Localisation of the Agenda 2030
and its Sustainable Development Goals

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1. Introduction to the City and the Co-production Process

Buenos Aires city has been the capital of the country since 1880 and became the head of its metropolitan area. Its large concentration of political and economic power distinguishes it from the rest of Argentine cities. This metropolitan area consists of Buenos Aires Autonomous City (CABA) and 24 municipalities of Buenos Aires province. Whereas its total population reaches 12,806,866 inhabitants, only 2,890,151 inhabitants belong to the city (National Census, 2010), which whole area covers 203 km2 (78.37 square miles).

Since 2007 the city has been lead by the same political party. Between 2015 and 2019, this party also governed the provincial and the national government. In this last period, the municipal government worked closely with some international commitments related to achieve inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements, such as the UN Agenda 2030.

The local co-production experience has been developed in this context, in a joint effort of the Observatory on Latin America (OLA), The New School, the Centre for Social and Legal Studies (CELS, in Spanish) and the General Secretariat and International Affairs (SGyRI, in Spanish) within the Government of the City of Buenos Aires (GCBA). This partnership sought to coordinate the views from academia, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and public sector regarding the Agenda 2030 adaptation in Buenos Aires. This research not only included the study of SDG localisation, but also the analysis of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) implementation.

The work focuses around two pillars, namely: the analysis of secondary sources and the co-production of knowledge with government players. For the first pillar, official documents relevant to the study of the strategic implementation of SDGs in the city (UN, ECLAC, the national government) were surveyed and processed to be used as inputs. For the second pillar, meetings were held with national and city government officials.

The main activity of the second pillar consisted in developing an agreed-upon agenda jointly with the SGyRI, and its Directorate-General for Strategic Management (DGGE, in Spanish). The SGyRI is the agency commissioned with the task of implementing the SDGs at the local level. In this context, a series of preliminary meetings were held with SGyRI officials with the purpose of presenting the MISTRA Urban Futures programme and plan the future joint work. This was followed by work meetings, public presentations and exchange sessions. In 2018, the focus was on the study of the links between the city government plan and the Agenda 2030; the approach to SDG 11; and localising the targets and indicators related to housing deficit. In 2019, with the localisation plan well in progress, the collaborative work was organised around two aspects: the methodology implemented by the SGyRI, and the prioritisation, interpretation and adaptation of targets and indicators of the SDGs in line with local objectives.

In 2018, the SGyRI presented the work carried out in adapting the administration's actions to the SDG targets. This involved translating the government plan into SDG targets, which resulted in the identification of 61 of the 169 targets proposed by the UN related to administration programs. In addition, 16 of the 17 SDGs were selected as city relevant areas.[2] Based on this mapping, SDGs 16 and 11 were chosen as priorities for an initial stage, as they

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[2] The SDG 14 (Life below Water) was excluded because the city government has not jurisdiction over the Río de la Plata and its tributaries.

concentrate most government actions. The decision to select these SDGs was also determined by collaborative work proposals by the UNDP in the case of SDG 16 and by MISTRA Urban Futures (MUF) in the case of SDG 11.

The joint work in this first stage focused on a general discussion of SDG 11 based on an interpretation proposed by the OLA-CELS team. Particularly, the discussion of the definitions and measurements of the indicators deemed relevant for assessing the housing deficit in the city, included the IVC, the Under-Secretariat for Social and Urban Integration (SISU, in Spanish) and the Directorate-General for Statistics and Censuses (DGEyC, in Spanish). This co-production initiative was welcomed by the SGyRI as an opportunity for promoting the debate at the government level and bringing other government departments to the discussion. The exchange of ideas on the indicators enriched the way in which the GCBA is assessing compliance with its own objectives.

A public activity took place within the framework of the First "Urban 20" (U20) Mayors Summit, held in Buenos Aires in October 2018. OLA, FADU and the GCBA organised the conference "Contributions for U20: Co-production of Knowledge in the Metropolitan Dimension," which was attended not only by officials from the organising institutions, but also by representatives of MISTRA Urban Futures (MUF), CELS and several universities. Moreover, OLA and the IVC led a discussion session entitled "Urban Knowledge Dialogues" with the participation of representatives of MUF, CELS and the SGyRI.

In 2019 the OLA-CELS team worked in the analysis of the methodology implemented by the SGyRI to include several internal and external stakeholders in the design of the localisation plan. The SGyRI explained the national guidelines that defined its work, as outlined by the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies (CNCPS, in Spanish); the dialogue held with some provinces; the mechanisms used to exchange information with other areas within the local government; and the strategies to include the private sector, academia, NGOs, and international organizations in a wider debate around the SDGs. In particular, the collaborative work with the MUF programme made it possible to integrate the views of OLA in its capacity as an academic institution, of the CELS as an NGO, and of other cities that are part of the project, as well as the recent exchange with the city of London.

Following the publication of the *Voluntary Local Review. Building a Sustainable and Inclusive Buenos Aires* in July 2019 (GCBA, 2019), the collaborative work focused on specific aspects of the localisation plan, including the SDG prioritisation criteria, the interpretation and redefinition of targets and indicators, the measurement and monitoring methods, the government departments involved in the evaluation of the city performance, the cross-sectional examination of specific topics, and a critical approach to the Agenda 2030.

