

Development Banks

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A STRATEGIC
TOOL FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF
A REGION THAT
TAKES CARE OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND
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G20

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HAS ENDED IN BALI,
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QUEER TANGO:
A NEW WAY TO
ACCESS TANGO
FOR THE LGBTIQ+
COMMUNITY

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Cecilia Todesca Bocco

THE IADB IS A STRATEGIC TOOL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REGION THAT TAKES CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND PEOPLE

By Cecilia Todesca Bocco
Secretary for International Economic Relations

The diagnosis is shared. The world is undergoing a situation of extraordinary complexity, after a devastating pandemic and in the midst of a war that generated what is called a “cascading crisis.” This expression does not only refer to a timeline of events, but it also takes into account the

diverse sectors affected: production, employment, health, education, the environment, and —more transversally— the daily life of households, especially women, due to the impact on the world of work and on caregiving tasks. People’s lives have been drastically altered at all levels, including more recently, concerns about the cost of living.

In this global situation, Latin America and the Caribbean



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article by Cecilia Todesca Bocco, Secretary for International Economic Relations, nominated by Argentina as candidate for the presidency of the Inter-American Development Bank.

In this edition we also include an article on the G20 Leaders’ Summit in Bali, Indonesia, and the topics of the final declaration.

Finally, an article on the Queer Tango Pop Up class, organized by the Embassy of Argentina along with GLIFAA, in which participated Jessica Stern, U.S. Special Envoy to Advance the Human Rights of LGBTQI+.

Jorge Argüello
 Ambassador to the United States

OUR REGION CAN EMERGE FROM THIS CRISIS MORE INTEGRATED AS A SECURE AND REGIONAL VALUE CHAIN.

face challenges of a great magnitude. Some people talk about the risk of witnessing a new lost decade. But there are also great opportunities. The region can emerge from this crisis more integrated than before, as a secure and fair regional value chain. Latin America and the Caribbean countries produce food, possess energy resources (non-renewable and renewable), and strategic minerals. They also produce and export knowledge-based services, from software to professional services, and goods with high added value and technological complexity, such as medicines, different types of machinery, medical devices and automobiles, among others.

However, a productive reconfiguration that empowers these activities will not happen without a set of specific policies that are strategically conceived, based on consistent incentives and a strong consensus, not only at country level, but also at the regional level. In this framework, the IADB Group can become one of the strategic instruments to put this agenda into practice, especially regarding the need to coordinate actions and infrastructure works with a regional scope that promote the physical integration of and between countries.

The region's current natural resources and human talent are not enough to "make the necessary leap in quality" and bridge the various gaps observed between the region and more developed economies. These gaps are not seen only in terms of productivity, they are also social, territorial, and gender-based, and are not only in place between the

countries of the region and the developed world, but also within each one of our countries. Climate change also has a differentiated impact, hitting Caribbean countries the hardest.

The vision for the IADB Group in the coming years that I presented is based on identifying these challenges, in which the Bank can play a decisive role in overcoming them. This vision includes different axes that can contribute to put forward an agenda for the economic and social development of the region. To fulfill this agenda, it is important to highlight one of the IADB Group's most precious assets: its staff. Their professionalism, their recognized presence in the territory, their practical experience (related to initiatives and projects that worked, as well as those that did not produce the desired effect), are essential to consolidate the Bank as a functional institution for development. Through dialogue and the experience the IADB Group already has, this agenda can enable the region to: i) circumvent global political tensions and set an example of dialogue and consensus; ii) identify and finance key infrastructure to improve productivity (including digitization); iii) function as a catalyst for private investment; iv) collaborate in doing away regarding the distortion in the way caregiving tasks are assigned at present, by incorporating the care infrastructure as another strategic axis of economic and social development; and v) set an example of integrity, transparency and efficiency.

Given the heterogeneity that characterizes the region, the IADB Group must be flexible and willing to adapt its programs and initiatives to the different realities and challenges faced by the Latin America and Caribbean countries. But beyond this diversity, there is a common objective: the generation of decent work. To generate more decent work, the region's production systems must be strengthened by adding value to natural resources, increasing investment in innovation, improving

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DISCUSSION OF A NEW SOCIAL
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social and productive transformation. It can become a strategic factor in shaping the regional value chain in the Americas. The IADB can work to help the region emerge from this crisis as a new “region of care”: care for the environment and care for people. I would be honored to work on this transformation. ■

infrastructure, and promoting the adoption and generation of new technologies, especially those aimed at reducing the impact of productive activities on the environment.

Likewise, the IADB Group can play a key role in the generation of a caregiving infrastructure and, at the same time, contributing to the discussion about a new social organization of care. That was one of the proposals we presented as a platform for this candidacy. The region’s women spend between 22 and 42 hours a week performing caregiving tasks (three times more than men). These tasks include caring for children and adolescents, people with disabilities and the elderly. We all need to be cared for at different times in our lives, with varying intensities. The burden of care tasks falls, mostly and disproportionately, on women. This bias determines the partial or subordinate way in which women enter the labor market. Generating a care infrastructure would have a double effect: of reducing the gender inequality in the region —facilitating the participation of women in the labor market— and generating new jobs linked to caregiving tasks that are not focused only on women. To achieve this objective, it is not only imperative to invest in the care infrastructure, but also to modify the way in which families and societies have distributed care tasks up to now.

The IADB can be one of the instruments for the region’s

THE G20 SUMMIT HAS ENDED IN BALI, INDONESIA

The G20 leaders met in Bali, Indonesia, at the annual Heads of State and Government meeting in what is, by design and ambition, the premier forum for global economic governance.

