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EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

# ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

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JULY 2022 // NEWSLETTER 103



(From Left to Right) Ministers Jorge Corteletti and Adrián Nador, President and Chair of EXIM Bank, Reta Jo Lewis, and Ambassador Jorge Argüello.

## WORKING MEETING WITH THE EXIM BANK CHAIR

The Argentine ambassador to the United States, Jorge Argüello, held a working meeting with the President and Chair of EXIM Bank, Reta Jo Lewis, to prepare for President Alberto Fernández's visit to Washington DC, invited by President Joe Biden to hold a bilateral meeting at the White House at the end of July.

The head of EXIM Bank was accompanied by Christopher Van Es, Senior Vice President, Communications & External

Engagement; James Burrows, Acting Chief Banking Officer; David Sena, Senior Vice President for Board Authorized Finance; and Adam Frost, Senior Vice President for China and Transformational Exports.

The head of the diplomatic mission reviewed the evolution and status of bilateral relations and summarized some of the issues that might be addressed in the meeting between the two leaders. He stated that the EXIM Bank



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article about the working meeting with the President and Chair of EXIM Bank, Reta Jo Lewis, to prepare for President Alberto Fernández's visit to Washington DC, invited by President Joe Biden

In this edition we also include an article on the arrival of the Frigate ARA Libertad to the port of Baltimore, between July 8 and 12.

Finally, an article on the dissertation at the United Nations by the Special Representative on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Alba Rueda, and various activities that she carried out during Pride Month.

Jorge Argüello  
Ambassador to the United States

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could play a prominent role during the official visit.

Lewis and Argüello exchanged their viewpoints on strategic sectors that are a priority in the trade and investment dialogue between both countries, highlighting in particular the critical infrastructure, Vaca Muerta's potential, and renewable energy and mining. In this regard, they talked about the role that technology provided by US companies can play for these industries to reach their maximum potential.

The Ambassador pointed out that Argentina has the second largest shale gas reservoir in the world and is rapidly increasing its production led by YPF, a key player in this sector, in close association with strategic partners such as Chevron.

He stated that to maintain the momentum and live up to Vaca Muerta's potential to ensure energy security within the region, and to also join the group of LNG suppliers to Europe, large investments will be required.

Chair Lewis highlighted EXIM's China and Transformational Exports Program and reinforced her commitment to supporting President Biden's new Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment. She also emphasized the importance of working with global partners to strengthen

trade and economic security through economic competitiveness.

During their conversation, she referred to the shortening of value chains, while the Ambassador analyzed the different links within the lithium value chain; Argentina is the main supplier of this product to the United States, thereby supplying a key input for the ambitious electrical reconversion program.

Likewise, the ambassador highlighted the important role that Argentina can play regarding food and energy insecurity. He added that Argentina is ready to make an important contribution to face new challenges.

Ambassador Argüello invited Reta Jo Lewis to visit Argentina to deepen the cooperation opportunities they made reference to during their conversation. ■

## FRIGATE LIBERTAD ARRIVES TO THE PORT OF BALTIMORE

Between July 8 and 12, the ARA “Libertad” Training Ship will once again visit Baltimore. This time, in addition to Baltimore, its stops include the ports of Fortaleza (Brazil), Castries (Santa Lucia), Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic), Havana (Cuba), Veracruz (Mexico), Dublin (Ireland), Saint Malo (France), Toulon (France), Cádiz (Spain) and Salvador, Bahía (Brazil).

It is a training ship entirely built in Argentina by the Astilleros y Fábricas Navales del Estado (AFNE), and its first voyage was in 1963. This is not of minor importance: frigate ARA “Libertad” was appointed Ambassador of the Republic in 2001. Since then, it has fulfilled its duties with even greater pride and commitment, and can once again be visited in the United States, country included in its 50th sailing voyage.

The Frigate has received many prestigious awards. In 1966 it set the world speed record sailing across the North Atlantic, and it also won the “Boston Teapot” Trophy nine times, an award bestowed annually by the Sail Training Association to the tall ship that covers the greatest distance in 124 hours with a sail training crew on board.

