equity and gender considerations to ensure that differences in energy access and use across Bolivia are adequately reflected.

The inaugural workshop was held at the facilities of Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales Bolivianos (YPFB) in La Paz. Participants included Jorge Luis Gumucio, Vice Minister of Energy Planning and Development; Andrés Rebolledo, Executive Secretary of OLADE; as well as representatives from the public and private sectors, academia and international cooperation organizations. During the workshop, participants defined the study's methodology, implementation timeline and data requirements.

Through the development of the Useful Energy Balance, Bolivia is taking a significant step toward a more competitive and sustainable energy system, ensuring that evidence on actual energy efficiency helps guide the country's strategic decisions and investments.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN STRENGTHEN ENERGY PLANNING THROUGH ADVANCED MODELLING AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



The headquarters of the Latin American and Caribbean Energy Organization (OLACDE) is hosting the Regional Training Course on Land, Energy and Climate Supply Modelling – MESSAGE from Monday, August 24, through Wednesday, August 26. The course is organized by Ecuador's Ministry of Environment and Energy, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and OLACDE. The 4th Meeting of OLACDE's Regional Energy Planning Council is also taking place during these days.

The event brings together representatives and specialists from countries across Latin America and the Caribbean, along with experts from international organizations, to exchange experiences and strengthen the technical capacities needed to anticipate scenarios, assess resources and improve long-term decision-making across the region's energy systems. The sessions address the regional energy planning landscape and its current status, alongside national experiences and progress in energy supply studies. Delegations will present their main advances and existing gaps, contributing to a shared assessment of the challenges facing regional energy planning.

At the opening session, Javier Medina, Acting Minister of Environment and Energy of Ecuador, underscored the importance of strengthening planning as a tool for sound decision-making: "Better planning leads to better decisions. Integrating climate, water, land and energy into our analyses will enable us to build more climate-resilient planning, strengthen energy security and make long-term decisions that deliver tangible benefits for our countries."

For his part, Facundo Deluchi, Programme Manager for Latin America at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), noted that the region has well-established technical capabilities and human resources in energy planning. "The challenge is to make better use of these capacities, strengthen regional cooperation and ensure that this knowledge has a tangible impact on public policy and on our ability to respond to the region's energy challenges."

Andrés Rebolledo, Executive Secretary of OLACDE, also emphasized the need to strengthen a long-term vision: "Energy planning is now a strategic priority for Latin America and the Caribbean. In a context marked by rapid technological change, climate challenges and the growing integration of renewable energy, we need a vision that transcends political cycles and helps guide the economic, social and energy development of our countries."

One of the workshop's main technical areas is the CLEW methodology — Climate, Land, Energy and Water — and the MESSAGE tool, which enable an integrated analysis of the interactions between energy, climate, land and water. The programme explores the relationships between the use of these resources and energy systems, as well as modelling tools designed to support public policy and long-term planning decisions.

The agenda also includes artificial intelligence applied to energy planning, as well as international cooperation and financing to strengthen these processes. The technical programme includes a session of the Regional Energy Planning Council (CRPE) and the Regional Community of Practice, focused on advancing towards a medium-term regional energy planning agenda.

Following the training sessions, activities will continue on Thursday, August 27, and Friday, August 28, with participation in the Andean Forum on Regional Energy Integration of the Andean Community, linking the course's technical work with a broader agenda for regional energy cooperation and integration.