

CANCELLERÍA **EN LÍNEA**

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July 27, 2021

AT WTO

Solá called for agreement to eliminate
fisheries subsidies

FEDERAL FOREIGN MINISTRY

Presentation of La Pampa Province
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At WTO, Solá called for agreement to eliminate fisheries subsidies



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On 15 July, Foreign Minister Felipe Solá attended the fisheries subsidies ministerial of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Negotiations Committee, a global debate meeting headed by WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and the chair of the Negotiating Group on Rules, Santiago Wills of Colombia.

Addressing representatives of more than 70 member states, Solá stated that "Argentina reaffirms its commitment to continue making its best efforts so as to reach, before the next WTO Ministerial Conference, a multilateral agreement that establishes specific prohibitions against subsidies in connection with illegal, undeclared, and unregulated fishing, overexploited fish populations and subsidies that affect overcapacity and overfishing."

"The highly negative impact of these subsidies on fisheries makes it imperative to reach an agreement to remove them. Most of these subsidies support deep-sea fishing fleets, especially in distant waters, and mainly in areas adjacent to exclusive economic zones, with highly negative impact on the sustainability of the oceans, seas, maritime resources and the development of the affected country," stated the Minister, who later spoke again on behalf of the "Six LAT" group, comprising Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, Peru and Uruguay, which joined four years ago to jointly participate in the negotiation.

Accompanied by the Chief of Staff to the Minister, Guillermo Justo Chaves, the Foreign Minister noted that our country "considers that, given the nature of the negotiations, the text of the future document should include matters that are extremely sensitive for members." And he added: "This means that the text will not have legal consequences in relation to territorial claims or maritime jurisdiction delimitation. Therefore, Argentina deems it is very important to include in the document a clear and specific safeguard in this regard."

Later on, on behalf of the Six LAT Group, Solá issued "a call on all those who worry about the current state of the maritime ecosystems and the existence of subsidies for large fishing fleets that sail and exploit the seas and their resources without control; it should be recognized that the current situation is the worst of all possible scenarios." And he stressed that: "As a group, we will continue working together because we believe that failing to reach this agreement gives de facto special treatment to large subsidizers, to the detriment of present and future generations."

For over 20 years, our country has constructively worked and participated in negotiations to reach an agreement for the elimination of fisheries subsidies at the WTO. Argentina, as a coastal country with broad littoral zone, suffers as a result of the actions of huge fleets that navigate long distances thanks to the subsidies, engaging in unsustainable practices which often result in illegal fishing, with the associated impact on the fisheries industry and on resources.

Presentation of La Pampa Province Investments and Foreign Trade Agency



On 14 July, Foreign Minister Felipe Solá held a virtual meeting with the Governor of La Pampa Province, Sergio Ziliotto, to formally present the La Pampa Province Investments and Foreign Trade Agency, a new instrument intended to promote exports and investments in that province.

"We are building a Foreign Ministry that, despite the pandemic, has kept close contact with provinces and municipalities for them to have an active and strategic role to promote their markets and products at the global level and attract investments," stated Solá, highlighting the Ministry's recovery of its foreign trade portfolio, as instructed by President Alberto Fernández.

Accompanied by the Secretary for International Economic Relations, Jorge Neme, and the Undersecretary for National Affairs, Fernando Asencio, the Foreign Minister referred to the importance of seeking competitiveness and exporting products with the highest value possible in each chain.

"Argentina has always strived to be competitive; sometimes, through the exchange rate, other times, in a more stable and sustainable way, through technological change, i.e. the technology that has especially revolutionized our agricultural sector and, to some extent, other sectors," he stated, and added: "The existence, staying power and availability of the best Argentine products, which pave the way for others, is the best path towards Argentine foreign trade diversification."

In addition, Governor Ziliotto, accompanied by the Minister for Production, Fernanda Beatriz González, and by the Chief Executive Director of the I-COMEX La Pampa Agency, Sebastián Lastiri, highlighted the need to position La Pampa's products in the world and offer the province's human, productive and natural potential to investors.

Neme for his part stated that: "I know that La Pampa is making a great public investment in the productive system, in productive units to then transfer them to the private sector and to business development. This will foster a much more vibrant business sector."

"The Foreign Ministry is determined to cooperate to build an exportable offer and attract investments. The Argentine Investment and International Trade Agency (AAICI) has specific portals, like InvestArgentina, to present investment projects and make them visible for investors seeking investment projects in Argentina. On the other hand, we are establishing relations with the investment world so that it can accompany Argentina in the development challenge with some Arab countries, Southeast Asia and Latin American countries. From the investments point of view, there is an interesting scenario for us," added the Secretary for International Economic Relations.

In closing, Asencio referred to the work that the Undersecretariat for National Affairs is carrying out to enhance relations between local Governments and the Foreign Ministry as well as Argentine embassies around the world.

