

Minister meets with US Department of Energy and discusses cooperation focused on clean and renewable energy

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Yesterday, August 18, 2021, Minister of Mines and Energy Bento Albuquerque met in Washington with United States Deputy Secretary of Energy David Turk to go over Brazil-US bilateral energy agenda and discuss the future of the cooperation between the two countries in this sector.

Minister Bento Albuquerque acknowledged the advances made under US-Brazil Energy Forum (USBEF), launched in 2019, whose focus has been the areas of oil and gas, nuclear energy and energy efficiency. At the meeting, both sides have begun a discussion on clean and renewable energies cooperation, in order to complement the work that has been done under the mechanism. The launching of a clean energy industry dialogue between Brazil and the US, under the framework of USBEF, was also part of the conversation aimed at bringing together governments and private sector from both sides to advance the cooperation in biofuels, sustainable aviation fuels, hydrogen, solar and wind energy, among others.

The Minister of Mines and Energy highlighted the importance of coordination between the public and private sectors to improve regulatory framework, create financing, research and development instruments, as well as market design of key areas of the energy transition for the low carbon economy.

Bento Albuquerque noted the bilateral progress made in the field of civil nuclear energy and addressed opportunities that will open up with the projected expansion of the Brazilian nuclear sector, starting with the completion of the Angra III plant. Both sides discussed aspects related to the future of the nuclear industry, which points to the development of small modular reactors (SMRs) and a new generation of advanced reactors that will also contribute to mitigate climate change.

Finally, the Minister of Mines and Energy invited U.S Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, who was absent from Washington at that time, to visit Brazil in due course, with a view to following upon these discussions.