Situation at the Beginning of the Administration
December 2015

1. Political intervention in the processes and results of statistical series
2. Processes disarticulated and damaged in their methodology and execution
3. Arbitrary displacement and replacement of professionals
4. Fracture of the statistical infrastructure
5. Weak credibility within the NSS (confidentiality affected, unexplained methodological changes)
6. Social discredit and loss of reliability of statistical products
7. Technological and building structures deteriorated and at risk
8. IMF Declaration of Censure (17/09/2012)

‘Argentine reaction to the IMF’s sanction due to INDEC’, February 2013.
FIRST STEPS
December 2015

HOW DO WE FACE A CRISIS?
December 2015

WHAT TO DO
Reestablish legitimate authority
Design and execute a short-term Action Plan

HOW TO DO IT
Tools appropriate for the crisis
Quickly gather a team capable of carrying out the Plan
An inseparable combination

**The Economist**

**Official statistics**

Don’t lie to me, Argentina
Why we are removing a figure from our indicators page
20 June 2014.

**Welcome back**

Argentina’s new, honest inflation statistics
The end of bogus accounting
27 May 2017.

indec AÑOS 1989 - 2018
A crisis requires fast decision-making. It is an EMERGENCY

We asked the President for extraordinary powers during a year to appoint and remove staff who had not been hired by public tender (among them, most directors).

The President issued a decree to grant those powers.

We rebuilt the executive staff (42 officials) with a young generation of experienced professionals who had been dismissed or had resigned for being against the political intervention. This process lasted two months. Had the normal administrative procedure been followed, it would have taken two years.

We dismissed a great number of unsuited staff members, which caused a great conflict with the unions.
Reliable series cannot be developed in a few weeks. Releasing data without revision would have meant a great loss of credibility.

We decided to suspend all publications until the methodologies, sources and processes were revised. This caused a great internal anxiety and an enormous external pressure.

Statistics based on records were the first to be restored.

Statistics based on surveys took more time and the previous data could not be rebuilt.

‘Todesca announced the end of the “statistical emergency” and the launch of a new CPI with national coverage’, December 2016.
Restoration table of the main statistical products

Foreign trade
Balance of payments
GDP
System of wholesale prices
Monthly Industrial Estimator
Consumer Price Index
Labour market indicators
Poverty and indigence indicators*  

LA NACION
Las cifras del nuevo Indec, tras ocho años de manipulación de datos: la inflación de mayo fue del 4,2%

INDEC’s new figures, after years of data manipulation: Inflation in May was 4.2%’, June 2016.

Hoy vuelven los datos de la Canasta Básica, suspendidos por el kirchnerismo
Data on the Basic Basket are back today after being suspended by Kirchnerism’, September 2016.

*discontinued in 2013
Seek a strategic path that is qualified, prestigious, credible (Unstats, IMF, OECD).

Avoid isolation. Explain, explain, explain!

During 2016, we worked with the IMF on the CPI and GDP, two indicators that had been issued a declaration of censure due to their inadequacy.

During mid 2016 we began to work with the OECD to adapt to their standards, as part of Argentina’s intention to follow the accession process, but mainly as a guide to reconstruct INDEC.

The IMF lifted the declaration of censure on INDEC’s statistics, November 2016.

‘The OECD accepted Argentina as an ‘adherent’ following INDEC’s normalisation’,
2017-2019  Reconstruction of statistical infrastructure

Selected issues

2. New Household Expenditure Survey (2017-2018). 2012’s was deficient and previous was in 2004.
5. Specific surveys and studies necessary for the definition and monitoring of government policies (Risk factors, Victimisation, Disability, Violence against women, Activities of children and adolescents).
7. Update and standardisation of base years (national accounts and CPI).
8. Return to the International Comparability Program. INDEC did not participate in the 2011 round.
Where we stand

Government commitment to a new statistical law to guarantee full independence (pending).

No political interference in methodologies, processes, etc.

Administrative dependency for appointments, structure, budget and execution, etc. after statistical emergency ended.

Lack of access to administrative records (e.g. tax administration).

‘The OECD praised the changes made by INDEC during the last two years’, April 2018.
Intervention of political power in a National Statistical Office

William Seltzer (UN, 1994) defined eleven modes of institutionally undermining an NSO. The political intervention in Argentina included all of them.

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<td>Supression of poverty and indigence statistics (2013). Alteration of the CPI. Unexpected change of GDP base (March 2014)</td>
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Evolution of institutional strengthening at INDEC

Situation of modes of institutional undermining (Seltzer, 1994).

INDEC 2015

INDEC 2018

FUTURE INDEC

CURRENT LEGAL FRAMEWORK

COMPREHENSIVE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

POLITICAL WILL
THANK YOU!