Air Quality Policies

This document is based on research that UNEP conducted in 2015, in response to Resolution 7 of the UNEA 1. It describes country-level policies that impact air quality. Triple question marks (???) indicate that information for the section couldn't be found.

Please review the information, and provide feedback. A Word version of the template can be provided upon request. Corrections and comments can be emailed to Vered.Ehsani@unep.org and George.Mwaniki@unep.org.

<u>Argentina</u>				
GOALS	CURRENT STATUS	CURRENT / PLANNED POLICIES & PROGRAMMES		
GENERAL OVERVIEW	 Overall situation with respect to air quality in the country, including key air quality challenges: in Buenos Aires, significant sources of air pollution are vehicles and adjacent thermal power plants, although winds blow much of the pollution away during summer and autumn; Cordoba is surrounded by mountains that trap air emissions and therefore has a more significant air quality issue; Laws are sufficient, but enforcement of current laws is the issue Air quality in some cities like Bahia Blanca and Mendoza isn't only influenced by industry and transport, but also by natural sources, particularly dust from desert and semi-desert zones during summer and droughts There are also active volcanoes in the Andes that produce natural pollutants that winds bring into Argentina Air quality monitoring system: Yes: 3 in Buenos Aires city, 1 in Puerto de Dock sud, 3 in Zarate-Campana, 1 in Bahia Blanca city, and 1 in Bariloche city 	 National Ambient air quality standards: standards don't meet WHO Interim Targets or guidelines, and there is no PM2.5 standard; Buenos Aires has a stricter Ambient Air Quality Standard that includes PM2.5 and meets WHO Interim Targets for all but SO2 and NO2 National Air Quality Policy: ??? Air Quality legislation / programmes: Federal Air Resource Preservation Act – seldom applied as some provinces haven't adhered to it, and there are no regulatory provisions issued from the Federal government; most provinces and some municipalities have enacted their own rules; Air Pollution Law 1973 requires industries to have emission permits; the Hazardous Waste Law 1991 includes gaseous hazardous waste Other: Environmental legislation and regulation at federal, provincial and municipal levels sometimes overlap and create uncertainty in determining which regulation is applicable in a particular case; regulations often follow international standards (mainly the Netherlands or US EPA standards) on limits of emissions and air quality control Argentina follows the Decision 8 of the Meeting of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, which passed the Regional Action Plan on Atmospheric Contamination; based on this, Argentina passed Resolution 1327/2014 which created the National Action Plan for Air Pollution 		

REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM INDUSTRIES	 Industries that have the potential to impact air quality: 3 power plants on edge of Buenos Aires burn natural gas most of the year, and gas-oil for 2 weeks in winter (high level of pollution when that happens); chemicals; petrochemicals; steel and aluminium; cement; mining; oil refineries and petrochemical facilities are major sources of air pollution in Bahia Blanca, Rosario, La Plata and Mendoza Nearly half of industries are based in the Greater Buenos Aires area; many do not control air emissions GDP of country: \$540 billion Industries' share of GDP: 15% (manufacturing), mining (5%), construction (6%) Electricity sources: natural gas (51%), hydro (28%), oil-fired (12%), nuclear (7%) 	 Emission regulations for industries: Province of Buenos Aires has emission standards for industries, but enforcement is sometimes limited, although improving; some other provinces also have specific standards in place; regulatory regime (including permits) can be federal, provincial and municipal, thus requiring multiple permits The 3 energy plants around the city of Buenos Aires are controlled by the National Authority for Electricity Regulation, use natural gas or gas-oil; the authority has not found high levels of contamination from these sources Small installation's emissions regulated: emissions from small sources are regulated by local municipal governments Renewable energy investment promoted: National renewable energy target of 8% electricity generation by 2016; renewable energy law; exemptions from VAT, fuel tax, income tax, duty; Feed-in tariff; wind farms and solar power being promoted Energy efficiency incentives: (ex: Subsidies, labelling, rebates etc) National Program for the Rational and Efficient Use of Energy – to reduce electricity use by 6% by 2016 Incentives for clean production and installation of pollution prevention technologies: ??? Actions to ensure compliance with regulations: (monitoring, enforcement, fines etc) authorities can order modifications to facilities, and close it down; there are also monetary fines Other actions at national, sub-national and / or local level to reduce industry emissions: ???
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REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM TRANSPORT	 Key transport-related air quality challenges: many vehicles don't have catalytic converters; there's an extensive private bus system, but old and poorly maintained buses produce almost 50% of transport emissions; heavy congestion in Buenos Aires Buenos Aires was 2014 winner of Sustainable Transport Award for improvements in urban mobility (increase in bus-only lanes for BRT system 	 Vehicle emission limit: Euro 4 (Euro 5 sometime in 2016) While all new vehicles have to have catalytic converters, older vehicles without catalytic converters are still circulating in the country, and there are no incentives to replace them There are draft laws on fuel efficiency labeling that have not yet been approved Fuel Sulphur content: 1,500ppm; 500ppm and 10ppm also available (30ppm targeted for 2016) Restriction on used car importation: Import ban with a few exceptions Actions to expand, improve and promote public transport and mass transit: In 2013, Buenos Aires replaced several lanes on 9 de Julio Avenue with bus-only lanes for a BRT system; Actions to promote non-motorized transport: (ex: include sidewalks and bike lanes in new road projects, car-free areas etc) Buenos Aires transformed dozens of blocks in the city center into an environment that encourages and prioritizes walking and cycling over driving

		• Other transport-related actions: motor vehicle fuel efficiency labelling
REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM OPEN BURNING OF AGRICULTURAL / MUNICIPAL WASTE (OUTDOOR)	 Outdoor, open burning: some municipal waste is burned, often at the dump itself; ~90% of crops are planted using no-tillage methods (without burning) Transboundary pollution is experienced from agricultural fires set in neighbouring countries (Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay) 	 Legal framework: open burning is banned by a national law, but authorized in exceptional cases. Some provinces prohibit agricultural burning Actions to prevent open burning of municipal waste and / or agricultural waste: ???
REDUCE EMISSIONS	• Dominant fuels used for cooking and space heating: <5% use solid fuels	• Indoor air pollution regulated: No
FROM OPEN BURNING OF BIOMASS (INDOOR)	• Impact: Negligible deaths from indoor air pollution (13,100 deaths/year from outdoor air pollution)	 Promotion of non-grid / grid electrification: 99% access; programme for renewable energy in rural areas Promotion of cleaner cooking fuels and clean cook stoves: No, as the use of solid fuels happens mainly in rural areas far from urban centres, thus making it difficult to use natural gas or
		electricity
		• Other actions to reduce indoor biomass burning, or to reduce its emissions: ???

Secondary Sources used in the research: http://airlex.web.ua.pt/pm10,

http://www.who.int/quantifying_ehimpacts/national/countryprofile/argentina.pdf?ua=1,

http://www.unep.org/Transport/new/PCFV/pdf/Maps_Matrices/LAC/matrix/LAC_FuelsVeh_June2015.pdf,

http://www.reegle.info/countries/argentina-energy-profile/AR, http://www.world-weather-travellers-guide.com/causes-of-air-pollution.html,

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http://www.cleanairinstitute.org/calidaddelaireamericalatina/summary-airquality-la.pdf, https://www.itdp.org/buenos-aires-argentina-wins-2014-

sustainable-transport-award/, http://www.alfarolaw.com/tapa/The%20Environmental%20Laws%20in%20Argentina.pdf,

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Argentina#Industry, http://www.jpof.com.ar/publicaciones/Environment_2009-10_-

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_14976