Finally, an important part of the work under the MUF programme involved the dialogue with other cities. The *city-city peer review* experience offered the opportunity to gain insight into housing, participation and resilience issues in Cape Town; and awareness-raising, gender, migrations and housing issues in Gothenburg. And a new channel of dialogue was recently opened with the city of London, a city that shares the same challenges imposed by the metropolitan reality.

This collaborative research put the project methodology to the test; its aim was promoting the co-production of knowledge among representatives of academia, NGOs and the government, as well as creating a dynamic for causing impact on public management. Throughout the project,

the three teams managed to forge synergies, as opposed to the usual transfer practice from academic institutions and NGOs to government departments. Despite their often divergent purposes, the different know-hows could be integrated into new forms of academic and public management knowledge.

2. Main Actors and Activities in the Localisation of the SDGs in the City

Internal Actors

At the national level, the agency in charge of guiding the local implementation of the Agenda 2030 is the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies (CNCPS). Its role involves the following: 1. to position the SDGs in the agenda of the national, provincial and city governments, and to raise awareness among society at large; 2. to foster mechanisms for participation and cooperation with SDGs from the private business sector, universities and civil society organizations; and 3. to coordinate the localisation processes of the SDGs in the different government agencies. This council was created in 2002, and its role regarding the Agenda 2030 began in 2015 with the prioritisation of the national goals.
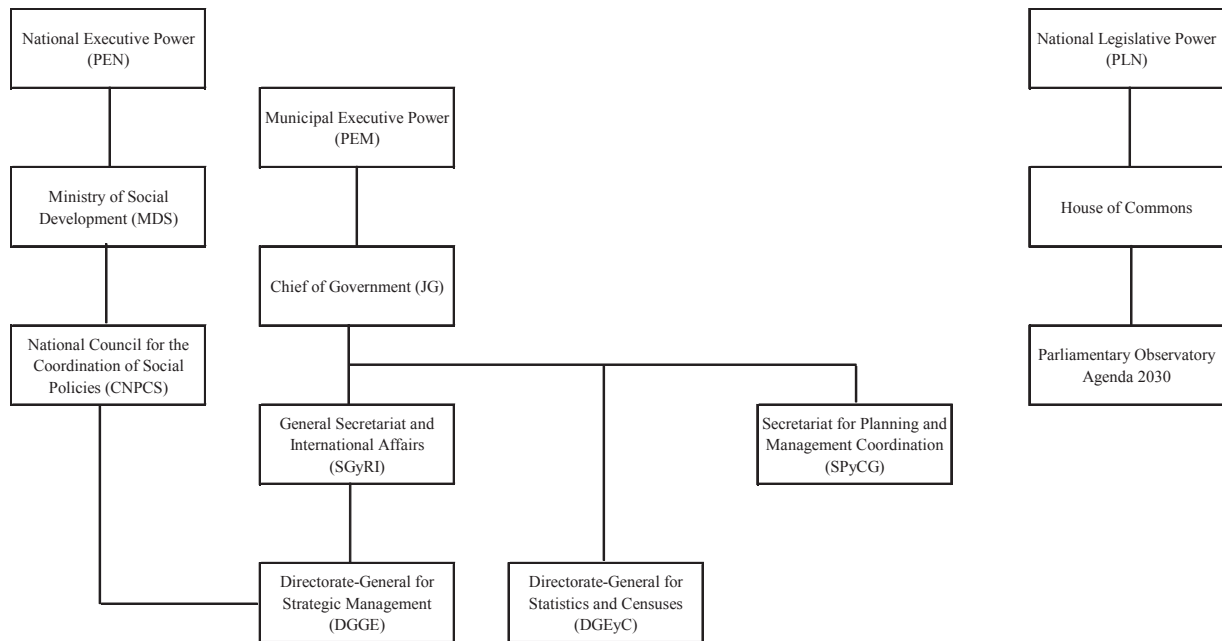
There is also a Parliamentary Observatory Agenda 2030 that belongs to the National Parliament and whose main objective is to provide information for the deputies to generate legislation that could upgrade the quality of life and the development of Argentine citizens in order to reach the SDGs.

Under an agreement signed in 2016 with the CNCPS, the General Secretariat and International Affairs (SGyRI) office of the Government of the City of Buenos Aires (GCBA) was appointed as the focal point. In other words, this local body is responsible for the development, follow-up and monitoring of the SDG targets through its Directorate-General for Strategic Management (DGGE). This department has a role that cuts across the different areas of government, in addition to its international role of disseminating the work carried out in Buenos Aires and cooperating with other agencies and cities. It should be noted that this department is also concerned with developing the local Resilience Strategy.

The work of the DGGE was carried out with the cooperation of the Directorate-General for Statistics and Censuses (DGEyC) of the city of Buenos Aires, whose task is to collect, produce and disseminate the city's official statistics. It integrates the information from every area of the public and private sectors that may be relevant for monitoring the SDGs, among other purposes. In addition, the DGGE works jointly with the City´s Secretariat for Planning and Management Coordination (SPyCG), whose role is to coordinate the work with all other government areas to define their plans and prioritise their projects, and thus it is crucial to the implementation of the Agenda 2030.

