ARGENTINE PRESENTATION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES
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PERFORMANCE OF ARGENTINA BEFORE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

At the beginning of the 21st century, world leaders met at the United Nations with the vision of combating poverty in its many dimensions. This vision was translated into eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which set the global agenda until 2015. That same year, 193 country leaders, together with NGOs and citizens around the world, generated a proposal with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with goals to 2030. These objectives seek to eradicate poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new agenda 2030. Each objective has specific goals that Argentina will apply depending on its economic, social and environmental reality.

After the triumph of Mauricio Macri in the presidential elections in the year 2015, Argentina turned in the orientation of the economic and social policies. This is a brief overview of what happened in terms of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. This is the performance of the current government.

SDG 1. No Poverty

In March 2017, a report from the Universidad Católica Argentina (UCA) revealed that since the end of 2015, 1.5 million new poor have been added, bringing the total to 13 million. This is 32.9% of the population. In this way, the study shows that poverty increased from 32.6% in April 2016 to 32.9% in the last quarter, when by the end of 2015, the percentage was 29%. For its part, the indigence went from 5.3% to 6.9% and reached 2.7 million Argentines. To be above that level a family must receive more than $2,200 a month. The average gap in poor households increased from 32.4% in 2015 to 34.9% in 2016; while that of indigent households increased from 23.7% to 34.7%. That is, the latter became even more profound.

According to a Unicef report, based on data from the Indec (The National Institute of Statistics and Censuses) of the last quarter of 2016 that were projected throughout the country, in Argentina there are about 5.6 million poor children. That is, one in three Argentine children (29.7%) is below the poverty line. In addition, among those 5.6 million, there are 1,300,000 (almost 25%) who are in indigence, so they hardly feed every day. If the population of children is segmented into three large age groups, the highest incidence of poverty is observed for the group aged 13 to 17 years (51%), followed by the group of 5 to 12 years old (48%), and 0 to 4 years (45%). On the other hand, when it is divided by gender, the report found that men have higher poverty rates, except for the 0-4 age group, where girls are clearly at a disadvantage. The report also warns that while poverty affects 47.7% of children, the rate rises to 85% when the child resides in a household whose head is unemployed, 64% when inactive or 65% when is informal wage earner. In addition, child poverty is also higher in households where the head is female (55.3%), the female head has a low educational level (72.5%) or is under 25 years old (51.6%).

Another report, dated May 2017, by the Center for Participatory Research in Economic and Social Policies (CIPPPES) indicated that 46 out of 100 children aged 0-17 years are below the poverty line. In that same report, one in ten children and adolescents in Argentina live below the line of destitution. In other words, there are 1.31 million
children whose income does not reach the basic nutritional needs of all its members. This group represents 10.07% of the total children in the age range.

SDG 2. No Hunger

A survey carried out in the first half of 2017 of the social organization Barrios de Pie stated that malnutrition affects "more than 40% of children and adolescents" living in slums and settlements throughout the country. In a total of 15,060 cases, 7,300 have been analyzed, where 42% would be experiencing some of the variants of malnutrition, with prevalence of overweight and obesity over food deficit indicators. The survey was carried out in the Buenos Aires suburbs, the city of Mar del Plata and the provinces of Tucumán, Chaco, Corrientes, Misiones, Santiago del Estero, Córdoba, Mendoza, Neuquén, Salta and Santa Fe during the months of March and April. Another report, published in September 2016 by the UCA's Social Debt Observatory, reveals that one in five Argentinian children suffers from day-to-day nutrition problems in the country. According to the report, food insecurity affected 19.5% of the population in 2015 and 7.7% in severe levels. Meanwhile, in the same year one in four children (26.6%) received direct daily food coverage exclusively in school canteens. Even though the most extreme situations declined over the period 2010-15, the numbers are still worrying.

SDG 3. Good Healthy

In Argentina, the maternal mortality rate is still very high, and unsafe abortion is among the first causes (some 500,000 clandestine abortions are done per year, 80,000 women are hospitalized for complications and 100 die). Argentina had made a commitment to reduce by 75% the mortality of women in pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium since 1990. The rate must have fallen to 1.3 deaths per 10,000 live births, but that year’s figure was 3.2 with enormous territorial differences: while in the city of Buenos Aires the rate is 1.8, in La Rioja it reaches 15.9 (eight times).

