

## **JOINT STATEMENT ADOPTED AT THE 8th ARGENTINA-CHILE BINATIONAL MEETING OF MINISTERS**

Buenos Aires, 16 December 2016

Reaffirming the willingness of Argentina and Chile to continue strengthening the friendship ties between both countries, as well as to strengthen the integration and cooperation process within the framework of the Maipú Treaty on Integration and Cooperation of 2009 and the Peace and Friendship Treaty of 1984, which are the pillars of the bilateral relationship;

Highlighting the spirit of fraternity and the progress made in the 7th Binational Meeting of Ministers held in Santiago, Republic of Chile, on 15 May 2015;

Considering the meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Argentina, Susana Malcorra, and Chile, Heraldo Muñoz, held in the City of Buenos Aires on 18 January 2016, in which they confirmed the good state of the bilateral relationship and —as instructed by Presidents Mauricio Macri and Michelle Bachelet— agreed to continue strengthening the bilateral strategic relationship through a series of actions in different areas, including the organization of this meeting;

The following Ministers met in the City of Buenos Aires on 16 December 2016:

### **For the Argentine Republic:**

Minister of the Interior, Public Works and Housing Rogelio Frigerio

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship Susana Malcorra

Minister of Defence Julio Martínez

Minister of Finance Alfonso Prat-Gay

Minister of Production Francisco Cabrera

Minister of Tourism Gustavo Santos

Minister of Transport Guillermo Dietrich

Minister of Justice and Human Rights Germán Garavano

Minister of Security Patricia Bullrich

Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security Jorge Triaca

Minister of Social Development Carolina Stanley

Minister of Health Jorge Lemus

Minister of Education and Sports Esteban Bullrich

Minister of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation José Lino Barañao

Minister of Culture Pablo Avelluto

Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development Sergio Bergman

Minister of Modernization Andrés Ibarra

Minister of Energy and Mining Juan José Aranguren

### **For the Republic of Chile:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs Heraldo Muñoz Valenzuela  
Minister of National Defence José Antonio Gómez Urrutia  
Minister of Finance Rodrigo Valdés Pulido  
Minister of Economy, Development and Tourism Luis Felipe Céspedes Cifuentes  
Minister of Social Development Marcos Barraza Gómez  
Minister of Education Adriana Delpiano Puelma  
Minister of Justice and Human Rights Jaime Campos Quiroga  
Minister of Labour and Social Security Alejandra Krauss Valle  
Minister of Public Works Alberto Undurraga Vicuña  
Minister of Health Carmen Castillo Taucher  
Minister of Housing and Urbanism Paulina Saball Astaburuaga  
Minister of Agriculture Carlos Furche Guajardo  
Minister of Mining Aurora Williams Baussa  
Minister of Transport and Telecommunication Andrés Gómez-Lobo Echenique  
Minister of Energy Andrés Rebolledo Smitmans  
Minister of Environment Pablo Badenier Martínez  
Minister of Sports Pablo Squella Serrano  
President of the National Council of Culture and Arts, Minister Ernesto Ottone Ramírez  
Undersecretary of the Interior Mahmud Aleuy Peña y Lillo  
Undersecretary for Tourism Javiera Montes Cruz

The Ministers of both countries, in plenary session, with the presence of the Argentine Ambassador to Chile and the Chilean Ambassador to Argentina, have proceeded as follows:

## **PHYSICAL INTEGRATION AND BORDER CROSSING FACILITATION**

### **Integration Committees**

The Ministers highlighted the importance of the Integration Committees for the relationship of the two countries and welcomed the fact that all of the meetings of the Committees were held, as well as those of the Winter Working Group.

### **Progress on the Simplified Migration Control System**

The Ministers welcomed the commencement of the "trial period" of the Simplified Migration Control System (SMS in the Spanish acronym) in the Integración Austral and Sistema Cristo Redentor Passes.

### **Facilitation of Customs procedures**

They requested their respective national Customs to continue working on the implementation of a system for procedure simplification, especially through IT means, in order to reduce waiting times at border passes and logistic costs.

### **Integrated Control Area in the Sistema Cristo Redentor Pass**

They highlighted the progress made in the Sistema Cristo Redentor Pass throughout this year, in particular the actions taken in the Uspallata Integrated Control Area (ACI) - Loading area, which included the installation of the ARSAT antenna and the reconditioning of the facilities, as well as actions aimed at securing that the facilities are habitable for Chilean officials in compliance with the Diplomatic Notes of 2013.

Furthermore, they underscored the commencement of construction works in the new border complex Los Libertadores, which will triple service capacity at the pass.

### **Works at the Pehuenche Pass**

The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the paving works on the access routes to the Pehuenche Pass. This has been an important achievement in the improvement of connectivity in the central region of the Chile-Argentina border —the MERCOSUR-Chile axis—.

### **Re-opening of the Carirriñe Pass**

They highlighted the efforts made by the Ministry of Security of the Argentine Republic for the re-opening of the Carirriñe Pass through the installation of rooms and control facilities.

## **FREE MOVEMENT**

The Ministers agreed on the convenience of making efforts to progressively work towards the harmonization of applicable regulations on free movement of people between Chile and Argentina.

Considering the provisions of the "Supplementary Protocol to the Maipú Treaty on Integration and Cooperation between the Republic of Chile and the Argentine Republic for the Creation of a Special Working Group for the Adoption of a General Agreement on Free Movement of People", the Ministers agreed to call a meeting of the High-Level Group for the first half of 2017 to commence the necessary tasks aimed at the harmonization of relevant applicable laws with a view to implementing free movement between the territories of both countries.

### **Movement in the Southern region**

The Ministers agreed that greater efforts are necessary regarding the adoption of measures to facilitate the movement of people between the province of Tierra del Fuego,

Antarctica and the South Atlantic Islands of the Argentine Republic and the XII Region of Magallanes and Chilean Antarctica of the Republic of Chile, considering the geographical characteristics of the region. Furthermore, they undertook to hold meetings during the first half of 2017 to make progress on this topic.

## **MIGRATION TOPICS**

The Ministers agreed on the need to continue working on the implementation of a Simplified Migration Control System (SMS) at the border passes operating with integrated control systems that have high rates of movement of people.

They instructed technical teams to establish a periodical training schedule for the passes where the Simplified Migration Control Procedure is implemented.

They agreed to continue working jointly on preparations for the summer season, instructing the relevant migration control agencies to increase the number of officials and border checkpoints considering the infrastructure capacity of each pass in order to speed up migration procedures.

They also instructed the relevant agencies to engage in dialogue to exchange information for migration purposes with a view to facilitating the movement of people and promoting cooperation for crime prevention.

### **Migration fee**

The Ministers took note of the decision adopted within the framework of the Extraordinary Bilateral Meeting of the International Road Transport Agreement (ATIT), which was held on 5-6 December 2016, to consider exempting the transport of freight and passengers from the migration fee.

## **PHYSICAL CONNECTIVITY**

### **Border integration planning**

They highlighted the need to develop joint planning criteria in relation to border matters to achieve integration and social, economic and infrastructure development, improving the operation and performance of border checkpoints in the context of the joint Coordination between both countries in the Executive Technical Group of the South American Infrastructure and Planning Council (COSIPLAN) of UNASUR.

### **Joint Technical Group (GTM)**

The Ministers welcomed the outcome of the GTM meeting, held in Buenos Aires in October 2016, in which an update was provided on studies, investment plans and ongoing projects to improve connectivity between both countries in relation to road infrastructure, border facilities, and planning for the development of border areas and territorial matters.

### **Winter roads**

The Ministers welcomed the binational efforts made throughout the year to facilitate the work of the Winter Working Groups and urged the road management agencies of both countries to continue cooperating and to establish a Working Group before March 2017 in order to update the Programmes of each geographical area.