In this context of collaboration, the DGGE invited 27 areas of government to an inter-ministerial meeting where they agreed to adapt the global SDG targets to the local reality, a process that included the validation of the prioritised SDGs and the definition of indicators for mid- and long-term monitoring purposes (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Government Actors and their Role in the Localisation of the Agenda 2030

National Executive Power (PEN)		National Legislative Power (PLN)
Municipal Executive Power (PEM)		House of Commons
Ministry of Social Development (MDS)	Chief of Government (JG)	Parliamentary Observatory Agenda 2030
National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies (CNPCS)	General Secretariat and International Affairs (SGyRI) — Secretariat for Planning and Management Coordination (SPyCG)	
	Directorate-General for Strategic Management (DGGE) — Directorate-General for Statistics and Censuses (DGEyC)	

External actors

The City of Buenos Aires has primarily established strategic associations for the development of the Agenda 2030 localisation´s plan at the international level. The SGyRI, through the DGGE, has exchanged good practices with other governments that work with the SDGs and participated in city networks such as the Union of Ibero-American Capital Cities (UCCI, in Spanish), United Cities and Local Government (UCLG), 100 Resilient Cities, C40 Cities, the Mercosur-City Network, and the Argentine Council for International Relations (CARI, in Spanish).

Furthermore, the DGGE was part of the MISTRA Urban Futures (MUF) programme through the development of a joint work agenda with OLA and CELS, as representatives of the international academic world and of local NGOs, respectively, focusing mainly on SDG 11 and on the SDGs related to housing deficit issues. Within this framework, it had the opportunity of exchanging experiences with government representatives and researchers from the other six cities that are part of the project, as well as of sharing the metropolitan challenges with the team engaged in implementing the Agenda 2030 in London. The city also received technical contributions from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) for the localisation of SDG 16, with a focus on open government and citizen participation, and was chosen to form part of the Accelerator Labs network and seek innovative solutions to development challenges.

In the field of citizen awareness raising, the UN (Argentina) was another key international organization. Together with the CNCPS, it assisted in the organisation of cultural activities on SDGs for students, teachers and families, within the framework of the Youth Olympic Games that took place in Buenos Aires in 2018. Along this line, the 2019 edition of the *BA Elige* programme organised by the GCBA gave citizens the opportunity to vote for projects in their neighbourhoods that contributed to compliance with the Agenda 2030.

3. Engagement with the New Urban Agenda

The city subscribes to the New Urban Agenda (NUA) in an indirect way. It means that its governmental plan is strongly focused on the spirit and topics of the NUA and oriented to achieve a more sustainable city, regarding social, economic and environmental aspects. However, the NUA is not being addressed by any specific governmental area. Among other initiatives, the GCBA is developing the Resilience Strategy and the SDGs Localisation programs through the SGyRI and under the umbrella of the Agenda 2030.

4. Synergies and Conflicts between the City's Main Local Strategies and the Achievement of the SDGs

In the case of Buenos Aires City, the synergies and conflicts were analyzed in two levels. This section studies, on one hand, the relation between international commitments outlined in the Agenda 2030 and the 100 Resilient Cities Network. On the other, it analyses the dynamics among the SDGs and the policies implemented by the city government.

International Commitments

Urban development in Buenos Aires falls primarily under the purview of the city government and continuously involves different executive areas as well as its legislative and judicial bodies. Despite the complexity of its institutional map, the Agenda 2030 has been taken over by the GCBA and has enabled the design of a mid-term horizon plan in line with international objectives. The SGyRI, through the DGGE, responsible for strategic management, is devoted to developing two programs aimed at, on the one hand, outlining a localisation plan for the Agenda 2030, and, on the other, programming a resilience strategy focused on urban sustainability.

The SDG Localisation Programme was born when the DGGE was designated as a focal pointed in 2016, after signing a cooperation agreement with the CNCPS, in charge of the implementation of the Agenda 2030 at the national level. Under the guidance of the "Handbook for the Localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals" (CNCPS, n/d), drafted by the CNCPS, the DGGE defined five non-consecutive stages for developing its programme: formalisation of actions, prioritisation of targets, social awareness, institutionalisation of targets, and SDG monitoring and accountability.

At the prioritisation stage, the DGGE translated the City´s government plan into SDG targets; the government plan involves four pillars: 1. creativity; 2. enjoyment; 3. human scale; 4. social integration. These pillars were interpreted in 11 strategic dimensions, on the basis of which the DGGE initially identified 393 management projects that contribute to compliance with 56 targets corresponding to the 15 SDGs relevant to the city.[3] In following up on this stage, the DGGE worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the localisation of SDG 16. Likewise, the joint work with the MUF programme involved discussions on the local adaptation of SDG 11 targets and indicators. The localisation of the other SDGs is expected to be achieved with the cooperation of other actors (Figure 2).

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[3] The SDGs that were not prioritised in the localisation plan are SDGs 14 and 15, related to water and land flora and fauna.

