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PRESENTATION ON THE RESULTS OF THE SIXTH MINISTERIAL MEETING  
OF THE ENERGY AND CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP OF THE AMERICAS  
BY ITS CHAIR, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

*(Alfonso Rodríguez, Vice Minister of Energy Saving and Efficiency)*

Good morning, honorable ambassadors, representatives of diplomatic missions, and officials of the Organization of American States (OAS). It is an honor to address you this morning as part of the working team on the delegation of the Dominican Republic, led by the honorable Vice Minister Rubén Silié. This morning I have been given the opportunity to represent the Ministry of Energy and Mines of the Dominican Republic, and our Minister, Antonio Almonte, to present the results of the Sixth Meeting of Energy Ministers of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA), held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on March 14 and 15, 2024.

During the Ninth Summit of the Americas held in Los Angeles in June 2022, the Heads of State and Government of the OAS member states emphasized the need for an agile, dynamic Americas-wide clean energy transition. I had the great honor during the pre-Summit meetings to co-chair with the United States delegation the negotiations between delegations that devised an historic commitment on the clean energy transition, which our political leaders adopted with great conviction.

In line with that commitment, the ECPA has established itself as a unique platform to assess the progress of our countries in clean-energy deployment in our region.

The Sixth Ministerial Meeting of the ECPA in Punta Cana reaffirmed the commitments of our leaders towards a renewable, green, and clean energy future. For two days, energy ministers met to discuss different strategies for the transition to clean energy in the Americas.

More than 700 participants from 28 different registered countries joined us at that meeting, convened under the theme “Renewable Energy in the Americas: Integration and Innovation.” Over 14 thematic meetings led by different agencies, and five plenary sessions of ministers and national energy authorities, we explored key issues, such as hydrogen financing, the methane agenda, decarbonization of maritime transport, strengthening electricity infrastructure against natural hazards. And for the first time at an ECPA ministerial we were honored by the participation of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which held a meeting on small modular nuclear reactors.

The inaugural session was presided over by the Vice President of the Dominican Republic, Her Excellency Raquel Peña, who chairs our country's Electricity Sector Cabinet. During her speech, she highlighted our efforts in the construction of solar and wind energy infrastructure, as well as our commitment to natural gas as a transition fuel. She noted that the Dominican Republic was the Caribbean country that has most transformed its energy mix in the last three years, with the integration of more than 800 MW of renewable energy, with another 800 MW under construction, which will enable the Dominican Republic to meet the goal established in its Energy Compact of reaching 25-percent renewables share in its energy mix by 2025.

During the opening session at that meeting, the Minister of Energy and Mines of the Dominican Republic, Antonio Almonte, reminded the energy leaders of the Western Hemisphere that we are living through a technological revolution in the energy sector. Minister Almonte stressed the need for comprehensive policies that take into account possible negative effects of the energy transition on the most vulnerable and emphasized the crucial importance of a fair and equitable transition in which no one is left behind.

We also had words from our Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Roberto Álvarez, who emphasized the geopolitical importance of energy and its connection with diplomacy. He also stressed that the transition to renewable energies represents not only a climate necessity, but also an economic opportunity to reduce socioeconomic gaps in our nations.

In the course of the other sessions and bilateral meetings, we noted with satisfaction how regional collaboration helps to strengthen our economies, generate employment, and improve quality of life for people, creating a foundation of political stability in countries moving comprehensively along the energy transition path. The exchanges demonstrated that countries are committed to this new energy transition paradigm and that the delegations of the countries gathered were aware of its profound impact on the economic, political, and social development model.

OAS representatives, including, in particular, the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights (SRESCER) of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR); the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) showed their unconditional support for our progress towards an efficient, equitable energy transition.

The public-private dialogue for a just and inclusive energy transition in the Americas facilitated by the Americas Business Dialogue (ABD) during the ministerial plenary shed light on key collaborative efforts between the public and private sectors. Leading companies such as AES Corporation, Wärtsilä, and CMI Capital shared the private sector's perspective on how to accelerate the integration of clean technologies into the region's energy mix. Private stakeholders stressed the importance of adopting policies that favor reliable and sustainable energy systems. In line with that need, they shared with government authorities strategies to overcome the obstacles to a responsible energy transition.

Companies also highlighted the need for harmonized standards and technical coordination to promote effective regional collaboration to develop cost-effective, scalable energy solutions. The

exchanges between governments and companies reaffirmed the joint commitment of the public and private sectors to move towards an efficient, equitable, and inclusive energy transition for all sectors of society in the Americas.

During the ministerial meetings, the energy ministers of the Dominican Republic, Chile, and Panama signed three bilateral cooperation agreements for sharing experiences and best practices in areas of common interest of just energy transition, universal access to energy, energy efficiency, decarbonization, digitalization, sustainable mobility, and distributed generation. The three Latin American nations also pledged to collaborate on maritime transport and logistics related to the sector and on the development of technologies and research applied to new energy markets. The bilateral cooperation agreements reflect the willingness of the Dominican Republic, Chile, and Panama to promote investment opportunities, economic incentives, and enabling measures for the creation and consolidation of the value chain for green hydrogen and derivatives, especially in the areas of infrastructure and transportation.

These were the main results of the Sixth Meeting of Energy Ministers of the ECPA held in Punta Cana.

I would like to emphasize that the ECPA has become an exceptional platform for advancing energy diplomacy in the Americas. The ECPA serves to reaffirm our collective commitment to a win-win energy transition.

We trust that the OAS General Secretariat, in preparation for the Tenth Summit of the Americas to be held in my beloved country, the Dominican Republic, in 2025, will continue to support this multilateral platform that fosters dialogue on energy governance and promotes exchanges of best practice in the electricity industry.

I would like to leave you with the following message: clean energy is not only an unparalleled vehicle for political and economic integration, but also a sure way to consolidate and advance democratic systems, given the different aspects it involves.

Thank you all for your attention.