### **Agua Negra Pass International Tunnel**

The Ministers welcomed the progress made in the Project "Agua Negra Pass International Tunnel" as a result of the institutional strengthening of the Binational Entity and of the consensus reached on the method of execution of the works. They also highlighted the commencement of the construction process through the pre-assessment of companies. They instructed the Binational Entity to speed up all necessary legal, institutional and economic procedures to call for bids during the first half of 2017.

### **Agua Negra Territorial Integration Programme**

The Ministers highlighted the efforts made by both countries to prepare the Territorial Integration Programme in relation to the Agua Negra Binational Tunnel in the context of the South American Infrastructure and Planning Council (COSIPLAN) of UNASUR. The Programme will help to boost the favourable effects of the construction of the tunnel and mitigate potential obstacles that may impede the full exploitation of the benefits of the works.

### **Sistema Cristo Redentor Tunnels**

The Ministers highlighted the urgency to make progress in the Comprehensive Reconditioning of the Sistema Cristo Redentor Pass, especially in the repair of the Cristo Redentor tunnel and the enlargement of the Caracoles tunnel, with the consequent improvement in road safety, equipment and connecting passages.

They underlined the support of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) through technical cooperation for the commencement of the analysis for the reconditioning and modernization of the tunnels that will guide the works to be conducted between both countries and help to unify the operation of the system.

Furthermore, the Chilean Government supports and encourages the negotiations of the Argentine Government with the IADB to obtain external funding for this project.

### **Management Control System in the Sistema Cristo Redentor Pass**

The Ministers highlighted the development of the Binational Analysis for the Preparation of the Executive Project of the Sistema Cristo Redentor Pass Management Control System and expressed the need to continue working towards the necessary agreements to implement an agreed-upon solution that will help to optimize and accelerate border control procedures.

## **Las Leñas Tunnel**

The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the commencement of activities by the Binational Entity for the Las Leñas International Tunnel Project through the approval of regulations and the determination of the different activities to be conducted to develop the Project.

In this regard, they expressed their commitment to continue working on the determination of the necessary studies for the construction of the tunnel, the business model, and the feasibility of the works.

## **Connectivity between the Northern regions of Argentina and Chile**

The Ministers reiterated the importance of continuing to work on the improvement of connectivity between the Jama and Sico Passes and on ensuring the best possible movement between the Atlantic and the Pacific.

They recognized the efforts made by the Province of Jujuy (Argentina) to commence works to improve habitability conditions for officials of both countries in the Jama Pass. Furthermore, the Chilean delegation welcomed Argentina's presentation of the final project "Room Facility No. 3 - Jama Pass Border Complex" and called for its execution as soon as possible.

## **MASTER PLAN OF PRIORITY PASSES 2016-2020**

The Ministers highlighted the challenges presented by both countries for the 2016-2020 five-year period to invest in projects of great interest.

They expressed their satisfaction with the progress made in the Sistema Cristo Redentor Pass and welcomed the Argentine Government's decision to make several improvements to National Route 7 in the coming years. They reaffirmed their willingness to strengthen binational initiatives that may improve infrastructure standards in this important international pass in the short term.

They also welcomed the completion of paving works on National Route 145 in Argentina, which links the town of Bardas Blancas with the Pehuenche Pass to Talca, as well as the construction of new camps and the design of sheds in the Chilean sector that will help to better provide for winter emergencies. The Argentine authorities valued Chile's commitment to improving the design of the necessary sections of the road to ensure the circulation of freight vehicles.

They valued the work done in the Mamuil Malal Pass with the completion of the paving works on the Chilean side, which will enhance connectivity between the province of Neuquén (Argentina) and the Araucanía region (Chile). For its part, the Argentine Government ratified its intention to pave the remaining section on its side.

The Ministers welcomed the speeding-up on the part of Argentina of the construction of the necessary works in the Cardenal Samoré Pass, close to Villa La Angostura. The

reconditioning works will help to improve the development of tourism activities in the area and to speed up the circulation of freight vehicles.

They highlighted the completion of the works to enable access from Chile to the Río Mayer Pass and valued Argentina's commitment to consider the possibility of developing a road from Route 40 to the border and building any necessary bridges.

They took note of the development of the paving works on the last 45 km of Route 257 (Chile), from Onaissin to the San Sebastián Pass, which will be completed during 2019.

Argentina will support Chile's efforts to complete the paving works on the access route to the Futaleufú Pass, analyzing and planning road works from the town of Trevelín to the province of Chubut.

## **BI-OCEANIC INTEGRATION CORRIDOR "PORTO MURTINHO-PUERTOS DEL NORTE DE CHILE"**

The Ministers highlighted the works conducted throughout 2016 within the framework of the Asunción Presidential Statement, jointly with Paraguay and Brazil, to continue working on the completion of the Bioceanic Corridor Campo Grande-Porto Murtinho-Mariscal Estigarribia-Misión La Paz-Tartagal-Jujuy-Salta-Puertos del norte de Chile.

They agreed that the focus must be on establishing supplementary production chains that will enhance the competitiveness of regional economies.

The coordinated efforts of Argentina and Chile are essential to strengthen regional competitiveness and the existing inter-dependence and complementarity, as well as to attract new investments.

In keeping with the Asunción Statement, they agreed to call a high-level meeting to be held in Santiago during the first half of the coming year with the aim of issuing recommendations and determining courses of action for the Presidents to complete the Project.

## **SHARED WATER RESOURCES**

The Ministers highlighted the organization of the 14th Meeting of the Shared Water Resources Working Group, held in Santiago de Chile on 24 October 2016, in which it was agreed to promote the tasks of the Group of Experts—including a schedule of activities for 2017—, the completion of the Shared Water Resources Atlas, the determination of the terms of reference for the General Use Plans (GUP) of Shared Water Resources, the institutional determination of the Sub-groups of Local Experts, and the coordination of the respective authorities in charge of reporting contingencies and natural disasters.

## **TRADE AND ECONOMIC MATTERS**

The Ministers highlighted the achievements of the bilateral relationship, recognizing the importance of the signature of the Chile-Mercosur Agreement in 1996, which provided for the creation of a broader economic area, with the consequent intensification of intraregional trade flows, and the integration of the economies of the signatory countries.

In this regard, they expressed their satisfaction with the 4th Meeting of the Commission on Trade, Investment and Economic Relations, held in Santiago de Chile on 6 September 2016. As a result of the meeting, the parties began dialogue with a view to signing an agreement on government procurement, among other initiatives.

In order to maximize the potential of the bilateral relationship, Argentina and Chile have agreed to broaden and strengthen their economic and bilateral relations through the negotiation of an ambitious trade liberalization agreement so as to continue promoting bilateral integration, encouraging investments aimed at strengthening value chains between both countries, and encouraging full market exploitation.

These actions will be undertaken shortly with the intention to complete them during 2017. Among other areas, they will include government procurement, trade facilitation, regulatory coherence, competition policy, investments, electronic trade and cooperation. They highlighted the participation of the Argentine Republic as an observer country in the Pacific Alliance and, in particular, the interest in creating more opportunities for dialogue in matters of mutual interest. Furthermore, they underscored the importance of promoting institutional dialogue between MERCOSUR and the Pacific Alliance with a view to achieving convergence between both blocs, especially in relation to matters that have already been identified and agreed upon, such as trade facilitation, customs cooperation, trade promotion and SMBs, among others. Argentina and Chile committed to promoting the strengthening of institutional dialogue through their respective Presidencies Pro Tempore.

They also highlighted the importance of undertaking economic and trade initiatives and direct investment to strengthen relations between the business sectors of the Argentine provinces and the Chilean regions. In this regard, they agreed on the need to continue supporting the organization of large-scale business rounds, production integration and direct investments, as well as business events aimed at developing projects in said areas.

They reaffirmed the importance of promoting work schemes that help to design joint production projects aimed at supplementing value chains, improving the competitiveness of the products of both countries at the international level, and promoting technology transfer, innovation, and joint access to third markets.