Figure 2. SDGs According to the Pillars Defined in the Buenos Aires City Government Plan

Sustainable Development Goals	GOVERNMENT PLAN PILLARS			
	Creativity	Enjoyment	Human Scale	Social Integration
1. No poverty				•
2. Zero hunger				•
3. Good health and well-being		•		•
4. Quality education				•
5. Gender equality				•
6. Clean water and sanitation				•
7. Affordable and clean energy	•			•
8. Decent work and economic growth	•	•		•
9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure	•		•	•
10. Reduced inequalities				•
11. Sustainable cities and communities	•	•	•	•
12. Responsible consumption and production			•	
13. Climate action	•			
14. Life below water				
15. Life on land				
16. Peace, justice and strong institutions	•	•	•	•
17. Partnerships for the goals	•			

Regarding social awareness campaigns, the Youth Olympic Games were used to disseminate the Agenda 2030 through the installation of a booth, the creation of a participatory mural and the presentation of a videogame for kids designed by the local Ministry of Education. This strategy is expected to continue, with a focus on mass events.

At the institutionalisation stage, the DGGE is working on the localisation plan. For this purpose, it reached out to different areas of government engaged with the monitoring of SDGs indicators, as well as other stakeholders such as the OLA-CELS team that participated with an article on the experience of the collaborative work.

The latest advances were reported in the *Voluntary Local Review. Building a Sustainable and Inclusive Buenos Aires* (GCBA, 2019), which was presented to the UN in July 2019. This local voluntary report specifies the achievements attained by the city within the framework of SDGs 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 13 (Climate Action) and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). These goals are addressed in a particular manner, and they are considered by the GCBA as accelerators of a sustainable and inclusive development. In turn, the report prioritises a series of topics that cover more than one SDG. Such topics include the social and urban integration of vulnerable neighbourhoods (SDGs 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 16); coexistence in diversity (SDGs 5, 8 and 10); environmental care and the efficient and smart use of resources (SDGs 7, 11, 12 and 13); and the development of the citizens' potential (SGDs 4 and 8).

On the other hand, the DGGE is engaged in the development of the *Buenos Aires Resiliente* (Resilient Buenos Aires) programme,[4] responsible for designing the local Resilience Strategy, together with other areas of the city government, civil society, academia and the private sector. This programme, presented in 2017, was conceived when the city joined the 100 Resilient Cities Network (100RC) in 2016,[5] and it led to the launch of the strategy in 2018.

Several SDGs are related to urban resilience, which is defined by the programme as "the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems within a city to survive, adapt and grow, no matter what types of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience" (GCBA, 2017). Based on this comprehensive concept, the DGGE made a diagnosis that evaluated the perceptions of different civil society stakeholders and the actions undertaken with a view to building resilience in the city. This evaluation resulted in the identification of a series of emerging topics (green city, integrated city, city of opportunities, and safe city), on the basis of which five pillars were defined: 1. diversity, gender and living together, 2. innovation, talent and opportunities, 3. environment and sustainability, 4. social and urban integration, 5. safety and risk management, and three cross-cutting themes: 1. citizen participation, 2. data and technology, 3. metropolitan vision. These pillars are in turn subdivided into 14 strategic objectives that translate into 60 initiatives, proposals, programmes, and plans that respond to 14 of the 17 SDGs (Figure 3).

Figure 3. SDGs According to the Resilience Strategy of the City of Buenos Aires

Sustainable Development Goals	RESILIENCE STRATEGY PILLARS				
	Diversity, Gender and Living together	Innovation, Talent and Opportunities	Environment and Sustainability	Social and Urban Integration	Security and Risk Management
1. No poverty		•		•	
2. Zero hunger					
3. Good health and well-being	•				
4. Quality education		•			•
5. Gender equality	•				
6. Clean water and sanitation				•	
7. Affordable and clean energy			•	•	
8. Decent work and economic growth	•	•		•	
9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure		•	•		
10. Reduced inequalities	•				
11. Sustainable cities and communities	•	•	•	•	•

[4] Resolution No. 22/17 published in the Official Gazette No 5074. Available at: <https://documentosboletinoficial.buenosaires.gob.ar/publico/20170221.pdf>. The specific functions of the programme are detailed at: <https://documentosboletinoficial.buenosaires.gob.ar/publico/PE-RES-SGYRI-SGYRI-22-17-ANX.pdf>.

[5] It should be added that of the cities that form part of the project, only Buenos Aires y Cape Town are members of the 100RC Network, created by the Rockefeller Foundation to promote the management of solutions to the challenges posed by urbanisation, globalisation and climate change, among others. Available at: <https://www.100resilientcities.org/>.

12. Responsible consumption and production			•		
13. Climate action			•	•	•
14. Life below water					
15. Life on land					
16. Peace, justice and strong institutions	•	•			•
17. Partnerships for the goals		•			

Both programmes are instrumental in identifying the influence of the Agenda 2030 on the strategic development of the city of Buenos Aires. Both the SDG Localisation Programme and the Buenos Aires Resiliente programme define goals and targets with a view to 2030 in a dialogue with international agendas and without losing track of the local perspective. Conversely, based on its own local experience, the city might contribute to a global discussion on how to build more sustainable cities, with social and economic development and environmental balance.

