

Mr. Jorge Todesca
Director General
National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC)
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Paris, 10th July 2017

Dear Mr. Todesca,

As Chair of the Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (CSSP), I would like to thank you and your team for your attendance and active participation at our recent annual meeting in Geneva. I would also like to inform you of the Committee's conclusions based on the preliminary review of the Argentinian statistical system and statistics undertaken by the OECD Statistics Directorate (STD) after Argentina formally expressed its interest to adhere to the Recommendation of the OECD Council on Good Statistical Practice in June 2016.

At its session on 22 June 2017, the Committee expressed great satisfaction with the commitment of Argentina to put in place a sound statistical system, and with the progress achieved over recent months to restore the credibility of official statistics by improving their legal and institutional framework and addressing serious weaknesses in the domains covered by the review, i.e. national accounts (including public sector debt), consumer price indices, and international trade in goods statistics. Delegates welcomed the further information you provided and expressed strong support for the initial plans and schedules you outlined for dealing with some of the recommendations from the preliminary review, including those relating to identified statistical gaps.

Committee members also acknowledged the institutional developments in the National Statistical System over the last eighteen months which contribute strongly to rebuilding trust in Argentinian official statistics. They welcomed efforts to better co-ordinate activities across the statistical system and improve public information materials, including by disseminating statistical information in the English language where this would be valuable to international users. In addition, Delegates welcomed elements in the draft statistical law designed to reinforce the professional independence of statistical producers, enhance INDEC's autonomy and its control over resources, strengthen its authority within the National Statistical System, prepare multi-annual statistical programmes, and create a Permanent Advisory Council. They believed that these elements, along with initiatives to introduce a quality management framework, better protect statistical confidentiality, and adopt a user perspective, would significantly reinforce the institutional settings for official statistics and help guarantee the professional independence of INDEC.

I am pleased to inform you that the CSSP had a very positive overall assessment. This will now follow the OECD's internal process and you should receive an official notification on the adherence of Argentina to the OECD Council Recommendation on Good Statistical Practice by the Secretary-General very shortly.



The Committee also recommended that Argentina engage in a full statistical review by the OECD Secretariat, which would cover statistical domains not addressed in the preliminary review, enable a comprehensive and in-depth assessment of Argentina's current level of compliance with the Recommendation, and identify how Argentina could further advance towards OECD best practices in the area of statistics.

The Committee strongly supported your commitment to continue the process of strengthening Argentina's official statistics and statistical system, not only in the context of potential accession to the OECD, but also for Argentina to draw the full benefit from its statistics by knowing that they are fully comparable internationally. I personally wish you all the best in your continued efforts in this direction.

Yours sincerely,

Konrad Pesendorfer
Chair of the Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy
Director General of Statistics Austria