The Ministers highlighted the signature of a Cooperation Statement on Trade Actions for the Promotion of Goods and Services between the Directorate for Export Promotion - ProChile and the Argentine Agency of Investment and International Trade.

They welcomed the relaunch of the Chile-Argentina Binational Business Council in April 2016, in which the countries determined the following areas of work, among others: mining, energy, investment development, trade facilitation, connectivity, logistics, and infrastructure.

They agreed that the diversification and upgrading of the production structure is a key element of the development strategy. Both countries will seek to increase their productivity to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth through the promotion of new activities and services and the incorporation of new technologies into the existing production processes.

In this regard, Argentina and Chile have agreed on the following topics of interest to promote cooperation:



1. Exchange of good practices in investment promotion in priority production sectors with high growth potential.
2. Identification of complementarity opportunities within Value Chains and production Integration for Argentine and Chilean products and businesses.
3. Promotion of investment in research and development (R+D) and technology transfer facilitation in strategic industries of the respective countries.
4. Promotion of internationalization and trade exchange in priority sectors.
5. Creation of opportunities for the exchange of experiences and learning of design aspects, as well as for the implementation and assessment of policies for production diversification.

The Ministers highlighted the importance of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) for the economic development of Argentina and Chile and the focus placed by both Governments on promoting productivity, innovation, and entrepreneurship to achieve growth.

They also expressed the need to promote joint work on the following topics:

1. Exchange of good practices for the creation and improvement of promotion and financing tools for entrepreneurs and SMBs.
2. Development and update of promotion and technical assistance programmes for entrepreneurs and SMBs to increase their productivity and promote their internationalization.
3. Exchange of information on regulatory frameworks and administrative simplification to facilitate entrepreneurship, innovation and the strengthening of the production network.
4. Strengthening of the entrepreneurship culture and of national entrepreneur and innovation sectors that guarantee the establishment and consolidation of a production network of SMBs with high growth potential in both countries.

## **Tax-related economic aspects**

The Ministers highlighted the entry into force of the "Agreement between the Republic of Chile and the Argentine Republic to Eliminate Double Taxation in relation to Income and Property Tax and Prevent Tax Evasion and Avoidance", which will be effective as of 1 January 2017. The Agreement will give more legal certainty to the business sector and more transparency to the tax administration agencies. Furthermore, they highlighted the agreement adopted by both Ministers to jointly organize a series of workshops with representatives of the private sector of both countries to communicate the benefits of the agreement.

## **TRANSPORT**

### **Air transport:**

The Ministers underscored the strengthening of binational ties through the growth of the air trade sector between both countries, favouring the establishment of new routes and increasing existing services.

In the context of air transport facilitation, they committed to including an analysis on the integrated control model for air passenger transport in their 2017 working agenda that would be appropriate to implement between the cities of Santiago (Chile) and Buenos Aires (Argentina).

### **Railway transport:**

The Ministers highlighted that, after a halt of eight years, the railway service (Railway Branch C14) that links the province of Salta with the Chilean ports of Antofagasta and Mejillones via the Socompa Pass was resumed, and that they will continue promoting traffic facilitation between both countries.

To that end, they agreed on the need to assess the validation of both the rolling stock standards and the driving regime with the aim of ensuring mutual recognition. They also agreed on commencing the technical process in the first half of the coming year.

They expressed that these measures will contribute to the increase in binational traffic and the future development of the railway corridor.

### **Auto transport**

The Ministers highlighted the achievements of the bilateral meetings held on 28-29 July and 5-6 December 2016 between the Undersecretariats for Transport of both countries, which were aimed at resuming the mechanism of periodical meetings to strengthen ties between auto transport system operators, address urgent issues and plan joint activities for better development of bilateral transport.

They underscored the willingness of the authorities to update the "Argentina-Chile Agreement on Road Transport in Transit for linking two points within a country using the territory of another country", signed in 1974, and insisted on the need to act diligently to agree on a new text without delay.

They highlighted the technological advances in relation to the bilateral transport of goods and agreed to continue working on the harmonization of their databases with a view to achieving integration via web service. For such purpose, they also expressed their willingness to promote the recently established IT Technical Group as part of their commitment to interconnecting their databases during 2017.

## **TELECOMMUNICATION**

The Ministers expressed their determination to continue strengthening the existing good relations by jointly addressing topics of mutual interest. Among such topics are broadband development, service quality, optical interconnection, international roaming, cooperation in emergency situations, and cooperation on satellite and digital television matters.

With regard to international roaming, they affirmed their commitment to holding a dialogue to explore mechanisms that translate into the effective reduction in the retail price of this service for citizens of both countries.

Furthermore, they confirmed their desire to continue working to develop infrastructure and optical interconnection.

They also agreed to make joint efforts to analyze and coordinate work to face the new challenges posed by the spread of technology infrastructure to facilitate the development of Digital Economy.

They agreed on working jointly on matters related to network security and related problems, such as privacy and security of personal data, taking into consideration that these are multisectoral topics that require coordination with other competent government agencies.

## **ENERGY**

The Ministers welcomed the progress made in energy integration between the two countries within the framework of the "Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Chile and the Government of the Argentine Republic to promote the exchange of natural gas, electrical energy, and cooperation on energy matters" signed in 2014, highlighting the commencement of electrical energy and natural gas deliveries.

They reaffirmed their willingness to continue deepening energy integration. In this regard, they agreed on the terms of reference to conduct an analysis with international funds that will explore electrical interconnection alternatives between Argentina and Chile from a technical, economic, and regulatory perspective. Furthermore, they identified the opportunity to establish a new electrical interconnection in the context of the construction of the Agua Negra Pass International Tunnel. To this end, they agreed to conduct an analysis to assess the feasibility of this initiative.

With regard to the exchange of energy, they undertook to continue discussing an appropriate regulatory framework that will help to conduct international energy exchanges with benefits for both countries, with special emphasis on the exchange of natural gas and electrical energy.

They also agreed to strengthen cooperation in other areas, such as energy efficiency. To this end, they instructed the relevant technical teams to prepare a work programme and a schedule of activities for 2017.

## **MINING**

The Ministers agreed to conduct activities for the joint promotion of mining during 2017, at different levels of mining participation and representation, including congresses and international fairs.

With a view to strengthening interaction with the other countries of the region, they will jointly promote the organization of the Mines Ministries of the Americas Conference (CAMMA).

Considering the importance of information for competitiveness, they agreed to improve mining information exchange mechanisms, with a view to helping their countries efficiently take on the challenges and opportunities of the sector.

They expressed their satisfaction at the Framework Agreement for Technical Cooperation and Assistance, signed in November 2016 by the Geological Services of the two countries, the main goals of which are the exchange of scientific and technical information, the conduct of joint activities to prevent volcanic emergencies, the development of geologic maps, and working on border area issues. In addition, they highlighted the cooperation activities being currently carried out between the two Services for the monitoring of the Copahue volcano.

### **CERRO AMARILLO DUMP**

The Ministers welcomed the commencement of the withdrawal of material from the Cerro Amarillo Dump through the temporary passing opened to solve the situation.

### **AGRICULTURE**

The Ministers reviewed the activities carried out through the Working Programme agreed upon on 14 May 2015, during the 7th Binational Meeting and within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on Technical Cooperation in Agriculture, Cattle rising, Forestry, Agro-industry and Rural Development entered into in the city of Buenos Aires on 30 March 2011.

They highlighted the results achieved during the 2015-2016 period, particularly the work carried out in the field of irrigation governance, the exchange of bioenergy technology, marketing of products of small scale family-based agriculture and research in agricultural issues, in compliance with the undertakings of the 7th Binational Meeting;

They agreed on the need to strengthen institutional ties and continue bilateral cooperation through the renewal of the Joint Working Programme for 2017;

They highlighted the importance of the following areas of mutual interest:

**FAMILY AGRICULTURE:** horticultural production and marketing, observatory of prices and financial tools for this sector.

