For the
UN Secretary General
Climate Action Summit
New York, 23 September 2019

THE AMBITION CALL

The Ambition Call provides country recommendations for immediate climate action in response to the UN Secretary-General's request for countries to:

- present concrete, realistic plans that are compatible with the latest IPCC Special Report on global warming of 1.5°C
- enhance their NDCs by 2020 and
- reduce GHG emissions by 45% over the next decade, and to net zero by 2050.[1]

The 2019 Summit in Osaka saw the G20 countries (with the exception of the USA) reaffirming their commitments to fully implement the Paris Agreement.[2] Many have already announced their willingness to increase their mitigation targets, aiming for net-zero emissions by 2050.

ARGENTINA

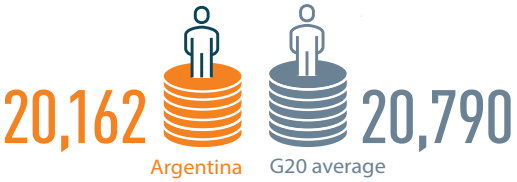
GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSIONS (INCL. FORESTRY) PER CAPITA

(tCO_2e/capita)

Data from 2015 | Source: PRIMAP 2018

GDP PER CAPITA

(PPP U$$ const. 2015, international)



Source: World Bank 2017

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.83

Data from 2017 | Source: UNDP 2018

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

#1

Stop exploiting new oil and gas reserves.

#2

Stop unsustainable agricultural practices and associated deforestation.

#3

Shift individual transport modes towards sustainable, low-emissions public transport and non-motorised mobility.

Climate Transparency

Climate Transparency is a global partnership with a shared mission to stimulate a 'race to the top' in G20 climate action and to shift investments towards zero carbon technologies through enhanced transparency. Climate Transparency is made possible through support from the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), through the International Climate Initiative, ClimateWorks Foundation and the World Bank Group.

https://www.climate-transparency.org/

FARN
FUNDACIÓN AMBIENTE Y RECURSOS NATURALES

FARN is a non-governmental, non-profit and non-partisan organisation founded in 1985. Its main goal is to promote sustainable development through policy, law and the institutional organisation of society. Citizens' engagement is one of the main focuses of FARN's work; citizens play an important role in complying with legislation, demanding the enforcement of the laws, being part of policy debates and allocating resources to prevent environmental problems. The Foundation´s different activities are financed by contributions from private donors (individuals, companies, and foreign and domestic foundations) as well as from domestic and international public agencies.

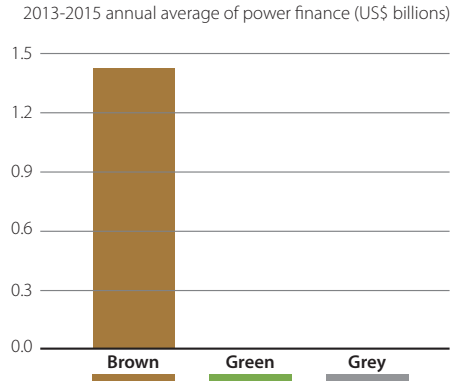
https://farn.org.ar/

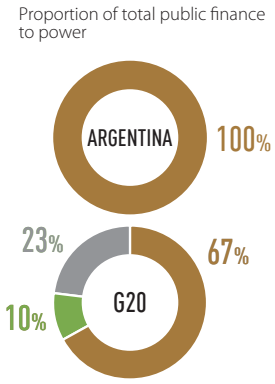
Stop exploiting new oil and gas reserves

#1

The narrative of President Macri's administration has focused on positioning Argentina as a leader in climate action. Under his leadership, the Ministry of Energy has launched a renewable energy bidding programme, aiming for 20% of the nation's electricity to come from renewables by 2025.[3] However, the exploitation of national oil and natural gas resources has threatened progress in this direction. The Secretariat of Energy is promoting the 'Vaca Muerta' shale gas reserve as a source of not only cheap oil and gas for national consumption, but also for export.[4] Continued investments into gas and oil exploration create the risk of breaching the Paris Agreement's long-term temperature goal and the consequent results in stranded assets. In most countries, renewables are already the lowest-cost source of new power generation, while oil and gas infrastructures are capital-intensive, especially ports and pipelines. Further, according to the recommendations of the IPCC Special Report, natural gas and oil need to be phased out along with coal by mid-century if the world is to limit warming to 1.5°C, as spelt out in the Paris Agreement.[5]

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC FINANCE IN THE POWER SECTOR





brown Coal, oil and gas projects (and associated infrastructure)

grey Large-scale hydropower, biofuels, biomass, nuclear, incineration, transmission, distribution, storage, energy efficiency, other general electricity support

green Renewable energy projects (excluding grey financing)

Source: Oil Change International 2017

What does this mean?