La Pampa's Investments and Foreign Trade Agency (I-COMEX La Pampa) is a non-governmental organization comprising La Pampa's key economy leaders including representatives of the private sector, the provincial private sector, and the La Pampa Bank. It was announced in December 2020 and created in 2021. The Agency is a space for public-private relations that serves as a reference in the province, contributing to its development, and as a gateway for companies that wish to invest in or acquire local products.



January-May 2021 exports highest since 2014

"In the first five months of the year, Argentine exports have been the highest compared to the same five months of 2014 so far," stated Foreign Minister Solá, highlighting Argentina's exporting performance so far this year.

"Although Processed Agricultural Products grew more due to price than quantity, Processed Industrial Products, which require a higher labour-related component, grew much more in terms of the quantity exported than the price. This means that what is harder for us to produce and export has improved and is performing much better than in previous years," Solá stated in an interview with TV channel C5N on July 11. "Despite the pandemic, we are improving our export rankings," he added.

When asked about the Mercosur debates on proposals to modify tariffs and the management of international affairs, the Foreign Minister recognized that "there is tension, but integration and unity are much more important for us than arguments," and he defended once again "the rule of consensus" against proposals aiming at "unilaterality."

"Changes to the common external tariff, must be agreed to by all Mercosur member states. Any unilateral action without negotiating with the other four countries would violate Mercosur agreements and the Treaty of Asunción," he stated, adding that "Argentina wants to defend its industry, Paraguay is a country that promotes and defends Mercosur and the two other countries (Brazil and Uruguay) say they do not want to leave the bloc. We want this (Mercosur) to keep going."

He also stated that "Brazil's National Industry Confederation and the Industrial Union of Argentina signed a document against a 10% Common External Tariff as sought by Brazil."

"The solution is political. The willingness to build consensus is political, irrespective of the economic background," he stated.

Solá on Bolivia: “I do not believe Faurie when he says he was not aware of this situation”

Foreign Minister Felipe Solá referred to the recent complaint made by the Government of Bolivia and considered that “the issue of the letter came as a surprise, but it was no surprise that the Government of Mauricio Macri had sent help to Bolivian soldiers that staged a coup d’état against Evo Morales.”

In an interview with TV channel C5N on 11 July, Solá stated that “there is a concrete fact: on 13 November 2019, the letter sent by Bolivia’s Air Forces to former Argentine Ambassador Normando Álvarez García arrived at the Embassy. On 15 November, such closed envelope was added to the archives of the Embassy. The question is what happened those two days, did the Ambassador see that letter? We did not find any cable at the Foreign Ministry in reference to this.”

“I do not believe (former Foreign Minister) Jorge Faurie when he says he was not aware of this situation. And I do not believe him because I remember that, on 9 November 2019, when Alberto Fernández was President-elect, he

received a call from Evo Morales who said his life was in danger. President Fernández spoke with Mexico’s President, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, to make arrangements and protect his life. I remember Macri’s absolute indifference to Alberto’s request to make arrangements to protect Evo Morales’ life,” he added.

The Argentine Foreign Minister explained that “on 12 November 2019, gendarmes were sent for protection. Embassies were monitored, there were even drones over the residence and the embassy’s gardens. The same happened with Spain and Mexico’s embassies, but we should not be misled or confused: the equipment taken by the members of the Argentine Gendarmerie is not the same as they received in Bolivia. There were two different shipments on the same flight. 8 or 9 gendarmes went with their weapons, but there was no need to send 70,000 bullets. They cannot make us believe that lie. We should be asking what Bolivia’s Air Force is thanking the Argentine Embassy to La Paz for. Saying that those bullets were intended for the training of Alacranes (Argentine Gendarmerie elite group) is a lie.”

Argentina signs new instrument to search and identify temporary grave in Malvinas

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On 15 July, the Argentine Ambassador to the International Organizations in Geneva, Federico Villegas, his British counterpart, Simon Manley, and the Vice President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Giles Carbonier, signed the international instruments that will enable advancing the search and identification of a possible temporary war grave in Caleta Trullo, Malvinas Islands, that might contain remains of unidentified Argentine soldiers.

Once again, the Argentine Government reaffirms its commitment to continue working bilaterally with the ICRC to advance this new task, which is planned to be carried out next August, as part of the on-site work in connection with grave C1.10 within the context of the Second Humanitarian Project Plan.

The execution of these instruments supplements the Second Humanitarian Project Plan that was signed on 18 March 2021, when the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland agreed that the International Committee of the Red Cross would carry out the identification of the remains of unidentified Argentine soldiers buried in grave C1.10.

