



**Energy and Climate**  
Partnership of the Americas

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## **Promoting low carbon development** 2016

Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas





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# 01 Preface

This publication presents an overview of the main achievements of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) since it was founded in 2009. This hemispheric mechanism is helping governments in the region to promote energy security and address the impact of climate change through a number of initiatives tailored to each country's needs. Through ECPA, the nations of the Americas are learning from each other, sharing technology, fostering investment, and maximizing comparative advantages in order to build more sustainable and resilient communities.

As a flexible multilateral mechanism, ECPA facilitates dialogue and diplomacy on energy and climate matters in

the Hemisphere. Governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector contribute technical and financial resources for the implementation of initiatives relating to energy efficiency, renewable energy, cleaner and more efficient use of fossil fuels, energy infrastructure and energy poverty, sustainable forestry and land use, and adaptation.

This publication covers the work that came about thanks to the commitment of governments and partners in several countries and sectors. The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) is thankful to the Permanent Mission of the United States to the OAS for its support, and to ECPA's National

Focal Points, pillar coordinators, international experts and Steering Committee who have helped build and strengthen this hemispheric effort.

The leadership shown by the Government of Mexico in organizing the Second Ministerial Meeting of ECPA laid the foundations for the reactivation of this mechanism for cooperation and for enriching the sharing of experiences regarding energy and climate within the ECPA framework. As ECPA's Technical Coordination Unit, the OAS General Secretariat will lend support to the Government of Chile in organizing the third ministerial meeting of ECPA, to be held in Santiago in 2017.



## 02 Introduction

Economic growth in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean is driving an rise in the demand for energy, which is expected to rise by 20% by the end of the decade. With respect to electricity generation, although the region's matrix is one of least polluting in the world, the non-renewable resources portion of the energy mix is steadily increasing. That shift poses considerable challenges from a climate change perspective. Indeed, unless current trends in the energy generation market change, greenhouse gas emissions will increase by 60% by 2050. The need to guarantee safe and stable access to energy in order to fuel the region's social and economic growth coincides with environmental challenges and climate change, both of which require a scenario in which greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.

Governments need to foster strategies for the development and sustainable use of energy that favor diversification of the energy mix, with a view to guaranteeing stable and universal access to less polluting sources of energy. ECPA promotes development with low gas emissions in the Americas through:

**Political dialogue at the hemispheric level regarding energy and climate**

**Exchanges of knowledge and best practices and the transfer of the technology needed to promote energy sustainability**





**The convening of key actors from different sectors in order to establish strategic partnerships for confronting the challenges posed by climate change**

**Technical assistance on energy and climate matters**

**Regional energy integration**

**Strengthening institutional capacity to negotiate and deploy new renewable energy projects**

## 03 About ECPA

At the April 2009 Summit of the Americas in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, leaders of the Western Hemisphere underscored that energy and climate change are among the most important issues confronting our future and they reaffirmed their commitment to work together towards a clean energy. Responding to those shared challenges, the President of the United States, Barack Obama, invited all governments in the Western Hemisphere to join ECPA.

President Obama said that “our Hemisphere has bountiful natural resources that could make renewable energy plentiful and sustainable, while creating jobs for our people.” An Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas, he added, “will help us learn from one another, share technologies, leverage investment, and maximize our comparative advantage.”



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Initially, President Obama suggested that ECPA focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy, cleaner and more efficient use of fossil fuels, energy poverty and energy infrastructure. The scope of ECPA's remit was expanded in April 2010, when the former U.S. Secretary of Energy, Steven Chu, invited the Ministers of Energy of the Western Hemisphere to the First Ministerial Meeting on

Energy and Climate of ECPA. That Ministerial Meeting underscored the progress made by the Partnership, announced new association arrangements, and facilitated the development of new initiatives among governments, institutions, industry, and civil society.

At the Ministerial the former U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton, proposed that the scope of ECPA be expanded to include sustainable forestry and land use, as well as adaptation to climate change.



