

**Kettering Foundation in Buenos Aires - Meeting with Buenos Aires Government City
Tuesday 23th august**

Participants:

- **Kettering Foundation:** Sharon L. Davies, Maxine Suzanne Thomas, Edwin Dorn, Roberto Saba, Paloma Dallas, Rhonda Dee Atkinson
- **RACI:** Guillermo Correa, Mariana Agnolin, Juliana Catania
- **Jorge Macri** - Minister of Government - Buenos Aires City Government
- **Carmen Polledo** - Undersecretary for Institutional Relations - Buenos Aires City Government
- **Hernán Charosky** - Dialogando BA
- **Claudia Pernía** - General Director of Relations with Civil Society and Public Entities
- **Javier Irigaray and Tamara Laznik** - General Directorate of Institutional Quality and Open Government
- **Antonella Tozzo Chiarello** - Manager of Participatory Communication - General Directorate of Citizen Participation
- Ruby Quantson Davis (Ghana/UK)
- Tendai Murisa (Zimbabwe)
- Jacobus Frederick Roets (South Africa)
- Leonardo Neves Correa (Brazil)
- Telma Gimenez (Brazil)
- Cedric Eddie Tuiavii (New Zealand)
- Mary Wrafter (Ireland)
- Sandra Ximena Martinez Rosas (Colombia)
- Aldo Protti Porras (Costa Rica)
- Gustavo Adolfo Ruiz Arana (Guatemala)
- Rocío Jenny Zapata Lopez (Mexico)
- Nino Tvaltvdze Kutaisi International University (Georgia)
- Donna Andrea Marie Parchment Brown (Jamaica)
- Marcela Guillibrand (Chile)
- María Lara Hernandez (Puerto Rico)

Last august 23rd, four areas of the Buenos Aires City Government co-hosted a meeting in Casa de Gobierno de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires receiving Kettering Foundation's authorities and a delegation from different countries from Latin America. This delegation included experts in dialogue, citizen participation, open government, intersectoral and consensus building, among other topics.

The meeting started with an institutional opening by Hernán Charosky, Dialogue and Collaborative Public Policies Team coordinator and Guillermo Correa, RACI's Executive Director. They both thanked everyone for their participation and interest in developing relations between specialists from different countries working in different sectors, looking forward to promote different alliances for different projects. According to Hernán Charosky, "this [was] a very important opportunity to have an exchange to give value of the agenda of citizen participation."

The conversation developed in two parts. First, RACI and each of the government areas made a presentation detailing their type of work, methodology, scope and experiences. Then, Charosky opened the floor for discussion. The discussion focused on the challenges that arise when designing

and implementing stages of citizen participation and what are the results and impact of these experiences.

Below are the names of each area that presented and a link to the presentation:

1. **RACI** (Guillermo Correa): [presentation here](#)
2. **General Directorate of Relations with Civil Society and Public Entities** (Claudia Pernía - General Director): [presentation here](#)
3. **General Directorate of Institutional Quality and Open Government** (Javier Irigaray -General Directorate- and Tamara Laznik): [presentation here](#)
4. **General Directorate of Citizen Participation** (Antonella Tozzo Chiarello - Manager of Participatory Communication): [presentation here](#)
5. **Dialogando BA** (Hernán Charosky - Coordinator): [presentation here](#)¹

Later in the meeting, **Jorge Macri** (Minister of Government - Buenos Aires City Government), **Carmen Polledo** (Undersecretary Institutional Relations - Buenos Aires City Government), **Sharon Davies** (President and CEO - Kettering Foundation), **Maxine Suzanne Thomas** (Vice President, Secretary, and General Counsel - Kettering Foundation) and **Roberto Saba** (Board of Directors - Kettering Foundation) shared their point of view regarding the topics in discussion.

Macri emphasized that we should "keep working together, learn from others" and added that the "Government gets stronger when it opens to society". Furthermore, Maxine S. Thomas said that "democracy is in crisis and people are frustrated; we need to innovate and work on these problems".

Afterwards Sharon Davies expressed that the Kettering Foundation looks forward to begin an international fellow program and added "I expect fellows have been surprised by the different programs this beautiful city has, which tries to connect with people"

Also representing the Kettering Foundation, Roberto Saba shared an important thought: "the amount of young people that I see in this room, committed and professional, and the amount of women that I see in this room, was impossible 30 years ago".

Then the members of the delegation intervened with comments and questions to the City of Buenos Aires authorities. In this opportunity the conversation focused on the challenges that arise in the design and implementation stages of citizen participation and open government public policies. The group reached an agreement on the importance of citizens' voice and the need of generating trust and confidence not only related with the government but also to the quality of the information that is provided. It was also emphasized that citizen participation is an important tool to improve human rights. To sum up, Macri said that "government gets stronger when it opens to society".

¹ Because of agenda restrictions, even when Dialogando BA planned to show this presentation, it was not possible at the moment.