

УДК 339.976.2

## **DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND BOLIVIA IN HIGH TECH SPHERE**

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The economic growth of a country depends to a large extent on the development of technologies that adapt to the productive needs of a society. Bolivia, like most other countries in Latin America, are among the nations with the least technological advances.

It is worth noting that the Plurinational State of Bolivia is a key part of its large reserves of gas, lithium, minerals and other natural resources that among other things is positioned in the heart of the South American continent that allows it to be a strategic country.

Within the state policies, Bolivia seeks to develop technologically. To achieve this objective, Bolivia has been working on the triple axis, that is, state investment in technological complexes, the educational system, and productive diversification. In this sense, in recent years Bolivia has improved its economic solvency through the new Economic Model Community and Productive Social and has as a base public investment and strengthening of the domestic market, from this economic improvement bilateral relations with the Russian Federation were gradually progressing.

Through a government program of construction of different and huge hydroelectric and thermoelectric plants, as well as small photovoltaic and wind power plants that contribute to the conservation of the environment. Currently, the Bolivian economy is the 14th largest economy in Latin America in terms of nominal gross domestic product (GDP).

It should be noted that Russia's relations with Latin America and the Caribbean continued to rise in 2015, with a considerable increase in the intensity of bilateral political contacts, particularly at the highest level, and this allowed it to take advantage of sectors in which it has some comparative advantage, such as arms sales, nuclear power, aviation, oil, gas, mining and construction.

It is for this reason that we intend to analyze the bilateral development between the Russian Federation and the Plurinational State of Bolivia in the sphere of high technology.

The Bolivian government and the Russian state-owned company Rosatom signed two contracts for the construction and start-up of the nuclear research center for an approximate value of 300 million dollars, which in turn claims to be the largest in South America [1].

The Nuclear Research and Technology Center will allow Bolivia to proceed to mastering the nuclear technologies and its application in science, medicine, geology, agriculture and other areas. In particular, the Center will provide the opportunity to start production of radioisotopes in Bolivia for their wide use in diagnostics and treatment of cancerous diseases which makes the nuclear medicine more affordable for the population of Bolivia. The application of irradiation technologies for food and agricultural products treatment, pest and bacteria control will make it possible to increase the products storage period while creating conditions for the increase of national agricultural products export [2].

In addition to the construction of the Center and a research reactor, training will also be provided to specialists, laboratory equipment and supply organization as well as the supply of nuclear fuel. This will be the most advanced center in Latin America with the most advanced equipment. In addition to the development of the nuclear sciences, the Center will save hundreds of thousands of lives from various serious diseases.

According to the announcement of the state oil company, the signing of agreements between Gazprom and the Bolivian government, it expects to achieve an investment of 3,693 million dollars in the exploration tasks in new gas areas until 2020 [3].

The agreements also include cooperation with Bolivia in the change of the diesel energy matrix for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Diesel-CNG, as well as in the planning of the hydrocarbon sector until 2040.

Bolivia has in the Salar de Uyuni the largest lithium deposit in the world, with an area of 10,500 km<sup>2</sup> of salt that is currently considered white oil because of its great importance in the technological sector. Metal is the necessary basis for making batteries for electric vehicles. It is also present in the indispensable batteries of cell phones and in laptops, it is also used in the production of glass and ceramics, in the treatment of bipolar disorder, in air conditioners, lubricants and other products. Bolivia will invest 925 million dollars until 2019 in the industrialization of lithium, which, at the moment has been built in Uyuni a small pilot plant to produce lithium carbonate in small quantities, with the purpose of gaining experience in the industry and then to enter to a phase of industrialization of the metal [4].

Russia has modern technology in working with lithium, so the company Rostec intends to agree with Bolivia on the extraction, exploitation and industrialization of the ore to create batteries or other accumulators, while the Rosatom nuclear company can cooperate in the investigation of the Lithium as an alternative fuel. The agreements between the Russian companies with the Bolivian state in relation to the mineral still remain in negotiation being a great possibility for both parties the joint work. In 2015, the mining sector contributed with 7% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and represented 30% of the total exports of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

The Russian Federation aspires to become a "major player" and play a greater role in all areas and not only in the technological and strategic military sector. While Bolivia has a high commitment in energy development, that is, it advances in the opening of diverse economic fronts, for example mining, hydrocarbons, nuclear energy among others, a process that necessarily implies partnerships with other actors. It is intended to have prospects for long-term joint work in many areas: oil, gas, liquefied natural gas, geological exploration, extraction, transport, science and research. The completion of this road map will enable the Bolivian State and the Russian Federation to further strengthen their economic and political positions.

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