## 04 Steering Committee

At the Second Ministerial Meeting of ECPA, held in Mérida, Mexico, in May 2015, the authorities stressed the need to boost operational aspects of the Partnership. To that end, they established a Steering Committee to guide ECPA's activities. That collegiate body furnishes governments with an appropriate forum in which they can play a leadership role, foster actions by both the public and private sectors, and identify the resources needed to implement initiatives. The Steering Committee receives technical support from the ECPA Coordinating Unit, which is run by the OAS Department of Sustainable Development.

The principal functions of the Steering Committee are to advance ECPA activities with the support of the Coordinating Unit, promote political dialogue, foster the exchange of best practices, contribute to capacity-building, and facilitate regional coordination and diplomacy on matters relating to energy and climate.

**Chile**  
**Dominican Republic**  
**Jamaica**  
**Mexico**  
**Trinidad and Tobago**  
**United States**



Steering Committee



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## ECPA Technical Coordinating Unit

The General Secretariat of the OAS, through its Department of Sustainable Development (DSD), has been running the ECPA Technical Coordinating Unit since 2009. In June of this year, officials responsible for adopting policies in several countries of the region met during the Energy and Climate Symposium in Lima, Peru to discuss areas of cooperation on key areas related to energy and climate change. The symposium advanced the dialogue begun two months earlier in Port-of-Spain and helped pinpoint concrete steps toward cooperation. It addressed the need to establish a mechanism to facilitate dialogue and foster and disseminate activities. Governments welcomed this coordinating unit headed by the OAS through its Department of Sustainable Development.

The ECPA Technical Coordinating Unit is responsible for communications and for publicizing the activities of the ECPA partners. Among other tasks, it provides administrative assistance to the Steering Committee, publishes a monthly newsletter, facilitates participation by associated institutions, organizes public debates, regional workshops and technical exchange arrangements, maintains the ECPA website, and plays an active part in social networks.

Like the ECPA itself, the coordinating unit is a simple and flexible - not a rigidly constructed - mechanism to advance the establishment of partnerships and open dialogue on energy and climate.





“

**“We want an OAS that contributes to empowering our hemisphere at the global level, thus showing that the Americas is, in fact, part of the solution to global problems, from climate change to religious intolerance or the food crisis.  
Luis Almagro Lemes, OAS Secretary General**

## 2009

*APRIL*

### **Fifth Summit of the Americas**

*Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago*

- President Obama invites the nations of the Western Hemisphere to join ECPA.

*JUNE*

### **The Americas Energy and Climate Symposium**

*Lima, Peru*

- The OAS is appointed as the ECPA Coordinating Unit.
- The United States Government announces the Low Carbon

Communities Program to expedite the development of energy efficiency and renewable energy programs that reduce the urban carbon imprint.

- Peru announces the establishment of a Regional Energy Efficiency Center.
- Mexico announces the establishment of the Regional Wind Energy Center.

## 2010

*APRIL*

### **First ECPA Ministerial**

*Washington DC, Organization of American States and the Inter-American Development Bank*

- Former U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton, proposes expanding the scope of the Partnership to include initiatives involving sustainable forestry

and land use, as well as adaptation to climate change.

- Canada's Minister of Natural Resources, Christian Paradis, announces the establishment of the Heavy Oil Working Group.

## 2012

*MARCH*

### **Sixth Summit of the Americas**

*Cartagena, Colombia*

- Colombia and the United States announce the 2022 Connecting the Americas Initiative, which aims to ensure that by the next decade everyone in the Western Hemisphere has access to affordable electricity.

*APRIL*

### **Third Meeting of the Heavy Oil Working Group**

*Mexico City, México*

- This working group brought together regional partners of the Americas to analyze areas of mutual interest, such as environmental and political considerations relating to the

development of heavy oil.

*SEPTEMBER*

### **United States and Colombia representatives meet during the framework of the 67th United Nations General Assembly to advance Connecting the Americas (Connect 2022)**

*New York City, New York*

- The U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, María Ángela Holguín, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, and the Organization of American States meet to promote the 2022 Connecting the Americas Initiative.

