

**FRAMEWORK TO STRENGTHEN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT
AND ENERGY COOPERATION BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC**

Whereas, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Energy, and the Department of State for the Government of the United States of America, on the one side (the “U.S. Participant”), and the Ministry of the Treasury, the Secretariat of Energy, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship for the Government of the Argentine Republic, on the other side (the “Argentine Participant”) (the U.S. Participant and the Argentine Participant hereafter, referred to individually as a “Participant” and together as the “Participants”), seek to strengthen cooperation on infrastructure investment and energy security between the two countries;

SEEKING to further cooperate to strengthen the energy security of both the United States of America (“United States”) and the Argentine Republic (“Argentina”);

RECOGNIZING that the energy security of the United States and Argentina reinforce each other;

CONSIDERING the extensive and productive history of energy sector cooperation between the United States and Argentina, as well as the importance of promoting foreign investment for economic and social growth and development;

OBSERVING that further integration of the Western Hemisphere energy market will enhance the energy security of the United States and Argentina and promote economic prosperity across the region;

MINDFUL that investments in energy infrastructure are expected to increase the resilience and reliability of the Participants’ national energy systems, and help counter threats posed by supply disruptions from natural and manmade events, including cyber threats;

EMPHASIZING that open, competitive, reliable, diverse, and resilient energy markets enhance energy security and promote efficiency;

UNDERSCORING that universal access to affordable, reliable energy helps eradicate poverty and stimulates economic growth;

BEARING IN MIND that the Participants have established a solid base in the areas of energy cooperation and integration, promoting participation and investments in their energy markets and trade and commerce in energy commodities;

RECOGNIZING that the Participants have identified the promotion of nuclear energy, renewable energy, and energy efficiency as a priority to achieve their energy and environmental objectives; and

HIGHLIGHTING each country's respective natural resources, including natural gas and solar irradiation, and, in particular, the high and varied potential of renewable energy in Argentina and the extensive advanced technologies and solutions in renewable energy that are the hallmarks of the innovative United States private sector.

The Participants have reached the following understandings:

SECTION I

OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE

This Framework ("Framework") aims to facilitate technical assistance, information sharing, and exchanges between the United States and Argentina in support of investments in infrastructure and development of the energy sector in a manner consistent with the energy, environmental, and inclusive economic growth objectives of each country based on the themes outlined herein and as further decided by the Working Group (as defined below),

with special emphasis on cleaner energy sources, including natural gas, nuclear energy, and renewable energy.

SECTION II

AREAS OF COOPERATION

1. Taking account of their national priorities, circumstances, and available resources, the Participants intend to engage in the following areas of cooperative work to advance bilateral cooperation, support the development of the two countries' energy sectors, and promote investment.
 - a. Energy Sustainability, Innovation, and Technology Transfer
 - i. Identifying opportunities to develop "renewables plus" micro- and mini-grid systems that incorporate renewable energy, energy storage, and thermal generation;
 - ii. Promoting the use of cutting-edge technologies and the development of new technologies to deepen the distributed generation market;
 - iii. Sharing best practices regarding interconnection systems within the transmission network, as well as fees for the operation of distributed generators;
 - iv. Identifying opportunities to transition towards low emissions and high efficiency power generation and technologies;
 - v. Identifying opportunities to increase natural gas production, in particular from unconventional hydrocarbon resources, and develop adequate natural gas storage capacity;
 - vi. Identifying opportunities to develop greenfield natural gas-fired power plants;
 - vii. Identifying opportunities to develop liquefied natural gas projects;

- viii. Identifying opportunities to develop petrochemical and fertilizer industries to produce value-added products;
- ix. Identifying opportunities to incorporate new technologies that give greater flexibility to the electricity system, including new natural gas projects and ways to expand natural gas electricity generation and facilitate incorporation into the national energy matrix;
- x. Identifying new opportunities to incorporate Argentina's renewables potential, in conjunction with investment in high-voltage transmission infrastructure and national and international interconnection; and
- xi. Identifying new opportunities for commercial engagement in areas of engineering, construction, and nuclear safety regulation support, as both countries seek to expand their nuclear generating capacity and supporting infrastructure.

b. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources

- i. Exchanging views regarding public policies and regulations that encourage market oriented investments in energy efficiency and nuclear energy;
- ii. Identifying the main regulatory, institutional, and economic factors that can constitute entry barriers in the distributed generation and self-consumption sectors;
- iii. Fostering the development of renewable electricity generation and the identification of opportunities for new renewable energy projects in Argentina;
- iv. Fostering the development of infrastructure, technologies, and knowledge that allow for the integration of variable renewable energy generation;
- v. Promoting technological innovation in the fields of distributed generation, smart grids, energy storage, and optimized demand management;
- vi. Fostering the development of flexible electrical systems that can accommodate variable renewable energies; and

- vii. Analyzing the design of fixed income and other financial instruments, as well as the development of a secondary securities market, in order to attract private sector investment for energy projects and infrastructure.

c. Energy Infrastructure Governance

- i. Sharing best practices in executing energy projects near local communities, as well as the establishment of energy access funds;
- ii. Identifying technical, regulatory, economic, financial, structural, and systemic complexities that hamper investments in the energy sector;
- iii. Exploring mechanisms and guidelines that could facilitate and expedite environmental permits and other mandatory regulatory requirements;
- iv. Promoting the development of an energy market that enables companies to manage price risks;
- v. Supporting the development of policies and regulations that enable energy markets to adapt and incorporate new energy technologies in an efficient and competitive manner; and
- vi. Supporting policy and regulatory reforms to encourage investment in energy and energy related infrastructure.

2. The Participants also intend to achieve these objectives by developing financial capacity-building and technical collaboration programs, as mutually determined, including:

- a. Programs to strengthen financing for energy and energy-related infrastructure development through:
 - i. Project finance and capital market expansion;
 - ii. Secondary debt market development;

- iii. Relevant commodities market development, such as energy markets;
- iv. Harmonization of electric power trading rules and technical systems;
- v. Project preparation and monitoring;
- vi. Exploring ways to encourage investment in energy and energy-related infrastructure (to include nuclear energy, unconventional oil and gas, gas pipelines, geothermal power, gas-fired power, electric power transmission and interconnection, renewable energy, and refined products);
- vii. Analysis of contingent government liabilities; and
- viii. Mobilization of private sector capital.

SECTION III

IMPLEMENTATION

1. For the implementation of this Framework, the Participants intend to establish a working group (the “Working Group”), consisting of members mutually acceptable to both Participants. The Participants intend that the Working Group be jointly coordinated by senior representatives from the United States and Argentina (the “Main Coordinators”).
2. The United States Department of the Treasury, working jointly with the Ministry of the Treasury of Argentina and other ministries and institutions, as appropriate, intends to develop the financial capacity-building and technical collaboration programs contemplated under this Framework.
3. The Main Coordinators are expected to oversee the activities of the Working Group and coordinate on issues related to its functions and organization.

4. Each of the Participants intends to submit a work plan for achievement of the objectives of this Framework to the Main Coordinators within sixty (60) calendar days of the effective date of this Framework.
5. On the date cooperative activities may begin under the Framework, the Participants are expected to notify each other of their representatives on the Working Group.
6. The Working Group intends to seek to promote opportunities for public and private sector collaboration in the energy sector through investment promotion; identification of associative projects; and the exchange of information pertaining to the business climate, regulations, legislation, procedures, and best practices in both countries.
7. At the request of either of the Participants, it is intended that the Working Group will meet, either face-to-face or remotely, in order to monitor the progress of projects and activities; resolve difficulties or issues; identify new opportunities; consider proposals and/or requests for cooperation; or for any other purpose that the Participants deem important.
8. The Working Group may organize annual meetings and develop tools to manage activities under this Framework, as well as to identify future opportunities for joint analysis or other cooperation.
9. The Working Group may recommend modifications to this Framework, according to potential needs and opportunities.
10. The Participants intend to work together and cooperate in good faith to support the programs and projects decided by the Working Group and to facilitate the implementation, authorization, and enablement of such programs and projects, consistent with their respective national law.

