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**Green Transition in Latin America** 

Harnessing regional integration and industrial policy to build the economies of the future

8-9 April 2024, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

### Renewable electricity generation is increasingly price-competitive and some sectors are electrifying



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## Where we stand

Global CO2 emissions (fossil and land use) from the past three Global Carbon Budgets



-- GCB 2020 -- GCB 2021 - GCB 2022

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## How much space we have left?

#### Limiting warming to 1.5°C and 2°C involves rapid, deep and in most cases immediate greenhouse gas emission reductions

#### Net zero CO<sub>2</sub> and net zero GHG emissions can be achieved through strong reductions across all sectors







### Not even close to the target!

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# Why are we not making enough progress?

- Technology: functions in the economy, like producing critical materials required to embody our inventions, that do not depend on electricity and for which we still do not have a viable green alternative. Aluminum, ammonia, cement and steel: under BAU we'll need more, extremely difficult to replace and carbon intensive.
- Market: relative prices not enough, anticipated returns are not yet comparable to those of fossil fuels (price volatility related to unbundling of electricity mkts)
- Structural: changing the sources of energy production from fossil fuels to wind and solar will impact trade, industry, government finance, and the labor force (e.g. India, Indonesia..)...need to build new economies...
- Political economy: early retirement of capital stock (200 gigawatts of fossil fuelbased electricity-generating) and distribution of resources (e.g. Mpumalanga, Alberta, Yasuni...)

# What we need to do

We need to think about energy transition less in terms of carbon mitigation and more in terms of overcoming hurdles to economic transformation.

**Need (broader) policy solutions.** Greening our economies it's not simply about carbon taxes or mkt incentives, the real issue is economic development...jobs and food matter...to achieve transformation process must be ' socially desirable '.

A **Green Industrial Policy** incorporates "any government measure aimed to accelerate the structural transformation towards a low-carbon, resource-efficient economy in ways that also enable productivity enhancements".

# What we need to do: 3 dimensions

- National: Strategic approach with targeted measures beyond market-based approach to internalize externalities (e.g., FITs and TGCs)
- **Global:** reform trade system (ToT, subsidies, unilateralism) and financial resources to compensate the population for the lost opportunities and finance the cost of energy transformation (e.g., Yasuni-ITT initiative)
- **Regional:** More integration to reduce risk related with critical minerals volatility (LR, SR), diversify the energy matrix (renewables) and increasing bargaining power (OPEC)



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## Industrial benefits of low carbon transitions (Lebdioui, 2023)



Source: elaboration based on IMF climate dataset

### RCA in low carbon tech/environmental products

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#### Renewable energy jobs

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# A regional approach to green transition in LAC

- Coordination of GIP to reach economies of scale and exploit complementarities to build a regional industrial ecosystem around low carbon technologies:
  - Critical minerals abundance (e.g., Chile, Peru, Cuba)
  - Manufacturing capacity (e.g., Brazil, Costa Rica, Uruguay)
  - Low-cost renewable energy potential (e.g., Chile, Colombia, Mexico)
  - proximity to important trade routes (e.g., Panama, Honduras)
- How to make it happen? Leveraging critical minerals RVCs, subregional grids and transmission systems for greater energy supply stability, crossborder emissions trading systems and regional industrial strategies (H2 green steel)