U.S.-Argentina Critical Minerals Forum: A key meeting for the strategic alliance

Buenos Aires, Argentina. September 3, 2026.- The US-Argentina Business Council of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Citi, and AmCham Argentina, with the support of the U.S. Embassy, held the U.S.-Argentina Critical Minerals Forum at the Alvear Palace Hotel.

The Forum was conceived as a concrete initiative to promote the U.S.-Argentina Framework Agreement on Critical Minerals Mining and Processing, translating its commitments into tangible actions and opportunities for the private sector and its decision-makers.

In that context, the event brought together representatives from both governments, global leaders from the mining industry and member companies, financial institutions, and multilateral organizations, with the aim of deepening bilateral cooperation in the critical minerals sector, strengthening dialogue, and creating the conditions needed to foster the development of mining in Argentina.

Global demand for lithium, copper, uranium, and rare earth elements is growing steadily, driven by the energy transition, electromobility, the national defense industry, and the expansion of data centers and artificial intelligence. Therefore, diversifying global supply chains has taken on strategic importance, and the United States and Argentina share an interest in building supply chains that are more secure, diversified, and reliable.

With its abundant resources, project pipeline, and productive capacity, Argentina is well positioned to become a strategic partner, attracting investment, incorporating technology, expanding infrastructure, and strengthening its integration into global value chains.

Turning this potential into jobs, exports, and federal development depends on concrete conditions. In this regard, the event's agenda was organized around three interconnected pillars: infrastructure, value chains, and financing. Throughout the panels, participants discussed issues including mechanisms to advance implementation of the agreement between the two countries; U.S. policy on critical minerals and its partnership with Argentina; transforming Argentina's mining potential into production and exports through strategic infrastructure; trade frameworks, technologies, and policies for building resilient value chains; available financing tools for projects; challenges to promoting mining investment; and the next steps in the bilateral partnership, among other topics.

In his opening remarks, **Neil Herrington**, Senior Vice President, Americas, at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, stated: *"Our governments have created the framework for action. Companies on both sides are ready to invest, build, and partner. The next phase must therefore be measured not only by agreements or announcements, but by new projects launched, infrastructure unlocked, resources mobilized, commercial partnerships established, and new supply reaching markets. If we can deliver on that agenda, we will strengthen not only the relationship between the United States and Argentina, but also the competitiveness and resilience of supply chains across the Western Hemisphere."*

Alejandro Díaz, CEO of AmCham Argentina, said: *"Critical minerals are no longer an unknown; they have become a key component of a global demand increasingly focused on economic security. Today, the world needs reliable partners integrated into geopolitically aligned supply chains, and that is where a window of opportunity emerges for Argentina, one that will not remain open indefinitely."* He added: *"We have the resources, a favorable international environment, and a more orderly macroeconomic framework, together with incentive instruments such as the RIGI, which position our country on the global investment map and allow us to take the step from stabilization to sustainable development."*

Then, introducing the closing remarks of the event, **Federico Elewaut**, CEO of Citibank Argentina, concluded: *"At this time of significant structural changes in the mining sector, the global geopolitical decision to diversify sources of metal supply has created long-term opportunities for countries such as Argentina. At Citi, we view this scenario with optimism and reaffirm our commitment to continuing to leverage our global network, connect projects in Argentina with international capital to bring them to fruition, and contribute to global economic development."*

Lastly, the following speakers participated in the event:

- Alejandro Díaz, CEO, AmCham Argentina.
- Alfredo Cornejo, Governor of Mendoza Province.
- Barbara Fochtman, Managing Director, Lithium, Rio Tinto.
- Brenda Quiroz Maday, Country Manager for Latin America and the Caribbean, U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA).
- Carlos Alarco Proaño, President, Latin America Region, Bechtel.
- Carlos Sadir, Governor of Jujuy Province.
- Christopher Cornelius, CEO, Argentina Potash.

- David Dickson, Managing Director and CEO, Lake Resources.
- Erik Bazarian, Director, Corporación América.
- Estefanía Pozzo, Editor-in-Chief, Buenos Aires Herald and C5N.
- Fabián Gregorio, CEO, Project San Jorge, Zonda Metals.
- Federico Elewaut, CEO, Citibank Argentina.
- Felipe De Mussy, President, South America, Lilac Solutions.
- Fernando Brun, Secretary for International Economic Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Argentine Republic.
- Francisco De Santibañes, President of the Argentine Council for International Relations (CARI).
- Heidi Gómez Rápalo, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires.
- Humberto Pereira, Southern Cone Investment Advisor, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC).
- Lesly Henderson-Rubio, Executive Director, U.S.-Argentina Business Council.
- Luciano Laspina, Executive Director, CIPPEC.
- Luis E. Lucero, Secretary of Mining of the Argentine Republic.
- Marcelo Orrego, Governor of San Juan Province.
- Mariela Imbrogno, Country Manager, Fluor Corporation.
- Martín Pérez de Solay, CEO, Glencore Argentina.
- Michael Mending, Managing Director, McEwen Copper.
- Neil Herrington, Senior Vice President, Americas, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.
- Nitin Talreja, Director, Lithium & Battery Metals Technology, KBR (Kellogg, Brown & Root).
- Patrick Alexander Avato, Country Manager for Argentina, International Finance Corporation (IFC).
- Raúl Jalil, Governor of Catamarca Province.
- Tomás Darmandrail, Strategic Planning Director, Vicuña.
- Viviana Alva-Hart, Country Representative in Argentina, IDB Group.
- William Husband, Global Head of Metals & Mining, Citi.

The expansion of critical minerals represents one of Argentina's key opportunities for growth and exports. In a context of closer and deeper bilateral relations with the United States, AmCham and the US-Argentina Business Council of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce are working to strengthen institutional ties that can help turn our country's potential into concrete projects, new investment, and development across Argentina's regions.

Access the event photos here.

About AmCham Argentina

AmCham Argentina — the United States Chamber of Commerce in Argentina — is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit organization that has been promoting bilateral trade and investment between the United States and Argentina for 108 years. AmCham fosters an ethical and transparent business environment that contributes to both its members' objectives and Argentina's economic and institutional development. The Chamber brings together more than 700 companies that directly employ over 420,000 people across 42 sectors of the economy. Its member companies account for 24% of Argentina's GDP, 39% of tax revenues, 35% of imports, and 45% of exports. AmCham works to be the most prestigious and influential business chamber in advancing and improving the business environment in Argentina.

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About the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the U.S.-Argentina Business Council

Founded in 1912, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the largest organization representing the interests of the American private sector. In 2017, the U.S. Chamber established the U.S.-Argentina Business Council (USABC), a public-private dialogue and collaboration platform designed to strengthen the economic relationship, promote trade, and catalyze investment between the United States and Argentina. As investors that generate jobs and opportunities in each market, member companies play a fundamental role in maximizing the growth of the economic partnership between Argentina and the United States. We work alongside both governments to establish public policy priorities and exchange best practices that strengthen the trade relationship between the United States and Argentina, with the goal of becoming more competitive in the global market.

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About Citi

Citi is a preeminent banking partner for institutions with cross-border needs, a global leader in wealth management and a valued personal bank in its home market of the United States. Citi does business in more than 180 countries and jurisdictions, providing corporations, governments, investors, institutions, and individuals with a broad range of financial products and services.

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