ARGENTINA

Scene-Setting Letter of the Argentine Republic for the Statements of Commitment to the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

The Argentine Republic becomes a founding member of this Alliance while claiming, with the words of President Milei during his Special Address at the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum, that "free enterprise capitalism is not just the only possible system to end world poverty, but also (...) the only morally desirable system to achieve this."

The Argentine Republic recalls that the 2030 Agenda, which is invoked in the *Inception Document* of this Alliance with regard to its twofold objective, is a legally non-binding set of goals that every nation state, in the exercise of its own sovereignty, has the right to freely interpret and pursue. The attempt to use this multilateral agenda as an instrument for promoting specific policies enters in tension with the freedom of nations, with the individual rights of their members, and even with the agenda itself, which must be understood in a way that respects "national policies and priorities."

Some goals of this agenda can also enter in mutual tension, and the Argentine Republic is concerned with the seeming extrapolation of these problematic contradictions to this worthwhile Alliance. Hunger and poverty will not be eradicated while fighting against economic inequality. Some forms of inequality are the result of market incentives that reward the productive efforts of individuals and nations, and it should not be forgotten that these productive efforts, by fostering economic growth, are of the utmost importance in order to eradicate hunger and poverty. As President Milei explained during his Special Address at the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum:

> After the Industrial Revolution, global per capita GDP multiplied by over 15 times, which meant a boom in growth that lifted 90% of the global population out of poverty. We should remember that by the year 1800, about 95% of the world's population lived in extreme poverty. And that figure dropped to 5% by the year 2020, prior to the pandemic. The conclusion is obvious. Far from being the cause of our problems, free trade capitalism as an economic system is the only instrument we have to end hunger, poverty and extreme poverty across our planet. The empirical evidence is unquestionable.

As President Milei added, "since there is no doubt that free enterprise capitalism is superior in productive terms, the left-wing doxa has attacked capitalism, alleging matters of morality, saying - that's what the detractors claim - that it's unjust. (...) The problem is that social justice is not just." Indeed, when economic inequality results from the free choices of individuals, it is anything but unjust. If a person, for example, made the sociable effort of providing services or goods of a better quality at more affordable prices, she would rightly earn more money than her market competitors. The ensuing inequality,

moreover, could only be avoided by systematically interfering with her free choices or with the ones of her customers, and it must be added that those who were to suffer such transgressions of their rights in order to "correct" this "unjust" inequality would not be treated as equals either.

The Argentine Republic, expressing the democratic will of its people, is committed to fighting hunger and poverty through market reforms that, in addition to their proven efficacy for attaining the twofold goal of this Alliance, respect the equal rights of every individual.

The Argentine Republic enters this Global Alliance by recalling, in accordance with its *Inception Document*, that it offers a "policy basket approach (…) which does not imply collective endorsement of specific policy instruments or programs," and by emphasizing that "market-driven and market-oriented approaches" are contemplated among the available policy options.

Socialist policies violate the rights of individuals and, by suffocating the economies of those nation states that implement them, keep causing an unsustainable underdevelopment that prevents any feasible fight against hunger and poverty. As President Milei claimed at the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum:

> The case of Argentina is an empirical demonstration that no matter how rich you may be, how much you may have in terms of natural resources, how skilled your population may be, how educated, or how many bars of gold you may have in the central bank - if measures are adopted that hinder the free functioning of markets, competition, price systems, trade and ownership of private property, the only possible fate is poverty.

The Argentine Republic, taking lessons from its own history, joins the Alliance against Hunger and Poverty while embracing the Agenda of Freedom, and hoping that other nations will do so as well.

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Statements of Commitment to the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

General section

1. The Argentine Republic hereby voluntarily *joins the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty* and states its dedication to pursue the Alliance's mission, objectives and principles, as *expressed* in the Global Alliance's Terms of Reference and Governance Framework, and to collaborate with other members to achieve lasting solutions to poverty and hunger worldwide, as expressed below.

   The Argentine Republic[1]:

2. *Recognizes* that hunger and malnutrition are the perverse manifestations of persistent, structural poverty and inequality, and recognizes the need to end poverty and hunger in all their forms and dimensions [and to fully and effectively implement the 2030 Agenda].

3. *Acknowledges* the alarming growth in the number of people facing food insecurity and poverty in recent years, noting that, despite all significant past and current efforts, the world is not on track to meet SDG 1 and 2 targets, inequality is also on the rise (SDG 10), and a significant increase in collective ambition, as well as improvement in collective alignment and coordination for the fight against hunger and poverty, is urgently needed.

4. To that effect, *endorses* the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty and its mission to *support and accelerate efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty (SDGs 1 and 2) while reducing inequalities (SDG 10), contributing to revitalize global partnerships for sustainable development (SDG 17) and to the achievement of other interlinked SDGs, and championing sustainable, inclusive and just transitions*.