This time the traditional family photo was not taken, which illustrates the geopolitical tension that characterizes our time. It also hinders the governance process that is vital in a situation that can be described without exaggeration, as critical for humanity, due to the current and potential consequences of a war that has already become a humanitarian catastrophe and has not only brought death and destruction upon Ukraine, but also poverty and food insecurity worldwide.

The Argentine delegation was headed by President Alberto Fernández who, due to a gastric condition was replaced by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Santiago Cafiero, in the G-20 Plenary Sessions. Fortunately, the President is already recovering after suffering from a gastritis that also deprived him of the opportunity to participate in a panel on the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment, together with President Joko Widodo and President Joe Biden, among other leaders who attended the G20 Summit.

In his speech at the Plenary Session, the Argentine Minister of Foreign Affairs reiterated a call for peace, adding “we must join efforts so that the parties involved in the conflict

President Alberto Fernandez with President of the Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo at the G20 Summit in Bali. Photo Credit: @CasaRosada.



THE G20 BRINGS TOGETHER
THE CAPACITY AND POLITICAL
POWER TO PROMOTE THE
DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TOOLS
TO LAY THE FOUNDATIONS FOR
A NEW GLOBAL SOLIDARITY.

return to the negotiating table.”

Minister Cafiero also pointed out that, until now, the war had cost Argentina \$5 billion due only to higher prices of imports.

Foreign Minister Cafiero also recalled the impact of the pandemic in Latin America in particular, as it was one of the regions hardest hit in terms of lives lost due to COVID-19, and also expressed his solidarity with the families of the victims.

Cafiero called for a change in the financial paradigm that enables countries to meet the challenges posed by the global agenda. In this regard, he stressed that the G20 brings together the capacity and political power to promote the development of new instruments “to lay the foundations of a new global solidarity.”

The text of the final declaration included, among other issues, the commitment to prevent hunger by using all available tools to address the global food crisis. It also added support for open, transparent, inclusive, predictable, and non-discriminatory, rules-based agricultural trade. In particular, it points out the need to update multilateral agricultural trade rules, facilitate trade in agricultural goods, and reduce their distortions.

Likewise, the text confirms the commitment of the leaders to “take further coordinated actions to address food security challenges including price surges and shortage of food commodities and fertilizers globally”, as well as the need to update global agricultural food trade rules and the importance of facilitating trade.

In addition, the statement emphasizes the importance of the WTO multilateral Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and encouraged its rapid entry into force.

In the spirit of promoting greater social inclusion, the statement acknowledged that affordable and high-quality digital connectivity is essential for digital inclusion and digital transformation and encourages the promotion of digital skills and literacy to harness the positive impacts of the digital economy, especially for women, girls, and people in vulnerable situations. ■

Minister Santiago Cafiero. Photo Credit: @CasaRosada Twitter.





Queer Tango at the Embassy of Argentina in the U. S.

QUEER TANGO: A NEW WAY TO ACCESS TANGO FOR THE LGBTIQ+ COMMUNITY

Despite what many people may believe, tango isn't only for men in dark suits leading women in slinky dresses. That iconic image reflects a strongly gendered tradition, of course, but it isn't the full picture of tango's history and it's certainly not a full picture of tango's present.

Twenty years after the first queer tango festival (2001 in Hamburg, Germany), queer tango has become a tiny but mighty global movement. Not only has it engendered queer tango communities in cosmopolitan cities around the world (including DC), but it has also made mainstream tango more welcoming to dancers outside the man-lead/woman-follow binary.

This week, the Embassy joined in and hosted after a

successful launch in 2021 and for a second time with GLIFAA, a State Department and USAID employee organization that advances diversity and workplace equity in U.S. foreign affairs agencies and promotes human rights for LGBTQIA+ people around the world, a Queer Tango Pop Up class with tango instructors Aja Fenn and Masha Abapolnikova from the Fábrica Tango Academy. Among the participants, we counted with Jessica Stern, U.S. Special Envoy to Advance the Human Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI+) Persons, as well as officials from the Global Equality Fund, as a testimony of the strong coincidences between Argentina and the U.S. on this agenda.

"Queer Tango" is to dance Argentine tango free from

THIS QUEER TANGO IS A NEW
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WITH THE PROMOTION OF
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the importance attached to the promotion of its culture and follows also a 4 classes series organized for the first time for last Pride Month with Dupont Underground and with the support of the LGBTQ publication, Blade. The classes, which were held at the Dupont Underground headquarters were framed by the visual art exhibition "The Inner Gender. The Art of Identity". ■

traditional gender norms and binaries, and often to exchange the leading and following roles. It permits not only an access to tango for the LGBTQIA+ community, but also supports female leaders and male followers, regardless of sexual orientation.

Instructors Masha and Aja have been members of the global tango community as teachers, performers and event organizers for over 20 years. They have run popular milongas, brought high quality instructors to DC, worked with musicians, trained new teachers, appeared in documentaries and theater productions, and taught hundreds of people how to dance tango. Their Fabrica Tango Academy is one of the most renowned Argentine tango schools in DC and during their class, participants regardless of their ability level, gender, or any other type of orientation had the chance to learn the basics of tango movement and technique and safely explore this art form in all its beauty, without preconceptions about gender based roles.

This Queer Tango is a new proof of the ongoing commitment of Argentina with the promotion of LGBTQIA+ rights and