

**MINISTERIAL DECISION
LVI /D /589**

CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN THE ENERGY SECTOR

**SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
9/10/2026**

THE LVI MEETING OF MINISTERS

CONSIDERING:

THAT pursuant to what is established in Article 3, paragraph o) of the Lima Agreement, one of the objectives and functions of OLACDE is to promote among the Member States the adoption of effective measures to prevent environmental pollution from the exploitation, transportation, storage and use of energy resources within the Region.

THAT by virtue of the provisions of paragraph c) of Article 10 of the Lima Agreement, the Meeting of Ministers has among its powers to approve the Working Program of the Organization and evaluate its results.

THAT the Member States of OLACDE are committed to the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular to the objectives related to responsible production and consumption, climate action and access to affordable, safe and sustainable energy.

THAT the current Triennial Management Plan 2026-2029 of the Executive Secretariat of OLACDE, in its strategic pillar No. 5: "Energy Transitions, New Technologies and Innovation", in specific objective 4 it is proposed to develop institutional and technical capacities in the member countries for the formulation, regulation and implementation of modern energy policies.

THAT, in the current regional scenario characterized by the achievement of advances in energy transitions, new technologies and innovation, national energy policy and planning instruments require the incorporation of circular economy principles in renewable energy value chains, in order to promote sustainable models of energy production and consumption.

THAT in the context of the accelerated development and implementation of technologies associated with the energy transition, such as photovoltaic panels and electric energy storage batteries, some countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are reaching the end of the first life cycle of this equipment, which implies new challenges and opportunities in terms of waste management, reuse, reconditioning and recycling.

THAT the quantities of materials contained in the technological devices involved in the LAC energy transition, such as photovoltaic panels, lithium-ion batteries and wind turbines, among others, will increase rapidly over the next 25 years, with projections of reaching more than 83.5 million tons by 2050: of which approximately 35.5 million tons would be steel (64% of the current total production in LAC), 3.7 million tons would be copper (44% of the current production of copper in LAC) and 7 million tons would be aluminum, a value greater than three times the current production of this metal in LAC.¹

¹ Data generated by the Directorate of Studies, Projects and Information of OLACDE

THAT the application of the circular economy in the energy sector must encompass the entire sector, including the hydrocarbon and petrochemical industry through the valorization of effluents and industrial waste, the reuse of gas otherwise flared, the capture and use of CO₂ for the production of petrochemicals and the recovery of metals in industrial effluent streams, among other activities, in order to maximize the use of resources and reduce environmental impacts throughout the energy system.

THAT the adoption of circular economy approaches in the energy sector makes it possible to optimize the use of resources, extend the useful life of equipment, devices and infrastructures, improve the efficiency of energy systems, reduce environmental impacts and generate new value chains associated with the reuse of components and the valorization of by-products and industrial effluents.

THAT to face the challenges linked to the implementation of circular economy strategies in the energy sector, OLACDE's advice and technical assistance can provide functional tools for the undertaking of effective actions aimed at enhancing the use of resources, and minimizing waste and its environmental impacts during the life cycle of the technologies associated with the energy transition, as well as in the optimization of the production processes of the fossil fuel sector.

In exercise of its powers:

DECIDES:

ARTICLE ONE: INSTRUCT the Permanent Secretariat of OLACDE to carry out a regional diagnosis on the state of implementation of the circular economy in the energy sector, with emphasis on renewable energy technologies, including the life cycle of solar panels, wind turbines, the reuse and recycling of electricity storage batteries and electric vehicle batteries, also incorporating the identification of opportunities for the valorization of effluents and industrial waste, the use of gas otherwise flared and CO₂ capture and use applications across all value chains, identifying advances, gaps, barriers and opportunities in Member States.

ARTICLE TWO: INSTRUCT OLACDE to provide technical assistance and advice in the development of regional guidelines and good practices for the sustainable management of the life cycle of all energy technologies, including the design of strategies and programs for recycling, the reuse of components, the dismantling and scrapping of electric vehicles, the valorization of effluent and waste streams in the energy industry and the environmental management of technological waste associated with energy transitions.

ARTICLE THREE: URGE the Permanent Secretariat of OLACDE to support its Member States in the design and implementation of studies, projects, South-South Cooperation mechanisms, technical standards, regulatory and normative frameworks, public policies and planning instruments that promote the circular economy in the entire energy sector, including incentives for the reuse of batteries for storage and electric mobility, the recycling of solar panels and electric vehicle batteries, as well as schemes for the reuse of gas otherwise flared, the use of CO₂ in petrochemicals, and the recovery of metals in industrial effluents, among others.

ARTICLE FOUR: REQUEST the Permanent Secretariat of OLACDE to promote the development and improvement of technical capacities and the transfer of technology in the field of reconditioning, recycling and second life of energy technologies, with special emphasis on electric vehicle batteries, as well as solutions for the capture and use of CO₂, including the valorization of effluents throughout the entire sector, in coordination with academia and

businesses through the design and implementation of the corresponding education and training programs.

ARTICLE FIVE: INSTRUCT the Permanent Secretariat of OLACDE to support the design and implementation of pilot projects at the national and subregional levels aimed at the reuse of materials and components derived from the energy sector, with emphasis on those derived from energy transition processes toward sustainable energy sources, including the recycling of storage batteries and electric vehicle batteries, as well as orderly vehicle dismantling, the comprehensive management of solar panels at the end of their useful life, and the valorization of effluents, reuse of gas otherwise flared and recovery of resources in the energy industry, prioritizing solutions adapted to the different realities that coexist at the regional level in Latin America and the Caribbean.

ARTICLE SIX: INSTRUCT the Permanent Secretariat of OLACDE to develop indicators and information systems that allow monitoring the flow of materials, useful life of the equipment, the volume of valorized effluents, by-products and emissions and the degree of circularity in the energy sector of Latin America and the Caribbean.

ARTICLE SEVEN: INSTRUCT the Permanent Secretariat of OLACDE to strengthen regional and international cooperation, including partnerships with multilateral organizations, the private sector and research centers, to mobilize technical and financial resources for the implementation of this Decision.

ARTICLE EIGHT: URGE the National Coordinations of the Member Countries to provide the necessary support for the implementation of the actions contained in this Ministerial Decision.



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