

# Development of National Lithium Strategy

November 2025

**Loreto Appelius Bertin**  
Analyst

**Francisca Lathrop**  
Director (S)

**Executive Secretary of the Lithium and Salt  
Flats Committee**



# C Context: Legal framework of lithium

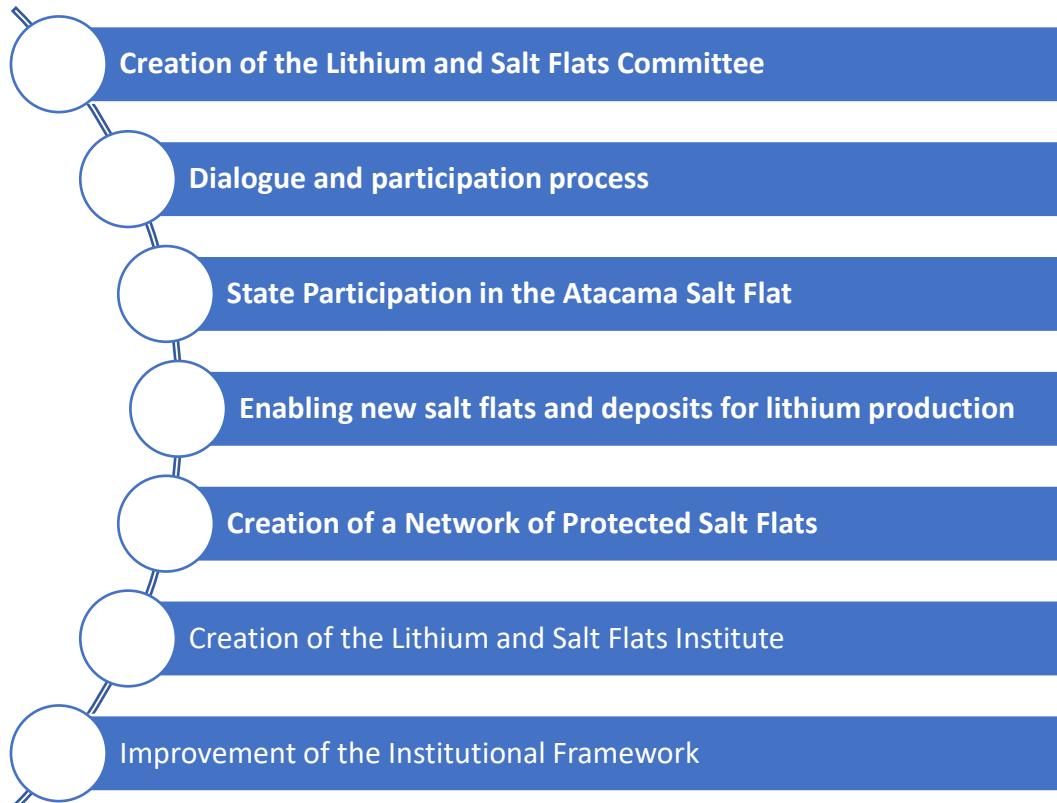
- Since 1982, lithium is a substance non susceptible of mining concessions. The exploration and exploitation of lithium requires a special authorization signed by the President of the Republic.
- In terms of our Constitution, the operations of lithium can be performed by:
  - a) The State and its Companies
  - b) Administrative Concessions
  - c) Special Lithium Operation Contracts (CEOL)**
- **Exception:**

The exploitation of lithium is available for holders of concessions granted under the Mining Code of 1932, that were still in force in 1979