National research shows that stopping new oil and gas exploration could reduce about 27 $MtCO_2e$ by 2030.[6] If Argentina does not stop the expansion of oil and gas infrastructure, it is likely to be locked-into these 'brown' technologies for the coming decades, leading to stranded assets during the inevitable shift to cheaper renewables. Also, investment in renewable energy, especially in solar and wind forms, creates more jobs than new investments in fossil fuels, considering the job intensity involved in the construction and installation of renewable energy facilities, and the research and development phase required to develop these technologies in the country.

Additional development benefits

SDG 3

Moving away from oil and gas to carbon neutral energy sources will significantly reduce air pollution, as well as associated diseases like respiratory problems.

SDG 8

Development of a new carbon-neutral industry will support employment opportunities through the creation of safe and decent jobs, in particular in the research and development phases of the technology cycle.

SDG 9

Development and integration of new clean technologies replacing oil and gas supports sustainable industrialisation and infrastructure upgrading.

SDG 11

When displacing the use of fossil fuels such as oil and gas, renewables and other zero carbon technologies contribute to reducing the environmental impact of cities by reducing the amount of GHG and air pollutants from their activities.

SDG 12

Switching to a carbon-neutral technology for energy requires and contributes to sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

Good practice in other countries

In 2017, **France** symbolically committed to ban all new gas and oil exploration as of 2017, along with gas and oil production, across all its territories by 2040.

In November 2018, **New Zealand** banned new offshore oil and gas exploration projects. The country has the fourth-largest exclusive economic zone on the planet.

Stop unsustainable agricultural practices and associated deforestation

#2

Agricultural emissions in Argentina (~98 $MtCO_2e/a$ in 2014 according to the national inventory) contribute a share of about 26% of total national emissions. Agricultural products are an important part of Argentina's exports, and the activities as well as related emissions are set to increase further, reaching about 160 $MtCO_2e/a$ by 2030.[7] Apart from its significant contribution to national emissions, Argentine agriculture has many other important effects on the environment, including deforestation. Although there is no clear policy framework to support emissions reductions in the agricultural sector, a number of potential mitigation measures have been examined, which could improve the productivity of the sector and also reduce land use changes and deforestation linked to unsustainable agricultural practices. These include, for example, conservation agriculture, yearly crops rotation, genetic improvement and biotechnology, integrated pest management, good practices in the use of fertilisers and animal production.

AGRICULTURE SECTOR

AGRICULTURE EMISSIONS INTENSITY
(tCO_2e/thousand US$2015 sectoral GDP (PPP))

G20 average: 0.95

Trend: -39%

Data from 2014
Source: Argentina BUR 2017

What does this mean?

The above impacts make this sector a priority for constraining emissions and, thus, reducing environmental impacts. According to the Agriculture Sector Plan, stopping unsustainable agricultural practices and deforestation could potentially reduce about 53 $MtCO_2e$ in 2030.[8] Further, by taking actions in this direction, the government could support the positive trend in decreasing LULUCF emissions since 2010 (mostly due to the implementation of the 2007 Native Forests law). These actions will contribute to reducing soil degradation and contamination with agrochemicals, as well as tackling biodiversity loss and improving water management.

Additional development benefits

SDG 1

Switching to climate smart agriculture and new types of agricultural input, such as drought resistant seeds, can increase food security and increase resilience of people living from agriculture.

SDG 2

Agroforestry increases agriculture productivity, contributes to adaptation measures and food security, and improves habitat conservation.

SDG 3

Switching to sustainable agricultural practices reduces air, soil and water pollution by decreasing burning practices and use of fertilisers.

SDG 6

Climate-smart agriculture reduces water contamination, due to less use of fertiliser and a better irrigation system, and contributes to efficient use of water.

SDG 15

Sustainable agricultural practices help avoid deforestation and soil degradation, also contributing to ecosystems and biodiversity conservation.

