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Matías Sebastián Kulfas, Minister of Productive Development.

A GREEN PRODUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR ARGENTINA

Matías Sebastián Kulfas **Minister of Productive Development**

On July 13th, the Argentine government made a public presentation of the new Green Productive Development Plan. Facing the existential threat that climate change poses for all humanity, the ecological transition offers an enormous opportunity to increase the sustainability and resilience of our productive systems, providing answers

for regional development, creating quality employment, and expanding the infrastructure, by integrating the availability of natural resources and existing capacities in terms of technology and innovation. We are certain that Argentina has the conditions to become a key actor in the transformations that the world will require.

In the Argentine economy, responding to the great challenges that lay ahead requires the simultaneous



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article about the new Green Productive Development Plan presented by the Argentine administration responding to the climate change threat written by Matias Kulfas, Minister of Productive Development

In this edition we also include an article on the "2021 Latin American Cities Conferences: Buenos Aires", held by AS/COA, focused on the current situation of the Argentine economy and the future prospects for the country.

Finally, an article on the agreement with the laboratory Pfizer which will enable the purchase of 20 million COVID-19 vaccines, bolstering the vaccination campaign in Argentina.

Jorge Argüello
Ambassador to the United States

EVERY CHANGE MUST GENERATE THE CONDITIONS TO LAST OVER TIME, BY INCREASING THE COMPETITIVENESS AND EXPORT CAPACITY OF THE ECONOMY.

harmonization of social, macroeconomic, and environmental sustainability. First, any productive program must be able to address social sustainability by creating jobs and contributing to poverty reduction, inclusive growth, and economic prosperity. Second, macroeconomic sustainability is necessary. Development must generate the conditions to last over time, by increasing the competitiveness and export capacity of the economy. A policy that can generate temporary well-being but ends up subordinated to the cycles of debt and financial volatility that we are currently working to permanently put behind us is useless. Lastly, there can be no social and macroeconomic sustainability without environmental sustainability. Degradation of the environment due to human activity imposes huge costs on individuals and communities. Governments around the world are increasingly aware of the need to transform the way we produce, to build a more harmonious future, in line with the needs of the planet and a better quality of life. Far from being an obstacle to growth and employment, green productive development should be a boost for both of them.

The Green Productive Development Plan is structured around four pillars. The first, generating industries for the green economy. It is aimed at encouraging new productive sectors and developing suppliers of goods for these sectors. The promotion of production linked to electric mobility -including bicycles, cars, and larger vehicles and their batteries- and the manufacture of equipment for renewable energies will have a prominent place in the

industrial policy of our government. The second pillar is the transition towards the circular economy, we are focusing on the recovery of waste in productive sectors such as plastics, paper and cardboard, electrical and electronic equipment, and vegetable oil, as well as in the production of equipment for waste recovery. The third pillar is sustainable production for competitiveness, which focuses on adapting local productive practices to international environmental standards, promoting measures of adaptation, traceability, and resource and energy efficiency in production processes. Lastly, the fourth pillar is the sustainable industrialization of natural resources. Argentina has important mineral reserves that will be necessary for the ecological transition worldwide, both in power generation and in the growth of sustainable mobility alternatives. The transformation will demand increasing amounts of lithium, copper, and other metals that are abundant in the country. Argentina also has excellent conditions in its territory for the development of clean energies such as hydro, wind, and solar, which will serve for generation of clean energy and production of green hydrogen. The development of these sectors and their supply chains will generate important opportunities for those wishing to invest in their growth.

These pillars will be upheld by concrete measures. A bill on Sustainable Mobility will soon be sent to Congress, promoting both demand and supply of non-polluting mobility technologies, with a special focus on vehicles with lithium batteries, which will be added to other promotional regimes for investment already in place. On top of this, a strategy for the development of the hydrogen value chain will be added, including specific legislation as well as the insertion of the sector in the existing incentive and promotion tools. Along with provincial governments, we will create a national renewable cluster, based on wind, solar and small hydroelectric generation. Through financing tools, we will promote the development of manufacturers of equipment for renewable energy and mobility, control of effluents, emissions, and waste, and highly energy-efficient motors. Financing and technical

HONORING THE COMMITMENTS MADE UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND ITS DECARBONIZATION OBJECTIVES FOR 2030 AND 2050 IS A PRIORITY FOR THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT.

assistance tools are also being implemented for the adaptation and certification of production processes of small and medium-sized companies, and tools will be provided for the development of recycling cooperatives. A specific program will also be created for the development, implementation, and adoption of innovative solutions, products, or services generated by the Knowledge Economy sectors that contribute to the transition towards sustainable development, with direct economic assistance. These programs will be accompanied by the creation of productive and educational platforms for sustainable consumption and the reduction and reuse of waste, as well as the generation of government coordination instances focused on environmental sustainability.

Honoring the commitments made under the Paris Agreement and its decarbonization objectives for 2030 and 2050 is a priority for the Argentine government. These goals have been underscored by President Alberto Fernández in his participation in the Leaders Summit on Climate, hosted last April by President Joseph Biden, and will be so again in the High-Level Dialogue of the Americas, scheduled for September 8. We are certain that the best way to fulfill our environmental responsibilities is to generate the tools to garner investment, natural resources, and our people's work and creativity towards a horizon of sustainability and prosperity.■

LONG-TERM AGREEMENTS IN ARGENTINA-AS/COAS CONFERENCE

In the framework of the “2021 Latin American Cities Conferences: Buenos Aires”, the AS/COA American Society/Council of the Americas held a dialogue with a distinguished group of authorities and political leaders of the government and the opposition, with a focus on the current situation of the Argentine economy and the future prospects for the country.

