

# WEEKLY ASADO

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
Latin American Program  
Friday, September 15, 2017



---

## **Half Caff: The anti-pander**

[Bubble](#) CEO Adrian Bono has long reveled in his disinterest for soccer. But even for Mr. Bono, his stance on the World Cup *eliminotorias* and the U.S. Open was impressively contrarian: he sided with Rafael Nadal in his match against Argentine star Juan Martín del Potro in the Sept. 8 semi-final, and hopes Argentina skips the 2018 World Cup. “I have bought 20 kilos of confetti for the day Argentina fails to qualify,” he wrote recently. President Mauricio Macri probably feels differently, and not only because he is a soccer fan who served as president of Boca Juniors before becoming mayor of Buenos Aires. Analyst Rosendo Fraga has warned that Argentina’s failure to [qualify](#) for the World Cup could negatively impact the public mood in advance of the Oct. 22 midterms. Argentina is in fifth place in the South America tournament (only four teams are guaranteed to advance), with just two games left, against Peru and Ecuador.

---

## **Pot, kettle: CFK calls for ‘unity’**

Ahead of the midterms, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, the Senate candidate and former president, published an open letter calling on opposition figures to unite against the governing Cambiemos coalition by joining her Unidad Ciudadana party. The new party, she said, is the only viable mechanism to bring together Peronists and weaken Mr. Macri. It did not take long for her rivals – former presidential candidate Sergio Massa and Florencio Randazzo, Fernández de Kirchner’s former transportation minister – to reject the appeal. “You and Macri play the same game,” Mr. Randazzo said.

---

## **Gils Carbó: Controversial AG in DC**

Alejandra Gils Carbó, the Argentine attorney general, was in Washington this week for a meeting with Luis Almagro, the secretary general of the Organization of American States. The two reportedly discussed strengthening ties between public prosecutors’ offices and the Organization of American States on human rights cases. Gils Carbó trumpeted the importance of her office’s independence from political influence, a reference to her bitter feud with Mr. Macri. The president has tried to remove Gils Carbó, who was appointed by Fernández de Kirchner and is accused by critics of slow rolling corruption cases involving former government officials.

---

### **Resignation: Sendic saga**

Uruguayan Vice President Raúl Sendic, son of a legendary Tupamaro, resigned Saturday over corruption allegations related to his time running the state oil company, [ANCAP](#). The scandal has dogged President Tabaré Vázquez. Notably, in addition to refining oil and producing cement, ANCAP is also responsible for certifying alcoholic beverages at its Laboratorio de Bebidas y Alcoholes.

---

### **World Bank: Withdrawals**

Argentine Finance Minister Luis Caputo announced Monday that the Inter-American Development Bank had increased its planned lending to Argentina. Mr. Caputo estimated that total IDB lending would exceed \$6 billion in Mr. Macri's first three years in office, and he expected the IDB to provide an additional \$2.3 billion in 2019. IDB [projects include](#) investments to increase access to sanitation and drinking water.

---

### **Biotech: All in**

Jerry Haar, a Wilson Center global fellow, has a [new piece](#) on biotech in Argentina, a sector experiencing "dynamic growth" thanks to public and private research and development spending that exceeds \$80 million. In all, Argentina produces 14 percent of the world's biotech crops, making it the third largest producer after the United States and Brazil. The sector offers further evidence that Argentina's high levels of human capital could be better mobilized to spur economic growth and reduce dependence on commodity exports. In its 2017 Global Human Capital Report, released in June, the World Economic Forum awarded [Argentina](#) the [highest ranking](#) in the [region](#).

---

### **Lin-Manuel Miranda: No one else was on the balcony where it happened**

*Hamilton* creator Lin-Manuel Miranda had an Evita moment on Tuesday in Washington, photographed on the balcony at the office of U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont), his arms outstretched. Mr. Miranda was [in town to receive](#) the 2017 Freedom Award from the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, lobby in support of the national endowments for the arts and humanities, and attend a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute gala. If you're willing to wait for it, *Hamilton*

opens at the Kennedy Center in June.

---

### **Weekly Asado Explainer: Fuerzas Federales**

With Argentina's Gendarmería in the news over the disappearance of activist Santiago *Maldonado*, [here's](#) a primer on Argentina's four major national security agencies, overseen by the Security Ministry: the Policía de Seguridad Aeroportuaria is equivalent to the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA); the Policía Federal Argentina is similar to the FBI; the Prefectura Naval Argentina performs the functions of the U.S. Coast Guard; and the Gendarmería Nacional Argentina – under investigation for a possible role in Mr. Maldonado's

disappearance – is similar to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

---

[Subscribe to Weekly Asado](#)

[Donate to the Argentina Project](#)

*Your email preferences are set to receive our updates.*

*unsubscribe.*