Regarding the infant mortality rate for the first time in 25 years, in 2015 it was one digit (9.7%). The lowest records were in City of Buenos Aires, Chubut and Tierra del Fuego. The highest, in Corrientes. However, in the City of Buenos Aires, according to UNICEF data, infant mortality showed a strong increase in 2016, reaching 7.2 deaths per thousand live births, compared to 6.0 points recorded in 2015. Accompanied the historic decline of infant mortality in the country to only one digit.

Regarding the coverage of remedies, in June 2017, the Positive Effect Group Foundation (FGEP) reported a significant decline in the purchase of medicines and antiretrovirals for people with HIV. From the study "Analysis of public procurement of HIV-AIDS medicines," it is clear: "One important fact to note is that in the reports on public purchases received in June of the year 2016 and in the SISA there are no recorded purchases made during the year 2016", noting that “since the change of administration was made, no antiretroviral drugs have been purchased, instead, as explained in the following section, the existing reserve is available for purchases made in previous years". In the second report, Presentation of an observatory of public purchases of antiretroviral drugs, it is made clear that the budget of the state office responsible for
the purchase of medicines, between 60% and 70% of it is intended for purchase of medicines. The share of drugs purchased in dollars is such that every time the price of this currency is modified, it becomes necessary to change the budget of the National AIDS Office as well. Consequences: reduction of the bargaining power of the state in prices. 

In February 2017, the Argentine Society of Infectology (SADI) sent a letter to Health Minister Jorge Lemus and the director of Epidemiology, Jorge San Juan, to warn that the country is in serious trouble with the provision of first class drugs for the treatment of tuberculosis. Soon, the Argentine Society of Hematology sent another letter to the head of the Anmat, Carlos Chiale, where he expressed concern about the lack of current cancer drugs, "many of them low cost." In addition, the transcendence of an internal letter of the Ministry of Health that warned the team of the Universal Health Care Coverage Plan (CUS Medicamentos, former Plan Remediar) that according to the updated stock projection for February 20 the program does not have 27 of the 68 formulary drugs, including oral antidiabetics, antihypertensives, bronchodilators, antiparkinsonians and other essential drugs that are distributed among about 15 million people without health coverage work or prepaid medicine. The professionals who gave the alert days later were dismissed. Finally, provincial media reported on a meeting between the new authorities of the National Agency of Public Laboratories (Anlap) with directors of the Industrial Pharmaceutical Laboratory (LIF) in which they would have been informed of the intention not to continue the free distribution program of medicines.

At the same time, the Instituto de Tisoneumonología (institute for pulmonary diseases) Raúl F. Vaccarezza, from the UBA, indicated that since the beginning of 2016 he has received consultations for lack of pyrazinamide, rifampicin and isoniazid, as well as the injectables streptomycin, kanamycin and amikacin. Although the Ministry of Health indicated that an agreement was signed with the Drug Producer of Río Negro, which will provide the National State with 4,229,200 doses of antituberculosis drugs, they would only become available in the coming months. But discontinuation of treatment poses a risk to patients, since the bacillus can become resistant to drugs and they can transmit the disease.

Finally, according to the Ministry of Health, in 2016, 155,000 kits and 29 million treatments were delivered, representing a reduction of 8% in the number of kits and 27% in the number of treatments. The provinces with more cuts were La Rioja, Jujuy, Misiones, Chaco and Santiago del Estero.

**SDG 4. Quality Education**

Between 2003 and 2015, 11.5% (433,549) of primary school students opted for the private school over the state. Jujuy lost almost 30% of the enrollment they had in 2003. Neuquén, Catamarca, Tucumán and Chaco have 22% less students. The public primary in the city of Buenos Aires and the Buenos Aires metropolitan area also suffered the exodus: in 12 years they lost 16.7% and 11%, respectively. This trend has not changed in the last two years. On the other hand, Ctera (Confederation of Education Workers of the Argentine Republic) announced the suspension in the payment of Progresar plans (an income of 900 pesos, destined to young people without employment or of low resources so that
they do not leave their studies). The amount of the program was not increased since the inauguration of Mauricio Macri in spite of the inflation. However, this adjustment was announced: in the 2017 budget, the government reduced the funds allocated to the program by more than 30%. The beneficiaries of the program are decreasing: from one million enrolled in 2015 dropped to 905 thousand at the beginning of 2016, fell again to 752 thousand last July, and this year was just a little more than 500 thousand students.