Good practice in other countries

Agriculture is an integral part of the Honduran economy. Recently, the Government of **Honduras** implemented smallholder farmer agricultural activities that resulted in reduced GHG emissions, enhanced carbon sequestration and improved crop yields.

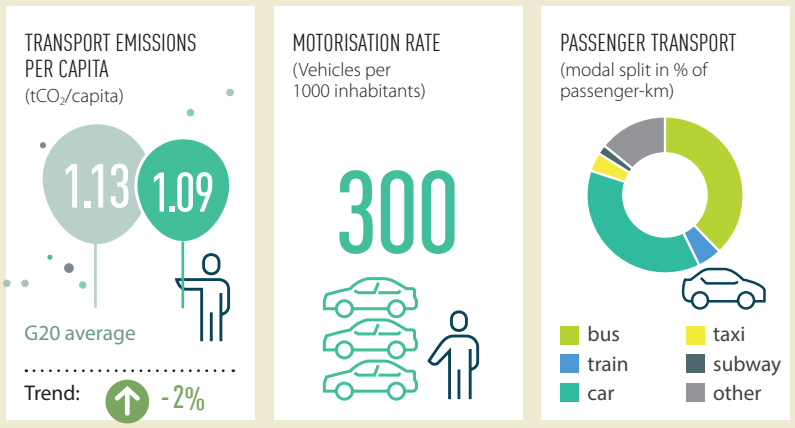
Since 1993, **Switzerland** has developed a system of ecological direct payments, encouraging farmers to adopt more environmentally friendly methods.

Shift individual transport modes towards sustainable, low-emissions public transport and non-motorised mobility

#3

In 2014, emissions from the transport sector in Argentina represented 15% of national GHG inventory. These are expected to continue increasing in the coming decades. In Argentina, bus ridership explains almost 90% of the trips on public transport and has a unique geographical penetration, connecting more than 900 urban centres throughout the country. This mode of transport plays a crucial social role, as more than 70% of the long-distance trips of low-income people are made by bus.[9] As half of all transport-related emissions occur in cities (globally), there is an urgent need for a transition towards sustainable urban transport systems, not only from a climate perspective, but also from social and economic perspectives. Increased urban mobility demand cannot be met by existing transport infrastructures heavily relying on private vehicles. Thus, several city authorities already strive to initiate a modal shift from private vehicles to public transport. This transformation would have to be accompanied by a decarbonisation of the power sector to ensure the electric transport is truly emissions free.

TRANSPORT SECTOR



Data from 2017 Source: Enerdata 2018

Data from 2017 Source: AFAC 2018

Data from 2012 | Source: Government of Argentina 2017

What does this mean?

National research shows that rolling out electricity-powered public transport and non-motorised vehicles in Argentina could reduce about 5.9 $MtCO_2e$ in 2030.[10] In addition, this shift to electric public transport contributes to economic growth and the creation of jobs. It also reduces congestion, air pollution and associated respiratory diseases.

Additional development benefits

SDG 3

A switch away from individual transport towards low-emissions public transport reduces air pollution, due to less fuel use, and improves mental health and well-being by reducing noise and traffic congestion.

SDG 8

A move towards low-emission public transport increases resource efficiency by reducing fossil fuel use, while having new vehicle and fuel types contributes to technological and infrastructure upgrading.

SDG 9

Development and integration of low-carbon public transport and associated infrastructure (e.g. charging networks) supports sustainable industrialisation, adoption of clean technologies and infrastructure upgrading.

SDG 11

A switch away from individual transport towards low-carbon public transport contributes to increased access to safe, sustainable transport systems and significantly reduces air pollution in cities.

SDG 12

Switching to zero carbon vehicles increases resource efficiency, reduces air pollution and can support adoption of sustainable practices, such as encouraging and enabling users to reduce their transport related emissions.

Good practice in other countries

The **Chilean** electromobility strategy published in 2017 set out an action plan to achieve a 40% share of the private vehicle fleet and 100% of public urban transport fleet to be electric by 2050.

Many cities all over the world have set themselves targets for CO_2 free transport: Bangalore (bus fleet by 2023), Rotterdam (bus fleet by 2029), Paris (cars and busses by 2025), Rome (cars by 2024), London (busses by 2025), Los Angeles (car fleet by 2050), more than 30 cities in China (bus and taxi fleet by 2022).

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