SECTION IV

MODALITIES AND COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

The Participants intend for the Working Group to utilize the following modalities and activities for cooperation:

1. Facilitating education, training, and capacity building through seminars, workshops, courses, and exchanges;
2. Strengthening relationships between partner networks, such as private companies, universities, research institutions, and related organizations;
3. Facilitating meetings of experts and exchanges in the technical areas related to the objectives of this Framework; and
4. Promoting business collaboration and the exchange of information pertaining to the electricity market and mechanisms for participation and qualification of tenders for regulated and unregulated energy projects.

SECTION V

FUNDING AND LIABILITY

All costs and liabilities incurred in connection with the activities contemplated by this Framework are intended to be the responsibility of the Participant that incurs them.

SECTION VI INFORMATION

1. The Participants intend to jointly coordinate on publicity and communications in connection with this Framework.
2. The Participants intend that both Participants concur, in writing, with the publication of reports, documents, brochures, inserts, or other materials intended to promote or publish the technical cooperation activities under this Framework prior to dissemination through hardcopy or electronic means.
3. To the extent consistent with their respective national law, each Participant intends not to publicly disclose information received from the other Participant and identified by the other Participant as non-public.

SECTION VII PERSONNEL ENTRY AND DEPARTURE

The Participants intend, to the extent consistent with each of their respective laws, practices, and policies, to facilitate the entry, stay, and departure of personnel engaged in cooperation activities under this Framework.

SECTION VIII DISPUTES

The Participants intend to resolve, in good faith and through consultation, any differences arising out of or in relation to this Framework.

SECTION IX
APPLICABLE LAW

Cooperation activities under this Framework are intended to be carried out by each Participant in accordance with its national law.

SECTION X
NOTICES/DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES

All notices and communications in connection with this Framework are expected to be delivered to the designated representative for each Participant, as set forth below.

For the U.S. Participant:

The Office of Investment, Energy, and Infrastructure
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

For Argentine Participant:

Secretariat of Energy
Hipólito Yrigoyen 250, Piso 6
Buenos Aires, Argentina

SECTION XI

GENERAL PROVISIONS

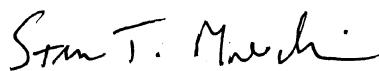
This Framework becomes operative from the date of the final signature and may be discontinued at any time by mutual decision of the Participants or by either Participant. A Participant should endeavor to provide sixty (60) days written notice of its intent to discontinue the Framework. The Participants may modify this Framework at any time, by mutual written decision.

Discontinuation of this Framework is not intended to affect the activities that the Participants had already undertaken thereunder.

This Framework does not create binding obligations for the Participants under international law.

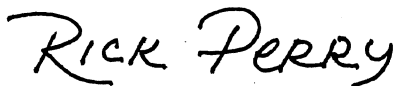
Signed in Buenos Aires on November 30, 2018 and in Washington, DC on December 6, 2018, in duplicate, in the English and Spanish languages, both being equally official.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**



Steven T. Mnuchin

Secretary of the Treasury



Rick Perry

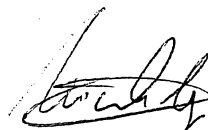
Secretary of Energy



Manisha Singh

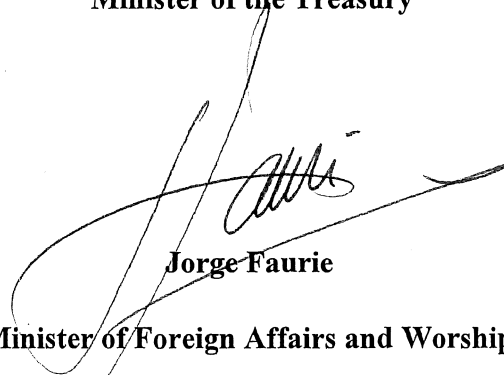
**Assistant Secretary of State for
Economic and Business Affairs**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA**



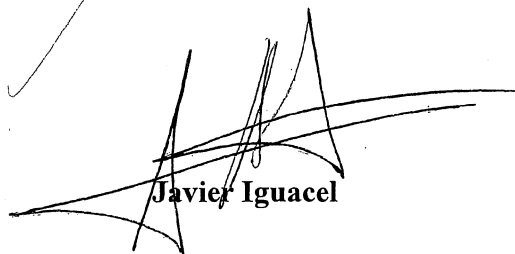
Nicolas Dujovne

Minister of the Treasury



Jorge Faurie

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship



Javier Iguacel

Secretary of Energy