

*Building accountability for the
AO of Argentina through
the use of a WB Grant*



Anticorruption Office (AO)

Created by Congress
Law N° 25233
in 1999

Mission

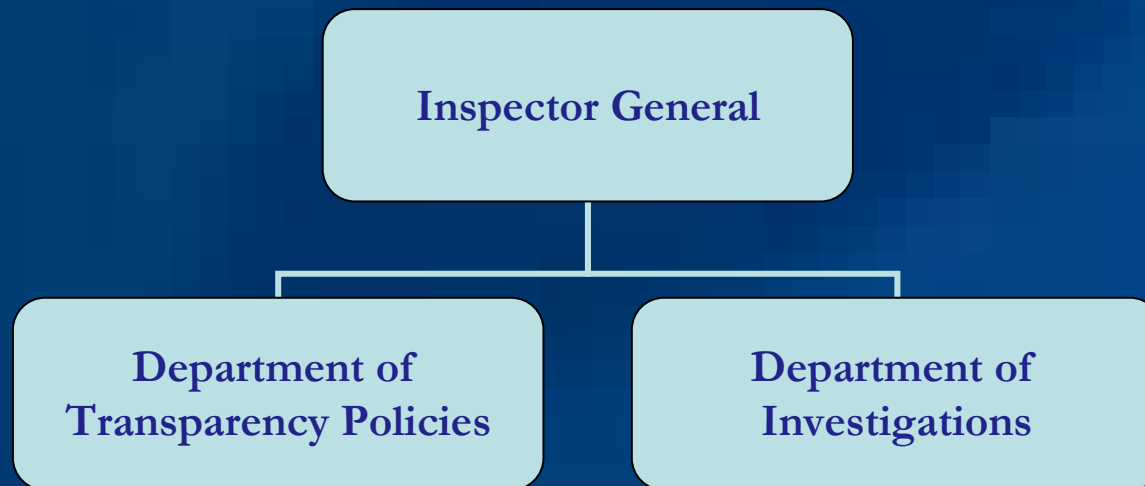
- To investigate acts of corruption within the National Public Administration (centralized and decentralized).
- To formulate and implement policies to increase transparency and prevent corruption.

What is the National Public Administration?

- ✓ Ministries.
- ✓ Secretaries of the executive, agencies and state-owned corporations.
- ✓ Any public or private organization receiving federal funds.

The AO has no jurisdiction over matters of the Judicial and Legislative branches, nor the provincial and municipal governments.

AO - Structure



AO - Concept

Public agency responsible for the implementation of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption within the Executive Branch of the Federal Government

Attack on corruption must address the complexity of the corruption phenomenon through a systemic approach

Articulation between prevention and investigation of corruption constitutes the special characteristic of the Anticorruption Office of Argentina.

World Bank Grant IDF 27282

Main Characteristics

- Awarded: 1998 to the ONEP – Turned to AO in 2000
- Total amount: US\$ 410.000
- To be used in activities related to AO institutional straightening



Department of Transparency Policies

- ✦ Elaborates policies and programs to prevent corruption and increase transparency in the National Public Administration.
- ✦ Promotes international cooperation in prevention of corruption and in implementation of transparency policies.

WB Grant - Main Activities Funded

- Implementation of new electronic **Financial Disclosure Forms** – Internet based (2000 – 2001)
- Diagnosis of Corruption in the National Public Administration (2000)
- Evaluation of financial disclosure forms (illicit enrichment and conflicts of interest) (2002 – 2004)
- Rulemaking processes for discussion of legislation on lobbies, whistleblower protection, public procurement and access to public information (2002 – 2004)
- Assets recovery research (2004)
- Corruption Risks Evaluation Map (2004)
- Editing of successful experiences reports (2003 – 2004)
- Implementation of IACC at sub national levels (Plan Provincias) (2003 - 2004)

Plan Provincias – The grounds of the Plan

Interamerican Convention Against Corruption

- * New paradigm in the fight against corruption
- * Implementation of IACC's Follow up Mechanism (peer review)

Plan Provincias – The grounds of the Plan

Argentina was the first country evaluated (2003) by the Experts Committee of the Follow up Mechanism

Central recommendation



In Federal Countries, provinces and local governments **must** implement IACC

The importance of anticorruption policies at sub national levels

Distribution of tax expenditure

- ✓ Federal Government _____ 42 %
- ✓ Provinces _____ 56 %

Distribution of public officials

- ✓ Federal Level _____ 19 %
- ✓ Provincial Level _____ 64 %
- ✓ Municipal Level _____ 17%

AO's Main Prevention Policies

- Financial disclosure forms System
- Conflict of Interests policies
- Transparency in public procurement processes
- Civil society participation mechanisms
- Quality improvement processes in Federal Agencies
- Access to Information regulations and practices

The Foundations of Plan Provincias

**Pilot Plan with three provinces: Mendoza,
Chubut and Corrientes**

Aim

Cooperation and technical assistance

Topics

Dispositions of the IACC

Key provincial actors

Top government officials, legislators, judges, civil society, academia, media representatives, etc.

Plan Provincias - Structure

1. DIAGNOSIS REPORTS PHASE

Main Characteristics:

- Objective tool → guide in subsequent phases
- Terms of references prepared by Anticorruption Office
- Local consultant firm is selected – Public Universities

Plan Provincias - Structure

1. DIAGNOSIS REPORTS PHASE

- Provincial Issues under analysis :
 - Public Administration structure
 - Existence of corruption prevention and investigation agencies and performance
 - Active NGOs in corruption prevention field
 - Role of the media in corruption investigations
 - Existence of adequate laws and regulations for fight against corruption
 - Public Agencies sensible to corruption
 - Perception of corruption problems by key actors

Plan Provincias - Structure

2. REGIONAL SEMINARS PHASE

Goals

Debate of corruption problems at sub national levels

Discussion on effective tools for local corruption problems

Incorporation of new actors to the discussion

Dissemination of corruption prevention policies

Plan Provincias - Structure

3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PHASE

Using data from Diagnosis and Seminars



Technical Assistance Plan (TAP)

Plan Provincias - Structure

3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PHASE

Goals of the TAP

- Institutional strengthening
- Transparency and efficiency working together
- Improvement of public resource allocation
- Expansion of civil society participation in formulation and monitoring public policies

Plan Provincias - Results

● Products:

- 3 Provincial Diagnosis Reports
- 3 Regional Seminars organized (over 800 participants)
- 2 Provincial Technical Assistance Plans
- 1 General Technical Assistance Plan
- 2 Syllabus Drafts for Anticorruption degrees in local Universities

Plan Provincias - Results

- Strong political commitment in corruption prevention work:
 - Governors
 - Ministers
 - Judges
 - Legislators
 - General Prosecutors
 - Comptroller Generals
 - Media representatives
 - NGOs massive participation

Plan Provincias - Results

Total cost of Pilot Plan



US\$ 80.000

Time of execution



6 months

Plan Provincias – Lessons Learned

- Longer period for Diagnoses' findings validation
- Need for an effective interlocutor at the provinces
- Recognise the different interests of various groups involved
- Long term assignment: cultural change

Provincias Plan - Future Challenges

- Expand the Plan to the rest of the Provinces in Argentina
- Overcome some political obstacles in certain provinces
- Begin work with municipalities
- Implant permanent capabilities in local actors
- Analyse the feasibility of using the same model in other countries

oficina anticorrupción

república argentina

www.anticorrupcion.gov.ar