The conversation was moderated by Susan Segal, President and CEO of the AS/COA, by Ragnhild Melzi, Vice President of the AS/COA and by Natalio Mario Grinman, president of the Argentine Chamber of Commerce.

Despite being an elections year in Argentina, there was a long-term common view among the participants regarding the need to promote dialogue, agreements and State policies among the various political forces in the country.

Challenges that Argentina shares with the United States in the context of the pandemic were also addressed.

The Chief of the National Cabinet of Ministers, Santiago Cafiero, highlighted the need to achieve a political consensus that leads to economic, social and environmental sustainability. He also highlighted the resilience of Argentine institutions, that allowed to navigate the pandemic smoothly within the democratic framework. Cafiero also stressed that the health system in Argentina always resisted the increased demand well, thanks to the investment that was made throughout the country and affirmed that the national government sees vaccination not only as a health policy but as an economic one, since it lays the foundations for the true economic reactivation of the country. For his part, Foreign Minister Felipe Solá highlighted the

Authorities and political leaders at the “2021 Latin American Cities Conferences: Buenos Aires”, held by AS/COA. Photo Credit: AS/COA.



THE MINISTER OF ECONOMY, MARTÍN GUZMÁN, SHARED AN UPWARD REVISION OF THE EXPECTED GDP GROWTH IN ARGENTINA FOR THIS YEAR, WHICH IS ESTIMATED TO BE 8%.

active role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in promoting international trade, as well as the good level of political dialogue that exists with all the countries of the region. Likewise, he considered the United States as “a great ally for the economic recovery of the country” being also the main investor in Argentina in areas such as health, energy, knowledge economy and automotive.

The Minister of Economy, Martín Guzmán, shared an upward revision of the expected GDP growth in Argentina for this year, which is estimated to be 8%. He highlighted the positive evolution of the main macroeconomic variables, highlighting in particular the increase in international reserves and exports, the trade surplus balance and the employment creation, as well as the orderly restructuring of the debt with private creditors. Likewise, he emphasized the need to place sustainability at the center of future policies.

In turn, the President of the House, Sergio Massa, raised the need to reach ten basic agreements for the development of the country in Congress, which is the place where political agreements are made, among which he mentioned the need to promote a technological revolution in education, adopt a political commitment on the debt, encourage exports, energy development and mining, and export knowledge.

The Minister of Health, Carla Vizzotti, highlighted that Argentina is in a good epidemiological moment, with all

the COVID-19 indicators showing positive signs: a drop in cases, hospitalizations and deaths. Cecilia Nicolini, for her part, said that Argentina’s plan was to buy as many vaccines as possible in a context of scarcity, promote local production and finance the technological system for the development of its own vaccines. To date, 60 percent of the population has received at least one dose and about 30 percent complete immunization.

Miguel Angel Pesce, President of the Central Bank, expressed his appreciation for the work being done with the IMF to reach an agreement and stressed that as the country’s external balance and reserve position continues to improve, exchange controls will gradually become more flexible. The Head of Government of the City of Buenos Aires, Horacio Rodríguez Larreta, referred to the importance of dialogue and leaving behind polarizing approaches. In his presentation, he highlighted the need to establish four pillars for the development of the country: education, jobs, an intelligent and facilitating State, transparency and respect for the law.

Other participants, candidates in the next midterm elections as it’s the case of Anabel Fernández Sagasti, Senator for the Province of Mendoza, Facundo Manes, candidate for national congressman for the Province of Buenos Aires and María Eugenia Vidal, candidate for national congresswoman for the City of Buenos Aires, also addressed the need to work searching for consensus.

The post-pandemic challenges in Argentina and in the world are of such magnitude that the participants of the Conference organized by AS/COAS shared the view on the need to seek agreements bringing together all parts of the political system, ruling party and opposition, to define policies that transcend more than one government, with a focus on the creation of knowledge, private investment and ultimately, the productive development of the country with greater inclusion and equity in a territorially extended and diverse country such as ours. ■



Carla Vizzotti, Minister of Health. Photo Credit: Telam.

A CONTRACT WITH PFIZER STRENGTHENS THE VACCINATION CAMPAIGN IN ARGENTINA

The Minister of Health, Carla Vizzotti, announced on Tuesday, August 24th at Casa de Gobierno that an agreement was reached with the Pfizer laboratory which will enable the purchase of 20 million COVID-19 vaccines, bolstering the vaccination campaign in the Argentine Republic.

Based on this new contract, 580,000 vaccines will arrive during September, while the rest, until we reach 20 million, will arrive starting in October in weekly shipments depending on flight availability. These doses will be administered to teenagers between 12 and 17 years of age, in addition to the Moderna vaccines already being used for this population.

The Pfizer and BioNTech laboratories announced, in

an official statement, the agreement reached with the National Ministry of Health. The companies reported that the vaccine, based on mRNA technology, has the corresponding regulatory approval from the National Administration of Drugs, Food and Medical Technology (ANMAT) for emergency use for ages 12 and older.

Pfizer Argentina's General Manager, Nicolás Vaquer, celebrated the agreement and thanked the authorities for the trust and support of the American laboratory. In addition, BioNTech's Business and Commercial Director, Sean Marett, recognized the support of the Argentine government and highlighted the laboratory's ability to develop a vaccine that has the potential to help face the global threat of the pandemic. Argentina is going through the 13th consecutive week with a decrease in cases and

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the 11th week with a decrease in hospitalizations, without any urban agglomeration in state of alarm in the country.

Out of 44 million population, as of August 27, the country registered 40,961,189 doses administered; the vaccination campaign is progressing well.

In her address at the AS/COA forum that took place on August 27th, Minister Vizzotti highlighted that the instruction of the President was not only to obtain the highest number of safe and effective doses for Argentina, but also for the entire region. ■