**WATER ENERGY RESOURCES:** efficient management and use of these resources, follow-up of irrigation technologies and legislation.

**TECHNOLOGY:** study of the technological development of high-quality common wheat, and fruit, olive and grape production techniques.

**FOOD:** mechanisms and strategies to promote agri-food innovation and added value in food.

**BIOENERGY:** technological progress in biogas and hydrokinetic turbines, as well as good practices in energy efficiency in the agri-food sector.

**FORESTRY AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION:** technology applied to the use of wood and development of materials.

**TRADE INFORMATION:** information systems and platforms for market transparency.

**PLANT HEALTH AND QUALITY:** fruit fly and grapevine moth control systems. Health and quality standards for products of regional importance.

**AQUACULTURE AND FISHING:** aquaculture development and fishing control.

The Ministers urged the continuation of joint work between the Agricultural and Cattle Service of the Republic of Chile (SAG) and the National Service of Agri-food Health and Quality of the Argentine Republic (SENASA), strengthening the dialogue and cooperation mechanisms required by issues of mutual interest for forestry and agricultural products to access their respective markets.

## **TOURISM**

The Ministers highlighted the importance of tourism as a driver of economic and social development in the two countries.

They expressed their satisfaction at the execution of the Memorandum of Understanding in the Field of Tourism, the Letter of Intention for the Organization of Programmes for the Management of Tourism Quality and the approval of the 2016-2019 Action Plan. In addition, they welcomed the successful transfer of the SIGO Programme (Initial System of Organizational Management), which has been implemented in the city of Santiago and is being replicated in other Chilean regions.

They also noted the need to optimize and prioritize joint work on issues of common interest, including: Tourism quality, through the implementation of Tourism Management Guidelines for Wineries, among others to be determined; Joint Tourism Promotion; Integrated Tourism Circuits, highlighting the progress made in the development of new products such as the Altiplano and Puna regions, among others; Technical Cooperation in Tourism Statistics; Tourism Facilitation and Comprehensive Connectivity.

## **DEFENCE**

The Ministers welcomed the consolidation of 2016 as an active period of coordination meetings related to the sector, highlighting the conduct of the 1st Political and Strategic Dialogue between Ministers of Defence (Santiago, 29 March); the Coordination Meeting between Viceministers of Defence (Buenos Aires, 28 June); the 28th Security Standing Committee (COMPERSEG) Meeting (Buenos Aires, 17 August); the Meeting of Mechanism 2+2 (Buenos Aires, 4 November); and the 8th Ministerial Cabinet Meeting (Buenos Aires, 15 and 16 December).

In this respect, they also recognized that the "2016-2017 Defence Bilateral Action Plan" is an active instrument for the monitoring of and compliance with the agreements and commitments adopted at each of the above meetings, as demonstrated by the encouraging situation of bilateral relations in the sector, which directly contributes to regional peace and stability, through critical and strategic reflection that allows both countries to improve their position with respect to new challenges.

Based on the foregoing, they decided to hold an intense debate at the different fora at which they participate, with a view to strengthening binational relations within such framework, highlighting the South American Defence Council of UNASUR (CDS) and the Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas (CMDA).

At a combined joint level, they reaffirmed their commitment to the issues that are of high interest to their Defence Ministries, including the following: strategic cooperation in gender issues and the "Women, Peace and Safety" Agenda; joint publications in Defence;

cooperation in case of distress and humanitarian aid; and continuation of the combined joint work related to the "Southern Cross" Combined Joint Peace-keeping Force (FPCC).

With respect to the "Southern Cross" FPCC, they highlighted three important facts: (a) the creation of "Southern Cross" Binational Action Plan, in order to expand the scope of Resolution 1325 (2000) of the UN Security Council; (b) the creation of a binational work group of Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs, aimed at working on the identification of possible scenarios, with a view to deploying this force in the context of the Missions of UN Peacekeeping Operations; and (c) the studies to design a Company of Engineers within the framework of the Force, the works on the Addendum to the Binational Memorandum of Understanding and the progress made to present the "Southern Cross" project before the UN PCRS.

They highlighted the strategic importance of combined actions in Antarctic issues. In this respect, they wish to express satisfaction at the important work being carried out by the Combined Antarctic Naval Patrol (PANC) and the Argentina-Chile Combined Antarctic Rescue Patrol.

They welcomed the decision to create a Work Group for the general coordination of activities to commemorate historical events related to the bicentenary of independence.

They also undertook to intensify cooperation in the field of science and technology, based on the Work Group created to such end.

## **COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SECURITY**

The Ministers highlighted the friendship and dialogue between the two countries and undertook to strengthen mutual coordination and cooperation actions with respect to transnational offences such as illicit drug trafficking, organized crime, human trafficking, and smuggling of goods and cultural assets, as well as related crimes, particularly those involving Border Security.

They reaffirmed their will to coordinate bilateral strategies and operative actions in the field of Border Security, such as the reinforcement of coordinated patrolling at unauthorized border crossing points, in order to detect the entry of stolen vehicles and smuggling routes, among others.

They called upon the competent organizations to continue with negotiations for the prompt execution of an Agreement on Cooperation for the Prevention, Investigation and Detection of the Crime of Human Trafficking.

In the field of police cooperation, they highlighted the continuous exchange between the staff of the institutions under the Programme for International Cooperation for Foreign Uniformed Police Forces of the Government of Chile, headed by the Chilean Police, which received 25 Argentine officers during 2016.

They also expressed their mutual interest in increasing the exchange of information and experiences between the Police and Security Forces of Argentina, and the Police and Investigations Police of Chile, in the search for lost and missing persons, the fight against transnational crime (particularly trafficking of migrants), human trafficking and missing persons in border areas.

In this respect, they exchanged views on the existing police cooperation bodies in border areas, particularly the Undercommittees of Police Cooperation of the Committees for the Integration of the Common Border. To this end, they agreed to continue moving forward in the assessment of concrete proposals to strengthen these bodies.

### **Security at sporting events**

The Ministers expressed their will to strengthen the exchange of information and experiences between the two countries in the field of security in sporting events, highlighting the educational, cultural and recreational role of sports without violence.

They emphasized the importance of sharing good practices and lessons learned with respect to the implementation of strategic policies recently implemented by the two countries to eradicate violence in sporting events, especially including Chilean initiatives "Football Information Point (PIF)" and "Safe Stands" Plan, and generally good practices associated with the process for the implementation of the new law on rights and duties in professional football, as well as the "Safe Tribunes" Plan, the creation of the "National Registry of Persons Admitted to Football Events," the "Code of Conduct for Child Football Spectators," and the legislation reform promoted by Argentina in the field.

## **COOPERATION ON THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM**

### **Drug offer reduction**

The Ministers expressed their will to strengthen cooperation mechanisms to control the illicit trafficking of narcotics, and agreed to foster education, joint training sessions, technical assistance and the exchange of experts, good practices, and lessons learned in the field of the on-line trade of narcotics and detection of new psychoactive substances.

For this reason, they agreed to hold during 2017 the 6th Meeting of the Chile-Argentina Joint Committee on the Prevention of the Misuse and Repression of the Illicit Traffic of Narcotics and Psychoactive Substances, within the framework of the Convention signed by the two countries on 29 August 1990.

They expressed their mutual interest in promoting joint work with a view to reducing the illicit traffic of narcotics, through the exchange of information that may relate to the main traffic methods and the concealment of chemical precursors and narcotics, highlighting the detection of New Psychoactive Substances, among other issues.

They emphasized the importance of promoting joint investigations into organized crime groups involving citizens from the two countries or drug-related criminal activities linking the two countries.

They reaffirmed the constant and efficient exchange of information carried out by the teams of the Investigations Police of Chile and the National Border Police of Argentina, particularly in the field of anti-narcotics.

