



Secretaría de Articulación  
Científico Tecnológica  
Ministerio de Ciencia,  
Tecnología e Innovación Productiva  
Presidencia de la Nación

## South American Workshop for Government Science Advice

**Buenos Aires, Argentina**

**29 & 30 June 2017**

**Workshop report**

Supported by



## 1. Summary

This report reviews the design, planning, delivery and outcomes of the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA) and the Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva (MINCYT) workshop on ‘South American Government Science Advice’, which took place on 29/30 June 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The report has been written by Lara Cowen, Senior Programme Officer of INGSA, who was one of the workshop’s facilitators.

In line with INGSA’s goal of strengthening capacity for science advice, particularly in developing countries, this was its first capacity building workshop in the Latin American region. It was also INGSA’s first workshop run in Spanish. Organised in close partnership with MINCYT, the workshop took place immediately after the larger open [‘Second Symposium of Science and Policy: National and International Experiences’](#).

Additional partners and funders of the workshop were: the International Council for Science (ICSU - INGSA’s parent body); International Development Research Centre (IDRC); American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS); the New Zealand Embassy in Buenos Aires; the British Embassy in Buenos Aires; and UNESCO. We would like to express our gratitude to all of these organisations for their support and particularly to MINCYT for hosting this event.

## 2. Preparations for the workshop

Initial planning began in July 2016, when INGSA discussed the possibility of a workshop in the region with UNESCO’s regional office and Carlos Abeledo at the University of Buenos Aires. Subsequently, an introduction was made to the MINCYT who supported the concept and later accepted a lead hosting role.

A programme committee was set up, comprising:

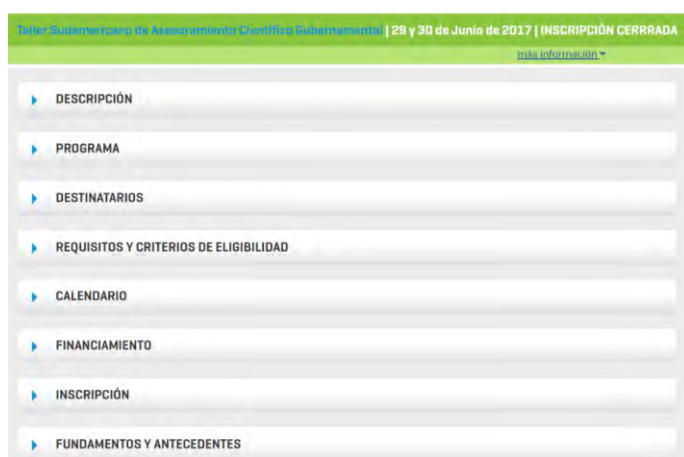
**Dr. Lino Barañao** (Honorary Chair) Minister of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation;  
**Sir Peter Gluckman** (Chair) Chief Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of New Zealand and Chair of INGSA;  
**Carlos Abeledo**, University of Buenos Aires;  
**Agustín Campero**, MINCYT;  
**Lara Cowen**, INGSA;  
**Marcelo Garcia**, Ministry of External Relations, Chile;  
**Robin Grimes**, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom;  
**Marga Gual Soler**, AAAS;  
**Mauricio Horn**, MINCYT;  
**Katsia Paulavets**, ICSU;  
And **Ernesto Polcuch**, UNESCO.

A series of objectives for the workshop were agreed:

- a) To enhance the capacities of South American scientists and policy practitioners to

- embed scientific advice in public policy making across multiple sectors (i.e. health, environment and transport amongst others);
- b) To create a South America network of science advice practitioners that will serve as a platform for sharing best practices, and deliberating on challenges and solutions of the South American science advisory context;
- c) To develop and share science advice principles and guidelines contextualised to the South American region.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2017, INGSA together with MINCYT issued a call for applications to attend the workshop, which was widely circulated across Latin America’s science, national academy and science policy networks. INGSA through the network (Twitter, quarterly newsletter and on [ingса.org](http://ingса.org)), and the Ministry inviting all authorities of national R&D institutions, Ministers/Secretaries of their Provinces, following by South American institutions with which they have cooperation agreements. Publicity was boosted through AAAS, UNESCO, ICSU, GYA, academies and university channels throughout South America.