**SDG 5. Gender Equality**

Between January and May 2017, a woman died in Argentina every 26 hours, 4 hours less than last year, according to a report by the non-governmental organization Women's Movement of Matter Latin America (MuMaLá). Deaths rose but also the number of women who were encouraged to pick up the phone to dial for the first time the 144, free line of assistance and prevention of gender violence that this year received 6,042 (55% more than the same period of 2016) calls more than in 2016. On the other hand, 18% of the victims registered in 2017 had already filed a complaint and 9% had protection measures.

In June 2017, in the signing of the administrative decision that reassigned budget items to the interior of the Argentine State, the Chief of Staff, Marcos Peña, together with the Minister of Finance, Nicolás Dujovne, have take out funds to gender-based violence programs, which will be assigned to the Ministry of Security for additional payments for the Federal Police personnel. The measure is in addition to the attempt in February to cut 67 million pesos from the budget allocated to the National Women’s Council and to the implementation of the National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Assistance and Eradication of Violence against Women (PNA).

**SDG 6. Clean Water and Sanitation**

For years Barrick Gold has been in Argentina. The change of government did not prevent it from modifying its modus operandi. Between 2011 and 2012 there were at least three leakages of cyanide solution of a certain magnitude at the Veladero mine affecting several areas of the adjacent water basin. But in September of 2016 and March of 2017 occurred others, the last of greater magnitude. The company, once again, concealed the incident.

**SDG 7. Renewable and Clean Energy**

In February, the government decree 2017 as "Year of Renewable Energies" and called for a public tender for the RenovAr Program, aimed at developing projects for the generation of clean energy. If plans were made in Buenos Aires, Chubut, Jujuy, Mendoza, Neuquén, Salta, Santa Cruz, Santa Fe and Río Negro (contracts were signed for US $ 1.2 billion), they would help cover 5% of the matrix with renewables. Anyway, the president of Cader (Argentine Chamber of Renewable Energies) calls to "be careful". "Sometimes, some private ones take excessive risks and it costs them to build the parks and to carry out the projects", explains, although it estimates that "the conditions are given for the majority to be executed". Anyway, it is a contradiction since the government launched a tender for renewables while on the other hand it pushes
nuclear power and the coal plant in Río Turbio, which is the energy that produces the most amount of greenhouse gases.

**SDG 8. Decent work and economic Growth**

According to the INDEC unemployment reached 9.2% in the first quarter of 2017 and became the highest in ten years at that time of the year. There are 1,149,000 unemployed people. When this figure is projected to the entire urban population, the number of unemployed is as high as 1,600,000 individuals. The employment rate was 41.3%, the lowest since 2006. This 9.2% of unemployment marks an increase of 1.6 percentage points against the last quarter of last year, when the indicator marked 7.6%. Meanwhile, the level of activity, the number of active individuals (have or look for work) over the entire population showed a slight variation from 45.3 to 45.5%. In general, the historical series of INDEC shows that during the first quarter of the year there is an increase compared to the previous period. This time it was not so, but also marked the highest level for a first quarter since 2007.

In 2016, the recession generated a strong impact on registered employment, for example, in industrial activities that was slightly offset by the registration of new monotributistas (tax regime for independent contractors meaning single-tax) as part of a process of regularization of the employment situation through this modality and public employment. Because of this, the increase in unemployment was explained by the fall in the purchasing power of the homes that forced more individuals to go to find employment without finding it. This process was accompanied by a rise in the underemployment. In the first quarter of the year, the underemployment reached 9.9%, representing 1,240,000 people with employment problems (1.73 million if they are projected to the total urban population). The highest measurement, for a first quarter, since 2004.

On the other hand, about 3.2 million young people out of 4 million (8 out of 10) between the ages of 14 and 29, do not have a decent job or want to work and do not get a job. According to the INDEC, based on the Permanent Household Survey (EPH) of June 2017, while the general unemployment rate was 9.2%, in the case of women of up to 29 years, it reached 20.1%, In men with the same age cap it reached 17.2%. The director of the INDEC, Jorge Todesca, stated long ago that 60% of the unemployed were under 30 years. In addition, within the universe of young people up to 29 years of age who are working or looking for work, the full unemployment rate reaches 25%.

To this must be added young people who have unregistered employment, have fixed-term contracts, work in family groups, indistinctly for the purposes of income, or are registered wage earners but their income do not reach the minimum wage or, lastly, are part of the collective of self-employment workers. On average, the informal workers group received $6,919, 55% less than the $15,518 of their registered peers.