Agenda 2030 and local policies

The local voluntary report (GCBA, 2019), as already mentioned, describes the progress made by the city regarding SDGs 4 (Quality education), 5 (Gender equality), 8 (Decent work and economic growth), 10 (Reduced inequalities), 13 (Climate action) and 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions). Even though each SDG is primarily addressed individually, in the case of SDG 5 the GCBA launched the Strategy for Gender Equality in 2018 with a crosscutting approach to the Agenda 2030, bringing to light the synergies among the different SDGs.

In a city where women account for 54% of the population, this strategy is intended to allow women to move around the public space and enjoy it without violence, become protagonists of economic development, have their voice heard, and occupy decision-making positions in the public and private sectors. Its implementation is not only related to the targets in SDG 5, but to SDGs 4, 8, 10, 11 and 16 as well. Regarding SDG 4 (Quality education), the city is implementing the Comprehensive Sexual Education (ESI, in Spanish) programme in its public schools, as it understands that sexual education is a State responsibility. In partnership with UNICEF, the city government offers professional teams to inform, educate and advise the educational community on this topic. With reference to SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), the GCBA offers a credit line to women entrepreneurs aimed at promoting women's economic autonomy; credits are targeted for women entrepreneurs in formal and informal activities, as they provide not only economic assistance, but also training opportunities. Likewise, the City Housing Institute (IVC, in Spanish) also offers a credit line to help women heads of household access their first home, an action that contributes to compliance with SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities). Regarding SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities), the city opened Casa Trans in 2017, the first trans-gender house in Latin America, offering protection of rights to this community (health care and education services, plans to access the labour market, recreational spaces, as well as legal and psychological counselling). Lastly, the city's connection with SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) lies specifically in the fact that in 2019 the Buenos Aires City Legislature passed a gender-based budget that allocates funds for the promotion of gender equality and respect for sexual diversity.

Furthermore, the local voluntary report makes reference to the approach used for a series of topics involving different SDGs: social and urban integration of vulnerable neighbourhoods (SGDs 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 16); coexistence in diversity (SDGs 5, 8 and 10); environmental care and the efficient and smart use of resources (SDGs 7, 11, 12 and 13); and the development of the citizens' potential (SGDs 4 and 8). The social and urban integration of vulnerable neighbourhoods is one of the main lines of action taken by the latest city administration. However, this kind of approach may create different kinds of conflicts. On the one hand, there is the risk of fragmenting the issue of housing deficit by excluding other situations of vulnerability. On the other hand, it may turn out to be contradictory vis-à-vis other public policies.

Regarding the analysis of conflicts, the housing issue is understood as the right to a habitat, which implies access to land, housing, services infrastructure, social equipment and services and work and production facilities (Colectivo multisectorial Habitar Argentina, 2017). Furthermore, in relation to the Agenda 2030, this contributes to addressing SGDs 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 16. From this perspective, two analytical courses explained below are opened up: public policies, involving mortgage loans and re-urbanisation projects at shanty towns, and regulatory instruments, which include the new Urban Code and the Rental Housing Act, with their own courses of action.

As for mortgage loans, the IVC is the agency in charge of their management, under conditions pre-established at the national level. Its credit programme includes three lines: First House BA (including Primera Casa Mujer [First Home for Women], Primera Casa Joven [First Home for Youngsters] and Primera Casa Refacción [First Home Refurbished]); ProCrear (nationally funded credit for 18-35 year olds); and the Olympic Neighbourhood (built for the Youth Olympic Games, in which priority is given to people with disabilities and residents of the southern areas of the city). Even though they are potentially inclusive initiatives, these credit lines clash with the access to housing (target 11.1), in the first place, because of their financing (UVA system, i.e. acquisition value unit), which is adjusted monthly on the basis of a coefficient that includes the inflation rate. If we consider that as of August 2019 accrued inflation had reached 30%, a percentage not matched by salary increases, this credit programme may no longer be sustainable. Furthermore, the maximum credit amount granted does not cover the total purchase amount.

As already stated, another major course of action taken by the city government concerning the housing issue is the shanty town re-urbanisation policy, which involves three dimensions: urban integration (public services, transportation); housing integration (decent housing and title to the property); and socio-economic integration (health, education, security and work). The shanty towns included in this process have various degrees of progress. In the cases where more progress has been made there are some issues related to access to basic services. Although these issues were technically solved in the newly built dwellings, affordability is at risk due to increases in utility rates that do not match households' incomes.

On the other hand, the so-called "Rental Housing Act" had two concrete implications: it reduced initial costs by making the landlord pay for the real estate brokers' fees, and it designated the IVC as the entity commissioned with the task of overseeing the enforcement of this and designing policies to improve access to house rentals. Thus, the IVC created the Guarantee BA programme, targeted for tenants who do not have a guarantor in the city and which includes legal counselling and signature authentication services. Although these initiatives

have been designed to benefit tenants, they result in very low rates of housing access as they are subjected to real estate market dynamics.