### **Drug demand reduction**

The Ministers recognized the World Drug Problem as a complex, dynamic and multi-causal phenomenon that requires a comprehensive, balanced and multidisciplinary approach,

with special emphasis on the human rights perspective, based on social inclusion and the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State.

They called for the organization of efforts to put people at the centre of drug policies, avoiding exclusion and stigmatization and prioritizing highly vulnerable populations.

They agreed on the importance of continuing to strengthen and intensify bilateral cooperation, and committed to conduct research and studies, continuous education of human resources, as well as to carry out activities in the field of reduction of demand for narcotics, particularly in the prevention, treatment and social inclusion of persons who abuse substances.

They highlighted the importance of the different activities organized by the Secretariat for the Programming of Prevention of Drug Addiction and the Fight against Drug Trafficking (SEDRONAR) and the National Service for the Prevention of and Rehabilitation from Drug and Alcohol Consumption (SENDA) during 2016, which have contributed to the strengthening of bilateral relations in the field of drug demand reduction.

### **COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TRANSNATIONAL CRIMES**

The two parties ratified their commitment to continuing the fight against corruption, transnational bribery, money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

### **COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY**

The Ministers highlighted their active joint collaboration within the framework of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), through workshops aimed at strengthening nuclear physical security in the two countries.

They highlighted the conduct, in August 2014, of the "Paihuen" joint binational exercise in the field of cross-border radiological safety, as well as the mutual commitment to conduct a second exercise ("Paihuen 2") in Argentina in late 2017.

### **HEALTH**

The Ministers highlighted the conduct of the first drill for the implementation of the "Simplified Procedure for the Coordination of Primary Medical Assistance in cases of Urgency and Emergency," in force between the Argentine Republic and the Republic of Chile, which took place in Santiago on 23 November. The drill was attended by Argentine observers from the National Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Health of the Province of Mendoza, as well as Chilean representatives of the Unit for Border Crossing Points of the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security, the Customs Service, the Agricultural and Cattle Service, the Investigations Police and the Ministry of Health.

Considering the importance of maintaining the Procedure coordination activities in force, they undertook to conduct at least one exercise/drill every year, in order to further strengthen the friendship and trust between the inter-sectoral Argentine and Chilean officers serving at the border points. They also agreed to design a map of medical assistance capabilities along the entire border shared by the Argentine Republic and the Republic of Chile, which will make it possible to analyze the level of complementation of support in cases of urgency and emergency alerts.



They appreciated the cooperation activities carried out in the area of Inter-cultural Health, with the support of the Argentine Fund for South-South and Triangular Cooperation (FOAR) of the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the exchange of experiences and knowledge between the National Administration of Drugs, Food and Medical Technology (ANMAT, Argentina) and the Institute of Public Health (ISP, Chile), encouraging the latter two to set up agendas that include issues of requiring permanent collaboration. They agreed to explore new areas of cooperation in the fields of Health Economics, Emergencies and Disasters, Health Innovation and Technology, Sustainable Development Goals - 2030 Agenda, and Universal Coverage, providing for the necessary coordination in the short term to continue making progress in these areas.

They entrusted the Offices of International Relations of the respective Ministries of Health to coordinate as necessary to hold the "12th Meeting of the Joint Committee of the Convention on Cooperation in the Field of Health" within the second semester of 2017, in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, in order to assess the progress made with respect to the agreements entered into at the national level and on border matters.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

The Ministers welcomed the recent entry into force of the Paris Agreement and reaffirmed their commitment to fight against climate change. They also referred to the importance of the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-13) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

They welcomed the work carried out within the framework of the 14th Meeting of the Argentina-Chile Sub-Committee on Environment, held last 13 May in Buenos Aires, and especially valued the actions conducted in the field of the protection of wild fauna and endangered species, as well as the control of invasive exotic species. In this regard, they highlighted the efforts made by the two countries in the 6th Regional Meeting of Head Negotiators of Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean, held on 12 and 13 October 2016 at the Palacio San Martín.

They highlighted the relevance and full effectiveness of Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration, renewing their commitment to the regional process aimed at strengthening the materialization of its concepts. They appreciated the progress made in this initiative, in the context of which Argentina and Chile are part of the Directive Board of the Negotiation Committee.

They agreed to continue promoting dialogue and cooperation mechanisms on environmental issues, particularly the following: climate change, through a binational project within the framework of Regional Cooperation Programme EUROCLIMA+; sustainable production and consumption; universal special waste and extended responsibility of manufacturers; air quality; environmental emergencies, with a special focus on the management of forest fires; preservation of the marine environment; and energy efficiency and renewable energy, in coordination with the relevant institutions of the two countries.

As a follow-up of the agreements entered into by the Foreign Ministers of Argentina and Chile and the Sub-committee of Environment, they agreed to create a specialized

Committee, in order to identify alternatives and mechanisms of common interest for the National Parks of the two countries to strengthen their cooperation.

They welcomed the Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in the field of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (EAE), entered into between the national environmental bodies of the two countries, with a view to strengthening their environmental assessment systems through the exchange of experiences on the technical aspects identified therein.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

The Ministers expressed their interest in strengthening joint collaboration in the field of science, technology and innovation, taking into account the currently existing instruments, which make it possible to strengthen the close collaboration between Argentine and Chilean researchers.

They agreed to strengthen the exchange of good practices between the science and technology systems of the two countries, as well as to promote closer ties between Argentine provinces and Chilean regions, through the development of joint research projects in areas of mutual interest for the regions involved.

They welcomed the exchange of experiences that took place between the high authorities in science and technology of Argentina and Chile, which took place in Buenos Aires in November 2016, particularly on the Argentine experience in the creation of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation, within the framework of the future creation of the Ministry of Science and Technology of Chile.

They expressed their interest in strengthening their work in the field of bilateral joint invitations to finance research and mobility projects, as well as in considering the possibility of creating Associate Laboratories/International Groups to research into strategic areas with a background of cooperation, exploring the possibility of implementing a scientific exchange programme to train young researchers.

They ratified their interest in jointly moving forward in the popularization and dissemination of science, technology and innovation, through activities such as fairs, exhibitions, and interactive museums in the two countries.

They expressed their interest in strengthening Open Access to publicly funded scientific information, through "La Referencia" (a network of databases of scientific documents from Latin America), of which MINCYT and CONICYT are founding members and have adhered to the Declaration of Buenos Aires, signed by the High-Level Authorities in Science and Technology of the region, with a view to creating an ecosystem of open scientific information in the region as a public benefit, led by science and technology organizations. They also expressed their interest in formalizing the exchange of good practices and strategic information on the contracts and negotiations that the two countries will carry out in order to jointly purchase high-value information resources, which are basic inputs for their respective scientific and technological electronic libraries, with a view to strengthening the capacity of the two countries during negotiation processes with suppliers.

## **COOPERATION IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON THE SOUTHERN SEA**

The Ministers welcomed the conduct of a new Meeting on Scientific Research on Southern Sea Areas, which took place on 28 November in Santiago, Chile, with the participation of officers, researches and experts from scientific institutions of the two countries. On such occasion, the possibility of continuing marine scientific cooperation in the following areas was addressed: scientific information and databases, world climate regulation, the relationship between marine ecosystems and land fresh water ecosystems, the preservation of sea mammals, and the identification of marine areas of mutual interest for the preservation of ecosystems, among others.

In conclusion, it was agreed that a permanent binational body would be created in order to analyze and do a follow-up of the issues of common interest in the field.

### **ANTARCTIC COOPERATION**

The Ministers expressed their will to continue strengthening the creation of a strategic partnership in Antarctic matters, including the promotion of convergent positions at the main fora of the Antarctic Treaty System and the assessment of the future creation of a joint scientific base in the Antarctic territory.