According to a report by the consulting firm Athena, one in two employees has a precarious job, which means that almost half of the young wage earners do not have access to paid vacations, bonuses, sick leave, social work or pension contributions. If the total salaried population is taken (over 16 years old), the job insecurity is lowest: one in four.
The sectors with more informality (above 50%) are in agriculture, construction and among the domestic staff - although the deduction of gains for the "work donor" favored a greater registration of the workers of private houses.
Another problem is the massive layoffs. According to the INDEC, about 5000 factories closed during 2016 and the market offered in the last quarter 68,314 jobs less than the previous year, or a drop of 1%. Mariano Mayer, Secretary of Entrepreneurs and SMEs, stated that during the year 2016 closed between 5000 and 6000 SMEs throughout the country, just the ones that are most reluctant to lay off employees. The analysis based on the official statistics of the Integrated and Social Security System (SIPA) states that in large companies the impact of dismissals is much greater than in the smaller ones. The number of registered companies shows the disappearance of 4,462 firms in a year. The sectors most affected by the destruction of employment are Construction (-8%), Mining (6.9%) and Manufacturing (-3.7%).
Finally, the problem of child labor. UNICEF launched a report that by the end of 2016, 10% of boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 17 do intensive domestic work or in the labor market: more than 80,000 children stop attending classes forced to enter the labor market, despite the fact that Law 26.390 incorporated from 2013 the prohibition of employing children under 16 years.

SDG 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

The Belgrano Plan is a project of the government of Mauricio Macri to finance infrastructure works deferred for decades in the provinces of the Northeast and Northwest. The opposition in those provinces began to stir the waters because the money does not arrive, but billions are destined for the City of Buenos Aires. However, the government signed in June 2016 decree 797, intended to modify items of the budget for that year. The measure aims to raise funds to pay for pending state trials with retirees, but the decree included annexes to redirect more than $ 60 billion (about US $ 4 billion) to finance transport mega-works in the city of Buenos Aires Aires. The figure is equivalent to 25% of the Belgrano Plan budget. The opposition denounced that this Buenos Aires funding comes from funds destined to the Belgrano Plan.
In February 2017, the Argentine Confederation of Medium-sized Enterprises (CAME) indicated that imports of products grew by 17% during 2016, and 22.5% in the first month of 2017, which directly affected SMEs, who lost in direct competition. The body reported that factories were closed in recent months, which generated "more than 45 thousand layoffs in the sector."

SDG 10. Reduce Inequalities

66% of Argentines earn less than what is necessary to pay for the Total Basic Food Basket (CBT), which last month reached $ 14,665. 600,000 inhabitants fell in indigence, that is, one Argentine every 73 seconds. On the other hand, half of the population in Argentina has monthly incomes lower than 10,000 pesos, according to figures released by INDEC in June 2017. Also, little more than 5% of the active population that belongs to the sectors with less income must be handled with up to $ 3,000 monthly, thus falling into indigence. If both extremes of population deciles are compared, 10% of the highest stratum earns income 15 times
higher than the bottom. In addition, in recent months there has been a fall in the participation of employees in the income of approximately 3 points of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This implies that, in 2016, approximately 16 billion dollars were transferred to the most concentrated sectors of the economy from the reality of those who work.

**SDG 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities**

According to the Informal Settlements Survey of the Techo NGO, launched in November 2016, one in ten Argentines lives in informal settlements and emergency villas. According to the report there are at least 2,432 settlements in the 11 territories surveyed, where about 650 thousand families live. Thus, about 3 million people (2,993,151 to be more precise) inhabit these types of population conglomerates in which they do not have access to two of the three basic public services (water, light and sewer) and where their inhabitants lack of land title. Regarding access to basic services, the study details that in 73% of informal settlements, most families do not have formal access to the electricity grid, 98% do not have regular access to the sewerage network and in 95% most families do not have access to running water. In addition, in 16% of these settlements most families drink well water and simultaneously eliminate their excretions through a blind well without a septic chamber, generating a high sanitary risk. On the other hand, 60% of settlements are flooded each time it rains and 40% do not enter the garbage truck. While 70% of the settlements have a risk factor in their neighborhood or less than 10 meters (23.3% riverbank, 16.2% high traffic road, 15.8% landfill, 9.5% High voltage towers). Comparing with the year 2013 the situation worsened. In this last year, were found 2.138 settlements and lived approximately 533 thousand families. As a result, there are fewer settlements (2,062 in total), but with 11.5% more families living in them (594,970 in total).