In these instruments, Argentina and the United Kingdom agree to apply the sovereignty formula contained in paragraph 2 of the Joint Declaration of 19 October 1989 to all negotiations related to this phase of the humanitarian initiative, the resulting instruments and their consequences. As in previous cases, this new humanitarian work will rely on the invaluable experience of members of the Forensic Anthropology Team.

In the same humanitarian spirit of the first phase, which began in 2012, these agreements are intended to identify the remains of Argentine soldiers who fought for the restoration of national sovereignty exercise over the Malvinas Islands and lost their lives on the islands, as well as to give answers to their families as to where to pay tribute to their loved ones.

The possibility of finding a temporary grave in that area, where in 1982 there was a field hospital, was informed by the United Kingdom last May.

Neme on Mercosur: “The rule of consensus is unchangeable for Argentina”



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On 14 July, the Secretary for International Economic Relations, Jorge Neme, stated that for Argentina “Mercosur is its immediate past, its present and its future, and the basis for a South American integration project that we must build as the basis of common economic and social development. This is achieved with more Mercosur, as stated by President Alberto Fernández and Foreign Minister Solá. We are receptive and take a broad view, but we believe that the rule of consensus is unchangeable. That is best for the region and for the bloc.”

Speaking on the radio, Neme conveyed Argentina’s position regarding the bloc’s foreign relations agenda: “Since the beginning of our administration in December 2019, we have shown that Argentina has not created barriers in any negotiation process. We have cooperated, helped, and discussed, for example, with the European Union to sign this agreement whose difficulties are now in the EU.”

The Secretary gave an example using Argentina’s statements in April 2020 when negotiations with South Korea started: “There was a debate regarding negotiations with Korea, we said we did not want to be an obstacle for the rest of the countries, which wanted to accelerate things, and that within the context of the pandemic there was a context of global economic uncertainty, and that is why it was not advisable to advance. Secondly, we said that Argentina had some difficulties with Korea, not strictly in connection with trade negotiations, but with phytosanitary issues, for example, regarding the imports of our meat. Argentina exports meat to more than 100 countries. Korea has a restrictive import policy for agricultural products, and we did not have space to negotiate a favourable agreement with them. We made a proposal to our partners: you continue with goods, and we continue with services and investments, and eventually we worked towards an agreement within the context of Mercosur.”

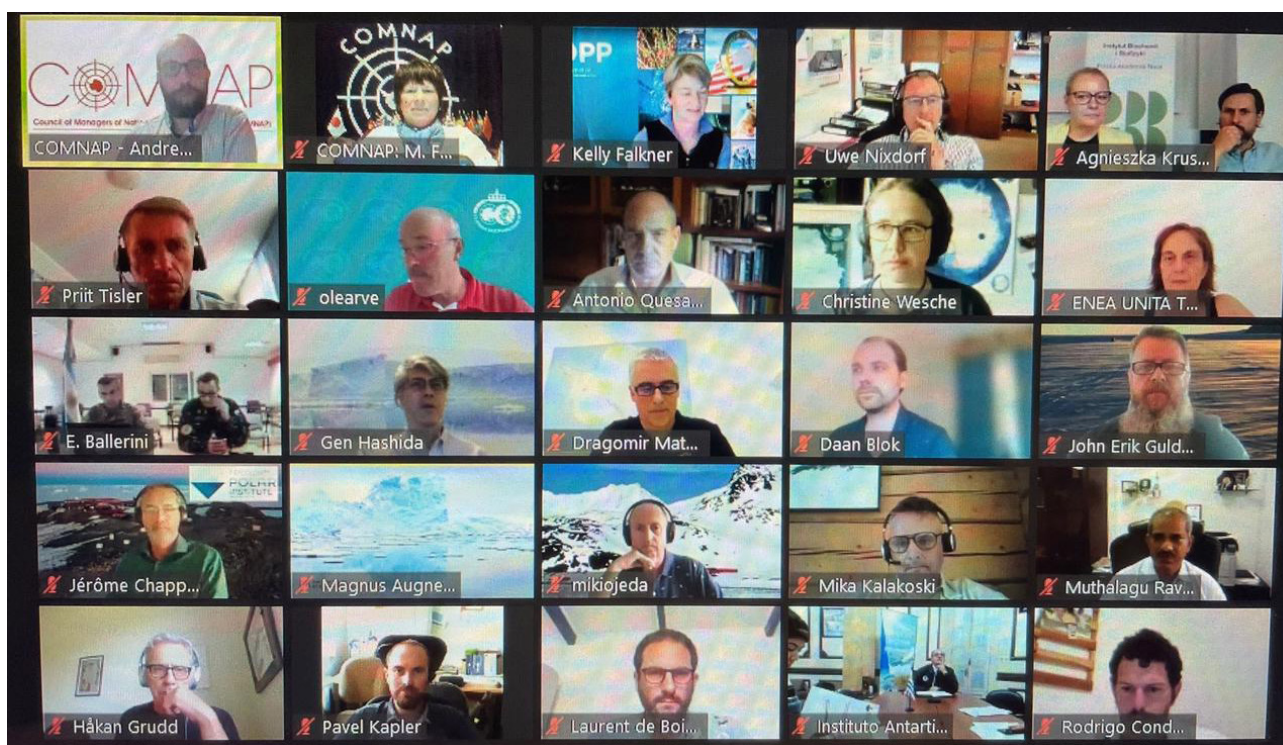
When asked about Uruguay’s intention to initiate negotiations individually, Neme stressed that “when Uruguay entered Mercosur, Argentina and Brazil were in an integration process revitalized by Sarney and Alfonsín.” And he added: “Then, in the 90s, the Protocol of Ouro Preto was executed, which established Mercosur’s legal functioning rules. This means that, as stated by Alberto Fernández, negotiations begin and end at bloc level. This type of agreement has advantages and limitations. Uruguay must make a political decision. The rule of consensus is a rule clearly established in all the fundamental legal norms of the agreements that govern Mercosur.”

