

ISSUES ADDRESSED BY ARGENTINA AND CANADA

The Prime Minister of Canada visited Argentina on 17 and 18 November. He met the Argentine President, as well as Ministers, businesspersons and civil society. It is worth noting that this is the first bilateral visit by a Canadian Prime Minister since 1998.

The two leaders highlighted their intention to increase and diversify common ties between their countries, on the basis of the principles and values shared by the two countries.

In this respect, the leaders committed to an annual high level policy dialogue led, when possible, by the foreign ministers, in order to address political and economic issues, as well as other regional and multilateral issues of common interest.

1. FOSTERING DEMOCRACY, OPEN GOVERNMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The two leaders renewed their commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights, democratic institutions, the respect for fundamental liberties, pluralism and the rule of law.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Argentina and Canada reconfirmed their commitment to the protection of human rights and agreed to strengthen bilateral and multilateral dialogue on human rights through the re-establishment of annual bilateral human rights consultations.

PROMOTION OF OPEN GOVERNMENT AND TRANSPARENCY

The two countries agreed to increase collaboration on more inclusive and accountable governments. They also agreed to promote transparency and gather sound information in priority areas for both countries, passing effective legislation and policies. Moreover, they agreed to develop cooperation relations in the field of open government, with a view to promoting modernization, transparency, and inclusive and participatory societies, based on the experience and leadership of Canada in these fields.

REFUGEES

Argentina and Canada recognize the need to face the global refugee crisis by increasing aid and protection for refugees. In this regard, Canada will provide technical assistance to Argentina, in order to build capacities related to the reception of Syrian refugees, among other things. A delegation of Canadian officers will visit Argentina in early 2017, in order to strengthen cooperation in fields such as private sponsorship and refugee integration into Argentine society.

2. PROMOTING INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT, TRADE AND INNOVATION

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Argentina and Canada are interested in promoting the growth and diversification of their bilateral trade and investments, encouraging businesspersons in their countries to include products with higher added value and technological development. The two Governments believe they must continue working for the promotion of more inclusive global value chains, in which small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as women and youth, have greater participation.

MINING

Argentina and Canada recognize the important socio-economic contribution of the mining industry in their respective countries. Mining activity in Argentina has been strengthened by the participation of Canadian companies during the past twenty years. This participation represents a significant portion of foreign investment in Argentina. For progress to be real and effective, regulatory frameworks, as well as the highest national and international standards regarding the protection of the environment and the engagement of local communities must be strictly adhered to. Sustainable mineral development requires sound resource governance, transparency and social responsibility to maximize benefits for communities.

In this regard, both governments welcome the agreement reached between the Argentine Chamber of Mining Entrepreneurs (CAEM) and the Mining Association of Canada (MAC) to apply the “Towards Sustainable Mining” initiative in Argentina. This initiative establishes standards to improve the social and environmental practices of the mining industry. The two countries encouraged the private sector to continue to strengthen its commitment to responsible mining and to demonstrate leadership in implementing ethical, social and environmental practices

The Argentine and Canadian governments encourage all those involved in prospecting, exploration and development of mineral resources, to comply strictly with legal and regulatory requirements and to implement voluntary standards and guidelines existing in both countries. Both governments are committed to building public confidence in their respective mining industries, improving regulations and standards and promoting good practices along the entire value chain of mining development.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Canada has offered to share its experience in the development of infrastructure through public-private partnerships.

MARKET ACCESS

Both leaders expressed their satisfaction with the progress achieved with regard to access by agricultural assets to their respective markets, and they will continue to work to expand and create new opportunities for producers and exporters in their respective countries. Both countries valued the recent Agreement on a Roadmap to complete the necessary steps of the access process for the export of pork meat and live swine from Canada to Argentina. They also acknowledged the recent opening of the Canadian market to Argentine beef exports, as well as the positive work by Argentine and Canadian technical authorities to establish access to Canada for Argentine poultry meat.

VISAS

In the context of the renewed interest in strengthening trade and investment relations between the two countries, Argentina has decided to eliminate visa requirements for Canadian businesspersons as from 1 December 2016.

3. CULTURE, COOPERATION AND SECURITY

CULTURE AND EDUCATION

The leaders undertook to continue to strengthen cultural ties between Argentina and Canada, improve educational exchange, and work towards better education for their peoples.

NUCLEAR COOPERATION

They underscored the importance of a bilateral dialogue on nuclear matters based on the resumption of Bilateral Nuclear Consultations, including participation by Nuclear Regulatory Agencies, pursuant to the Nuclear Cooperation Agreement between Argentina and Canada.

POLAR COOPERATION

They agreed to increase research collaboration on polar and subpolar scientific issues, guided by the framework of the Canada-Argentina 2010 Letter of Agreement on Cooperation in Arctic and Antarctic Science, with a focus on climate change and associated impacts.

CUSTOMS ASSISTANCE

Both countries will work to conclude a Canada-Argentina Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement as soon as possible. This agreement would enable the exchange of information in order to prevent, investigate and combat customs offences, especially customs fraud, and

make it possible to provide mutual assistance to ensure compliance with applicable customs laws.

BORDER SECURITY AND FIGHT AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

They agreed to work together in regional and multilateral forums to address transnational crime and drug trafficking, and explore ways to exchange expertise and increase capabilities in these areas. In this regard, Argentina noted the importance of working with Canada to identify specific areas for technical cooperation, including the exchange of experience in border control and the acquisition of security equipment and technology.

SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT

The Parties committed to finalize, in 2017, the negotiations of a Social Security Agreement that will enable individuals who have lived and worked in Canada and Argentina to qualify for benefits under each country's pension system.

4. MULTILATERAL ISSUES

WTO

Both leaders underscored the need to work together at the WTO to promote an agenda that creates more and better jobs and fosters inclusive economic development; one that opens both countries to new economic, social and environmental possibilities. Canada and Argentina look forward to achieving meaningful results at the WTO's 11th Ministerial Conference, to be held in Buenos Aires in December 2017.

MERCOSUR-CANADA RELATIONSHIP

As Pro Tempore President of MERCOSUR in the first half of 2017, Argentina will promote specific steps towards resuming bilateral dialogue between MERCOSUR and Canada with a view to establishing trade negotiations.

G20/G7

Both countries will cooperate to advance the G20 agenda under Argentina's G20 presidency in 2018, and Canada's G7 presidency in the same year.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Argentina and Canada agreed on the need to enhance efforts to address climate change challenges through the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement. They also agreed to work together with regional and international partners to strengthen the global response to climate change.

UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

Recognizing Canada and Argentina's important experience and participation in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, both countries reaffirmed their commitment to support such operations in building a more peaceful and prosperous world.

DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION

Both countries agreed to strengthen cooperation, at both a bilateral and a multilateral level, in the fields of disarmament and non-proliferation.

HUMANITARIAN COOPERATION

Both countries, in Argentina's case through the White Helmets Commission, agreed to cooperate and exchange technical expertise on humanitarian issues and disaster relief.

OAS

Both countries will increase cooperation on human rights, gender equality, security, and regional issues, in particular within the Organization of American States, where Canada and Argentina share similar values and principles.