



FUNDACIÓN
ANDRÉS BELLO
CENTRO DE INVESTIGACIÓN
CHINO LATINOAMERICANO

CHINA AND THE ENERGY TRANSITION
IN SOUTH AMERICA

INTERVIEW INSTRUMENT

JULY 2026

Andrés Bello Foundation – China-Latin America Research Center

fundacionandresbello.org



INTERVIEW INSTRUMENT

PART A - Closed-ended questions (to be completed before the interview): this section includes closed-ended questions (multiple choice, scales, or yes/no) that we kindly ask you to complete prior to the interview. Please maintain the original format of the questionnaire when entering your answers, as this information will be used for quantitative analysis and must be comparable across interviewees.

PART B - Open-ended questions (for prior review ahead of the interview): this section contains the questions that will be addressed during the in-person interview. We share them in advance so that you may review the key topics, and, if you wish, prepare arguments, examples, or insights you would like to contribute to the conversation.

SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS AND PERCEPTIONS OF THE ENERGY TRANSITION

1A. What types of projects and/or sectors are primarily associated with the green energy transition in your country? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Renewable energy (solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, etc.)
- ☐ Nuclear energy
- ☐ Electric mobility or sustainable transport
- ☐ Electrical infrastructure
- ☐ Manufacturing of energy transition-related products (batteries, solar panels, electric vehicles, etc.)
- ☐ Other: _____

1B. Please explain your selection: Why do you consider these sectors or projects to be central to the energy transition in your country? Include examples or specific references if possible.

2A. How important is the energy transition in your country's governmental agendas?

(0: Not relevant – 10: Highly relevant): _____

2B. Please explain your selection: What concrete elements support your perception? For example: public policies, civil society pressure/involvement, specific projects, indicators.

3A. Which actors are actively driving the energy transition in your country? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Ministries or government agencies
- ☐ Subnational governments



- ☐ State-owned enterprises
- ☐ National private companies
- ☐ Foreign companies
- ☐ Civil society / NGOs
- ☐ Multilateral organizations
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ None

3B. Describe the role of the selected actors: In what ways are they participating in the transition?

4A. Are there actors who resist or lobby against the energy transition?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

4B. If yes, identify who these actors are and explain their interests, motivations, or forms of influence. If possible, mention recent episodes or relevant documents.

SECTION 2: DECISION-MAKING AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

5A. What do you consider to be the main factors influencing the selection of foreign companies for the development of energy and/or infrastructure projects in your country? (Check a maximum of three options)

- ☐ Cost
- ☐ Execution speed
- ☐ Financial conditions
- ☐ Political alignment
- ☐ Previous experience
- ☐ Compliance with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards
- ☐ Corruption/influence peddling
- ☐ Other: _____

5B. Justify your selection: Which factors tend to be prioritized and why? Are there any examples where one of them was decisive?

6A. How would you rate the environmental laws and regulations in your country?

(0: Very poor – 10: Excellent): _____

6B.01. Justify your answer.

6B.02. Which entities or official agencies are in charge of overseeing and supervising the implementation of these laws and regulations? Do you consider these institutions to be



independent and sufficiently equipped with the means and mechanisms to enforce them?

7A. How publicly accessible is information regarding the participation of foreign companies in the country?

(0: Not at all public – 10: Very public): _____

7B. Justify your evaluation: How can this information be accessed?

8A. What role do subnational governments (provinces, states, municipalities) play in the decision to partner with foreign actors in energy or infrastructure projects? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Actively participate in partnership decisions
- ☐ Implement projects defined at the national level
- ☐ Can veto or block projects
- ☐ Have no significant role
- ☐ Other: _____

8B. Justify your answer with relevant examples or cases, if known.

SECTION 3: STANDARDS AND SOCIAL IMPACT

9A. To what extent are local communities considered in the planning and approval of large-scale projects (e.g., job opportunities, environmental impact, displacement, among others)?

(0: Not considered at all – 10: Always considered): _____

9B. Justify your answer.

10A. In the context of large-scale project development, are there effective consultation or grievance mechanisms available for local communities?

() Yes () No

10B. Justify your answer.