They highlighted the important progress made with the creation of the "Argentina-Chile *Ad-Hoc* Committee on political coordination for Antarctic policies," the tenth meeting of which was held in Buenos Aires last September, recalling the importance that Antarctic issues have had in the recent meetings of the "2+2 Mechanism" and "COMPERSEG."

They expressed their satisfaction at the joint conduct of Antarctic Treaty inspections, jointly conducted for the first time last February, recalling the imminent reiteration of this joint exercise during the 2016-2017 campaign, also reiterating their satisfaction at the continued conduct of the Combined Antarctic Naval Patrol (PANC), which launched its 19th edition on 15 November.

In addition, they highlighted the progress made in the joint works for the development of a proposal for a Protected Sea Area in the context of the Committee for the Preservation of Antarctic Living Sea Resources (CCRVMA) in the Antarctic Peninsula.

They welcomed the execution of the "Memorandum of Understanding on Antarctic Scientific Cooperation between the Argentine Antarctic Institute (IAA) and the Chilean Antarctic Institute (INACH)," which took place within the framework of this meeting and will make it possible to systematize, consolidate and strengthen scientific cooperation in the Antarctic field between the two countries.

### **COOPERATION IN THE DEMARCATION OF THE OUTER LIMIT OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF**

Argentina remains committed to sharing with Chile the experience obtained during the process for the presentation of its report before the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, both in scientific and legal terms, and Chile welcomes the offer.

### **SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION**

The Ministers agreed to continue and strengthen the South-South Cooperation actions adopted at the 4th Joint Committee of Technical Cooperation, which reflect the will the

two Governments have to strengthen bilateral exchanges, including subnational initiatives that contribute to the strengthening of regional integration.

On this occasion, they carried out an Assessment Meeting for ongoing projects and agreed to call the 5th Joint Committee in 2017, with a view to adopting a new bilateral cooperation programme that includes projects at the bilateral, decentralized and triangular level. They agreed that the work carried out by the different national and provincial authorities within the framework of this Binational Meeting, and the resulting identification of several points of mutual interest, will serve as a roadmap for the new programme.

They agreed on the importance of reviewing the classification of Middle-Income Countries (MIC), in order to include multi-dimensional criteria that provide a comprehensive view that includes all aspects of development, according to the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as of promoting the launch of a process to reconsider graduation criteria, within the framework of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of OECD, which has an impact on the receipt of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and other types of funding for development.

They welcomed the execution of the "Letter of Intent between the Secretary for International Coordination and Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Argentine Republic and the Chilean Agency for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chile to establish a new bilateral cooperation strategy and a Joint Cooperation Fund."

## **EDUCATION**

The Ministers agreed to convoke the Technical Bilateral Committee, as established in the "Agreement for the Exchange of Letters between Argentina and Chile for the Recognition and Homologation of Studies and Graduation Certificates issued by Institutions of Primary/Basic and Secondary/Middle Education" signed on 31 July 1992, with a view to updating its terms, particularly with respect to non-University higher education.

Recognizing the goals achieved through the execution of the "Agreement for the Mutual Recognition of Professional and University Graduate-level Degrees between the Argentine Republic and the Republic of Chile" of 2012, they expressed their will to continue working jointly to optimize its implementation.

The Argentine Minister of Education and Sports, as a follow-up on the 2012-2021 National Strategic Plan

"Argentina teaches and learns," and the Ministry of Education of Chile, within the framework of the process for Educational Reform and the implementation of the "Law for inclusion," undertook to harmonize educational practices and exchange experiences in the field of diversity policies; school drop-out and retention rates; service learning; science education; education for young adults and adults; functional literacy and digital technologies; follow-up of school progress; promotion of reading and writing practices; and strengthening of elementary and pre-school education.

Highlighting the creation and launch of the Plan for Citizen Education by the Chilean Ministry of Education, they decided to combine criteria, based on the Educational Policies implemented in Argentina by the Ministry of Education and Sports, with respect to the

design and implementation of strategies to support teachers' education aimed at teaching about citizenship in contexts of integration in the classroom.

In particular, they agreed to continue the “New Citizenship, Peace Culture and Democratic Integration Programme” through binational technical meetings, for the purposes of working on the educational proposals and agreeing on a new work schedule.

Recognizing the importance of extending school hours to provide students with more opportunities and with new learning environments, the Argentine Ministry of Education and Sports expressed its interest in exchanging experiences and best practices, especially with regard to the Full School Day (JEC) Programme implemented by the Chilean Ministry of Education.

A commitment was undertaken to support the work initiated between the Secretariat for Educational Assessment of the Argentine Ministry of Education and Sports and the Chilean Agency for Educational Quality in the fields of continuous evaluation and school learning assessment policies and standardized examinations.

As regards the Chilean Educational Reform and Teachers’ Professional Development Act, and the Argentine National Education Act, the ministers stated their interest in the development of joint initiatives between the Chilean Centre for Pedagogic Training and Research (CPEIP) and the Argentine Institute for Teacher Training (INFD). Specifically, there is an interest in the exchange of information on criteria for the design of early childhood teachers’ professional development and training policies and teacher development support strengthening practices. It is also important to exchange information on frameworks for good teaching at the superior Teacher Training level and basic professional skills for classroom work.

The ministers underscored the importance of working coordinately in order to strengthen the Mercosur Educational Sector and complete the Action Plan drafting process.

They agreed to work together to implement the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda, especially as regards Sustainable Development Goal No. 4: “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.” Argentina ratifies the invitation extended to Chile to participate in the Summit of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held jointly with the UNESCO Regional Office for Education on 24 and 25 January 2017.

The Chilean Minister of Education, within the Scientific Research for Science Education Programme (ICEC-DEG) invited the Argentine Ministry of Education and Sports to participate in the Seventh National and Latin American Conference on Science Education next year.

## **SPORTS**

The ministers underscored their interest in strengthening mutual cooperation relations and undertook a commitment to work on the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding in the fields of Physical Activity, Physical Education, Recreation and Sports, and on a 2017-2018 Cooperation Schedule, which will lead to the consolidation of the joint integration process in these fields.

Similarly, they stated their intent to carry out actions in the following fields and programmes:

1. extension and strengthening of existing exchanges of experience in education for Doping Control, management of a doping control centre, and exchange of experience in human resources training for doping control;
2. strengthening the ties and exchange of experience in the successful field of integration events between Argentinian and Chilean provinces and regions;
3. motor and sports training;
4. exchange of experience in the organization of sports events in school education, higher education and in the international field;
5. exchange of athletes for training periods;
6. exchange of experience in the management of sports venues;
7. exchange of experience in applied sports sciences;
8. exchange of methods for drafting local, regional and national sports policies;
9. exchange of methods for collecting statistical data on active or inactive population in terms of physical activity and sports; and
10. exchange of experience in the creation of a Sports Observatory and its networks.

The above issues will top the bilateral cooperation agenda, strengthening both countries' interest in moving forward together along the path of physical activity development at the service of peoples.

## **LABOUR**

The ministers stated their commitment to intensify bilateral cooperation in the fields of Labour Skills Certification, Social Security, Control and Oversight in the application of Labour Legislation, Health and Safety at Work, and Social Dialogue. In addition, they underscored the invitation to participate in the existing Integration Committee Meetings between the two countries.

Aware of the fundamental importance of Social Security in the promotion of decent work, they underscored the significance of the Social Security Convention ratified by both countries, which speeds up the granting of the benefits guaranteed in the international instrument pursuant to the Action Plan.

They reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen and expand the process for Approval of the Labour Skills Evaluation and Certification models for the group of activity sectors and subsectors recognized by both countries as strategic to their policies. To such end, they signed the Approval Continuity Agreement.

They agreed on the Action Plan to be executed in 2017, which identifies the cooperation fields currently being executed and those where a joint collaboration process will be initiated.

