

FINAL COMMENTS

Valérie Ducrot, Executive Director of Global Gas Center

I want to wrap up everything by giving the floor to all the panelists for two or three minutes for final comments or questions, and how we can move forward together in terms of communicating with our decision-makers, which I think is important. I am very interested to hear from you, and I would be grateful if the audience could remain silent for the rest of the session. I will start with Jeffrey.

Jeffrey Lewis, Partner and Member of the Executive Committee of the international law firm Cleary Gottlieb

To me, the essential issue is what kind of role governments are going to play in energy transition. I think from what we have heard in all this discussion, whether in terms of having some kind of positive impact in terms of helping to fill the gap in the investment required and dealing with the question of upgrading smart grids, helping allow the development of critical minerals, such as copper for transition, my takeaway is that governments are going to need to take a more active and visionary approach to energy transition in general or we will not make much progress.

Nicolas Piau, Cofounder & CEO of Tilt Capital

We were talking about gas and how we develop 20 or 30-year gas projects and I think there is an instrument, guarantees, that has been very little used, you do not necessarily have to put money on the table, you just have to guarantee a minimum return. If at some point you say that you have substituted coal with gas and it worked on the trajectory and at some point, you need to substitute gas with something else, as long as the investor does not find themselves in a situation then government can step up. That is probably in 15 years' time so from a government perspective it is completely balanceable, money is not being put on the table, you are just providing a guarantee. I think that could be the kind of mechanism we could think about.

The second element is that I think we need to work better on integrating externalities. This would be a call to economists, but I think we are doing a very poor job in reforming the capital asset pricing model.

Tomás Lanardonne, Energy Regulatory and Transactional Expert, Founding Partner of MHR Abogados (Argentina & Uruguay)

I just want to add to things on behalf of Argentina. First, the Argentine people have learnt that government people must be reasonable, and we learned the hard way that populism brings

poverty. That entails getting into the energy discussion, for example, that energy cannot be free, and it is not a right to have secure energy. Second, I would not say politicians in general but as a country, we have learned the hard way that we need to gain credibility and to establish rigid legal frameworks to attract investment and we have to honor regulatory promises. The question is whether we will persuade the international community to bring money to Argentina and I think President Milei is at least putting Argentina back in the international arena; we have to see what happens.

Jean Abiteboul, President of GIGNL (International Group of Liquefied Natural Gas Importers), Non-Executive Board member of Tellurian, Inc. (AMEX: TELL), Founder and Chairman of JA Energy Consulting

I will say three things and first, we need a carbon market, which is the starter for everything. Second, we need realistic assumptions for energy needs and—unless I missed it—we have not even evoked the IEA and all the energy that is needed for things like data centers, which I believe is huge. I have read figures for how many nuclear plants we would need to supply the data centers. Third, in order to compare things that are comparable when we talk about renewables versus hydrocarbons, we should take into account the full chain from production to final use. If we only take one part of the chain and say that renewables emit less carbon than oil and gas, it can be true, but we should go from the mining industry to recycling and everything in between and compare things that are comparable.

Marc-Antoine Eyl-Mazzega, Director of the Center for Energy & Climate of Ifri

I think the example from Argentina was very telling because one of the first measures was to adjust energy prices to market levels. We clearly still have so many distortions in the world due to fossil fuel subsidies and subsidized electricity prices and that all makes energy systems inefficient, slows down investment and it is a huge burden on public finances and of course, in many ways, it supports coal. It might be interesting to follow the way forward in that and Tesla has told the Indonesians that they will not build a USD 5 billion automotive plant there because there is too much coal in the system, let's see if they go ahead and build one in Argentina next year, which would be a good reward for a sounder energy policy.

Majdi Abed, Vice President International Public Affairs at TotalEnergies

I would say that we have to tell people the truth. We are always trying to explain that we cannot make the transition in one or two years, it will take time. And this message, maybe not everywhere, is not really understood. It takes time, it is not going to be the same transition for everyone, we do not have the same needs or priorities when we look at the Global South, Africa or other countries. However, we are still on the same planet, so we have to work together. Tell the truth, say that it is going to take time and money, and somehow put people face to face with the contradictions because people want renewables, but they want them cheap, they do not want to see them or have them in their backyard. We have to say that it is going to be costly, and we are going to need oil and gas for some time and, as we said, it is not going to happen quickly.

**Valérie Ducrot**

I think the discussion was interesting and of course, we need to follow up on what has been said. Thank you very much.