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Ambassador Jorge Argüello and Minister Eduardo de Pedro (Ctr. back) and Susan Segal (Ctr. front) with governors of the Norte Grande in NY.

NORTE GRANDE ARGENTINO ENDED ITS MISSION IN NEW YORK WITH VISITS TO AS/COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS AND THE UN

On the last day of their mission to the United States, the governors of the Great North (Norte Grande argentino) and the Minister of the Interior, Eduardo de Pedro, developed an intense agenda in New York City.

They began visiting the Council of the Americas, where they were accompanied by the General Consul of Argentina in New York, Santiago Villalba, and received by the president

and CEO of the entity, Susan Segal. They shared a meeting with presidents and general managers of AS/COA's member companies with operations in Argentina and Latin America, as well as other investors and guests.

The governors had the opportunity to present the enormous potential of the Norte Grande region, highlighting the opportunities in strategic sectors such as



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article about the agenda of the governors of the Norte Grande Argentino and the Minister of the Interior, Eduardo de Pedro, in New York, where they had meetings at the AS/Council of the Americas and at the UN.

In this edition we also include an article on the presentation of the three Argentine lithium-producing provinces to U.S. business leaders, organized by the U.S. and Argentine embassies, the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Energy.

Finally, an article on Argentina's participation in the organic products fair "Biofach Americas Expo East" and other events related to trade promotion within the framework of the visit of the governors of the Norte Grande Argentino.

Jorge Argüello
Ambassador to the United States

THE GOVERNORS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THE ENORMOUS POTENTIAL OF THE NORTE GRANDE REGION, HIGHLIGHTING THE OPPORTUNITIES IN STRATEGIC SECTORS SUCH AS MINING, AGRIBUSINESS, TOURISM AND THE KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMY, AMONG MANY OTHERS.

mining, agribusiness, tourism and the knowledge-based economy, among many others. In addition to promoting the region in general, the provincial leaders spoke about the economies and promotion regimes of their provinces to a public interested in investing in Argentina.

“This week we have lived an unprecedented experience: receiving nine governors and the Minister of the Interior in such an important and positive mission. We have been opening doors and more doors for investments, as well as promoting provincial exports and deepening the bilateral relationship in every way,” said Ambassador Argüello.

Minister De Pedro expressed that “the national government, headed by Alberto Fernández, is totally committed and involved with the Norte Grande. All the decisions that are made in the national government are made with a federal spirit, a spirit to recompose the asymmetries of our territory”.

Furthermore, in front of the companies that make up the Council of America, the Governor of Santiago del Estero and President Pro Tempore of the Norte Grande,

Gerardo Zamora, highlighted: “The direction we must take to stabilize our currency and generate predictability for investments, we will do so by accompanying from our region with a deep vocation to generate wealth”.

In the afternoon, the official delegation toured the United Nations headquarters in New York accompanied by María del Carmen Squeff, Argentine Ambassador to the United Nations.

During the meeting, the Argentine leaders met with officials from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) with the aim of analyzing the role of regional economies in sustainable development within the framework of the 2030 Agenda.

Governor Zamora promised, on behalf of the region, to work closely on an agenda with the UNDP and the CFI for the developments requested by the Northern provinces as a whole region and individually.

The meeting was attended by the UNDP Administrator, Adam Steiner, the Deputy Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Linda Maguire, the Resident Representative of the UNDP Office in Argentina, Claudio Tomassi, the Head of the Democratic Governance and Governance Practice Area, Jairo Acuña-Alfaro, and the Specialist of Partnerships, Cities and Local Governments, Diana López.

The mission concluded with a networking event at the Argentine Consulate with investors, scientists, importers and distributors of Argentine products. ■

PERSPECTIVES FOR THE LITHIUM VALUE CHAIN IN PUBLIC-PRIVATE DIALOGUE WITH GOVERNORS OF THE NORTE GRANDE

On the occasion of the visit of the governors of the Great North (Norte Grande argentino) to the United States, the Argentine Embassy, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the Embassy of the United States in Buenos Aires, organized a presentation of the three Argentine lithium producer provinces with business leaders of the United States lithium value chain.

The event, which took place at the U.S. Department of State, brought together the Governor of Catamarca, Raúl Jalil; the Governor of Jujuy, Gerardo Morales, and the Governor of Salta, Gustavo Sáenz. The governors presented the investment opportunities in their respective provinces and the measures they coordinate to implement in the Argentine litiferous region.

The Argentine Ambassador to the United States, Jorge Argüello, accompanied the governors and gave the opening words, placing particular emphasis on the reformulation of the supply chains that the world is witnessing, especially from the perspective of being safe, friendly, and resilient. Based on these statements, the perspectives on which the bilateral agenda of our countries can find mutually beneficial spheres of cooperation were articulated.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the current conflict in Europe brought a significant increase in tensions in global supply chains, leading to severe disruptions with adverse effects on world economies. In this regard, President Biden issued an executive order on February 24, 2021 (E.O. 14017), establishing a comprehensive approach

Governors of the Norte Grande and Ambassador Jorge Argüello with businessmen and representatives of the U.S. government.



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by the entire government to assess vulnerabilities and strengthen supply chains for critical minerals.

Critical minerals are essential components of the products we use daily. As the demand for clean energy technology increases in the short and medium term, a greater supply of critical minerals and materials will be necessary to meet global climate goals.

In this context, the U.S. Ambassador to Argentina, Marc Stanley, emphasized the characteristics of each of the provinces, encouraging the companies at the round table to invest in the opportunities presented.