Lastly, the new Urban Code regulating urban growth that was enacted in 2018 is limited to physical aspects, leaving aside social, economic, environmental and other aspects. The Urban Code seeks to expand buildable areas, but makes no reference to the kind of demand that is to be met with such new constructions. If we take into account that about half a million people live in housing deficit conditions in the city and that there are over 140,000 empty dwellings available,[6] the question that follows is how to guarantee access to housing for mid- and low-income sectors, as this new code does not provide for management instruments in this respect. Even though initially the GCBA had not included citizen participation forums to discuss the bill, after demands made by a civil society organization, the judiciary decided to enforce this obligation and the government summoned a public hearing. This behaviour contradicts target 11.3, which makes reference to the importance of citizen participation in urban planning issues.

In short, the cases described above are examples of government actions that work in synergy and contribute to comply with one or several SDGs and of other actions that work in the opposite direction and undermine compliance with some of the Agenda 2030 targets.

5. Localisation of SDG Indicators

The SDGs localisation plan and the related document are currently underway. The latter will include three specific contributions to the Agenda 2030. The first one involves the commitment to implement the measurement and monitoring of mid- and long-term indicators. The second one consists in prioritising government policies and projects contributing to the sustainable development of the city. The third one emphasizes the collaborative work carried out with different stakeholders to achieve these targets.

To date, the work by the DGGE has undergone five stages:

a. Analysis of the government plan

Within the framework of the guidelines proposed by the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies (CNCPS, in Spanish), the first stage was to identify strategic plans that could contribute to achieve the SDGs and establish local priorities. Throughout the 2016-2019 period, an analysis was made of over 1,300 initiatives included in the Comprehensive Government Platform (PIG, in Spanish), which gathers the targets and projects of every department and enables performance monitoring and assessment.

b. Organisation of inter-ministerial work groups

In order to encourage the different government agencies to embrace the SDGs, the UN (Argentina) and the CNCPS engaged in explaining the global and national scope of the Agenda 2030. As part of the process, 27 government departments were invited to participate in adapting goals and targets to the local reality and validate the prioritisation specified in the initial stage, by defining their own indicators and mid- and long-term commitments (2023 and 2030).

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[6] These data come from a study being conducted by the IVC with the National Electricity Regulatory Agency (ENRE, in Spanish), to be published soon.

c. Definition of follow-up indicators

At this stage, bilateral work meetings were organised with each agency involved in the localisation process in order to interpret the targets and indicators from a local perspective, as well as with the areas responsible for follow-up and data collection rate. Throughout the meetings, the purpose was to make local needs and national and global priorities converge in order to set up comparable assessments. With this purpose, three indicator levels were defined: 1. indicators with available data and methodology produced by the city; 2. indicators using data and methodology not produced by the city; 3. indicators under development. Moreover, some other supplementary indicators were proposed, in line with the SDG targets but without any direct link with global indicators. The Directorate-General for Statistics and Censuses (DGEyC, in Spanish) played a key role in the methodological review of this process.

d. Closing and validation of the localisation process

As a conclusion, a meeting was held to share the main results obtained and to agree on the next steps towards the technical and political validation.

e. Preparation of the localisation plan

This last stage is still underway and consists in the drafting and publication of the document that will contain the Agenda 2030 localisation plan for Buenos Aires.

Regarding SDG 11 indicators, the following table shows the feasibility to address baselines and track processes; the local interpretation of indicators; the baseline and year of measurement; and the frequency and level of data collection. It was mostly based on the information from the work meetings with the DGGE team. As the localisation plan has not been published yet, the data included is only preliminary and should be considered a work in progress. Likewise, it should be noted that these partial results, as they have been obtained in a context of co-production, include not only the official view, but also the suggestions made by the OLA-CELS team. Moreover, official documents and websites of several GCBA departments related to these SDG targets have also been consulted.

According to the local government, all SDG 11 indicators are relevant to the city. Nevertheless, some public policies are focused on the achievement of specific targets related to adequate housing, transport access and participatory processes. For example, the City Housing Institute (IVC, in Spanish) is carrying out three courses of action to encourage access to housing: 1. comprehensive shanty town re-urbanisation programmes; 2. mortgage credit lines; 3. assistance to tenants. In addition, the city recognizes as a challenge ahead the need to improve transport service quality as accessibility based on sex, age and disability. In line with this, the GCBA, the Government of the Province of Buenos Aires and the national government launched a joint initiative of a help line for victims of harassment and stalking on public transport. Finally, comprehensive shanty town re-urbanisation programmes are designed with a participatory perspective and the GCBA has implemented the BA Elige initiative,[7] through which neighbours have the opportunity of voting projects for their own districts (Figure 4).

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[7] However, this programme does not respect constitutional mandates such as the Organic Law of Communes, which determine among other things the preliminary city budget.