**SDG 12. Responsible Consumption and Production**

In early 2016, the government decreed the elimination of withholdings taxes to mining companies. Meanwhile, in early 2017 it was demonstrated once again that Pascua Lama violates the law of glaciers. However, Barrick Gold and the mining sector have been claiming for years that there are no glaciers or permafrost in the project area, something their own environmental impact studies claim and that the revelation of this new environmental damage case confirms.

On the other hand, regarding the contamination by use of glyphosate, in January 2017, the Chamber III in the Federal Administrative Litigation confirmed the decision of first instance that denied a precautionary measure within the framework of a collective cause where a group of citizens sued the provinces of Buenos Aires, Santiago del Estero and Entre Ríos, the Federal Environmental Council (CEFEMA), and the companies Monsanto Argentina, Dow AgroSciences, Nidera, Syngenta, among other companies producing agrochemicals requesting that they be suspended the rules that authorize the use of transgenics in vegetables and animals. The court considered that in environmental cases, "interpretation must be carried out from a modern conception of the measures necessary for the protection of the environment ... this does not exempt
from taking a provisional balance with respect to the prospect of the occurrence of serious and irreversible damage” and that this scenario appears in the case, linked to the danger in delay and verisimilitude in the law, extremes that could not be proved.

SDG 13. Climate Action

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development produced a report in mid-2017 summarizing the main challenges in this area. With respect to water only 12% of the waste water is treated before its overturning to bodies of water. As far as the air is concerned, most cities do not have continuous monitoring of their quality. About the soils, there are 106 million hectares affected by different erosion processes. Forests: There are 27.2 million hectares of native forests. Between 1998 and 2015, 4.1 million hectares were lost due to deforestation.

SDG 14. Life Below Water

In 1998, the Federal Fisheries Law was sanctioned (24,922). However, fishing exploitation is worse than in that year due to the appropriation by foreign vessels of Argentine resources, in addition to the concentration of catches, loss of labor sources, predation and biological, economic and social unsustainability; and the strengthening of an extractive model rather than a fishing industry, according to the INIDEP (National Institute of Fisheries Research and Development, based in Mar del Plata), at the end of 2016, the IDB Consulting Report for the "Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Development" and the reports of the General Audit of the Nation. All this happens in the middle of a lack of control of the activity that makes an adequate administration of the resource by the State unfeasible. The lack of control of catches, discards, sub-declarations and substitutions in the landings of the three main species: common hake, squid and shrimp, is certainly alarming. One of the most noteworthy data is that in the midst of this lack of control, the discarding of captured species, which the most conservative estimates refer to around 100 thousand tons / year, is highlighted, although official INIDEP reports indicate that only common hake are discarded annually between 52,000 and 108,000 tons.

SDG 15. Life on Land

At the end of 2007, the National Congress had approved Law 26,331 on Minimum Budgets for Environmental Protection of Native Forests, which was only recently regulated in 2009, after complaints from social and environmental organizations. However, the funds allocated in 2017 by the National Budget are not enough for implementation, according to spokesmen of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Nation, and there are still many provinces that did not complete the land management of their forests. This is compounded by the delay in sanctioning the Wetlands Law, which was approved in 2016 in the Senate, but has not yet advanced in the Deputies because of "the strong pressure from the agroindustrial sectors."
SDG 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

In mid-2016, leaked documents were obtained from an anonymous source of the German newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung, which shared them with media around the world and with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ). All the documents come from the Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca, with offices in 35 countries, specialized in creating companies. From this investigation it emerged that the president of Argentina Mauricio Macri was director in the societies Fleg Trading Ltd, registered in the Bahamas islands from 1998 and with operation until 2009. In this context and although it is not part of the filtered documents because it was not founded with help from Mossack Fonseca, a second company linked to President Macri, Kagemusha SA, appeared in May 1981 and is still active according to the Public Registry of Panama. Macri ended up recognizing his role.

In 2017, Brazilian construction company Odebrecht confessed having paid fines of $ 35 million in Argentina between 2007 and 2014, in a much larger package involving Brazil, Angola, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, México, Mozambique, Panama, Perú and Venezuela. As a result of these contracts, the company of Brazilian origin currently works in laying gas pipelines, water purification, obtaining potassium and the underground of the Sarmiento railway, among other projects, many of them tied to the financing obtained by the company in the BNDES, the Brazilian Development Bank. One of the companies involved in paying fines (for the undergrounding of Ferrocarril Sarmiento) was the construction company Iecsa, by Angelo Calcaterra, cousin of President Mauricio Macri.

SDG 17. Partenships for the Goals