

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

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

The Executive Council (EC) of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) expresses its deep concern regarding the future of Argentina's science and higher education institutions, and urges the Argentinian government to continue the support of these systems that are key for the advancement and development of the country.

The IUPAP EC joins the International Science Council (ISC) in expressing its deepest concern about the current wave of decisions affecting Argentina's scientific and higher education systems which include:

- 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 reduction in half of the number of CONICET funded PhD scholarships that were planned to be granted in 2024 and the postponement of their starting date;
- the delay in appointing the President of the largest Argentinian Funding Agency (ANPCyT) and the decision to implement changes that modify its character as a decentralized body.

The IUPAP EC appreciates the serious economic difficulties faced by Argentina. However, it respectfully points out that the severity of the budget cuts, personnel reductions, breach of assumed commitments in research grants and scholarships, international cooperation and serious restrictions imposed by the national government will inhibit recovery from those difficulties. It thus pleads that these decisions be reversed before even more damage is done, and while there is still a chance of recovery. That will avoid squandering the investment that Argentina has made over many years in its scientific capability.

Public investment in research is fundamental as a catalyst for innovation. The continuity of the support is key: many scientific breakthroughs that eventually lead to practical applications result from long-term, fundamental research. Public funding provides the stability and resources necessary for researchers to pursue these high-risk, high-reward endeavors. Stable policies, on the other hand, create an environment that attracts and retains top scientific talent. Argentina has suffered several waves of talent emigration caused by political and economic distress. It takes many years to build a striving scientific community. Its destruction can occur in a few days.

The IUPAP EC urges the government of Argentina to reconsider its recent decisions and continue the support of the Argentinian science and higher education systems at levels compatible with their harmonious development.

This letter will be sent to the representatives of the Argentinian scientific community, be published on the IUPAP website, www.iupap.org, and shared through social networks.

Yours sincerely,

Michel Spiro, President