## 2011

*MARCH*

### **First Meeting of the Heavy Oil Working Group**

*Alberta, Canada*

- The meeting made it possible to maintain an informative discussion, from a hemispheric perspective, regarding areas of joint interest with respect to heavy oil.
- Participants in the meeting included representatives of Colombia, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States, and Canada.

*APRIL*

### **Regional Critical Energy Issues**

### **Dialogue & ECPA Meeting**

*Panama City, Panama*

- México reafirma su interés en - Mexico reaffirms its interest in playing the lead role in the energy efficiency pillar.

*AUGUST*

### **Second Meeting of the Heavy Oil Working Group**

*Bogota, Colombia*

- Delegates from Colombia, Mexico, Canada and the United States suggested the creation of a common database of pilot projects (past and present).

## 2013

JUNE

### **Connect 2022 Ministerial IDB Headquarters, Washington DC**

- Government representatives of the member countries of the Central American Electrical Interconnection System – SIEPAC meet in the Inter-American Development Bank to sign a Plan of Action for consolidating the Regional Electricity Market.

## 2014

MAY

### **First Preparatory ECPA Ministerial Meeting in the Fringes of the International Renewable Energy Forum**

*Mayan Riviera, Quintana Roo,  
Mexico*

- The governments review progress made in the seven pillars of ECPA since the last ministerial meeting and recognize the importance of the mechanism for exchanges and dialogue among the countries on energy and climate-related matters.

OCTOBER

### **Second Preparatory ECPA Ministerial Meeting**

*Miami, Florida, United States*

- Topics addressed include energy security, diversification of the matrix, the stability of energy costs, and financing.

### **Third Preparatory ECPA Ministerial Meeting**

*Montevideo, Uruguay*

- A working group is established comprising governments, civil society, and academic institutions focusing on promoting a

sustainable energy sector.

NOVEMBER

### **Connect 2022 Investment Summit / Fourth ECPA Preparatory Ministerial Meeting**

*Guatemala City, Guatemala*

- Also addressed is the need to establish a subregional agenda and the importance of involving civil society and the private sector in the development of that agenda.

- Participants stress the importance of investment and sustainability in the energy sector.

## 2015

MAY

### **Second Ministerial Meeting**

*Merida, Yucatan, Mexico*

- A Steering Committee is established comprising Chile, United States, Jamaica, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and Trinidad and Tobago.
- Chile offers to host the ECPA Ministerial Meeting in 2017.
- It is agreed to develop an ECPA Action Plan.

AUGUST

### **First Meeting of Steering Committee**

*Santiago, Chile*

SEPTEMBER

### **Fourth Meeting of the Heavy Oil Working Group**

*Bogota, Colombia*

- This meeting provided an opportunity to lend continuity to a network of collaboration and achieve a better grasp of heavy oil potential in the region.

## 2016

FEBRUARY

### **Third Ministerial Meeting: Preparatory Process**

- The Executive Committee embarks on the formulation of an Action Plan in preparation for the ECPA Ministerial Meeting in Chile in 2017.

MAY

### **Water-Energy Nexus Regional Dialogue**

*Panama city, Panama*

## 2017

### **Third Ministerial Meeting**

*Santiago, Chile*



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# Seven Pillars for a sustainable Americas

The initial purpose and structure of the ECPA were established at the Symposium on Energy and Climate in the Americas, held in Lima, Peru, in June 2009, co-sponsored by the Governments of the United States and Peru and the Institute of the Americas.

The participants acknowledged the enormous potential for expediting the use of clean energy in the Americas. They spotted opportunities for participation under the ECPA umbrella and they stressed that initiatives had to come up with tangible results and promote best practices with respect to policies and the ability to design, evaluate, and implement clean and environmentally sustainable energy policies and projects.

The initiatives address the following areas:



## Renewable energy:

Accelerate clean energy deployment via project support, policy dialogues, scientific collaboration, and the clean energy technology network.



## Energy efficiency:

Promote best policy practices through assistance in developing building codes and other standards in the industrial and residential sectors, as well as training for energy audits.