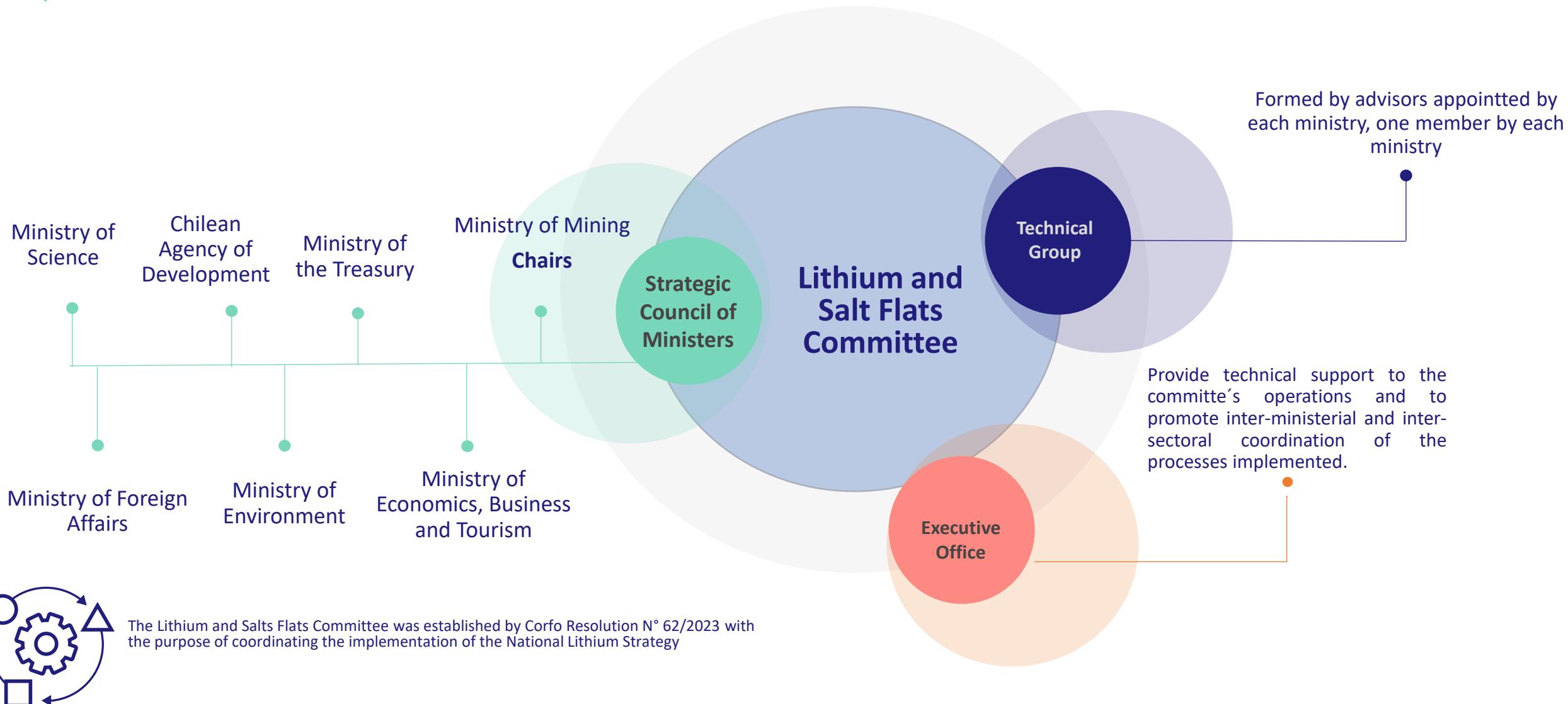
  - Corfo: SQM/Codelco and Albemarle



# The Importance of The National Lithium Strategy (NLS)



## Lithium and Salt Flats Committee



## Dialogue and participation process: Indigenous Consultations

**NLE commitment:** It was determined that Indigenous consultations would be conducted for each administrative act issued.

- **Ministry of Mining:**
  - Amendments CEOL of Maricunga
  - CEOL of High Andean Salt Flats Project (Enami)
  - Others for private CEOL
- **Ministry of Environment:** the creation of the Network of Protected Salt Flats is preceded by an indigenous consultation for each salt flat or area that will be protected
- **CORFO:** amendments of the contracts for the Atacama Salt Flat



## Dialogue and participation process: Indigenous Consultations

### Ministry of Mining:

- Permanent dialogue and participation process: Initial dialogues took place between October and December 2023 in 5 regions and continue to this day with periodic meetings.
- Open meetings, where civil society and indigenous communities participate.
  - Lithium and Salt Flats Institute
  - Network of protected salt flats
  - Exploration and exploitation process of lithium
- Dialogue Feedback



