

Buenos Aires, 4th September 2018

### **Fundación IBIS' position regarding the changes on Health and Science in Argentina**

Fundación IBIS/CICAL wishes to express its deep concern about the decision made by the Executive Branch to degrade the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (MINCyT) to the category of State Secretariat and the subsequent consequences on the health of our country's inhabitants.

Underestimating these areas of human development is risky and incomprehensible. This will certainly bring difficulties both in the everyday life and health of millions of Argentines, as well as in the scientific development, vital for our progress as a Nation.

The scientific community has desired a Ministry of Science and Technology for decades. In 2007 the Argentine State acknowledged the claim and created the requested Ministry, which was welcomed as a significant progress. We still stare in astonishment as the Executive's decision to subsume this Ministry into another one may imply a significant regression.

The Ministry of Health is the governing entity of the Federal system, necessary to establish standards, national scope programs and coordination in a disaggregated system. Its shrinkage will bring difficulties and damage on people's health. As an immediate consequence, directors of important Programs, such as the National Directorate of AIDS, STDs, Hepatitis and TB, have already been removed, jeopardizing the provision of antiretroviral treatment to tens of thousands of HIV patients.

Fundación IBIS/CICAL confirms its commitment with the well-being of our people and the development of our country. We will also continue to promote initiatives in health and science; essential pillars for the development and welfare of nations.



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