Figure 4. Buenos Aires City SGD 11 Indicators

Indicator	Feasible to assess baseline and track progress?	Modifications of indicator to make it relevant and feasible to city	Baseline and year of modified indicator	Collection frequency of modified indicator	Level at which modified indicator is available	Additional comments
11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in shanty towns, informal settlements or inadequate housing	The National Institute for Statistics and Census (INDEC, in Spanish) provides necessary information to draw the baseline and conduct follow-up every ten years. Complementarily, the Directorate-General for Statistics and Censuses of the city (DGEyC, in Spanish) provides data from the Annual Survey of Households, while the IVC contributes with the censuses included in the comprehensive shanty town re-urbanisation programmes.	The GCBA estimates the housing deficit taking into account overcrowding and type of housing. For the former, a distinction is made between crowding in terms of households per dwelling and in terms of people per room. For the latter case, three categories of dwellings are proposed, namely, in good conditions, refurbishable and non-recoverable. However, this category does not include people living in street conditions (homeless) or those households paying more than 30% of their income on rent.	Even though the national census (2010) is taken as the baseline, this poses at least two implicit drawbacks: firstly, as the census is carried out every ten years, there would be only one measurement ahead before 2030; secondly, the information on shanty towns in the city would be under-represented. Regarding these obstacles, the Directorate-General for Statistics and Censuses (DGEyC, in Spanish), GCBA, proposed conducting a mid-term measurement taking into account the Annual Household Survey, whereas the IVC suggested using as a complementary source of information the census conducted in the comprehensive shanty town re-urbanisation programmes, which has been conducted only once so far.		In the case of the national census, the information is available per block group; in the case of the Annual Household Survey, the scale is at a neighbourhood level; and in the case of the IVC censuses, the unit is the household.	One of the problems resulting from the participation of national and local agencies is the use of different census methodologies, which hinders data reconciliation. Furthermore, with regard to the IVC censuses, the possibility of replicating them is unknown.
11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	Thanks to the geo-reference system used by the GCBA, the distances of the transport services could be calculated from census block groups. As to the metropolitan dimension, the Ministry of Urban Development and Transport (MDUyT, in Spanish), GCBA, deals with the inter-jurisdictional management related to public transport. However, there is no data collection system in place yet to make an assessment at the metropolitan scale.	Given its metropolitan status, Buenos Aires receives daily commuters in a number equivalent to city residents. This situation poses a challenge, that is, the need to take the assessment far beyond the administrative borders of the city. In addition, it is deemed relevant to incorporate indicators that should consider not only access to services but also their quality.	Not available.	Not available.	Not available.	The comprehensive shanty town re-urbanization programmes include the opening of new streets; therefore, it will be necessary to incorporate specific access and public transport quality indicators at this scale.
11.3.1 Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate	If the built area to population density ratio is to be taken into account, the entities responsible for providing this information are the MDUyT, GCBA for the former and the INDEC for the latter.	Given the peculiarity of the city of Buenos Aires, which has no chance at all to extend its area for construction, this indicator should be reinterpreted taking into account not only the relation between the built area and the population density, but also the buildable area and the use of the soil, according to the new Urban Code.	As for the built area, the MDUyT has published "Urban Dynamics" on a monthly basis since 2008; it is a document including the number of square meters built by neighbourhood. Regarding population growth, the INDEC conducts censuses every ten years and the DGEyC, GCBA, makes annual estimations.		The MDUyT presents information by neighbourhood, whereas the INDEC runs census block groups.	
11.3.2 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically	At present, the GCBA makes estimations of some participatory spaces, within the comprehensive shanty town re-urbanisation programmes as well as other projects. The qualitative dimension is yet to be incorporated.	The local interpretation of this indicator has not been defined yet.	The baseline definition, the data collection rate and the measurement scale will depend on the local definition of the indicator.			

11.4.1 Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed and World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector and sponsorship)	1[1]There are still no mechanisms in place to evaluate this target.	The local interpretation of this indicator has not been defined yet.	The baseline definition, the data collection rate and the measurement scale will depend on the local definition of the indicator.		
11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people
11.5.2 Direct disaster economic loss in relation to global GDP, including disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services	1[1]As floods were one of the major disaster risks in the city and infrastructure works have managed to reduce almost entirely the number of people affected and the cost of losses and damages, it might not be relevant to measure this indicator.	The local interpretation of this indicator has not been defined yet.	The baseline definition, the data collection rate and the measurement scale will depend on the local definition of the indicator.		
11.6.1 Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities	Based on the information provided by the Coordinación Ecológica Área Metropolitana Sociedad del Estado (CEAMSE), the DGEyC, GCBA, runs two databases: waste collected by type; and waste collected by type and average per resident.	The local interpretation of this indicator has not been defined yet.	The baseline definition will depend on the local definition of the indicator.	If the waste collected by type and waste collected by type and average per resident were to be used as data, the follow-up is done monthly.	Data is collected at the neighbourhood level.
11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)	Buenos Aires has five stations where air quality is measured and daily and monthly reports are prepared. The information is available on the website of the Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Environment and Public Space (APA, MMyEP, in Spanish), GCBA.	The local interpretation of this indicator has not been defined yet.	As the information is available on a daily basis, the baseline and measurement rate will depend on the year set to be the starting point of the assessment.		Measurement stations are located in five areas and gather the information from the whole city.
11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
11.7.2 Proportion of persons who are victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months	1[1]There are no mechanisms in place yet to evaluate this goal.	The local interpretation of this indicator has not been defined yet.	The baseline definition, the data collection rate and the measurement scale will depend on the local definition of the indicator.		
11.a.1 Proportion of population living in cities that implement urban and regional development plans integrating population projections and resource needs, by size of city	Not applicable				
11.b.1 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*	Not applicable				