*MINCYT call for application. See also <http://articulacioncyp.mincyt.gob.ar/inscripcion.php>*

The call original had a six-week deadline of 12 March 2017, and was open to all researchers residing and working in South America. It made clear that priority would be given to those who were:

- Practicing scientists (broadly defined to include natural and applied sciences, social sciences, humanities, engineering, health and medical sciences);
- OR
- Policy professionals in any domain of public policy
- And:
- affiliated to institutions of higher learning, academies of science, government/statutory/private research/advisory institutes;
- Demonstrated the policy relevance of their area of research or professional expertise.

Applicants were asked to submit the following documents:

- a. Brief biography (not more than 400 words)
- b. Comprehensive CV
- c. Motivation letter (this should cover: current activities at the interface between

science and public policy, reasons to be considered to attend the workshop, and how the lessons learnt from the workshop would be disseminated and would benefit the applicant's country)

d. Letter of reference supporting the application

The deadline was extended to the 27<sup>th</sup> of March, as while we had received an overwhelming number of applications from Argentina, we were looking for more diversity from other South American countries. During this extending deadline INGSA, AAAS and others sent direct invitations to apply to qualifying members (outside of Argentina) in our respective database/contacts list. In the end **over 800 applications were initiated online, with 274 complete applications** received by the deadline date. This gives some indication of a level of unmet demand and interest in these debates across South America's research communities, which we hope INGSA can help to address.

### 3. Participants

A review panel including Programme Committee members Carlos Abeledo, Marga Gual Soler, Ernesto Polcuch and Mauricio Horn was formed to sift the applications and identify a shortlist. This resulted in 61 candidates (38 from host country Argentina and 23 from outside of Argentina) who were then invited to attend the workshop.

On application, participants we asked to indicate the need for financial support. With funding provided through INGSA's grant from IDRC, we were able to support all of those who required assistance with travel, hotel and related costs.

Participants were encouraged to attend the MINCYT organised Science and Policy Symposium focused on national and international experiences, which took place June 28<sup>th</sup> preceding the workshop. Many INGSA workshop mentors spoke at the symposium, and a number of unsuccessful applicants for the workshop were at least able to attend the symposium. The symposium programme is available [here](#).

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SIMPOSIO

**CIENCIA Y POLÍTICA:**  
Experiencias nacionales e internacionales

28 DE JUNIO DE 2017

POLO CIENTÍFICO TECNOLÓGICO | CENTRO CULTURAL DE LA CIENCIA (C3)  
Godoy Cruz 2270, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, República Argentina

PARA AGENDAR  
DESCARGÁ EL PROGRAMA

¡SEGUILO EN VIVO!  
TRANSMISIÓN POR STREAMING

Following the Symposium, the INGS workshop ran on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of June. In total, there were **approximately 75 attendees** at the workshop:

- **61 participants**, drawn from **9 South American countries**: Argentina, Chile, Peru, Venezuela, Brazil, Uruguay, Colombia, Ecuador and Bolivia;

- The remaining **attendees were facilitators or observers**, from INGS, MINCYT, The United Kingdom's Foreign & Commonwealth Office, the Ministry for External Relations in Chile, ICSU, UNESCO, AAAS, the University of Buenos Aires, as well as media, photographers and translators.



*Group photograph of participants and facilitators at the INGS-MINCYT workshop, Buenos Aires, 29-30 June 2017.*

Participants brought a diverse mix of disciplinary and professional backgrounds, with examples including:

- *Executive Director at the Centre for Advanced Studies in Arid Zones, Chile;*
- *Researcher and Member of the Center of Environmental Studies and Geographic Information System Management, Argentina;*
- *Researcher at the International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Venezuela;*
- *Geologist, Mining and Geological Survey, Argentina*
- *Professor at the National Universities of Peru and previously Policy Director at CONCYTEC, Peru*
- *Researcher, National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET), Argentina*
- *Professor at the Department of Physiology, Molecular and Cell Biology, School of Exact and Natural Sciences, University of Buenos Aires*
- *Scientific advisor on the environmental management of agroecosystems, Argentina*
- *Research Scientist on natural hazards and Professor at Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Argentina*
- *Agricultural Engineer, The Mountain Institute, Peru*

In terms of gender diversity, of the 61 participants, 27 (44%) were male and 34 (56%) were female.

