

Buenos Aires, September 17-24, 2021

## Further decarbonization of the Uruguayan Economy Federico Ferrés – Observatory of Energy and Sustainable Development UCU

### **Future of Energy**

- Realizing Uruguayan full potential as a green energy producer and exporter.
- Accelerating our climate ambition and potential.
- Realizing that carbon has a cost.







#### Past, Present, Future

Past: high volatility in costs, high dependence on imported electricity, high risks of blackouts.

Present: <u>96,5% Renewables</u>, average cost per MWh down by 45%, higher resilience. Exporting electricity to neightbours.

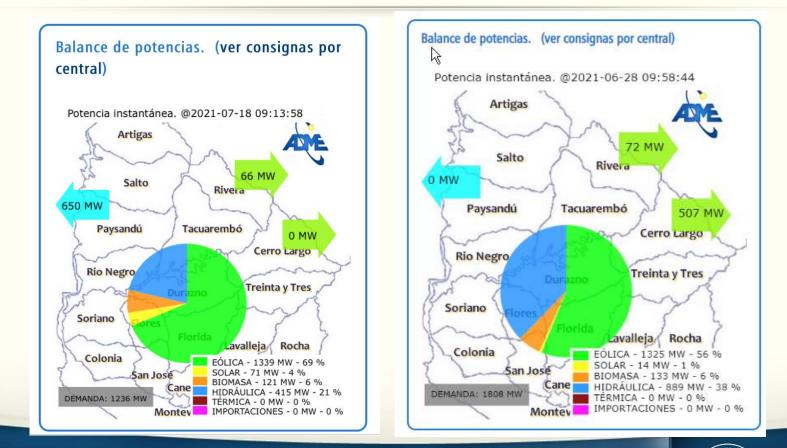
Future "electricity demand will grow 3-4 fold from today's level." IRENA

| Electricity Supply (GWh) | Average 2007-2011 | Average 2015-2019 |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Hydro Salto Grande       | 4297              | 4570              |
| Hydro Rio Negro          | 2281              | 2836              |
| Wind                     | 44                | 3651              |
| Solar                    | 0                 | 241               |
| Biomass                  | 188               | 853               |
| Fossil                   | 2196              | 443               |
| Total Supply             | 9006              | 12593             |
| Imports                  | 815               | 9                 |
| Exports                  | -406              | -1530             |
| Local Demand             | 9416              | 11072             |
| Cost (US\$ million)      | 560               | 366               |
| Unitary Cost (US\$/MWh)  | 59                | 33                |



CAETS 2021 ARGENTINA Engineering a Better World THE FUTURE OF ENERG

#### **Exporting renewable electricity instead of importing.**

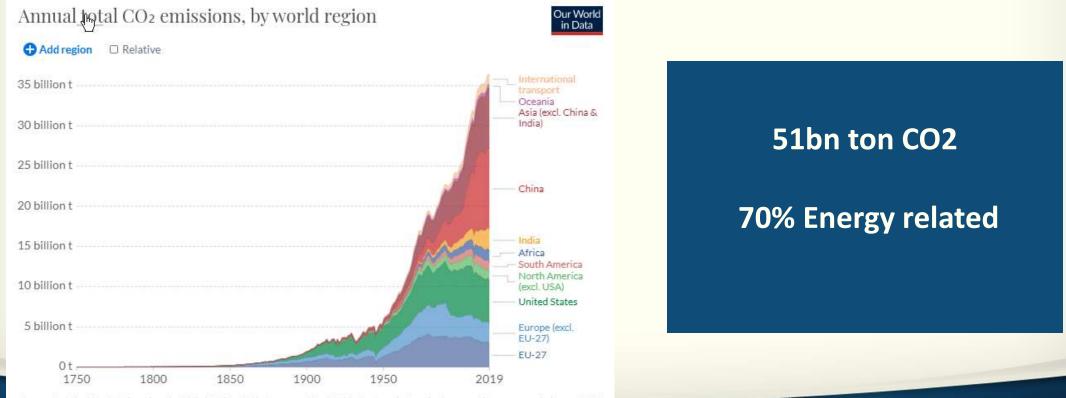








# Emissions (and temperatures) are rising at alarming speed



Source: Our World in Data based on the Global Carbon Project OurWorldInData.org/co2-and-other-greenhouse-gas-emissions • CC BY Note: This measures CO2 emissions from fossil fuels and cement production only – land use change is not included. 'Statistical differences' (included in the GCP dataset) are not included here.



Engineering a Better World THE FUTURE OF ENERGY

AKGENTINA

#### **Global Climate Challenge**

- Climate ambitions have strong political support in EU (55% reduction by 2030), Japan (net zero by 2050) and US (50% reduction by 2030).
- The world is convince that there is a need for a more sustainable energy system.



- Reaching these targets is a great challenge.

Successful climate policy cannot be achieved by a unique country policy.

CAETS 2021 ARGENTINA Engineering a Better World THE FUTURE OF ENERGY



#### **Green Transformation**

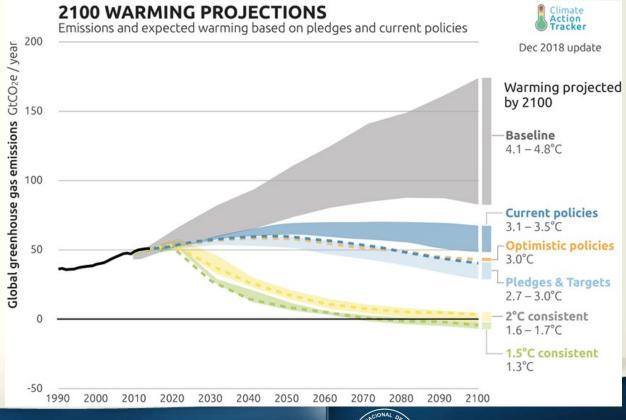
Transformation of the economy for a zero-carbon future is an opportunity for Uruguay as has been the first energy transition.

Main principles:

- Affordable; Competitive
- Resilient; Produce your own energy
- Sustainable

CAETS 2021 ARGENTINA

FUTURE OF ENERG





#### Which are the main drivers for these changes?

First. Technology.

Second. Consumer pressure.

Third. Regulation and Taxonomy.

**Fourth.** Financial institutions requirement.







#### **Green Transformation (second transition)**

Operation of power systems with a high share of variable renewables requires much higher flexibility.

Whole energy system approach will improve resiliency, with a focus on both, supply side and demand side.

It is important to differentiate firm demand from flexible demand







#### What is needed?

A concrete set of policy actions (regulation, taxonomy among others) at national and international level is needed to bring a costeffective path for decarbonization.

Right policy is needed to set the bases for developing new investments in technologies that will allow to reach the three main challenges: affordable costs, security of supply and CO<sub>2</sub> reduction.









Buenos Aires, 17 - 24 September 2021

## THANK YOU

Author