SECTION 4: RISKS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVES

11A. What do you consider to be the main risks associated with the energy transition in your country? (Check all that apply)



- ☐ Economic risks (investment costs, financial sustainability, technological dependence)
- ☐ Environmental risks (ecological impacts, degradation due to energy infrastructure)
- ☐ Social risks (conflicts with communities, job losses in traditional sectors)
- ☐ Governance risks (lack of transparency, corruption, weak regulation, institutional disruption)
- ☐ Geopolitical risks (dependence on a single country or provider, international tensions)
- ☐ Technological risks (obsolescence, lack of local capacity to operate new technologies)
- ☐ Other: _____

11B. Justify your evaluation: Can you provide specific examples or references of the identified risks?

12A. Do you believe there is a dominant presence of foreign companies from a particular country in any of the following sectors? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Renewable energy (solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, etc.)
- ☐ Nuclear energy
- ☐ Electric mobility or sustainable transport
- ☐ Electrical infrastructure
- ☐ Manufacturing of products related to the energy transition (batteries, solar panels, electric vehicles, etc.)
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ You do not believe there is a dominant presence of foreign companies from any particular country.

12B. Justify your answer.

13A. How important do you consider international cooperation to be for the energy transition?

(0: Not important at all – 10: Extremely important): _____

13B. Justify your assessment: What specific benefits does international participation offer? Are there successful experiences you can mention?

14A. Are there regional or subregional dynamics that influence the country's energy policy?

() Yes () No

14B. Describe these dynamics: Is there cooperation or competition with neighboring countries? What regional projects or agreements are relevant?

SECTION 5: ROLE AND PRESENCE OF CHINA IN THE ENERGY TRANSITION



15A. What significant roles do Chinese actors (public and/or private) currently play in your country? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Investors
- ☐ Builders
- ☐ Financiers
- ☐ Regulators
- ☐ Political actors
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ They do not play significant roles in the country

15B. Justify your answer: How is this role manifested and what examples illustrate Chinese participation in the country?

16A. In which industries are Chinese actors most active in your country? (Check up to 3)

- ☐ Energy generation
- ☐ Energy transmission
- ☐ Mining
- ☐ Manufacturing
- ☐ Infrastructure construction
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ They are not active in any industry

16B. Describe the industries where Chinese companies have the strongest presence. What types of projects do they lead? Include any concrete examples you are aware of.

17A. Are there substantial differences between how Chinese companies (public and/or private) operate compared to other foreign companies?

() Yes () No

17B. If yes, what are those differences? Include concrete examples if possible.

18A. What competitive advantages do Chinese companies appear to have over other foreign actors in the energy and infrastructure sectors? (Check up to three options) [] Lower cost

- ☐ Faster execution
- ☐ Direct state support (financing, guarantees, etc.)
- ☐ Active diplomatic coordination (embassies, MOUs, etc.)
- ☐ Greater risk tolerance or flexibility regarding local conditions
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ No perceived competitive advantages



18B. Justify your answer: Why do you believe these advantages are effective? Have you observed any cases that demonstrate this?

19A. Do the Chinese embassy or other Chinese government agencies actively promote Chinese companies in your country?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

19B. If yes, describe how this promotion takes place. (Examples: Political lobbying, tied financing, diplomatic events, support for signing agreements, other mechanisms)

SECTION 6: OTHER FOREIGN ACTORS AND COMPARATIVE VALUE

20A. In which sectors related to the energy transition do non-Chinese foreign actors have a notable presence? (Check up to 3 options)

- ☐ Renewable energy generation (solar, wind, hydro, etc.)
- ☐ Electric transmission and distribution
- ☐ Energy storage (batteries, emerging technologies)
- ☐ Green financing (green bonds, sustainable investment funds)
- ☐ Consulting on ESG standards, sustainability, and governance
- ☐ Energy efficiency and sustainable urban infrastructure
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ There are no sectors with notable presence of non-Chinese foreign actors

20B. If applicable, provide concrete examples of non-Chinese foreign presence in these sectors: What projects do they lead or participate in?

21A. Are there non-Chinese foreign actors in sectors associated with the energy transition whose presence you would like to see more of?