11.b.2 Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies*	Not applicable
11.c.1 Proportion of financial support to the least developed countries that is allocated to the construction and retrofitting of sustainable, resilient and resource-efficient buildings utilizing local materials	Not applicable

6. The Role of Comparative Co-production in Localising the SDGs

The role of the MUF project in the design of the Agenda 2030 localisation plan has been specifically recognised by the GCBA in two sections of its local voluntary report (GCBA, 2019). One of them deals with the strategic partnerships to address the Agenda 2030 and the cooperation with MUF as a key alliance to meet SGD 11 from an academic approach and a comparative perspective. The other section focuses on sustainable development and, within the framework of a participatory management of the localisation plan, recognises MUF as a key stakeholder in the network of partnerships having a shared interest in this global agenda.

In particular, the DGGE jointly with OLA-CELS defined a series of topics to be included in the exchange of ideas with other cities. Firstly, three priority topics were proposed for the knowledge exchange with Gothenburg: a local approach to housing deficit, policies designed for gender equality and actions to address the phenomenon of migration. Although these topics were not necessarily a priority for that city, the response led to a series of government actions that were taken as examples of good urban practices by Buenos Aires team. Similarly, to work with Cape Town, in addition to the local approach to the housing deficit, the topics suggested were mechanisms for participation and resilience policies. This dialogue was of special interest for Buenos Aires, as both cities participate in the 100 Resilient Cities programme. On the other hand, the Buenos Aires team received some inquiries from Gothenburg and Malmö on its Agenda 2030 citizen awareness-raising activities. The DGGE explained its communication strategy targeted for three audiences: government departments, city residents and other national and international stakeholders.

Lastly, the dialogue with a representative of the Greater London Authority (GLA) should also be mentioned, as he contributed London's view regarding the metropolitan approach to the Agenda 2030. Thus, Buenos Aires had the chance to participate in an exchange of ideas and concerns with a city of comparable size, within the framework of the MUF programme.

7. Contribution of SDG localisation to Realising Just Cities

The main contributions of the Agenda 2030 local approach to Realising Just Cities have two implications; one concerns the methodology, as it involves broadening the map of stakeholders, and the other one concerns the approach, as it questions a fragmentary vision of the SDGs.

As for the methodology implemented, it is in line with the framework of the MUF programme, which focuses on the co-creation and co-production of knowledge. Thus, the work

carried out in Buenos Aires has been organized around a network of three key actors: the DGGE in its capacity as the government agency, OLA as the academic institution, and CELS as an NGO. This three-party group has been a special contribution to the programme, since the NGO sector has taken an active role. The greatest achievement from this experience has been the synergy created among parties whose interests do not always converge.

Regarding the local approach to the Agenda 2030 implementation, the most substantial contribution was the holistic approach driven by priority topics for the city. That is, the local voluntary report (GCBA, 2019) was initially developed in a linear manner and in response to SDGs 4, 5, 8, 10, 13 and 16. But then, in a cross-cutting manner that encompassed several targets, it included topics such as the social and urban integration of vulnerable neighbourhoods, coexistence in diversity, gender equality, climate change and the development of the city residents' potential. It is worth mentioning that the need to make the Agenda 2030 a cross-cutting issue was one of the most relevant conclusions from the debates that took place at the annual MUF conference held in Cape Town in 2018.

8. Conclusions

The main lessons learnt from this project involve methodological aspects, in line with the objective of co-creating and co-producing knowledge and with matters strictly linked with the Agenda 2030 localisation process.

In the first place, the collaborative research in Buenos Aires had a distinctive contribution, as it was able to explore a joint work agenda among three kinds of stakeholders: academia, NGOs and government departments. Unlike the traditional exchange methods, in which the relationship is one-way, the dynamic of this experience promoted a synergy, and different academic and public administration know-hows could be integrated.

Regarding the localisation process, another local peculiarity was that the same government department responsible for the SDGs is also in charge of the Resilience Strategy, thus enabling a comprehensive approach to the global agendas towards building more sustainable, socially and economically developed and environmentally balanced cities.

Furthermore, the Agenda 2030 was at first analysed in a fragmentary way, i.e. focusing on each SDG. But throughout the process it became evident that the GCBA set forth cross-cutting objectives of local interest. The issues addressed, such as the social and urban integration of vulnerable neighbourhoods, common to several Latin American cities, might contribute to the global debate not only from the local perspective but also from a regional one.

As for the challenges ahead for the GCBA, the role to be played by the private sector in the map of stakeholders is yet to be considered, given that it is a key component for SDG achievement. Similarly, it is worth noting the need to align government actions that could run in opposite directions and jeopardise the sustainable development of the city. This is the case of the city housing policies, currently at risk after the enactment of the new Urban Code, which prioritises the growth of the real estate market to the detriment of fair access to housing.

Lastly, and for the future of the MUF programme, we suggest defining issues that could cut across the Agenda 2030 in order to discuss them with other cities, as well as including new approaches paving the way to the emergence of different levels and criteria for the analysis of

sustainable development in cities, such as metropolitan areas or Latin-American perspectives.

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