## Cleaner and More Efficient Use of Fossil Fuels:

Promote clean energy technologies to reduce both conventional pollution and the carbon footprint of fossil fuels, as well as best practices on land use management.





### **Energy infrastructure:**

Foster modernized, integrated, and more resilient energy infrastructure, particularly electrical grids and gas pipelines.



### **Sustainable Forests and Land Use:**

Reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and enhance carbon sequestration in the land use sector, including through the conservation and sustainable management of forests.



### **Energy poverty:**

Target urban and rural energy poverty with strategies to promote sustainable urban development and improve access to modern clean energy services and appropriate technologies in rural areas that can improve public health and reduce fuel wood use, thereby benefiting forest management.



### **Adaptation:**

Assist vulnerable countries and communities with strategies to understand and reduce their vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change.

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## Areas of action

Ever since it was established, the ECPA Coordinating Unit has paved the way for forging strategic partnerships, fostering dialogue, and promoting cooperation on energy and climate matters in the Americas.

In 2015, the Department of Sustainable Development organized 22 events dealing with energy security, the development of circular economy programs, and promotion of metrology and climate sciences in the Americas. More than 1,100 people from 34 countries -- including government officials,

experts, academics, representatives of the private sector, NGOs, and others involved with energy and climate issues -- shared their experiences, discussed challenges and opportunities, and generated exchanges leading to new actions to foster low-carbon growth.

### Sustainable communities in Central America and the Caribbean

The "Sustainable communities in Central America and the Caribbean" initiative provided training to more than 100 civil servants and civil society representatives in the Caribbean in matters relating to sustainable urban development in small developing island States in three separate editions of the Sustainable Cities Course.

The Initiative also managed to collect, process, and market nearly 116 tons of plastic material, cardboard, paper, and metal by creating a self-sustaining recycling microenterprise in Ocotepeque, Honduras. Likewise, in Guatemala, more than 2,500 liters of used cooking oil from 400 canteens in six Guatemala City markets were collected to be converted into

biodiesel. That activity made it possible to prevent the pollution of approximately 2.5 million liters of water. More than 1,700 liters of biodiesel were produced, thereby reducing carbon monoxide emissions in the cars that used it by at least 25%.



A stylized map of the Americas, including North and South America, rendered in a light gray color. It is positioned on the left side of the page, partially overlapping a blue abstract shape.

## Renewable Energy and Climate Sciences (RECS): Metrology and Technology Challenges in the Americas

This initiative supports the use of international standards and measurements and identifies energy and climate-related challenges in the Western Hemisphere. The RECS is breathing new life into the Inter-American Metrology

System (SIM) by promoting reliable measures for evaluating progress made with mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and by providing training in ways to measure gases, energy efficiency, standards, and labeling.

These actions are raising awareness in the region of the value of metrological applications for renewable energy and climate sciences. By fostering new partnerships for cooperation and the participation of National Institutes of Metrology throughout the region, the RECS is facilitating the exchange of both knowledge and best practices in metrology as a means of tackling the scientific and policy challenges posed by renewable energy and climate issues.



## Caribbean Sustainable Energy Coordination Mechanism

The Caribbean Sustainable Energy Coordination Mechanism is a collaborative effort between the Organization of American States and the CARICOM Secretariat to support the implementation of the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Roadmap and Strategy Platform (C-SERMS). This initiative will boost efforts in the Caribbean aimed at establishing a vehicle for integrated and participatory planning, policy dialogue, technical assistance, knowledge management and exchange, geared toward improving donor and development partner coordination. Activities will increase the efficiency and efficacy of donor, investor and developer interventions, and provide the basis for the advancement of energy governance and regulatory frameworks leading to increased investments, private sector engagement, and infrastructure modernization.



## Closed-Loop Cycle Production Program in the Americas

This innovative program shows the viability of business approaches that improve productivity, energy efficiency and environmental performance of the manufacturing sector, particularly SMEs, by using design and production techniques that neither pollute nor produce residual waste.