Regarding a potential agreement between Uruguay and China, he stated that “there is no use in talking about these hypothetical issues or promoting verbal escalation because this agreement does not exist. When there is an agreement, we will see if it is good, we will analyze it and see if it can be adapted to Mercosur’s rules. First, there has to be an agreement. It is much more interesting when Mercosur as a bloc negotiates an agreement with any country in the world. As sister nations, we must make agreements and differences clear, and discuss fraternally. We believe in developing a common agenda. Disagreement affects us all. Argentina is willing. All the conditions are present to initiate a fraternal dialogue and overcome difficulties.”

“Mercosur is beneficial to all the countries, although our trade must grow. We have a huge productive capacity to develop, with goods and services that we produce ourselves, including agricultural machinery, biotechnology, and renewable energy. We have wide experience that is part of a regional development project reaching not only Mercosur but the whole continent,” he noted.

In closing, and in connection with the recent election to CAF, Development Bank of Latin America, Neme stated: “It is unfortunate that Mercosur partners did not join us, because with those votes we could have obtained the presidency, not for Argentina but for the region and the bloc. And we could have led an investment bank that is highly linked to infrastructure, transport and energy projects; so I think we have all lost. Even so, we achieved an important vice presidency. CAF is not left or right-wing, it has investment resources for a region that is lagging behind in that regard, and Mercosur has not had a representative from one of its countries heading an investment bank ever since Enrique Iglesias left the IDB presidency 15 years ago. We have lost a generation without achieving this. It was a regrettable decision.”

Argentina to host Annual COMNAP Meeting in 2024, secures Vice Chair



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On 14 July, the Argentine Republic participated in the 33rd Annual General Meeting of the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP), the purpose of which is to develop and promote best practices in managing the support of scientific research in Antarctica.

During the event, members approved Argentina's candidacy to host the COMNAP Annual General Meeting in 2024, to be held jointly with Chile, which will host the meeting of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) that year.

In addition, the National Director for Antarctica, Patricia Ortúzar, was elected Vice Chair of the COMNAP Executive Committee until 2024.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry's Secretary for the Malvinas Islands, Antarctica and the South Atlantic, Daniel Filmus, stated that "this possibility shows our country's firm commitment to enhance the Antarctic Treaty System and helps consolidate Argentina's prestige as a leader in international Antarctic fora. In addition, it reflects the convergence and the coordinated work that is being done with Chile in connection with Antarctic issues, as strategic partners."

During the meeting, the parties shared information on the activities implemented in Antarctica by their countries and, in particular, on the actions that promote support for scientific work and Antarctic environment protection.

In order to address the different agenda items, the Argentine delegation comprised a multidisciplinary team of Foreign Ministry officials specialized in diplomacy, science, environmental management and logistics, as well as the Antarctic Joint Command (COCOANTAR) of the Ministry of Defence.

In addition to Ortúzar's election, during this meeting, Antonio Quesada (Spain) was elected as Chair of the Executive Committee, and Dragomir Mateev (Bulgaria) as Vice Chair.

Turkey was admitted as a new member of COMNAP, and this was the first meeting in which Colombia participated as an observer country. 37 countries now participate in this Council (31 members and 6 observers).

Finally, it was also agreed to hold the next COMNAP annual meeting in Warsaw, Poland, in 2022.



Chaves participated in celebration of Argentina-Bolivia Fraternity Day

The Chief of the Private Office of the Foreign Ministry, Guillermo Justo Chaves, participated on 12 July in the celebration held in the Argentina hall of the Kirchner Cultural Centre (CCK) to commemorate Argentina-Bolivia Fraternity Day, in memory of the birth of Juana Azurduy, a key figure in the fight for Latin American Independence.

