

KULMUN 2025

Committee: ECLAC

Country: Argentina

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Topic A: Fostering Sustainable Development by Addressing Irregular Settlements in Latin America

The inclusion of adequate housing in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations proves its continued relevance. The topic of irregular settlements is encompassed in SDG 11 ‘sustainable cities and communities’. As of today, every eighth person of the world’s population is living in slums or slum like conditions (United Nations, 2024). In Argentina, such irregular settlements are mostly known as ‘villas’ or ‘villas miserias’ (Snitcofsky, 2022). Even though the percentage of people living in such villas has decreased by 25% in the last few decades (in 2000 about 20% of the urban population lived in slums (World Bank Open Data, 2025), by 2018 only 14.7% (GSG et al, 2022) the topic remains important. This becomes especially evident when seeing that the percentage has remained virtually unchanged between 2015 and 2022 (14.8%-14.5%) (Housing, Slums and Informal Settlements, 2024).

In the past, Argentina has started to tackle this problem by transforming these villas into official neighbourhoods. The most famous example being that of Villa 31 in Buenos Aires which is now known as Barrio 31 or Barrio Padre Carlos Mugica (Rollenhagen 2019). This is an example of a very successful redevelopment of such a villa, as the integration was carried out with a large degree of local participation under the Participatory Management Council. The process was kicked off by the establishment of the Social and Urban Integration Secretariat in 2015 (Transforming Barrio Mugica – Reintegrating a Socially Excluded Community | Urban Agenda Platform, n.d.).

One of Argentina’s main goals in dealing with informal settlements is furthering their regularisation and integration into the cities they are in. This will lead to an overall improvement of the housing of the residents by ensuring the legal ownership of the land, access to safe water and a general qualitative improvement of the houses (Transforming Barrio Mugica – Reintegrating a Socially Excluded Community | Urban Agenda Platform, n.d.). By connecting them to public infrastructure, the socio urban integration is strengthened which is the first step towards becoming a part of the regular urban fabric (Grainger, 2024). Since President Milei’s government is however doing its best at lowering state-expenditure this would be best achieved with the use of private sector industry instead of state-funded projects (Argentina: One Year Javier Milei, 2024). By incentivising such private initiatives the problem of irregular settlements is dealt with while also strengthening the Argentinian economy.

Furthermore, the maintenance of public order is a very important goal which could, in worst-case scenarios, lead to the eviction of people living in irregular settlements if they

disrupt public order. This would be strengthened by stronger migration policies as a large number of inhabitants of villas are non-Argentinian nationals (Bastia 2015).

Topic B: Completing the Energy Transition: the 2030 Agenda, Public and Private Investment, and Infrastructure

Even though Argentina has not made any significant investment in its grid system in the last decade and a half, (Our Work in Argentina | RE100, 2022) 100% of the country's population has access to electricity ((Access to Electricity vs. GDP per Capita, 2022). About half of the country's electricity comes from gas with about 1,603 kWh followed by hydropower (725 kWh), oil (377 kWh) and wind (317 kWh) (Per Capita Electricity Generation by Source, 2025)). This picture changes when one considers the total energy supply where natural gas remains on the first place with 49% but oil follows with 37%, renewable sources like hydropower, wind or solar merely constitute 5%. This is also reflected in the country's domestic energy production (42% oil and 45% natural gas) ((Argentina - Countries & Regions, 2022).

President Milei's government sees climate 'change', preferably referred to as impact or management, as a natural process that cannot be linked to human behaviour. The 2030 Agenda is consequently not a large policy point for the president and his government (Matias Avramow, 2024). Leaving the Cop29 talks early in 2024, Argentina's position was made rather clear towards the rest of the international community (Greenfield, 2024).

Another important step is the plan to move towards a strengthened reliance on nuclear power by constructing Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) which is supported by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). These reactors are supposed to alleviate the strain currently felt in Argentina, as well as further the country's economy and energetic autarchy (ZeroHedge, 2024).

In tackling this problem Argentina will focus on the following steps. Firstly, as the Ministry of Deregulation has already started doing, it will continue to cut red tapes and lower regulations so as to make the Argentine market more attractive for investors (Elliott, 2025). Especially large investment will continue to be favoured by Argentina. The omnibus bill and the Incentive Regime for large Investments (RIGI) show the intention of the country to attract foreign investments in energy and mining projects by promising fiscal and tax advantages to large scale investments (Alfaro, 2024), (Milei's First Legislative Victory to Have Big Impact on Energy Sector as Incentive Regime for Large Investments Is Approved, 2024). By pushing for privatisation of formerly state-owned companies (also those in the energy sector) the private sector will also be more inclined to actively participate and invest into the market again, furthering itself and the Argentine economy as a whole.

Secondly, Argentina will continue to focus on energy efficiency. By eliminating useless bureaucracy reading performance testing or audits the efficiency will become the most

important factor when looking at imports (Media, 2024). Saving electricity is much more important and helpful than only focusing on the source of the electricity itself.

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