Laura Lochman represented The U.S. Department of State, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Energy Resources, and David Kovatch, Director for Energy Transformation of the National Security Council, officiated as moderator.

It is estimated that by 2030 the demand for lithium will rise to 1,800,000 tons of lithium and that Argentina could contribute 17% of this demand. South America concentrates half of the world's lithium reserves, and Argentina is already the world's fourth-largest producer.

As we know, lithium is the primary resource in developing rechargeable batteries. In Argentina, "White Gold" is seen as an opportunity to create quality employment and value-added development on Argentine soil.

The opportunity to develop a space for dialogue on an issue as strategic as this represents a significant step since public-private dialogue is essential to foster a closer bilateral relationship between our countries and to find new opportunities and shared interests.

The meeting highlighted that among these opportunities, lithium occupies a relevant place within the universe of critical minerals. We are currently the largest supplier of lithium in the United States and the second largest lithium reserve in the world. Among the conclusions drawn from the event, the potential to advance from our current position as the world producer of this product was highlighted since Argentina has the conditions to increase its production six times in the next five years. For this reason, the Argentine representatives stressed that our challenge is to extract this mineral and add local value to it.

Another critical aspect of the representation of the lithium value chain was the diversity of the participating companies, among which were the energy, automotive, extractive, and service sectors. Thus, the governors of the Norte Grande were able to dialogue with representatives of General Motors, Tesla, Ford, BMW, Stellantis; AES, Lilac Solutions, Teneo, Rio Tinto, Livent, American Lithium, and Albermarle, among other companies. ■



Argentina at "Biofach Américas Expo East".

ARGENTINA ADVANCES IN THE PROMOTION OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS

Within the framework of the visit of the governors of the Great North (Norte Grande argentino) to Washington D.C., different actions to promote trade and improve market access were carried out to increase Argentine exports to the US market. Authorities and companies participated in the Organic Products Fair "Biofach Américas Expo East" and a meeting with the countries of the Alliance for the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), where they exchanged about the urgent need of the restitution of the GSP.

The 37th edition of the organic and natural products trade show "Biofach Americas Expo East" was held in Philadelphia on September 28 - October 1, which had more than 1,200 exhibitors and an attendance of approximately nineteen thousand people. As in previous years, Argentina participated with an institutional pavilion where sixteen companies from all over the country were present: Aname Vio; Gregorio, Numo and Noel Werthein

SA; Diego Zamora and son SRL, Izco SA; L.I.R.A SA; Corpam honeys; Neofarms Bio, Nutrin SA, International Agricultural Organization, Organic Latin America SA, Petroagro SA, Pradera Natural SA, Prosal SA, Trapani SA, WeCircular SA and Wishbone SRL.

The Argentine booth was strategically located between the organic and natural sections, with a presence in both sides, given the great variety of products marketed by the participating companies: agricultural products (derived from peanuts, corn, honey, wheat, soybeans, dehydrated fruits, rice, yerba mate, sugar), cosmetics, biodegradable products and organic certifying companies.

It is important to point out that the presence of sixteen companies located in six different provinces (Jujuy, Tucumán, Córdoba, Entre Ríos, Buenos Aires and Río Negro) indicates the federalization and decentralization of organic production throughout Argentina. The national

THE EXPORT OF ARGENTINE ORGANIC PRODUCTS GREW BY 11% DURING 2021. A RELEVANT FIGURE INDICATES THAT 98% OF THE TOTAL CERTIFIED PRODUCTION IN THE COUNTRY IS DESTINED FOR EXPORT.

organic production shows a great diversity, which reflects the difference in climates and soils typical of an extensive territory. In this edition there were two Argentine companies that participated for the first time -Mieles Corpam, which produces fractionated organic honey and WeCircular, which produces biodegradable bags with water-soluble technology, made of material of natural origin-, which expose the growing trend that exists in Argentina for the production of organic and natural products.

The export of Argentine organic products grew by 11% during 2021. A relevant figure indicates that 98% of the total certified production in the country (143 thousand tons) is destined for export. The main buying market is the United States, which comprises 45% of the volume exported. In recent years, the demand for organic products in the United States has grown enormously, with sales of organic food in 2021 reaching 57.5 billion dollars, a growth of 2% compared to 2020. This has led to the United States importing more and more organic products.

With regard to the restitution of the General System of Preferences (SGP), Argentina participated in a meeting of the Alliance for the SGP, together with other beneficiary

countries. In this framework the country presented the impact that the non-renewal of the regime has had on its exports and regional economies. This presentation was made before the Coalition for the GSP, formed by US import companies that utilize the benefits of GSP and a Deputy Assistant USTR for GSP.

Argentina made a presentation based on data provided by COPAL (Coordinator of Food Products Industries) and IDEP (Institute of Productive Development of Tucumán), showing that -before its expiration- Argentine companies have been favored by the benefit of tax relief, promoting the consolidation of the internationalization of sectors that add economic and social value to various regions. In 2020, Argentina exported \$358.9 million under the GSP, of which \$223 million (62%) were agri-food products. In this sense, the expiration had a direct impact on industries such as oil, wine, frozen strawberries, confectionery and sweets, and cheese, among others.

In addition to the impact numbers, Argentina presented data related to the social impact on regional economies. Much of the local production of the eligible products was destined for exportation, so they suffered from a significant competitiveness loss due to payment of most favorable nation tax starting the expiration of the system 21 months ago.

After the presentation, Argentina highlighted the importance and opportunity that the regime represents for the development of small and medium-sized companies, for the development of exports and the internationalization of businesses in the US market, which also helps in the efforts for productive transformation for sustainable agri-food systems. Consequently, urged for the restitution of the system. ■