Argentina-Bolivia Fraternity Day was established in 2010 by the then Presidents Cristina Fernández de Kirchner and Evo Morales Ayma as a tribute to Juana Azurduy. It is always important to remember her because she represents the unity between both countries: this heroine was born in Potosí Department, in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and carried out her militia campaign against the Spaniards in territories that are now part of Bolivia and Argentina,” Chaves stated.

The Bolivian music band “Kawsay” and singer Viviana Careaga performed in the event. The invitees included the Minister of Culture, Tristán Bauer; the Bolivian Ambassador, Jorge Ramiro Tapia; the Undersecretary for Domestic Affairs, Fernando Asencio; the Undersecretary for MERCOSUR and International Economic Negotiations, Rossana Surballe; and the Angolan Ambassador, Fidelino Peliganga.

Argentine Senate approved nominations of Nielsen and Losardo as Ambassadors to Saudi Arabia and UNESCO

On 15 July, the Argentine Senate unanimously approved the nominations of Guillermo Nielsen as Argentine Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Marcela Losardo as Argentine representative to UNESCO, both on the proposal of the Executive branch.

On 12 July, the Approvals Committee of the Senate had issued favourable opinions on both appointments following Nielsen and Losardo's videoconference presentation of the guidelines set out by the Argentine President.

During the presentation, Nielsen, former Secretary of Finance between 2002 and 2005 and former head of YPF, reviewed highlights of his career, such as the public debt restructuring, and stressed that one of his goals as Ambassador would be to reposition Argentina among global producers of food for export. "Saudi Arabia is a highly interesting place, particularly at this point in time. There is a change in the monarchy, major reforms are underway in the country with a development plan that is unparalleled in the world," he added, while also noting the trade opportunities that this context offers to Argentina.

Marcela Losardo in turn conveyed her commitment to the position she was nominated for, and stated that "education, science and culture are facing a new agenda in a pandemic-stricken world." According to the former Justice minister, the global health crisis "has exposed inequalities that demand that we rethink education and science."

During her presentation, she also stated that organizations such as UNESCO "will have a key role in cooperation among countries" in the post-pandemic world.



Foreign Ministry and Salta province deepen joint work



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As part of the outreach activities the Argentine governments, and with a view to advancing Foreign Minister Felipe Solá's plan to federalize Argentina's foreign policy, between 7 and 9 July, the Undersecretary for Domestic Affairs, Fernando Asencio, had a full work schedule in the province of Salta that involved several working meetings, including a meeting with the Governor of Salta, Gustavo Sáenz.

During these meetings, with the goal of furthering the coordinated work between the Foreign Ministry and the provinces and municipalities, the officials addressed the multiple aspects of the international relations of local governments and placed particular emphasis on the strategic possibilities for international cooperation offered by twinning agreements.

"We continue strengthening the ties between the provinces and the world, promoting a truly federal Foreign Ministry: this is our commitment from day one, and we are honouring it by visiting each province and meeting with their authorities," Asencio stated during his meeting with Governor Sáenz.

The Undersecretary also met with the Vice-governor, Antonio Oscar Marocco, the International Representation's team of the province of Salta, headed by Minister Julio San Millán, and legislative authorities, including the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Esteban Amat Lacroix and representatives of the different parliamentary blocs.

The officials also discussed an external agenda for the promotion of exports of regional economies, attraction of investments and search for cooperation in order to develop better practices and opportunities for the sharing of experiences, with a view to strengthening international cooperation.

Asencio also met with municipal authorities, including the Mayor of the City of Salta, Bettina Romero, and the Salta Mayors Forum, chaired by Daniel Campos, Mayor of Vaqueros. "Our goal is to strengthen the local agenda in matters such as sustainable mobility, environment, gender and diversities, tourism and culture," Asencio stated during his meeting with the mayors.

Global Launch of Equal Rights Coalition Strategy

On 6 and 7 July, Argentina co-hosted the “Global Launch of the Equal Rights Coalition Strategy,” a virtual meeting chaired by the Deputy Foreign Minister, Pablo Tettamanti, and the head of the National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism (INADI), Victoria Donda, in order to launch a five-year implementation plan that will deal with discrimination against LGBTIQ+ people and will work to protect their rights.

Since June 2019, Argentina has co-chaired with the United Kingdom the Equal Rights Coalition, an intergovernmental body created in 2016, made up of 42 States working together with civil society, cooperation agencies, international organizations, foundations and other stakeholders in order to facilitate the sharing of information and best practices for the development of joint policies and the coordination of the next steps to improve the situation of LGBTIQ+ people around the world.

