Intro
The energy sector in Argentina continues to be a critical piece of the Macri administration’s efforts to boost economic growth and attract investment. Policy measures have taken aim at liberalization of energy prices, moving to international market pricing references for oil and gradually enabling natural gas market-based pricing. Furthermore, the government has pursued an aggressive framework for increased deployment of renewable energy. Long-term auctions have been oversubscribed and the goals for further incorporation of renewable power sources for the nation’s energy matrix continue apace.

Announcements and developments in the oil and gas sector have also pursued market-oriented goals as well as increased transparency. Export permits have been issued for private sector natural gas players to recover the regional integration opportunities with neighbors such as Chile and utilize infrastructure that was largely idle for many years. Meanwhile, possible private participation at the country’s two liquefied natural gas terminals could support efforts to reduce inefficiencies in the utilization of the infrastructure at the same time as further balancing Argentina’s natural gas market. This could be of particular importance in the winter months when power generators have often been forced to switch from natural gas to other fuels due to residential demand priorities.

But questions remain most directly related to issues of managing labor and production costs in the oil and gas sector. A major agreement in Neuquen between government, industry and union leaders in 2017 was touted as key step and perhaps model for other provinces, but also a path toward more competitive costs for oil and gas exploration and production but the results have yet to be fully realized. Moreover, development of major oil and gas and energy infrastructure projects require deftly navigating critical community, social and environmental issues that can have an impact on cost and the sustainability of project development. In addition, despite the level of interest and competition for renewable projects in Argentina, questions remain as to financing and what is required for successful project development and long-term sustainability.

Agenda

8:30   Registration & Welcome Coffee

8:50   Welcoming Remarks

Jamal Khokhar, CEO y Presidente, Instituto de las Américas

Discussion Panels in Davos Style, without formal presentations or Power Point

9:00   *Has Argentina made sufficient progress to recapture regional energy integration opportunities?*
Discussion of the effectiveness of the policy and regulatory environment to revitalize exchanges of natural gas and power supplies with its neighbors as well as increased private sector participation in the global liquefied natural gas (LNG) market

Moderator: Raúl Garcia, President, R. Garcia Consultores
10:15 Coffee Break

10:45 Is Argentina’s energy transition on an appropriate track?
Discussion of the country’s energy market normalization efforts, renewable energy goals and progress, insuring sustainable project finance for renewables, the role for natural gas in the energy matrix, and the changing paradigm for the electric sector

Moderator: Jeremy M. Martin, Vice President, Energy & Sustainability, Institute of the Americas
- Marcos Browne, Vice President, Gas & Power, YPF
- Andrés Chambouleyron, Chairman, ENRE
- Maurizio Bezzeccheri, Country Manager Argentina, Enel Group
- Doris Capurro, CEO, LUFT Energia S.A.

12:00 What is the future of the country’s oil and gas sector?
Discussion and debate of the challenges for labor and production costs, the role for offshore bid rounds, unconventional development, innovation and optimization in the upstream and managing community engagement in developing the nation’s hydrocarbon resources

Moderator: Jeremy M. Martin, Vice President, Energy & Sustainability, Institute of the Americas
- Rodrigo García Berro, Offshore Bid Round Coordinator, Ministry of Energy and Mining
- Hugo Eurnekian, President, Compañía General de Combustibles
- Enrique Grotz, Partner, Ernst & Young Argentina
- Luis Hernan Corti, Commercial Manager, Schlumberger

1:15 Closing