

## **Background Guide**

### **Committee: Argentine National Cabinet**

### **Topic: *Milei's Gamble: Las Malvinas Dos (The Second Falklands Crisis)***

#### **I. Introduction: A Crisis Reignited**

In March 2026, tensions between Argentina and the United Kingdom over the Falkland Islands (*Islas Malvinas*) have surged to their highest point in decades. A maritime incident involving Argentine and British vessels near the disputed Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) has reignited the sovereignty debate, drawing regional attention and international concern.

The government of President Javier Milei—elected in 2023 on a platform of radical economic reform and anti-establishment politics—has elevated the issue into a central theme of national strategy. Citing a "new era of Argentine self-confidence," Milei has signaled that the time is right to challenge the status quo around the Malvinas, through diplomatic, economic, and potentially military means.

The Cabinet is now at a decision point: How far should Argentina go in asserting its sovereignty? Is this the moment for renewed confrontation, or for strategic pressure and multilateral diplomacy?

This committee must weigh national identity, legal precedent, military capacity, economic stability, and regional politics—all within the context of a delicate and evolving international system.

#### **II. Historical Context: From 1982 to 2026**

The Falklands War of 1982 ended in a British military victory and decades of diplomatic impasse. Since then:

- The United Kingdom has maintained continuous military and administrative control over the islands.
- Argentina has continued to claim sovereignty in all relevant forums, including the United Nations, which has called for bilateral negotiations.
- The islanders themselves overwhelmingly favor remaining under British rule.
- Periodic flare-ups have occurred—over oil exploration, fishing rights, and militarization—but no serious military confrontation has re-emerged until now.

Milei, known for his nationalist rhetoric but libertarian economic views, has brought a new ideological posture to Argentine foreign policy. His approach to the Malvinas issue has

surprised many—combining assertive sovereignty claims with a narrative of economic modernization and regional leadership.

### **III. The Domestic Context: An Uneven Recovery**

Argentina in 2026 is a country undergoing complex transformation:

- **Economic Stabilization:** Inflation has been curbed significantly, and the Central Bank has been depowered. Market liberalization has attracted foreign investment, particularly in energy, lithium, and agribusiness.
- **Growth in Select Sectors:** Key export sectors—especially agriculture and mining—have rebounded. Infrastructure investment has begun to return.
- **Persistent Poverty and Social Discontent:** Despite macroeconomic improvement, poverty remains above 35%. Deregulation and austerity measures have triggered labor unrest, particularly among public workers and the urban poor.
- **Political Climate:** Milei remains polarizing. His supporters credit him with restoring economic order. Critics accuse him of deepening inequality and gutting state institutions.

In this context, the Malvinas issue offers Milei both a strategic foreign policy objective and a symbolic rallying point—one that could either unify the country or escalate an already fragile situation.

### **IV. The Current Crisis: March 2026**

- **March 2:** An Argentine civilian oceanographic research vessel, *ARA Darwin*, is intercepted by a British patrol near disputed waters. Both sides accuse the other of provocation.
- **March 3:** Milei announces the *Nueva Doctrina Soberana*—a renewed national policy asserting non-negotiable sovereignty over the Falklands and adjacent maritime areas.
- **March 4:** Argentina increases military activity in Tierra del Fuego. British Parliament authorizes deployment of additional Royal Navy assets to the South Atlantic.

- March 5–7: Argentina files complaints at the UN and seeks regional solidarity via CELAC and Mercosur. The UK reaffirms its commitment to the islanders' self-determination.
- Current status: The region is on edge. While no shots have been fired, both nations are mobilizing, and international observers are urging restraint.

## **V. The Argentine Cabinet (15 Members + President)**

The President (Milei) is portrayed by the chair. Delegates will take on the following roles:

### **1. Minister of Defense**

Oversees national defense strategy, procurement, and coordination of all armed forces. Key figure in crisis planning and deterrence policy.

### **2. Minister of Foreign Affairs**

Leads Argentina's international engagement. Must manage relations with allies, adversaries, and multilateral organizations.

### **3. Minister of Economy**

Responsible for national financial stability, foreign trade, and international economic relations. Balances spending and war-readiness with macroeconomic credibility.

### **4. Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff**

Top uniformed officer in the Argentine military. Provides operational advice and oversees strategic planning of air, land, and naval forces.

### **5. Minister of Security**

Handles internal policing, national counterterrorism coordination, and civil defense preparation in case of escalation.

### **6. Governor of Tierra del Fuego**

Oversees the key southern province closest to the islands. Responsible for base logistics, supply chains, and maintaining civil order in the region.

### **7. Director of Federal Intelligence (AFI)**

In charge of intelligence gathering, foreign surveillance, cyberwarfare capabilities, and strategic analysis of foreign responses.

### **8. Minister of Communication and Public Affairs**

Leads the government's national and international media strategy. Shapes public opinion and counters foreign propaganda.

#### 9. Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

Advises on emergency powers, international legal frameworks, and the constitutional limits of national action.

#### 10. Ambassador to the United Nations

Leads UN diplomatic engagement, especially at the Security Council and the Decolonization Committee.

#### 11. Chief Economic Advisor to the President

Unofficial but high-level voice on economic theory and policy, often advocating bold or unorthodox approaches in line with Milei's reformist ethos.

#### 12. Minister of the Environment and Maritime Sovereignty

Focuses on marine resource claims, ecological justice, and environmental diplomacy around fisheries, oil exploration, and EEZs.

#### 13. Minister of Science, Technology, and Innovation

Coordinates tech applications for defense, surveillance, and space/maritime research; key for non-traditional security strategies.

#### 14. Minister of Labor and Social Welfare

Monitors civil unrest, worker mobilizations, and economic strain on vulnerable populations. Advocates for balance between national unity and social equity.

#### 15. Special Envoy for South American Integration

Builds regional alliances in Mercosur, CELAC, and UNASUR. Explores possibilities for regional mediation or joint positioning.

### **VI. Strategic Dilemmas for the Cabinet**

#### A. How Far Should Argentina Go?

Is this an opportunity for diplomatic resurgence, or does the government risk overreach? What does success look like?

#### B. Can the Military Sustain a Confrontation?

How credible is Argentina's deterrence posture? Could a limited engagement provoke a wider crisis?

**C. Will the Economy Support Pressure Tactics?**

With investment returning, would conflict risk economic gains? Or could confrontation be leveraged for national pride and domestic legitimacy?

**D. Is Regional Backing Possible?**

Will Brazil, Chile, or other Latin American nations support a renewed push for sovereignty? Or could Argentina find itself isolated?

**E. What Is the Role of the People?**

Public sentiment is mixed—patriotism is high, but so is skepticism of military adventurism. How does the Cabinet manage that tension?

**VII. Guiding Questions for Delegates**

1. What are Argentina's strategic goals in the short and long term regarding the Malvinas?
2. Should Argentina escalate militarily, pursue multilateral diplomacy, or combine both?
3. How does the uneven nature of the country's recovery influence the limits of risk?
4. What international norms, treaties, and precedents might be invoked to strengthen Argentina's case?
5. What role can non-military pressure (economic, legal, regional) play in changing the strategic landscape?

**IX. Final Chair's Note**

This is a moment of great consequence. Argentina stands more stable, more confident, and more globally visible than it has in years—but the path ahead is uncertain. This Cabinet must navigate both realpolitik and the symbolic weight of sovereignty. Whether this is a turning point or a misstep will depend on your decisions—bold, pragmatic, or restrained.