Procesos de  
**Consultas Indígena**

## Increase participation in lithium projects:

1. Majority state participation

2. Public-private partnership led by the State  
of Chile

3. Led by private companies



## 1. Majority State participation



- Increase State participation in the production of **Atacama Salt Flat**:
  - In the Atacama Salt Flat there is a mutual collaboration agreement between Codelco and SQM: NovaAndino Litio
- Majority State participation in projects developed in the **Maricunga Salt Flat**.
  - Maricunga CEOL owned by Codelco. The strategic partner in the project of Maricunga is Río Tinto.



## 2. Public-private partnership led by the State of Chile

- High Andean Salt Flats project (La Isla, Grande, Aguilar and Infieles salt flats): Public-private alliance between Enami and Río Tinto.
  - Status:
    - Indigenous Consultation completed.
    - Subscription CEOL completed.
    - Strategic partner Río Tinto.
    - In process: review of the contract by the CGR



### 3. Led by private companies

RFI process (july 2024)

- Identify industry interests
- Obtain necessary information
- Design processes and conditions

Announcement 12 of prioritized saline systems and deposits (2024) for the allocation of CEOL

Now all the process are in progress: bidding process or simplified procedure



## Creation of a Network of Protected Salt Flats

**Purpose:** Safeguard a percentage of the saline ecosystems in line with the Global Framework for Biodiversity established by the Convention on Biological Diversity. Furthermore, in systems with undergoing projects, we seek to ensure the use of low environmental impact technologies.

**Commitment:** Protect at least 30% of our salt flats by 2030.

Which ones?

- ✓ High Andean Salts Flats that are considered National Monuments, National Reserves, and National Parks.
- ✓ Ramsar Sites.
- ✓ New Salars and Salt Lakes o lagoons, determined by technical criteria.

**Current status:** 7,7% of salt flats are protected.

The Network of Protected Salt Flats will fully protect 26 salt flats, and partially protect three salt flats: Atacama, Maricunga, and Pedernales ("mixed" salt flats, with both productive and protective purposes)



## Creation of a Network of Protected Salt Flats

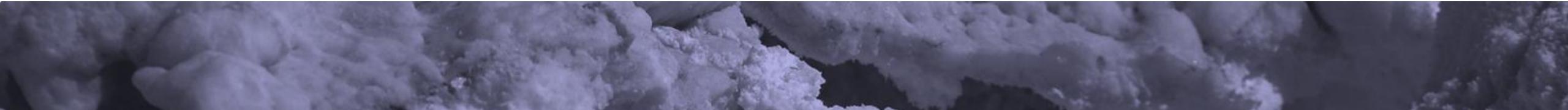
Las November the protection of the firsts  
**10 salt flats and salt lakes** were approved,  
with a total of **116.297 ha**.



Name	Salt flat or salt lakes	HA
Salar de Gorbea	Salar de Gorbea	13.791
Salar de Las Parinas	Salar La Parinas	16.102,5
Lagunas Collas	Laguna Las Parinas y Redonda	1.783
Lagunas Bravas	Laguna Las Bravas	22.912
	Laguna Bayo	
	Laguna Jilguera	
Pisacas	Laguna La Escondida	19.097
	Salar Eulogio	
Salar de Pedernales	Salar de Pedernales	42.287
	Laguna La Laguna	

## C Conclusions and Considerations

- ✓ Participation of the State in the lithium industry
  - Codelco: Atacama Salt Flat and the Maricunga Salt Flat.
  - ENAMI CEOL subscription on High Andean Salt Flat, with a private strategic partner
- ✓ Enabling projects led by private companies or industries, using a bidding process or a simplified procedure - that makes the adjudication process more fluid.
- ✓ **Sustainability:** The creation of a Network of Protected Salt Flats is moving forward, 10 areas approved.





# Development of National Lithium Strategy

November 2025

**Loreto Appelius Bertin**  
Analyst

**Francisca Lathrop**  
Director (S)

**Executive Secretary of the Lithium and Salars  
Committee**