The program was executed in Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, and Trinidad and Tobago and raised awareness among policy-makers of the usefulness of the circular economy concept for promoting low-carbon economic growth. The program boosted knowledge and collaboration with respect to the implementation of zero-waste production techniques; provided technical and regulatory advice regarding the economic and environmental benefits of sustainable design methods and the circular economy; and encouraged the adoption of circular production models for SMEs.





## 09 National Focal Points

**N**ational Focal Points are the principal link between the ECPA Clearinghouse and the OAS member states. Through government officials deployed as points of contact, information is exchanged and pertinent requests are conveyed to ECPA. This model has achieved a steady flow of communication between the coordinating unit of ECPA and the countries of the Americas.

Countries	Institutions
Antigua and Barbuda	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Argentina	Ministerio de Energía y Minería
Barbados	Energy Division, Ministry of Energy, Immigration, Telecommunications and Invest Barbados
Belize	Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology and Public Utilities
Bolivia	Ministerio de Hidrocarburos y Energía
Brazil	Ministro de Estado de Minas e Energia
Canada	Natural Resources Canada Secretaria de Energía
Chile	Ministerio de Energía
Colombia	Unidad de Planeación Minero Energética de Colombia
Costa Rica	Ministerio del Ambiente, Energía y Mares-MINAE
Dominica	Ministry of Public Works, Energy and Ports
Dominican Republic	Ministerio de Energía y Minas
El Salvador	Superintendencia General de Electricidad y Telecomunicaciones-SIGET

Grenada	Ministry of Finance, Planning, Economy, Energy and Cooperatives
Guatemala	Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales-MARN
Guyana	Guyana Energy Agency
Haiti	Office of the Minister Delegate to Prime Minister in Charge of Energy Security
Honduras	Dirección General de Energía de la Secretaria de Energía, Recursos Naturales, Ambiente y Minas-MiAmbiente
Jamaica	Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, and Telecommunications
Mexico	Secretaría de Energía México-SENER
Nicaragua	Ministerio de Energía y Minas
Panama	Secretaría Nacional de Energía
Paraguay	Viceministerio de Minas y Energía
Peru	Ministerio de Energía y Minas-MINEM
The Bahamas	Ministry of the Environment and Housing
Trinidad and Tobago	Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Housing Ministry of Communications, Public Works, Public Utilities, Post, Physical Planning and Environment
Saint Lucia	Ministry of Physical Development & the Environment Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science & Technology
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Ministry of National Security
Suriname	Ministry of Natural Resources
United States	Department of Energy
Uruguay	Ministerio de Industria, Energía y Minería-MIEM

# ECPA Partners

**E**CPA partners are those institutions with which a strategic partnership has been formed for joint promotion of shared clean energy and climate change targets. They include non-profits, academic centers and think tanks, government entities, and civil society organizations. The purpose of such

partnerships is to pool efforts to cut costs, complement missions, and maximize the impact of the work done in the region.



1. Avina
2. Inter-American Development Bank
3. Green Growth Knowledge Platform
4. University of Texas at Austin
5. Clean Energy Solutions Center
6. Worldwatch Institute
7. Centro de Información de Energías Renovables-CINER
8. Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP)
9. InterAmerican Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
10. La Alianza en Energía y Ambiente con Centroamérica (AEA)

