



**United
Nations**



HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON
ENERGY
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 2021

Ministerial Thematic Forums

21 – 25 June 2021

Event name: Achieving universal access to electricity in Latin America and the Caribbean by 2030

Event date and time: June 21st – 2021 – 15:15 to 16:30 EST

Organizers: Inter American Development Bank and The Rockefeller Foundation

Number of participants: 180

Main speakers and brief summary [max 300 words]:

Speakers:

- Mr. Ariel Yepez: Energy Division Chief – IDB – {Opens the session}
- Mr. Ashvin Dayal, Senior Vice President, Power & Climate Initiative, The Rockefeller Foundation
- Mr. Javier Cuervo, Head of Access Group, Energy Division, IDB
- Mr. Jorge Rivera - Minister of Energy of Panama.
- Mr. José Maria Romay – Vice minister of Electricity and Alternative Energies of Bolivia.
- Mr. Evenson Calixte – General Director of ANARSE of Haiti.
- Mr. Jose David Insuasti – General Director of IPSE of Colombia.
- Mr. Patricio Villavicencio – Deputy Secretary of Electricity at the Ministry of Energy of Ecuador
- Ms. Isabel Beltrán – Director, Power and Climate Team, The Rockefeller Foundation

Brief Summary and Outcomes:

The introductory remarks were given by Mr. Yepez and Mr. Dayal:

LAC has a high rate of electricity access (97%) but that still means 18.5 million without the service. LAC can become the first region of the developing world to achieve universal access with a strong, collaborative effort. The side event reviewed the current situation, the challenges, and the pillars of an action plan to meet the goal of universal access under the commitments of the Sustainable Development

Goals for the LAC region. Both highlighted the challenges of last mile, accessibility, and affordability.

The panel's conversation was about lessons learned, challenges and opportunities to close the energy gap in LAC and how to achieve universal access considering the progress obtained in recent decades. Mr. Rivera highlighted the importance of integrating the final use of energy into plans and projects. Mr. Romay stressed the need of innovative financial mechanisms to resolve the last-mile issue. Mr. Calixte made a strong case for planning to achieve least-cost universal electrification. Mr. Insusasti emphasized the challenges to move from policies and plans to projects on the ground working with the communities and Mr. Villavicencio brought attention to the use of innovative technologies. All panelists made a call to the international community to engage in LAC to help the region achieve universal access to electricity by 2030 highlighting a deeper work in facilitating the exchange of knowledge thru regional platforms.

Ms. Beltrán closed by pointing the lessons that LAC can show to other regions and the need to integrate government, multilateral organizations, private sectors, communities.

A key outcome was the commitment by the Inter-American Development Bank and the Rockefeller Foundation to work together given the region's potential for achieving universal electrification with decentralized renewable energy and the possibility to support a rapid energy transition in line with the climate goals of each organization.

Links to livestream recording/website/social media: *Information about the video will be provided later since it takes more than 24 hours to be processed.*

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