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## PRESS RELEASE

### **GOB Endorses Re-election of OLACDE Executive Secretary**

*Belmopan, March 2, 2026.*

The Government of Belize, through the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy and Logistics, reaffirmed its strong commitment to regional energy cooperation during the leadership transition ceremony of the Latin American and Caribbean Energy Organization (OLACDE).

Representing Belize, Dr. Leroy Almendarez, Chief Executive Officer, addressed distinguished Heads of Delegation, Honourable Ministers of Energy, Ambassadors, and regional stakeholders, underscoring the critical importance of regional unity at a time when energy security and sustainable transition define economic sovereignty across Latin America and the Caribbean.

For more than five decades, OLACDE has served as the premier platform for energy collaboration among its twenty-seven member states and permanent observers. The Organization has fostered cooperation between energy-rich and energy-developing nations while bridging policy, technology, investment, and regulatory harmonization across the region.

During the ceremony, member states formally recognized the re-election of Mr. Andrés Rebolledo Smitmans as Executive Secretary for the 2026–2029 term. His re-election reflects the confidence of member states in his leadership, technical expertise, and diplomatic acumen.

A former Minister of Energy of Chile and the outgoing Executive Secretary, Mr. Rebolledo returns to the role with a clear mandate: to advance a sustainable, inclusive, and strategically oriented regional energy agenda.

His new term begins at a pivotal moment. Latin America and the Caribbean face the dual challenge of strengthening energy security while accelerating a just and inclusive transition to renewable and sustainable energy systems. Member states must move beyond dialogue and into measurable action to ensure that no country is left behind in the green transition.

On behalf of the Minister of Public Utilities, Energy and Logistics and the Government of Belize, Dr. Almendarez pledged Belize's full support to Executive Secretary Rebolledo during the 2026–2029 term.

Belize reaffirmed its commitment to advancing key regional priorities, including:

- Universal and equitable energy access
- Strengthened regional energy security
- Harmonized regulatory frameworks to unlock cross-border electricity markets
- Mobilization of investment for renewable energy development
- Long-term energy sovereignty and resilience

Dr. Almendarez emphasized that integration remains the region's greatest strength. By pooling resources, harmonizing regulations, and leveraging collective market power, Latin America and the Caribbean can transform vast natural resources into lasting prosperity for their people.

With unified leadership across its twenty-seven member nations, OLACDE is well-positioned to guide the region toward becoming a global benchmark in sustainable energy transformation.

The Government of Belize looks forward to working closely with OLACDE to advance projects that deliver tangible results in energy access, affordability, security, and sustainability for the people of the Americas.

## **Ends**

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