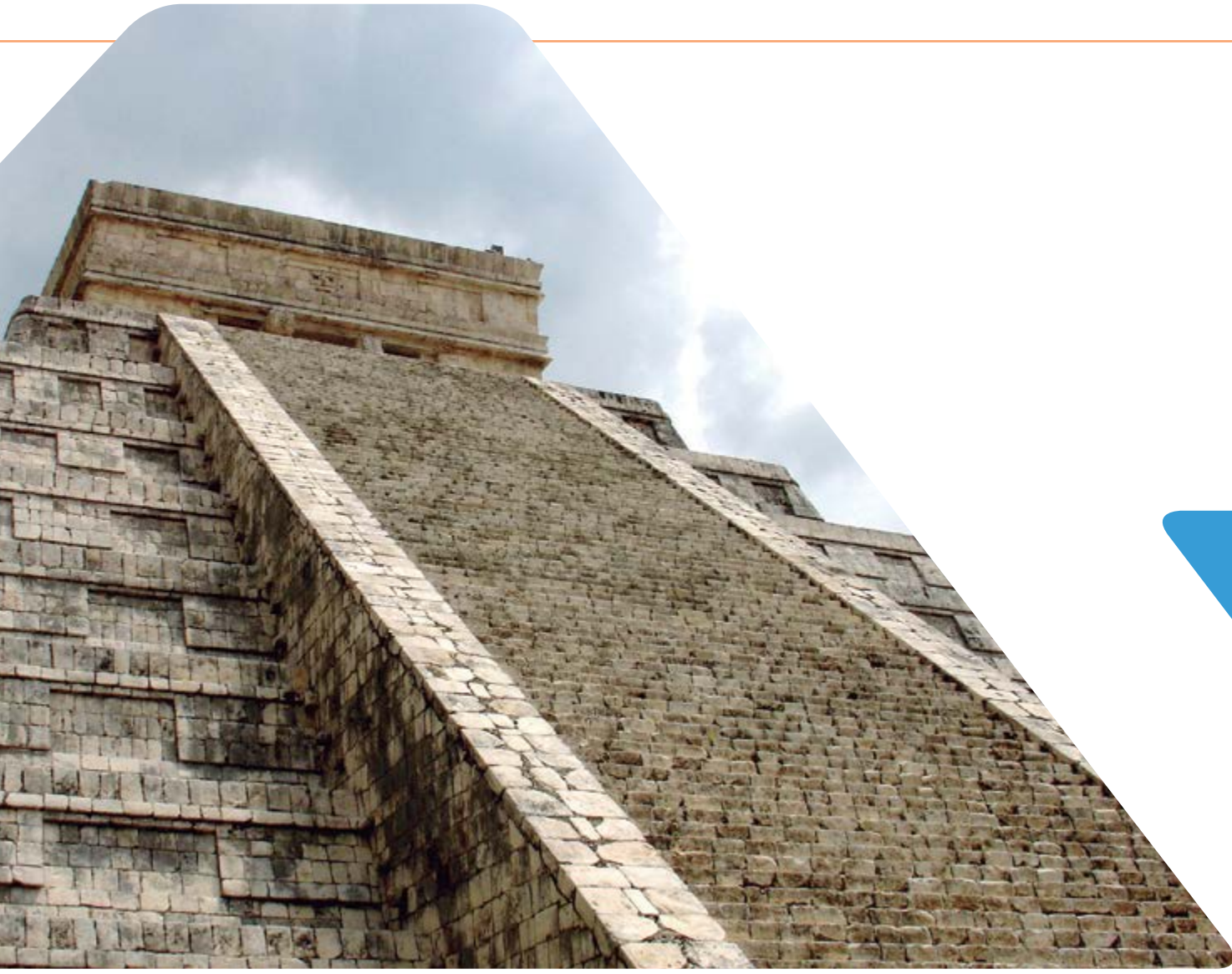
## II Second Ministerial Meeting of ECPA

The Second Ministerial Meeting of ECPA took place in Mérida, Mexico, on May 25 and 26, 2015. Prior to the Ministerial, preparatory meetings were held in each subregion. The preparatory process in 2014, coordinated by the OAS Department of Sustainable Development through the ECPA Coordinating Unit involved the Partnership's National Focal Points from almost all the nations in the Hemisphere and revealed marked interest in achieving greater sustainability and diversification in the energy



sector. From that vantage point, the Ministerial Meeting sought to provide a forum for governments to engage in a dialogue focused on improving cooperation on energy and climate change matters.







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# Preparatory process for the Third Ministerial Meeting

During the Second Ministerial Meeting on Energy and Climate, held in Mérida, Mexico, the Minister of Energy of Chile announced that Chile would host the Third Ministerial Meeting of ECPA.

The outcomes achieved as a result of cooperation will be reported to that Third Meeting, in Chile, in 2017.



Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas







“

Chile is proud to host this meeting of all the ministers of energy of the Americas and it pays tribute to the role we have played as leaders in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency,” Minister Pacheco declared.



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