## **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

The ministers ratified their commitment to strengthen and make further progress in bilateral cooperation on actions aimed at improving their people's quality of life, reducing inequality and providing social protection with a rights approach to persons, families or groups in vulnerable situations, promoting inclusion, mobility and social development, which contribute to the integration of our peoples, as stated at the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Argentina-Chile Binational Meetings of Ministers.

### **Childhood and Adolescence**

Considering the standards set forth in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which ensure children and adolescents' full development, promote social progress and raise the quality of life standard, the ministers agreed to move forward and strengthen the exchange of best practices for the construction of social and comprehensive protection systems that include universal, selective and targeted actions, in order to guarantee the exercise of children and adolescents' rights.

### **Senior citizens**

The ministers recognized that the demographic situation in Latin America and the Caribbean is moving towards an accelerated population ageing process. Argentina and Chile are no strangers to this transformation—this reality is growing in the projections for the upcoming years, forming an increasingly large segment of senior citizens.

In order to respond to this new demographic context, they underscored the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons, an instrument that urges States to guarantee, promote and highlight a broad set of rights.

Chile underscored the creation of the National System for Support and Care as a new component of the Social Protection System, which will be focused on both the promotion of senior citizens' autonomy and the systematic support of persons in a dependence situation, strengthening its solidarity components and favouring people's social inclusion.

In order to answer to the challenge of ensuring that all the elderly have access to instances of state-guaranteed protection of their rights, and considering the results achieved in the technical assistance project on older persons implemented in 2015-2016 by DINAPAM (Argentina) and SENAMA (Chile), they agreed to create cooperation mechanisms to add and share experiences, best practices and lines of action which enable the strengthening of response capacity, so as to improve the social protection of older persons in the region.

### **Youth**

The ministers expressed their intent to cooperate on a bilateral basis to coordinate efforts jointly with competent government entities relating to youth issues, including aspects such as crafts training and first job, education completion, cultural and art policies, sports initiatives, tourism, addiction and homelessness prevention, reproductive health, citizen involvement, institutional and school violence, among other issues.

Similarly, they agreed to strengthen the promotion and implementation of public policies in both entities with a comprehensive view to the provision of assistance, support, protection, inclusion, guidance, and any other mechanism that guarantees the comprehensive preparation and development of youth's life projects and underscores and promotes their active role in the construction of social and political citizenship.

Such transfer of information and exchange of best practices will take place through an exchange of documents with information material on projects and programmes, as well as through videoconferences attended by representatives of youth entities on both sides and the partners from the inter-sector with which each programme is organized.

## **Disability**

The National Advisory Commission for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities (CONADIS), which is within the scope of the Argentine Council for Coordination of Social Policies (CNCPS), and the National Service for Disabilities (SENADIS) of the Chilean Ministry of Social Development stated their interest in creating, fostering and strengthening cooperation ties and exchanges regarding public policies on Disability in both countries. They underscored the importance of promoting universal accessibility in all areas and the social, economic and cultural inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, for the purpose of enabling their full enjoyment of all Human Rights and liberties, at a national, regional and international level, in order to enhance the quality of life of persons with disabilities at all such levels.

Such transfer of information and exchange of best practices will take place through an exchange of documents with information material on projects and programmes, as well as through videoconferences attended by representatives of both entities.

## **JUSTICE**

The ministers reaffirmed the intent to continue to strengthen cooperation ties in the field of justice and human rights. They stressed the fact that the State must guarantee and promote the exercise of human rights through the design, promotion and publicizing of policies to achieve the actual, effective exercise of human rights, contributing to the strengthening of a culture of respect for and exercise of human rights. In this context, the development in both countries of government structure and institutions as regards human rights is significant, as well as the experience of both States in the fields of Memory, Truth and Justice.

They ratified the importance of sharing experience and best practices in the penitentiary field, especially as regards infrastructure progress; training of penitentiary agents in the fields of security and control, and social reinsertion; public-private participation in the field of penitentiary systems; and alternative measures to penalties of imprisonment, such as electronic monitoring mechanisms.

They welcomed the successful operation of the mechanism for transfer of sentenced persons.

They underscored the need to address issues such as the use of alternative dispute resolution methods as another tool for equal access by nationals from both countries to justice, in addition to clearing up a sizeable backlog of court cases, thus saving time, resources and efforts to society as a whole and to democratic institutions.

They agreed on the importance of strengthening the implementation of drug treatment courts, which are inserted as alternatives within the criminal justice system, incorporating a methodology and a set of tools aimed at offenders whose crimes are related to problematic drug and/or alcohol use.

They welcomed the intent to extend bilateral cooperation to other issues of common interest on the shared agenda, such as legislative reform, convinced that updating these tools is a substantial contribution to institutional and democratic growth in both countries. Some of these experiences include the reform which took place as a



consequence of Chile's accession to the OECD and the criminal procedure reform, as well as the Argentine Justice 2020 Programme.

They stated the need to revise the instruments that link the two ministries in order to draft, in 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding that consolidates and updates the issues of interest and defines a joint activity programme in the field of justice and human rights.

## **GENDER**

The ministers stated their appreciation for the ties developed between the Chilean Ministry of Woman and Gender Equity and the Argentine National Council of Women, which will continue to grow in order to advance and promote the full participation and rights of women in both countries.

They established a shared agenda which includes an exchange of knowledge on how to address violence against women in all of its forms, and on systems to protect victims and prevent femicides, and an exchange of legislative experience that comprehensively addresses these issues. In addition, they undertook a commitment to create collaboration opportunities for the design and implementation of re-education programmes for men who exercise violence, promote masculinity with a gender perspective in public policies and economic autonomy programmes for women.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS COOPERATION**

The ministers agreed on the importance of the Tenth Meeting under the Memorandum of Understanding for the Strengthening of Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, held in Buenos Aires on 5 December, where both countries shared views on a number of matters discussed in universal and regional human rights entities, and exchanged information on initiatives and best practices.

Additionally, they welcomed the actions taken by the competent bodies within the scope of the Argentina-Chile Memorandum of Understanding on the Exchange of Documents for the Clarification of Serious Human Rights Violations. In particular, they underscored the Fourth Meeting of the Joint Technical Committee, held in Buenos Aires on 6 December, where each country's requests for documents were reviewed. Argentina delivered documents to Chile, and ideas and views were exchanged on the Management of Memorial Sites.

## **COOPERATION IN EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS**

The Ministers undertook to strengthen the bonds of cooperation in the face of emergencies and disasters, by identifying common interests and devoting efforts to the protection and preservation of lives, property and resources in both nations.

They expressed their willingness to exchange information to allow prevention of and better response to adverse events, as well as to discuss the possibility of providing training and developing joint simulation exercises to strengthen both countries at an institutional level.

They stated their interest in assessing the preparation of a protocol on emergencies and disasters in border areas and recognized the important precedent provided by the meetings held by the Argentina-Chile Joint Commission on Cooperation in Disasters.

Furthermore, they welcomed the creation, within the framework of the meeting of COMPERSEG held in August 2016 in Buenos Aires, of the Ad Hoc Working Group on disaster risk management and the mandate issued to such Group by the “2 + 2 Mechanism” in November 2016 for the preparation of a Protocol of Procedure for coordinating mutual support mechanisms in the field of Humanitarian Aid.

They expressed their willingness to improve and continue to strengthen coordination mechanisms with a view to agreeing on actions to meet the cooperation needs identified. Such coordination, in the case of Chile, will be carried out through the National Emergency Office (ONEMI).

## **CULTURE**

The Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for the exchange of artistic training, research and production visits between the Ministry of Culture of the Argentine Republic and the National Council of Culture and Arts of the Republic of Chile which, in order to strengthen dialogue between their artistic communities and mutual knowledge of their cultures, will sponsor as from 2017 the development of creation and research projects and the performance of training and advanced learning activities.