5. *Notes* that it is crucial for the world to unite behind large-scale, integrated approaches combining international, regional, national, and local levels, that recognize the interconnected nature of challenges and solutions to hunger and poverty and pair social protection with access to goods and services that can help the poor and vulnerable populations to overcome structural barriers and drive responsible investment in their productive capacity. These complementary services include but are not limited to interventions for poverty reduction, food security and nutrition, early childhood support, education and skills development, employment services, health and care services, as well as family farmers and smallholders' access to finance, extension services, research and/or agricultural inputs, in line with international commitments and obligations.

[1] While joining the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty and sharing the Alliance's stated approach and objectives to end hunger and extreme poverty, the Argentine Republic, with regards to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 in this document, dissociates itself from the notion of fully and effectively implementing the 2030 Agenda, and recalls that it is a legally non-binding set of goals that every nation state, in the exercise of its own sovereignty, has the right to freely interpret and pursue according to its own sovereignty, recognizing further that different goals in that Agenda may contradict each other, with the fight against economic inequality being counter-productive with respect to the fight against hunger and poverty.

6. *Particularly recognizes* the high value and positive impact of quality implementation of national and local country-owned, inclusive policy instruments and programmes, focused on the poorest and most vulnerable, in the fields of poverty reduction, social protection, food security and nutrition, gender equality, decent work in the agri-food sector, skills development, family farming and smallholder agriculture, food systems transformation, health and care services and resilience building.

7. Also *acknowledges* the Global Alliance's reference basket of such policies as a collectively built, ongoing collection of examples with robust evidence to reduce hunger and poverty, and as a useful basis to guide joint action and increase alignment of the international community at country level. This acknowledgement is applicable to the policy basket approach as a general guide to action and does not imply endorsement of any specific policy instrument or programme contained in the basket.

8. Therefore, by joining the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, *commits* to do its best efforts, in its own field of action, and according to its own mandate, capacities, priorities, preferences, procedures, and legal arrangements and framework, to support the implementation of policy instruments and programmes at country level as appropriate, including by the promotion of shared learning and the mobilization of resources, public and private, at scale.

In particular:

Domestic policy implementation commitments

Argentina acknowledges its role in the national-level implementation of policies and programmes against hunger and poverty, as well as for providing guidance and support to sub-national level policies and programmes.

Argentina:

Commits to make its best efforts to implement, improve, and/or scale-up the implementation of policy instruments and programmes from among those contained in the Global Alliance's policy basket in our national context. These policy instruments and programme suggestions would be adapted to the specific conditions, realities and opportunities presented in our country.

Commits to observe good practices throughout the implementation of such policy instruments and programmes, including maintaining effective governance, seeking avenues for domestic resource mobilization for funding such programs and providing for appropriate monitoring and evaluation, with adaptation and learning based on social involvement and consultation, local stakeholder engagement, minimizing negative impacts and seeking to adequately manage policy trade-offs.

Policy cooperation and support commitments

Commits to, within its capacities, share its own learnings and otherwise provide appropriate help and support, within its means, to other Global Alliance member countries to implement, improve, or scale-up the implementation of policies and programmes referenced in the Alliance's basket.

Knowledge support commitments

Argentina:

Commits to make its best efforts to co-create and provide technical assistance, capacity building and strengthening, training and/or knowledge-sharing on voluntary and mutually agreed terms in response to requests by Global Alliance member countries that choose to implement policy instruments and programmes in the Alliance's policy basket that are compatible with its areas of expertise.

Commits to make its best efforts to improve the alignment of its actions, including through the Global Alliance's coordination mechanisms, leveraging, and partnering with other actors to better support large scale, country-owned implementation of policies and programmes in the reference basket by Global Alliance member countries, aiming at enhancing country-level outcomes.

Commits to collaborate with other Alliance members to develop innovative solutions and share good practices in learning and knowledge exchange and dissemination on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, data collection and analysis, including by leveraging existing local, national, and international knowledge networks, coalitions, communities and other fora related to aspects relevant to the fight against hunger and poverty.

General acknowledgments

Recognizes the possibility to, including through the mechanisms available to Global Alliance members, coordinate, partner with and/or seek support from the Global Alliance's other members, within their respective capacities, availability, and fields of activity, to carry out the present commitments with greater effectiveness.

While recognizing that the above commitments are voluntary and non-legally binding, being subject to and carried out under its own capacities, regulations, priorities, and modalities, as well as to the availability of appropriate resourcing, *strives* to seriously consider, as appropriate, and according to its own legal frameworks and governance process, to review its procedures and priorities as found necessary to better deliver on the present commitments, enhance synergies and joint efforts with other entities and initiatives, and improve outcomes on the collective fight against hunger and poverty.