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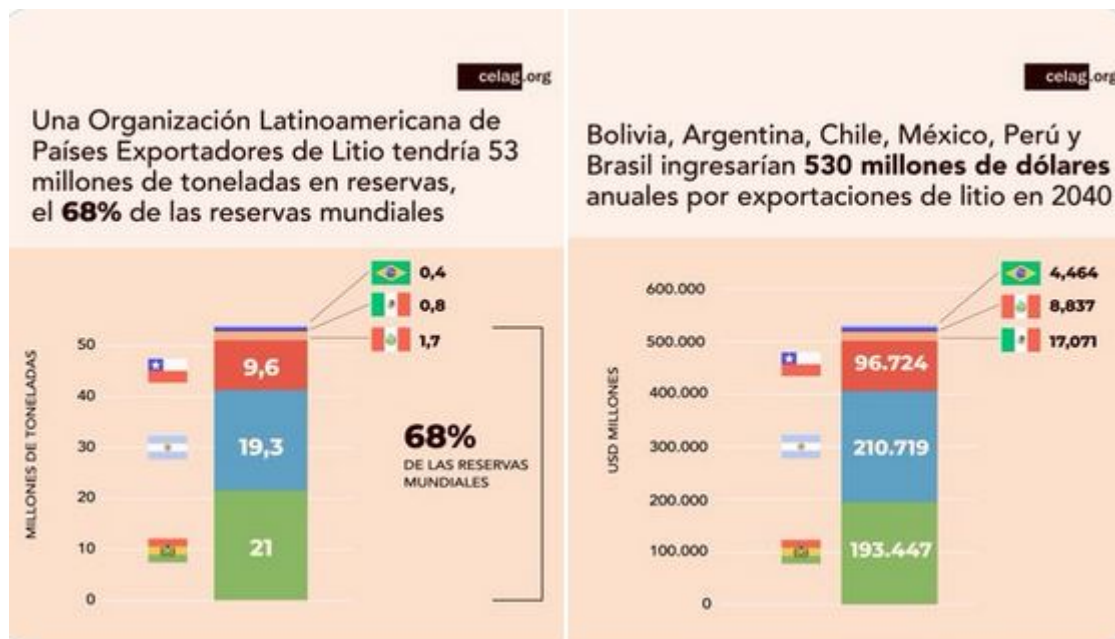
زبانهای اروپایی

Celag

08.06.2022

Towards a Latin American Organization of Lithium Exporting Countries (OLPEL)

Latin American integration around lithium is not only possible, but necessary economically and geostrategically



How important is lithium for Latin America?

- The climate emergency is leading rich countries to accelerate the energy transition, with the consequent demand for new minerals: global demand for lithium would increase 42-fold by 2040. In this scenario, Latin America has much to gain if it integrates, and much to lose if it advances in a process of balkanization of lithium in which each country "does its own."

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- By 2022, Bolivia, Argentina and Chile concentrate more than half of the world's reserves of this mineral (64%). If we add to these those of Peru, Mexico and Brazil, countries with less potential, Latin America dominates 68% of the world's reserves. Therefore, it would hold the key to a new geoeconomic scenario in terms of energy transition and a secure source of foreign exchange for the functioning of its economies. According to CELAG estimates (see annex 1), by 2040 lithium exports would reach USD 530,000 million annually in these six Latin American countries: in Bolivia they would amount to USD 210,719 million, in Argentina to USD 193,477 million, those of Chile to USD 96,723 million, those of Mexico to USD 17,071 million, those of Peru to USD 8,837 million and finally, those of Brazil to USD 4,464 million. By 2040 lithium would become the main export product of the big three producers: it could account for 81% of total exports.

Integration: a historic opportunity



- The only way for the region to properly take advantage of this economic advantage is for it to negotiate as a bloc by creating a Latin American Organization of Lithium Exporting Countries (OLPEL).
- It should be made up of a central nucleus (Bolivia, Argentina and Chile), to which should be added Mexico, Peru and Brazil that, although today they do not have such important proven reserves, would be central actors for the transfer of technology and for their geopolitical weight.

- The integration at the supra-State level of these six countries could be landed in two phases:
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 - Short-term phase: the signing of a founding agreement/treaty where the basic strategic premises, the roadmap, the operating rules, as well as the main points of coordination and articulation are established.
 - Medium-term phase: signing of a multilateral convention/treaty establishing a permanent regional coordination and coordination body in the form of a cartel with a common policy on prices and production and technology transfer as a priority.
 - It should be registered with the UN Secretariat for recognition as an international organization. The adoption of this convention, given the existing national regulatory frameworks, would not require constitutional amendments because no transfer of sovereignty to the supra-state body is needed.

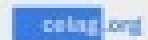
ANEXO 1

Estimaciones de las exportaciones de Lirio para Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Brasil, México y Perú

País	Producción (TON Y)			Exportación (TON Y)			Reserva producción	Exportación por país (Producción en 2021)			Exportación por país (Exportación total en valor promedio)			Exportación total (en 2021)
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	Exportación por país			Exportación por país			Total
								2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	
Argentina	20.000	0.000	-	11.000	-	-	9.000	11.000	0.000	0.000	9%	10%	7%	11.000
Bolivia	447	-	-	-	-	-	447	24.400	50.000	100.000	60%	100%	100%	174.400
Chile	90.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	90.500	11.000	20.000	90.000	4%	7%	30%	94.000
Exportación total (en promedio)								26.400	120.000	200.000	9%	10%	37%	335.400
Brasil	No hay estadísticas						0	100	1.000	1.000	0,1%	0,1%	0,1%	2.000
México	No hay estadísticas						10	1.000	1.000	1.000	0,1%	0,1%	0,1%	3.000
Perú	No hay estadísticas						10	1.000	1.000	1.000	0,1%	0,1%	0,1%	3.000
Exportación total (en promedio)								1.100	3.000	3.000	0%	0%	0%	6.000
Total	120.500	0.000	0.000	11.000	0.000	0.000	91.500	41.900	150.000	211.000	9%	1%	37%	438.400

*Datos promedio (2021-2023) en TON Y
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 ***Datos (en promedio) (2021-2023) en TON Y

Fuente: Elaboración CELAG



CELAG, May 2022

Edited by [María Piedad Ossaba](#)

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