Supporting Parliamentary Scrutiny of Public Spending to Achieve the SDGs

Accelerating Progress on Agenda 2030: Good Practices for Parliamentary Action

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#ParlAmericasSDG #ParlAmericas2019
Topics

Institutional presentation
- Institutional presentation of the OPC
- Functions of the Directorate of Studies, Analysis, and Evaluation (DEAE, by its Spanish initials)

Budgetary evaluation of the SDGs
- DEAE activities in the framework of SDG analysis
- Selection of SDGs to analyze
- Methodology for SDG budget identification
- Example of analysis
- Final considerations
Budget Office of the Congress (OPC)

- The Budget Office of the Congress of the Nation of Argentina (OPC, by its Spanish initials) was created by Law N° 27.343 of 2016. It is a decentralized body of the Congress with the basic mission of providing technical assistance to the parliament in fiscal analysis and oversight.
DEAE Activities related to the SDGs

- Methodology for identifying budget allocations related to the SDGs
  https://www.opc.gob.ar/2019/05/16/identificacion-presupuestaria-ods/

- Report on budgetary evaluation of SDGs 6 & 7

- Reports in the process of being drafted:
  - Budgetary evaluation of SDG 11
  - Budgetary evaluation of SDG 12
  - Budgetary evaluation of SDG 15
  - Budgetary evaluation if SDG 17

- Budget Report for 2020: describes progress on SDGs within the Budget Law.
Selection of SDGs to analyze in 2019

- The 2019 Annual Work Plan provided for budgetary evaluation reports on the SDGs covered at the 2018 High-Level Political Forum.
Methodology for budgetary identification of the SDGs

• Theoretical case 1: Policy design based on the SDGs

• Theoretical case 2: Mapping SDGs with national policy actions

Can identify planned spending on actions related to or based on fulfillment of the SDGs from policy design.

The definition of priorities and policy design can be independent of or precede commitments made through the 2030 Agenda.
Methodology for SDG budgetary identification

- **Objective**: analyze consistency between spending decisions outlined in national budget planning and the Sustainable Development Goals.

- **Budget area**: National Public Administration (APN, by its Spanish initials).

- **Strategy**: in the APN, the actions and related interactions are organized through the program budget technique. In linking the SDGs and the budget, all programmatic openings are considered (jurisdiction – entity – program – subprogram – activity – project – work) and, if applicable, certain budget lines by item of expenditure, from the records of the Integrated Financial Information System (e-SIDIF, by its Spanish initials).

- Linkage occurs at the **SDG target** level.
Methodology for SDG budgetary identification

• The SDGs are recognized as **indivisible and transversal in nature**. This requires consideration of all involved agencies and the types of contributions of each program/activity to the SDG targets.

• **Types of jurisdiction**
  - Responsible jurisdictions:
    - Those designated by the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policy (CNCPS)
    - Closely linked to the SDGs through their institutional policy mandate
    - Are responsible for the re-orientation or broadening of policy to advance in reaching these, as well as for the monitoring of and follow-up on indicators defined for their oversight
  - Co-responsible jurisdictions:
    - Jurisdictions that, not having been identified as responsible by the Executive Branch, include within their programs actions related to the targets, contributing directly or indirectly to their achievement

• **Types of expenditures**
  - Direct spending:
    - Public interventions that directly address the population defined in the target, or its purpose is directly linked to it
  - Indirect spending:
    - If the defined population is not the direct beneficiary of the program, or if the program generates the conditions for another program to contribute to the SDG target

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Ex. SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation

**Target 6.1:** By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

### Financial dimension

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Body</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Accrued expense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Responsible jurisdiction</strong></td>
<td>Ministry of the Interior, Public Works, and Housing</td>
<td>Sustainable development of the Matanza - Riachuelo basin</td>
<td>2,969.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ministry of the Interior, Public Works, and Housing</td>
<td>Water resources</td>
<td>1,179.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Financial assistance to public companies</td>
<td>Financial assistance to public companies to finance capital expenditures</td>
<td>4,278.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Co-responsible jurisdiction</strong></td>
<td>National Body of Water Works and Sanitation</td>
<td>Technical/financial assistance and development of sanitation infrastructure</td>
<td>2,500.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Treasury obligations</td>
<td>Financial assistance to public companies to finance capital expenditures</td>
<td>4,278.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**                                           |                                                                                                      | **1,179.10**    |

**Description of the program**

Promotes rational, integral, equitable, and multiple use of water resources with consideration to their preservation and improvement.

### Physical dimension

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Unit of measurement</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improvement in drinking water service</td>
<td>New home with connection</td>
<td>11.316</td>
<td>71.461</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional considerations**

- **Central activities**: NO
- **Debt interest**: NO
- **Programs with external financing**: By objective
- **Transfers to businesses and trust funds**: By objective
Ex. SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation

Target 6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

From the analysis by program, can determine total spending related to each target.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Initial credit</td>
<td>Accrued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Millions $</td>
<td>Millions $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct spending</td>
<td>20,278.8</td>
<td>21,766.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect spending</td>
<td>3,042.8</td>
<td>6,051.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*As of 30/06/19

Additional considerations

- An assessment of the efficiency of the spending and its ability to achieve the proposed objectives requires movement towards results-based budgeting.
- Global budget analysis of the SDGs must consider when a program, project, or activity contributes to more than one target.
- Cannot lose sight of the multiplicity of actors involved in the achievement of the SDGs (provinces, municipalities, private sector).
Final considerations

Budget evaluation of the SDGs seeks to:

• Provide timely and reliable tools that allow for budget evaluation of Argentina’s progress towards fulfilling the SDGs.

• Support parliamentary debate with technical tools that facilitate interpretation of the initiatives generated by Congress or the Executive Branch that make use of public resources.

• Promote transparency and strengthen accountability for the public, as OPC reports are available for the general public on its website.

How have SDG budgetary evaluation reports been used?

• The Human Rights Observatory of the Senate and the Agenda 2030 Observatory of the Chamber of Deputies have shown a strong interest in these reports.

• According to OPC web statistics, the SDG budgetary evaluation reports are among the most consulted reports (both at the local and international levels).
THANK YOU

María Eugenia Pierrepont
Director of Studies, Analysis, and Evaluation