



REFERENCE: 2021-17/CESCR/FU

18 May 2021

Excellency,

In our capacity as Chair and Rapporteur for follow up to concluding observations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights respectively, we have the honour to refer to the examination of the fourth periodic report of Argentina at the Committee's 64<sup>th</sup> session, held in September 2018. In the concluding observations (E/C.12/ARG/CO/4), the Committee requested Argentina to provide, within 24 months, written information on the steps undertaken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 6(a) and (e), 19(a) and 56(a) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report (E/C.12/ARG/FCO/4) received in October 2020 under its follow-up procedure. The Committee examined the report at its sixty-ninth session, held in March 2021, and wishes to communicate the following assessment:

**Paragraph 6(a) and (e): austerity measures – Insufficient progress.** The Committee welcomes the important measures taken by the State party to compensate the impact of austerity measures on disadvantaged and marginalized groups, such as the introduction of a food card and the payment of special allowances for pensioners or children. The Committee also notes those measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic on the most disadvantaged groups and individuals. At the same time, information available to the Committee indicates that poverty has increased in the country and income of families has fallen significantly, in spite of these measures. Moreover, the Committee notes that public budget allocations for social security and other social programs have been considerably reduced and that some support programs for the most disadvantaged and marginalized groups will be discontinued even though the negative impact of austerity measures and the pandemic remain.

The Committee thus considers that there was “insufficient progress” in relation to the implementation of this recommendation. It also asks the State party to provide, in its next periodic report, information on further measures taken to implement this recommendation, including any steps taken to integrate in domestic law and policy the tool on human rights impact assessments prior to economic reform programs, referred as the Guiding Principles on Human Rights Impact Assessments of Economic Reforms, developed by the Independent Expert on the effect of foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights.

His Excellency

Mr. Federico VILLEGAS

Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic

to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

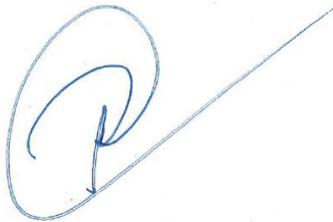
Email: [argentina@missionarg.ch](mailto:argentina@missionarg.ch)

**Paragraph 19(a): indigenous territories – Insufficient progress.** The Committee notes with appreciation the efforts made by the State party to reach agreements with the Provinces in order to implement Law 26.160 in view of their crucial role in this respect. However, the Committee notes that, according to information at its disposal, implementation of laws protecting indigenous territories remains insufficient. The majority of territories of indigenous peoples in the State party have not been demarcated while the term of implementation of Law 26.160 expires in November 2021. Moreover, it notes that a bill prorogating the law is yet to be introduced. The Committee accordingly assesses that insufficient progress has been made on this recommendation, and looks forward to information on progress regarding land demarcation in the context of its next periodic report.

**Paragraph 56(a): protocols for legal abortion – Sufficient progress.** In light of the successful passing of legislation (Law 27.610) providing for voluntary legal termination of pregnancy up to the 14th week of pregnancy, together with a range measures adopted at the provincial level to secure safe termination of pregnancies for women, the Committee considers that there has been “sufficient progress” made in relation to the implementation of this recommendation and compliments the State party thereon. The Committee invites the State party to include information on the implementation of the law in its next periodic report.

The Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the State party, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Covenant.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of our highest consideration.



Renato Zerbini Ribeiro Leão  
Chair  
Committee on Economic, Social  
and Cultural Rights



Heisoo Shin  
Rapporteur *a.i.* for follow-up  
Committee on Economic, Social  
and Cultural Rights