



Mr. Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers, Engineer Nicolás Posse
c.c. Mr. President of CONICET, Dr. Daniel Salamone
c.c. Members of the Board of Directors of CONICET
c.c. Co-Chairs of the
ISC Regional Focal Point for Latin American and the Caribbean,
Dr Luis Sobrevia and Dr Ana Rada Tarifa

22 February 2024

ISC Letter of Support for the Integrity of Argentina's science system

The ISC expresses its concern regarding the future of Argentina's science system, and offers its assistance in working with local and regional communities to develop a robust science sector which contributes to Argentina's social, environmental and economic success.

The International Science Council (ISC) is deeply concerned that the current wave of decisions affecting Argentina's science system and infrastructure will be counterproductive. Specifically, the ISC notes:

- the closure of Argentina's Ministry of Science and Technology;
- the mass dismissal of administrative staff reported throughout Argentina's scientific institutions;
- the freezing of funding for Argentina's National Scientific and Technological Research Council (CONICET) and national universities to 2023 levels despite record inflation rates; and
- the discontinuation of national research grant payments.

The ISC recognizes the difficult position of Argentina's government as it seeks to restructure the country's economy. Science can prove very helpful to the choices the government needs to make in rebuilding the economy. Investment for social and economic growth is critical and science is core to every domain of national development. A well-funded science and technology sector is essential for fostering innovation, driving sustainable development, and building long-term economic resilience, as demonstrated by all the world's largest and most prosperous economies.

The ISC urges the government of Argentina to reconsider its recent decisions regarding the Argentinian science system. Advancing the country's capacity for science, research, development, and innovation is a prerequisite investment for the future socio-economic success of Argentina and its people.

The International Science Council (ISC) is a non-governmental organization with a unique global membership that brings together over 250 international scientific unions and associations as well as national and regional scientific organizations including academies and research councils. Our vision is of science as a global public good. Our mission is to be the global voice for science.

Argentina has a proud history in science and the Argentine science community is a critical resource for current and future generations. The ISC stands ready to assist to build a stronger Argentine science system, one that can and does contribute to economic recovery, productivity, social development, and the wellbeing of all Argentinians.

The ISC also stands ready to ensure Argentinian science is represented at its upcoming Global Knowledge Dialogue for Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Chile, 9-11 April 2024, presenting an opportunity for an open discussion on identifying regional scientific priorities, opportunities, and challenges, with a special emphasis on strategies for funding and executing sustainable science initiatives.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Gluckman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Sir Peter Gluckman ONZ KNZM FTWAS FRSNZ FMedSci FRS
President
International Science Council