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The case of INDEC of Argentina

IADB Side event: The political economy of Statistical Capacity

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Introduction

- INDEC was established by a 1968 Law (Head of the NSS)
- Until 2007: High professionalism, technical accuracy, active international participation
- Deep institutional crisis (2007-2015). Political Interference
- PO 55/2016. Declaration of Statistical Administrative Emergency until December 2016
- Several challenges were found, mainly grouped into three categories:
 - 1- Reliability of indicators
 - 2- Loss of leadership over National Statistical System (NSS)
 - 3- Institutional weakness
- Quick recovery
 - Sept 2016: Official statistical service was completely re-established
 - Nov 2016: IMF removed the Declaration of Censure
 - Dec 2016: End of statistical emergency

Milestones on statistical capacity building

- 1968. INDEC was established by Law 17.622
 - 1983. Return of democracy. New strengthening of the NSS
 - 1990. Openness. Development of technical capacity and dissemination
 - 2006. Political interference. Lower statistical capacities
 - 2015. Recovery and development. Institutional transformation

Path of development towards 2020

Five strategic pillars:

- International reinsertion
- Strengthening of statistical infrastructure
- Leadership of the NSS
- Improvement of dissemination policies
- Institutional transformation

International reinsertion

Restoration of the publication of indices

New framework of relations with the international community

Social and International Reliability

Institutional Transformation

Cooperation with IMF

Programs within UN System

Accession to OECD

IADB

Bilateral Cooperation

Increase the Scope of Social Statistics

Strengthen Economic Statistics

Integrated System of social, economic and environmental information, oriented towards demand, with intensive use of the new ICTs and according to international norms

INDEC's transformation - Factors of political economy

- a) Role of policy-makers and individuals actors (advocates)
 - i) President
 - ii) New management
 - iii) Recovered technical staff
- b) International reinsertion (i.e. OECD)
- c) Argentina's New Administration based on:
 - i) Transparency
 - ii) Evidence based public policy
- d) Role of the crisis / Public awareness and support

Final lessons from the Argentine case

- The more **institutionally solid** an NSO is, the less the chances of **political interference**
- **Fundamental principles**, values and codes of good practice should be disseminated
- Critical importance of the **international statistical community**
- Awareness of **institutional reality** to **preserve the functions** of the NSO

Thank you



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