☐ Yes ☐ No

21B. If yes, which actors and in which sectors?

22A. Are there non-Chinese foreign actors in sectors associated with the energy transition whose absence you find striking?

☐ Yes ☐ No

22B. If yes, which actors and in which sectors?



23A. Have you observed collaboration or tensions between Chinese and non-Chinese foreign actors? (Select one option)

- ☐ Only collaboration
- ☐ Only tensions
- ☐ Both
- ☐ Neither
- ☐ Don't know

23B. Describe one or more cases of collaboration or tension between Chinese and non-Chinese foreign actors. What do they reveal about power relations, coordination, or competition?

CLOSING QUESTION: Is there any aspect related to the energy transition and the participation of foreign actors in your country that we have not addressed and that you consider important for this study?

We sincerely thank you for your time, willingness, and the valuable information shared during this interview. Your perspective is essential to better understand the challenges and dynamics of the energy transition in the region. All information will be treated confidentially and used exclusively for research purposes.



Lead author

Parsifal D’Sola Alvarado

Published by

Andrés Bello Foundation – China-Latin America Research Center
Bogotá, Colombia

July 2026

ISBN (PDF) 978-628-97795-0-9 (Spanish version)

Suggested citation

D’Sola, P. (2026). China and the energy transition in South America.
Andrés Bello Foundation – China-Latin America Research Center.

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication was produced by the Andrés Bello Foundation using its institutional resources, as part of its research agenda and its commitment to the independent production of knowledge on relations between China and Latin America.

Part of the research and data underpinning this report were developed as part of a previous project for the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). In accordance with the terms of said project, the Andrés Bello Foundation retains intellectual property rights over the research and the data collected. This publication constitutes an independent work, produced under a different analytical framework and intended for a public audience. Its content was produced exclusively by the Andrés Bello Foundation and neither reproduces nor replaces the report prepared for the FCDO.



CREDITS

Parsifal D’Sola Alvarado

Lead author, lead researcher, interviewer

Sebastián Castaño Palacio

Researcher, editor, interviewer and co-author of the Colombia profile.

Gabriel Mariano Varón Henao

Author of Chapter 3 (Comparative Patterns), data analyst, researcher and editor.

Julia Morato

Co-author of the Brazil profile.

Gabriela Alvarado

Graphic design and microsite development.

PEER REVIEW

This report underwent a peer review process by independent specialists.

The Andrés Bello Foundation appreciates the valuable observations and recommendations made during this process, which contributed to strengthening the rigor and quality of the analysis.

The reviewers commented on preliminary versions of the manuscript. Responsibility for the final content of this publication lies exclusively with the authors.

REVIEWERS

- **Dr. Camilo Defelipe Villa**, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Colombia)
- **Jack Lo**, environmental journalist (Peru)
- **Dr. Sergio Cesarín**, Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero (Argentina)
- **Fermín Koop**, Dialogue Earth (Argentina)
- **Dr. Juan Enrique Serrano**, Universidad de Chile (Chile)
- **Andrés Pogo**, Universidad Internacional de Ecuador (Ecuador)
- **Anonymous reviewer** (Brazil)



INSTITUTIONAL STATEMENT

The opinions and analyses contained in this publication are the sole responsibility of the authors.

© 2026 Fundación Andrés Bello – Centro de Investigación Chino Latinoamericano

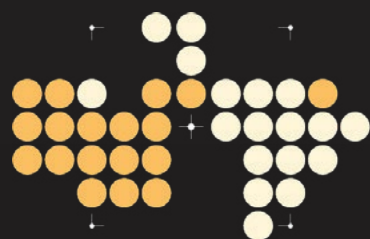
This publication is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International license (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0). You are free to copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format, provided that appropriate credit is given, it is not used for commercial purposes, and no modified or adapted material is distributed.

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>

Andrés Bello Foundation – China-Latin America Research Center
Calle 69A # 9- 66, Bogota D.C., Colombia

📍 www.fundacionandresbello.org

✉ info@fundacionandresbello.org



**FUNDACIÓN
ANDRÉS BELLO**
CENTRO DE INVESTIGACIÓN
CHINO LATINOAMERICANO