It has participated in several events here in the United States. For example, it was part of the “Statue of Liberty Centennial Parade of Tall Ships” on July 4, 1986, and the “Independence Day and 500th Anniversary of Christopher Columbus’s Voyage of Discovery” tall ship parade on July 4, 1992, both organized by “Operation Sail” in New York City.

On this occasion, the Libertad set sail from the port of Buenos Aires on Saturday, April 30, with a crew of 27

Frigate ARA “Libertad” in Baltimore.



FRIGATE ARA LIBERTAD IS  
A TRAINING SHIP ENTIRELY  
BUILT IN ARGENTINA BY  
THE ASTILLEROS Y FÁBRICAS  
NAVALES DEL ESTADO (AFNE),  
SAILED ON ITS FIRST VOYAGE IN  
1963.

Officers, 93 Commissioned Midshipmen and 192 Non-Commissioned Officers, and will return there after sailing 21,500 nautical miles for approximately five months.

When the ship is moored at the Inner Harbor, West Wall dock in Baltimore, the ARA Libertad can be visited on the following days: July 8 (between 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm), July 10 (between 11:00 am and 8:00 pm), and July 11 (between 11:00 am and 5:00 pm), in a new gesture of friendship that brings both countries closer together. We invite you to visit it.

Welcome Frigate Libertad, Goodwill Ambassador of the Republic! ■



(Ctr. From L to R) Special Envoys Fabrizio Petri, Alba Rueda and Jessica Stern. Photo Credit: State Department, Democracy, Human Rights, & Labor.

## ALBA RUEDA TRAVELED TO NEW YORK CITY DURING PRIDE MONTH

Since her appointment through a decree signed last May by President Alberto Fernández, the Special Representative on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Alba Rueda has undertaken a busy international agenda, as part of the high priority given to the promotion and protection of the human rights of LGBTIQ+ people by the Argentine Republic, both domestically and in its foreign policy.

It should be noted that Alba Rueda is a recognized activist for LGBTIQ+ rights who previously served as Under Secretary for Diversity Policies in the Ministry of Women, Genders and Diversity, and is the first trans woman to hold such a senior position. Likewise, she played a key role in promoting important public policies such as the National Action Plan against Gender-Based Violence 2020-2022, the National Plan for Equality in Diversity 2021-2023,

Decree 721/2020 on a Labor Quota for Transvestites, Transsexuals and Transgender People in the Public Sector, and Law 27,636 on the Promotion of Access to Formal Employment for Transvestites, Transsexuals and Transgender People Diana Sacayán-Lohana Berkins.

As part of her current duties, Alba Rueda traveled to New York, where she participated in the Pride Parade held on June 26. It is one of the oldest in the world; the first one took place shortly after the 1969 riots at the Stonewall Inn bar located in Greenwich Village.

The Special Representative marched together with the U.S. Special Envoy for the Advancement of the Human Rights of LGBTQI community, Jessica Stern, as well as with the Special Envoy of the Italian Foreign Ministry for the human rights of LGBTIQ+ people, Fabrizio Petri.

AS PART OF HER ACTIVITIES  
DURING HER MISSION TO  
NEW YORK, RUEDA GAVE A  
DISSERTATION AT THE UNITED  
NATIONS FOCUSED ON THE  
RIGHTS OF LESBIAN, GAY,  
BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND  
INTERSEX PEOPLE FROM A  
GLOBAL SOUTH PERSPECTIVE.

As part of the activities carried out during her visit to New York, Rueda gave a dissertation at the United Nations focused on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and intersex people from a Global South perspective, an event in which Special Envoys Jessica Stern and Fabrizio Petri also participated.

The Special Representative on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity of the Argentine Republic also participated in an event commemorating the 52nd anniversary of the police repression at the Stonewall Inn, accompanied by the Permanent Representative of our country to the UN, along with Stern and Petri, as part of the LGBTI Core Group. This Group is currently co-chaired by Argentina and the Netherlands and its main objective is to work within the organization to guarantee universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for everyone, especially LGBTIQ+ people, with a special focus in protection against violence and discrimination. ■