## 4. Agenda and approach

At the planning stage, it was agreed that the workshop would be case-study based, interspersed with formal talks, to encourage interaction and learning through facilitated group discussion.

An initial set of six draft cases was developed by the core INGSa team, and reviewed by the workshop programme committee. Four cases were then selected for use in the workshop and were developed further. These are semi-fictional accounts of realistic policy dilemmas, designed to highlight important questions, tensions and opportunities for scientific advice in different settings and situations. The four cases used were:

1. *Tangeria - Gene-editing and climate response*
2. *Terremotia – earthquakes, folk knowledge and the understanding of risk*
3. *Orangeria - mobilizing social science expertise to reduce crime*
4. *Panderia - pandemics, panic and international borders*

The event began with a welcoming reception for those participants that had arrived on the evening of 27 June. The open symposium ran from 9:00am – 6:30pm on the 28<sup>th</sup> which was followed by an evening reception co-hosted by the New Zealand and British Embassies in Buenos Aires and the British Ambassador's Residence.



*With thanks for the New Zealand and British Embassy for hosting INGSa's evening reception. Pictured from left to right are Sir Peter Gluckman, Prof Robin Grimes, New Zealand Ambassador Raylene Liufalani and British Ambassador Mark Kent.*

The workshop ran through two full and intensive days on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> (workshop programme shown below).

## Day One: Thursday 29 June

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08:00 – 08:30	Coffee and Registration
08:30 – 08:45	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b> <i>Prof Sir Peter GLUCKMAN, Chair of INGSA / Chief Science Advisor to Prime Minister of New Zealand</i>  <i>Lic. Agustín CAMPERO, Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva (MINCyT), Argentina</i>  <i>Tom WANG, Chief International Officer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)</i>
08:45 – 09:00	<b>Orientation and Introductions</b> <i>Mauricio HORN, Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva (MINCyT), Argentina</i>
09:00 – 10:00	<b>Principles &amp; Structures of Science Advice</b> <i>Peter GLUCKMAN</i>
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Case Study One: Tangeria</b> – gene-editing and climate response <i>Led by Peter GLUCKMAN</i>
10:30 – 11:00	<b>MORNING BREAK</b>
11:00 – 12:30	Case Study One: Tangeria. Continued <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• plenary discussion</li></ul>
12:30 – 13:30	<b>LUNCH</b>
13:30 – 14:15	<b>Science Advice in Emergencies</b> <i>Robin GRIMES, Foreign &amp; Commonwealth Office, UK</i>
14:15 – 15:30	<b>Case Study Two: Orangeria</b> - mobilizing social science expertise to reduce youth crime <i>Led by Carlos ABELEDO, Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• plenary discussion</li><li>• table discussion</li></ul>

<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	<b>AFTERNOON BREAK</b>
16:00 – 16:45	Case Study Two: Orangeria Continued <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• table discussion</li> </ul>
16:45 – 17:30	<b>Presentations from Participants</b>
17:30 - 17:45	Wrap up

## Día Dos: Viernes 30 de Junio

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08:30 – 08:45	Coffee
08:45 – 09:00	Welcome back Recap of day one and looking ahead to day two
09:00 – 10:30	<b>Case Study Three: Terremotia</b> - Folk knowledge, risk perception and science communication in the case of a large earthquake <i>Led by Ernesto FERNANDEZ POLCUCH (UNESCO)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• plenary discussion</li> </ul>
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>MORNING BREAK</b>
11:00 – 11:30	Case Study Three: Terremotia Continued <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• table discussion</li> </ul>
11:30 - 12:15	<b>Establishing an INGSA Latin America Chapter</b> <i>Peter GLUCKMAN</i>
12:15 – 12:30	Group photo session
<b>12:30 – 13:30</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>
13:30 – 15:30	<b>Case Study Four: Pandemia</b> - When pandemic leads to panics <i>Led by Marga GUAL SOLER, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)</i> <p>plenary discussion table discussion/role play</p>



15:30 – 16:00

**AFTERNOON BREAK**

16:00 – 17:00

**Summary, Lessons, What's Next & Award Ceremony**

*Peter GLUCKMAN*

17:00 – 17:15

**Closing Remarks**

*Lic. Agustín CAMPERO*

The first case was discussed in plenary; to ensure the entire group were engaged and confident with the format. The remaining three cases were discussed in groups, with support and input from facilitators, and conclusions were presented back in plenary. The cases were sequenced so as to increase in complexity over the course of the workshop, with optional extra elements, such as role play. At the Buenos Aires workshop, only the final case included a roleplaying element, which was positively received, with participants taking on the role of various stakeholders in a complex debate over response to a pandemic.