Since 2019, in coordination with civil society and the Executive Committee of the Coalition, Argentina has prepared the First Strategy and Plan of Action 2021-2026, which sets out clear purposes and goals with a view to focusing the work of the Initiative on the protection of LGBTIQ+ people worldwide, in a consistent and effective manner.





Biden sent letter to Alberto Fernández to acknowledge his contribution to deal with climate crisis and requested him “to continue working together”

President Alberto Fernández received a letter from his United States counterpart, Joseph Biden, in which he thanked Fernández for his participation in the Leaders Summit on Climate, held on April 22 in the context of International Mother Earth Day, and for Argentina’s contribution to deploy more renewable resources, reduce methane gas emissions and end illegal deforestation, in accordance with the parameters set out in the Paris Agreement.

“I believe we succeeded in galvanizing a global commitment to raise our climate ambitions while highlighting the economic opportunities available for nations that step up to meet this challenge and underscoring the urgency of scaling up climate finance and helping vulnerable nations adapt,” Biden stated in the letter.

He also conveyed the need to ensure that, by the time of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, which will be held in Glasgow this fall, “all nations, especially the major economies, are committing to the level of ambition needed to keep to the goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.”

“We must act now to keep that goal within reach. I am committed to working closely with you and our fellow leaders in the coming months to ensure Glasgow’s success,” the U.S. President highlighted, adding that “I look forward to continuing our work together to tackle the climate crisis.”

Below, you can read the letter sent by the President of the United States:

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for participating in the Leaders Summit on Climate. Together, I believe we succeeded in galvanizing a global commitment to raise our climate ambitions while highlighting the economic opportunities available for nations that step up to meet this challenge and underscoring the urgency of scaling up climate finance and helping vulnerable nations adapt. I want to reaffirm to you directly that the United States is committed to this work and to taking the steps to deliver on our pledge. I am grateful for your announcement that Argentina will strengthen its nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement, deploy more renewables, reduce methane emissions, and end illegal deforestation.

The Summit was just a step on the road to the UN Climate Change Conference this fall in Glasgow. We must ensure by then that all nations, especially the major economies, are committing to the level of ambition needed to keep to the goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. We must act now to keep that goal within reach. I am committed to working closely with you and our fellow leaders in the coming months to ensure Glasgow’s success.

Thank you again for your contribution to this historic Summit, and I look forward to continuing our work together to tackle the climate crisis.

Sincerely, Joseph R. Biden.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 27, 2021

His Excellency
Alberto Fernández
President of the Argentine Republic
Buenos Aires

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for participating in the Leaders Summit on Climate. Together, I believe we succeeded in galvanizing a global commitment to raise our climate ambitions while highlighting the economic opportunities available for nations that step up to meet this challenge and underscoring the urgency of scaling up climate finance and helping vulnerable nations adapt. I want to reaffirm to you directly that the United States is committed to this work and to taking the steps to deliver on our pledge. I am grateful for your announcement that Argentina will strengthen its nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement, deploy more renewables, reduce methane emissions, and end illegal deforestation.

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Thank you again for your contribution to this historic Summit, and I look forward to continuing our work together to tackle the climate crisis.

Sincerely,

The Pope thanked President Fernández for his message wishing him speedy recovery from his surgery in Rome

