in 2025 to 34 gigawatts by 2035, a 30 percent annual growth rate, driven by rising renewable curtailment, expanding tender activity and aging transmission infrastructure, according to a report released Thursday by Wood Mackenzie. "Latin America is no longer a frontier market for energy storage, it is an active one. The pipeline is growing fast, but deployment stalls without comprehensive regulatory frameworks with clear remuneration mechanisms," Pamela Morales of Wood Mackenzie said in a statement accompanying the report. Chile remains the region's leader in operational battery storage, though price cannibalization in its northern grid threatens arbitrage revenues as more capacity comes online, Wood Mackenzie said. Mexico is nearing a policy-driven inflection point, with new mechanisms, including a priority proposal call and a joint development call with state utility CFE, expected to award more than three gigawatts of storage by 2030. Brazil's market awaits a dedicated battery tender set for December, though unclear remuneration rules could complicate financing. Argentina has moved fastest toward a standalone storage market, awarding 1.3 gigawatts in recent tenders.

THE DIALOGUE CONTINUES

What Will Changes in Paz's Cabinet Mean for Bolivia?

Q Bolivian President Rodrigo Paz on Aug. 13 signed a decree restructuring his government, cutting the number of ministries from 14 to 12 and folding tourism, strategic planning, public investment and other functions into existing ministries. The president, who has been in office for nine months, said earlier in August that the adjustments signal the conclusion of a "transition period" and the beginning of "deep transformations." Days later, Paz dismissed Finance Minister José Gabriel Espinoza after he was censured by the country's Legislative Assembly. What are the practical implications of the restructuring? How will the redistribution of responsibilities change how the government operates? Why is Paz making these changes now, and what does the timing say about the challenges he is facing and his strategy for governing?

A Steven E. Hendrix, managing director at Hendrix LLC and former USAID senior coordinator at the U.S. State Department: "Reducing the number of ministries can improve coordination and lower bureaucratic costs, but the real test is not the organizational chart. It is whether President Rodrigo Paz can use the new structure to implement the structural reforms Bolivia urgently needs. Some changes are potentially significant. Moving planning and public-investment responsibilities into operating ministries could shorten decision-making and force a closer relationship between policy and implementation. Strengthening the Ministry of the Presidency may also improve cabinet coordination and relations with the legislature. But concentrating functions can just as easily create bottlenecks unless responsibilities, accountability and authority are clearly defined. The timing reflects both opportunity and pressure. Paz has moved beyond his government's initial transition while confronting fiscal deficits, depleted reserves, inflation, fuel and dollar shortages, and the political difficulty of implementing economic adjustment. His government is simultaneously pursuing an IMF-supported stabilization program and seeking greater private investment. Recent conflict with Congress, including the removal of his economy minister following a censure vote, illustrates how narrow his political room for maneuver may be. I would view this reorganization as a means rather than an achievement. Bolivia does not principally suffer from having two ministries too many. It needs credible institutions, fiscal discipline, legal certainty, greater openness to investment and a government capable of executing policy consistently. If the restructuring advances those objectives, it matters. If it merely redistributes responsibilities among ministries, it will not constitute the 'deep transformation' Paz has promised."

EDITOR'S NOTE: The comment above is a continuation of the Q&A published in the Aug. 26 issue of the Advisor.

BUSINESS NEWS

Codelco's Profit Quadruples as Copper Prices Rally

Chile's state copper miner Codelco on Friday reported pre-tax profit of $1.97 billion for the first half of 2026, more than four times the $429 million posted a year earlier, as rising copper prices offset weaker output and higher costs, Reuters reported. CEO Jorge Gómez said the company's priority is restoring productivity after setbacks at key mines. The company's own production fell 11 percent to 564,000 metric tons between January and June, driven by a 27 percent drop at the El Teniente mine following a July 2025 accident, and lower ore grades at the Ministro Hales mine, according to a company statement. The Salvador, Andina and Radomiro Tomic operations posted gains. Including minority stakes in El Abra, Anglo American Sur and Quebrada Blanca, attributed production totaled 619,000 metric tons, down 10 percent. Codelco's average realized copper price rose to $6.53 a pound from $4.62 a year earlier, lifting EBITDA 68 percent to $4.65 billion and consolidated profit to $669 million, up $558 million, the company said. Contributions to the state totaled $933 million, up 15 percent. "Our priority is to recover productivity and improve the performance of our assets," Gómez said in the statement, citing safety, cost discipline and more efficient capital use as key goals.