They welcomed the signing of the Agreement on Cooperation for Establishing a Platform on Cultural and Creative Industries between the Ministry of Culture of the Argentine Republic and the National Council of Culture and Arts of the Republic of Chile that will boost and deepen the bilateral bonds in terms of promoting, disseminating, circulating and trading goods and services generated by cultural and creative industries.

They also welcomed the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement between the National Institute of Cinematography and Audiovisual Arts of the Argentine Republic and the National Council of Culture and Arts of the Republic of Chile, through its Council of Audiovisual Arts and Industry, for promoting audiovisual co-productions between both countries, with four projects selected on the first call. Furthermore, they highlighted that, since 2015, there has been an increase in co-productions to thirty-one certifications, including finished and ongoing works.

They welcomed Argentina’s participation as a guest of honour in the 2017 Valparaiso Arts Festival, which will increase and strengthen the bilateral bonds as regards culture and arts. They underscored the cultural dialogue opened at the MATTA Cultural Centre, Embassy of the Republic of Chile in Buenos Aires, with respect to various cultural activities such as the Mapuche art exhibition “WALLMAPU, *Una cultura compartida*” [A shared culture], organized in cooperation with the Secretariat for Federal Integration and International Cooperation of the Argentine Ministry of Culture. They further highlighted that, on the occasion of this binational meeting of ministers of Argentina and Chile, the MATTA Cultural Centre successfully opened the itinerant exhibition “Manuel Rojas. *Una oscura y radiante vida*” [A dark and radiant life].

They expressed their interest in organizing and coordinating cultural work agendas within the framework of the Integration Committees.

They welcomed greater cooperation between public and private agencies in the various cultural sectors.

### **Matta Cultural Centre of the Embassy of Chile and Mercedes Sosa Cultural Centre**

They ratified the importance of cultural exchange and cooperation for bilateral relations and integration between both countries through the MATTA Cultural Centre of the Embassy of Chile, among other mechanisms. In this context, they expressed their interest in the possibility that the Mercedes Sosa Cultural Centre may be available to the Argentine Embassy in Chile in the future.

They underscored the activities carried out at the CCMATTA since its opening more than a year ago, including the following visual arts exhibitions: Matta, *Este lado del mundo* [This side of the world]; Catalina Swinburn, *Extraterritorial*; *Fotografías - Diálogos sobre el territorio* [Photos - Dialogues on the territory]; Enrique Ramírez, *Los durmientes* [Sleepers]; Juan Downey, *Video Trans Americas*; Raúl Zurita, *poesía musicalizada* [poetry set to music]; *Mujeres musicales, cantautoras chilenas y argentinas* [Musical women, Chilean and Argentine female singers-songwriters]; FEMCINE Women's Film Festival, among others.

They recognized the life and work of Violeta Parra as 2017 will mark the 100th anniversary of her birth. In this context the Cultural Attaché's Office of the Embassy of Chile and CCMATTA will present the "Violeta Parra" Symphonic Concert at the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires and will place her statue at the honour stand of the 2017 Buenos Aires International Book Fair.

### **BICENTENNIAL OF THE CROSSING OF THE ANDES**

The Ministers recalled that the 200th anniversary of the Crossing of the Andes by the army led by the *Libertador*, General José de San Martín, is drawing near and, as a result, they welcomed the commemorative activities to be carried out. They especially underscored the reenactment of the Crossing of the Andes by the armies of both countries that will begin on 24 January in El Plumerillo, Mendoza, and will end on 12 February 2017 in Chacabuco, Chile, on the bicentennial of the battle that took place there.

### **HOUSING AND HABITAT**

#### **Regional cooperation**

They undertook the commitment to promote joint and coordinated work in the fields of habitat and housing, maintaining the close contact achieved within the framework of the Forum of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI). This intention coincides with Argentina's assumption of the Presidency Pro-Tempore during the 2016-2017 period and the Republic of Chile will host the Meeting of the Subregion of South America of MINURVI scheduled to be held in January 2017.

As regards the themes of the bilateral exchange, they agreed to expand cooperation through joint activities including the exchange of knowledge and good practices with experts and professionals of the sector in the following areas:

### **Comprehensive approach to habitat improvement**

They agreed on the exchange of knowledge on programmes for providing housing solutions and carrying out comprehensive habitat actions (improvement of the environment through the provision of water and sewerage networks, public spaces and gathering places for the community), in addition to implementing human development programmes focusing on gender-related problems, social inclusion and citizen security, as well as exchanging experiences and legal and financial instruments to promote at a national level the development and planning of compact cities with housing and habitat at their core.

### **Housing Demand Management**

They agreed to exchange experiences concerning instruments, methodologies and systems for identifying and focusing on housing demand.

### **Knowledge Management**

They agreed to exchange experiences and good practices as regards the development and implementation of mapping systems, taking into account information on the evolution of the urban sprawl, settlements, risks, urban voids, among others.

They also expressed their interest in exploring techniques for surveying projects and for measuring and assessing the impact of public actions as regards housing, urban improvement and sustainable development.

### **Methods for alternative construction, innovation and sustainability**

They agreed to promote exchange and cooperation as regards experiences in alternative ways of building social housing to achieve time- and cost-efficiency in production, as well as in the application of relevant new technologies, sustainable materials, construction systems and renewable energies, depending on geographic areas.

### **Housing, urban development and habitat financing**

They undertook to exchange experiences and knowledge on the inclusion of and/or partnerships with the private sector with respect to the provision of housing solutions and the development of policies including demand subsidies, credit policies and surplus generation mechanisms.

### **Relations with the third sector**

They showed their interest in sharing experiences and strategies concerning the coordination of Civil Society Organizations and non-governmental organizations relating to housing, habitat and urban development matters.

## **STATE MODERNIZATION**

They recognized the importance of building a State that rises to the challenges of the 21st Century, oriented towards citizen service, through the use of new technologies, thus contributing to the economic, political and social development of both countries. In this regard, they underscored the recent and ongoing efforts to implement the Argentine Republic's Modernization Plan and the Republic of Chile's Digital Agenda (especially, the Digital Government Action Plan).

In this regard, with a view to making the most of the opportunities for cooperation, they reaffirmed their willingness to sign an agreement on cooperation in State modernization which provides for aspects relating to Digital Government, Open Government and Public Administration.

### **STRATEGIC DIALOGUE FORUM**

They welcomed the recent creation of the Argentina-Chile Strategic Dialogue and Reflection Forum, aimed at discussing and planning the bilateral relationship with a view to designing a common agenda until 2030. They announced that, in 2017, under Chile's coordination, two meetings will be held, one in each half of the year, in Chile and in Argentina.

### **QUESTION OF THE MALVINAS ISLANDS**

The Ministers of Chile reiterated the support of the Government and the People of Chile for the legitimate sovereignty rights of the Argentine Republic over the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. In this regard, they ratified the need for the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume negotiations in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the Declarations of the Organization of American States.

In this context, they reaffirmed the statements recently issued by MERCOSUR, UNASUR, CELAC and other regional organizations and they reiterated that the military exercises carried out by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, as well as other unilateral British activities such as the exploration and exploitation of Argentina's renewable and non-renewable natural resources are contrary to the region's policy encouraging the search for a peaceful resolution of the sovereignty dispute and are inconsistent with the applicable UN resolutions. Furthermore, they reiterated Chile's recognition of the Argentine Republic's right to initiate legal proceedings in accordance with international law and the relevant resolutions against unauthorized activities concerning exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbon in Argentina's continental shelf.

Finally, they highlighted the Argentine Government's total willingness to create mechanisms to resume dialogue in order to find a solution to the sovereignty dispute and welcomed the recent high-level bilateral meetings between the Argentine Government and British authorities.

The Ministers of Argentina expressed their profound gratitude on behalf of the Government and the People of Argentina for the traditional and much appreciated support of the Republic of Chile in connection with this issue of regional significance. The Ministerial Delegation of the Republic of Chile also expressed its gratitude for the kindness and hospitality extended.