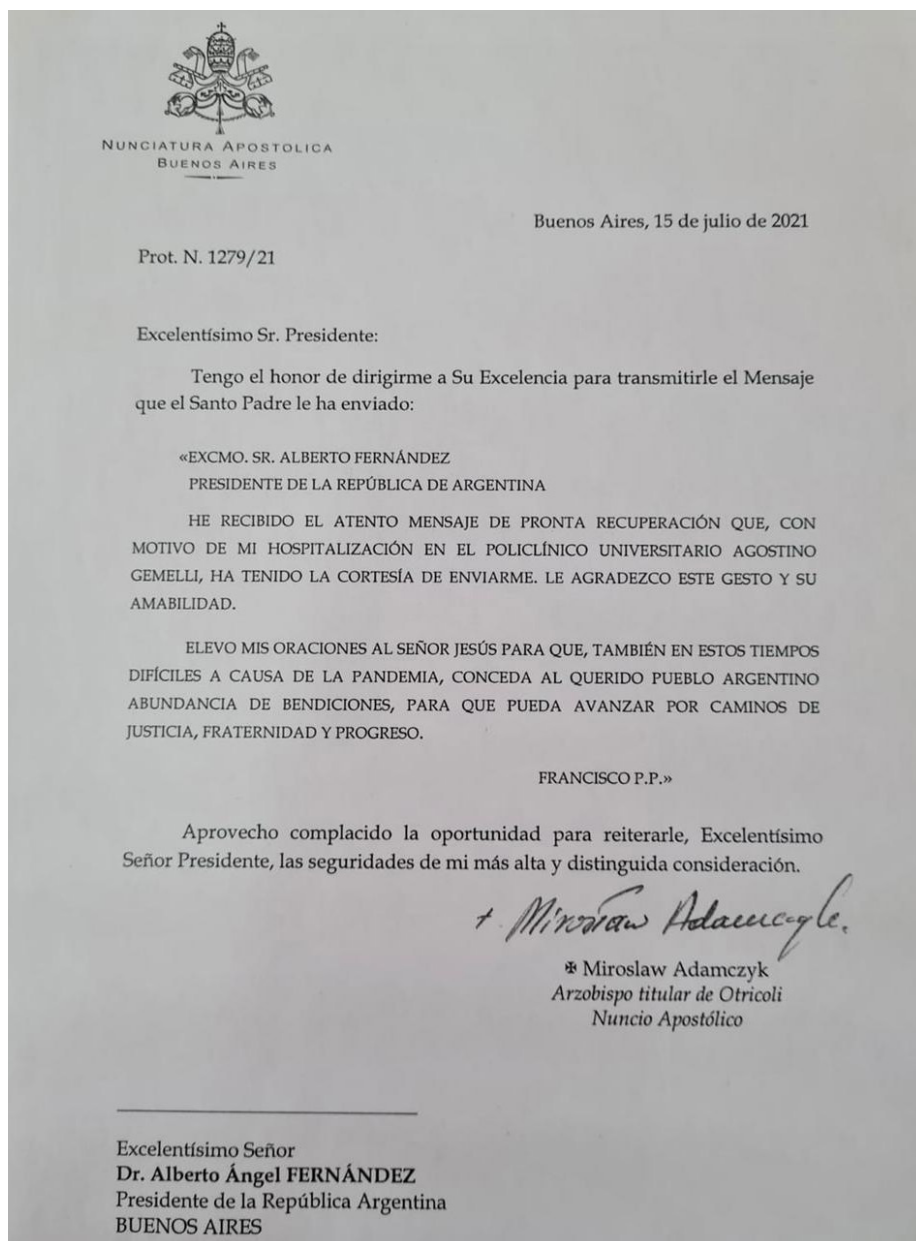
The Pope requested "abundant blessings" for the Argentine people

On 15 July, President Alberto Fernández received a letter from Pope Francis thanking him for the message the President had sent him after the colon diverticula surgery he had undergone ten days earlier in a polyclinic in Rome, from which he was discharged, now fully recovering.

In the letter that the President received through the Apostolic Nunciature of Buenos Aires, the Pope stated that "I have received the thoughtful message of speedy recovery that you had the courtesy of sending me in view of my hospitalisation in the Agostino Gemelli University Policlinic, and I am grateful for this gesture and your kindness."

The Supreme Pontiff added that: "I raise my prayers to the Lord Jesus so that, also during these difficult times caused by the pandemic, He may grant the beloved Argentine people abundant blessings in order for it to be able to advance along paths of justice, fraternity and progress."

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Sputnik V: Gamaleya Institute approved first batch of doses produced in Argentina



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On 15 July, the Russian Federation's Gamaleya National Research Centre of Epidemiology and Microbiology approved the first 140,625 doses of the first component of Sputnik V vaccine produced in Argentina by Laboratorios Richmond. The CEO of the pharmaceutical company, Marcelo Figueiras, informed President Alberto Fernández of this.

"A few moments ago, the Gamaleya Institute approved the first industrial batch produced by Laboratorios Richmond for use in our country," Figueiras stated during a videoconference with Fernández.

Figueiras noted that this is a first batch of 140,625 doses of component 1 of the vaccine, and the laboratory has already produced approximately 1.3 million doses of component 1 and 1,010,000 doses of component 2, which will be authorized in the coming days.

The President gave him "a heartfelt thank you on behalf of all Argentines" and stated that this is "an enormous achievement, as it is very important to have a vaccine of such good quality as Sputnik V being produced in Argentina in times like these the world is currently facing"

"We feel proud of this. And aside from our help as Government, this is to your credit, because you invested in order for Argentina to be able to produce and administer the much-needed vaccines. We are really proud to have an Argentine laboratory with the technological capability to produce such a special product as the COVID-19 vaccine," he stated.

The President also stressed that this is "a major step forward, and it was undertaken by a private company; the State has done everything within its reach to help, but the main credit goes to the private sector that invested in the technology needed to produce the vaccines."

He also noted that "today is a sad day, because we have unfortunately surpassed 100,000 deaths," and stated that "the best way to honour their memories is to take care of those alive, and producing the vaccine in Argentina is a way to accomplish that."