*Group work and plenary feedback*



*The final role-play exercise, where participants representing different stakeholders present to the Prime Minister of Panderia, only to be interrupted by role playing protesters.*

In the last part of the workshop, there was an opportunity for reflection on what participants had gained from the two days, how they could apply some of these insights in their work and advisory roles, and learn how they could work with INGSA to strengthen training, capacity and networks for science advice across Latin America.

INGSA Chairman, Sir Peter Gluckman introduced the launch of an INGSA Latin American regional chapter that could carry some of these opportunities forward. Volunteers to lead this were invited to contact INGSA after the meeting. Finally, certificates were presented to participants, to reflect their successful completion of the workshop training programme.

## **5. Feedback from participants**

An evaluation survey was sent to all participants in the week following the workshop. To date we have received 28 completed surveys. All of these expressed satisfaction with the

workshop and 15 rated it as 'excellent' and 13 as 'satisfactory'. 100% of respondents would recommend this workshop to their colleagues.

When asked if their skills or knowledge had increased as a result of the workshops, 93% participants say yes. Elaborating on this included some of the following responses:

*"I had already performed in scientific advisory tasks and it was very interesting to have the opportunity to polish the skills to carry out this mission. Particularly through role-playing and case studies, I was able to better understand the point of view of a non-scientist and acquire the skills needed to bridge the gap between science and diplomacy."*

*"It clarified to me the role of scientific advice putting it as a counselling and not decision making. It highlighted the importance of diplomacy that I was not fully aware"*

*"I received contributions in relation to the forms of negotiation, explanation and relationship with policy makers. The scientific view on crises and the ways of communicating them to control situations"*

*"I am more confident about the subject in general and most importantly, great literature to keep on reading and a broader view of what is going on in other countries"*

Participants were particularly positive about the case-based approach; the range of topics covered; and the approach taken by the facilitators.

Areas for improvement highlighted included: adding an extra day to make the agenda less intense; and allowing participants more free time to network.

## 6. Follow-up activities

Immediately after the workshop, an **email list** was set up, and participants received copies of workshop presentations, the case studies with mentor notes that they could use as teaching tools (all cases are available on INGSA's website [here](#)), and the workshop survey. All participants were also added to the **INGSA membership database**, to receive updates on INGSA activities and news that may be of interest.

The most significant outcome of the workshop is the establishment of a Latin America and the Caribbean chapter for INGSA (INGSA-LAC).

Marcelo Garcia Silva, Director of Energy, Science, Technology and Innovation at the Ministry of External Affairs of Chile and Carlos Abeledo of the University of Buenos Aires have accepted the role of joint Honorary Chairpersons for INGSA-LAC. ICSU's regional office in San Salvador will provide ongoing support to the chapter.

During the workshop 34 participants volunteered to form an initial **steering group** for INGSA-LAC. To bring the number of people on the steering committee down to a more manageable number we are currently undertaking a selection process. Volunteers were asked to send through a mini CV that covered;

- Evidence of interest and experience in projects related to providing scientific advice to government
- Evidence of experience in decision assistance, working with communities or the general public, of international collaboration, particularly within the region
- Scientific excellence and professional reputation
- Willingness and ability to commit at least 2 days per quarter to INGSA committee work and participation in INGSA events

Submissions closed on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, and together with the Honorary Chairs and ICSU's regional office, the INGSA secretariat is making final selections.

An announcement will be made to the workshop participants and the wider INGSA network once the Steering Committee is confirmed.

To support the growth of INGSA-LAC further workshops are planned for **Panama in October 2018** in the margins of CILAC, and for **Jamaica** in February/March 2018.

Media: in addition to Twitter feed (@INGSciAdvice), the following organisations included media coverage of the workshop

MINCYT: [Science and its role in Politics](#) (in Spanish)

Global Young Academy: [Science Policy Advice in South America](#)

ICSU: [First Latin American Science Advice Workshop](#)