Figueiras in turn told the President that he was proud of the achievement and thanked "everyone that helped in this process in order to meet the challenge in such a short time: the Presidency, the Ministers of Health,

Economy and Productive Development and the National Administration of Drugs, Foods and Medical Devices (ANMAT), which supported and guided us, our colleagues of the pharmaceutical industry, specially MR Pharma and so many Argentine and foreign companies that have helped us, and particularly our scientists, doctors, technicians and professionals who gave their all and will continue to do so.”

“We are glad to be able to make this humble contribution,” he stated, adding that “we are with you to help you build a better country, count on us, we know we can count on you.”

The vaccines produced by Richmond in Argentina are manufactured with the antigen imported from Russia. The formulation, filtering and packaging are carried out locally in order to strengthen the Strategic Vaccination Plan.

The technology transfer from the Gamaleya Institute has enabled Argentina to produce—provenly effective and safe— COVID-19 vaccines for its population and with a regional perspective, which positions the country as a key global actor in vaccine production.

From the beginning, the Argentine Government joined in the efforts to conclude these agreements between the private and public sectors so that Laboratorio Richmond could carry out the technology transfer process to produce the Sputnik V vaccine with the antigen produced in the Russian plant.

The fill and finish stage consists in the filling and final conditioning of the vaccine. It is a production stage conducted in separate facilities, which are dedicated only to the production of components 1 and 2 of the Sputnik V vaccine.

In addition, ANMAT will inspect and check the batches released to ensure compliance with the quality control process necessary for the safety of the population.

Alberto Fernández welcomed donation of 3.5 million Moderna vaccines from U.S. Government

On 16 July, President Alberto Fernández welcomed the donation of 3.5 million Moderna vaccines from the U.S. Government and thanked President Joe Biden for his solidary decision to help other countries and for the joint efforts in fighting the pandemic.

The Argentine Head of State reiterated that “the pandemic is a wake-up call and also an opportunity to move towards more equal, inclusive and fairer societies.”

He added that “this donation from the U.S. Government is a major contribution that marks a path of cooperation.”

This is the largest solidary vaccine shipment to a country in the region by the United States, and it was made possible under the Executive Order signed on 3 July that enabled Argentina to enter into an agreement with Moderna Inc for the supply of 20 million doses of its COVID-19 vaccine or equivalent vaccine doses for use as booster shots.





Boost to automotive sector for increased exports to Dominican Republic

On 15 July, with the goal of further strengthening the position of Argentina's automotive sector in the Dominican market, a Workshop on Technology Supply related to the Automotive and Tyre Sectors of our country was held with the participation of representatives of over twenty Argentine and Dominican export and import companies as well as sectoral chambers.

During the event, organised by the Undersecretariat for Trade and Investment Promotion of the Foreign Ministry, headed by Pablo Sívori, and the Argentine Embassy in the Dominican Republic, headed by Ambassador Nora Capello, Dominican importers were provided with information on Argentina's exportable supply, the capacity and development of the automotive supply and its importance in terms of production, investment, innovation and jobs. The complementarity of the economies of both countries was also stressed.

The Argentine companies that took part in the event included: IVECO, Toyota, Renault, Honda, General Motors Argentina and South America, Mercedes Benz, Stellantis Group (PSA/FCA, Citroën, Peugeot and Fiat Chrysler).

For the Dominican Republic, the import companies included: Agencia Bella SAS, Autocamiones SA, Reid & Compañía SA, Autozama SAS, Avant Auto SAS, Avelino Abreu SAS, Bonanza Dominicana SAS, Delta Comercial SA, La Antillana Comercial SA.

In representation of the chambers, the event was attended by executives of the Association of Automotive Makers of Argentina (ADEFA), the Argentine Tyre Chamber (CIN), the Industrial Union of the Province of Buenos Aires, the Association of Authorised Dealers of Vehicle Manufacturers of the Dominican Republic (ACOFAVE), and the National Association of New Tyre Importers of the Dominican Republic (ASODINE).

The Argentine automotive sector is present in the Dominican market. Vehicles are the main export product to that country, accounting for 26% of Argentina's total sales. ADEFA's representatives noted that in 2020, and despite the global context due to the pandemic, 955 vehicles were exported to this market, based on the great interest of Dominican consumers in Argentine products. Importers present in the event in turn explained the opportunities offered by the Dominican market and the possibilities for adding new Argentine car and tyre models to the current supply.

In addition, the participants highlighted the bilateral work both governments have been carrying out through the Trade, Investment and Productive Links Promotion Working Group Argentina - Dominican Republic, and the progress made between Mercosur and the Dominican Republic to strengthen relations and increase trade exchange.

In representation of the public sector, the Workshop was attended by officials of the Argentine Ministry of Productive Development and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic. The Pro Córdoba Agency and the Secretary of Foreign Trade and Santa Fe Global Agency of the Santa Fe Province also participated in the event.

Argentina *unida*

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