

Labor Rights

MINISTER
KELLY OLMOS
PARTICIPATED IN
THE LAUNCH OF
THE M-POWER
INITIATIVE
TOGETHER WITH
SECRETARY MARTY
WALSH

Cooperation

ARGENTINA AND
THE UNITED
STATES AGREE TO
AUTOMATICALLY
SHARE TAX DATA

G20

FIRST G20 SHERPAS
MEETING IN
UDAIPUR, INDIA

EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

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(From Left to Right) Thea Lee, Seamus O'Reagan, Kelly Olmos and Marty Walsh.

MINISTER KELLY OLMOS PARTICIPATED IN THE LAUNCH OF THE M-POWER INITIATIVE TOGETHER WITH SECRETARY MARTY WALSH

During her visit to Washington DC, Labor Minister Kelly Olmos participated as a speaker at the launch of M-POWER, together with the US Secretary of Labor, Marty Walsh, and his counterpart from Canada, Seamus O'Regan.

The Multilateral Partnership for Organizing, Worker Empowerment and Rights Initiative (M-POWER) is a global alliance that brings together governments, unions,

scholars in the labor sector, civil society organizations and philanthropic organizations committed to working collaboratively to defend and promote the empowerment and rights of workers.

M-POWER strengthens workplace democracy around the world by supporting workers' rights and empowerment through programs and policy interventions that improve



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article on the participation of the Minister of Labor Kelly Olmos in the launch of the M-POWER initiative along with the US Secretary of Labor, Marty Walsh, and his counterpart from Canada, Seamus O'Regan.

In this edition we also include an article about the tax information exchange agreement signed by Minister of Economy, Sergio Massa, together with the US Ambassador in Argentina, Marc Stanley.

Finally, an article on the first G20 Sherpas meeting to launch the Indian Presidency with the theme "One Earth, One Family, One Future".

Jorge Argüello
Ambassador to the United States

LABOR RIGHTS, FREEDOM
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a supporting environment for worker expression, association and participation; expand opportunities for workers to participate in social dialogue and political debates; and defend and promote the fundamental rights of workers, as defined in the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work of the International Labor Organization.

President Biden's administration and the Argentine government share a common vision of the centrality of labor rights. In this regard, on the occasion of the event, Minister Olmos stated: "Labor rights, freedom of association and collective bargaining are the backbone of our conception of democracy and sustainable development". She added: "We believe in the assertion that our middle classes are the product of unionization".

Regarding possible lines of joint work within the framework of M-POWER, Minister Olmos pointed out "the importance of preventing competition for the location of investments, particularly in Latin America, from being encouraged by weakening labor rights".

The M-POWER Alliance is an international space for cooperation that hopes to meet its objectives through the exchange of information, research, and coordinating actions between its members.

In this regard, M-POWER will have members of diverse

categories, starting with the founding Partners (Argentina as one of them), Active Participants (enabled to voice opinions and vote), Observers (the ILO will mainly fulfill this role), and an External Advisory Council to be defined after the activities begin.

A Steering Committee will be in charge of the governance of the Alliance, and Argentina will be part of this committee as a founding partner.

The Minister also held a bilateral working meeting with her counterpart from the United States, Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh. Both officials addressed the importance and scope of the M-POWER initiative, analyzed bilateral cooperation on labor and union issues, as well as the problem of gender violence and the fight against climate change. Likewise, they discussed the upcoming annual

Thea Lee and Ambassador Jorge Argüello.



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bilateral dialogue that both countries will hold in Buenos Aires in the coming months.

Olmos also held a bilateral meeting with her peer from Canada, Seamus O'Regan, to address strategic issues in the labor portfolios of both countries.

At the U.S. Department of State, the Minister met with Under Secretary Uzra Zeya to discuss Argentina's potential contribution to the M-POWER program. Olmos and Zeya also reviewed the main challenges in the area of democracy, recognizing that the strengthening of workers' rights is a condition for strengthening democracy

During her visit to the Council of The Americas, the Minister was received by Susan Segal, head of the organization, along with other council representatives. Olmos and Segal reviewed the main programs carried out by the Minister in Argentina and highlighted the role of unions in the development of a balanced and inclusive productive structure in our country.

Likewise, the Minister and the Argentine Ambassador to the United States, Jorge Argüello, held a working meeting with the Deputy Undersecretary for International Affairs at the Department of Labor, Thea Lee, who chairs the Bureau of International Labor Affairs. ■

ARGENTINA AND THE UNITED STATES AGREE TO AUTOMATICALLY SHARE TAX DATA

On Monday, December 5, the Minister of Economy, Sergio Massa, together with the United States Ambassador, Marc Stanley, signed a tax information exchange agreement in Buenos Aires that will provide tax authorities of both countries access to information that will be key to detect and deter evasion techniques by its residents to the detriment of the Treasury.

This deepening of bilateral cooperation is no accident, but rather is the result of efforts undertaken by Minister Massa since his first visit to Washington at the beginning of September this year, with the collaboration and receptivity of US government authorities, in particular the Department of the Treasury, with the support of both embassies.

As one more milestone in the international tax cooperation

agenda between the two countries, it shows that both governments are in sync regarding this agenda, be it at the OECD Global Forum, the G20, and other specialized forums. Given the difficult circumstances faced by the world economy, affected by the pandemic and the impact of the war, even more than at any other time, all taxpayers are required to pay their fair share in taxes.

“By signing an agreement for the automatic exchange of tax information, together with Marc Stanley, the United States ambassador, we took a major step in tax matters that will allow us to know the status of the accounts that Argentine citizens have in that country”, said Minister Massa.

“Accessing this information is an act of tax justice, because

Minister of Economy Sergio Massa (Left) and U.S. Ambassador in Argentina, Marc Stanley (Right).



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by detecting tax evaders we will be able to reduce the tax burden on all those who fulfill their obligations every day," said the Economy Minister.

Likewise, Minister Massa stated that "from the very first day, we said that to ensure a proper functioning of the State, fiscal order is a guiding principle of our economic policy, but this is impossible to achieve if those who benefit from activities in our country do not pay their due".

As a complement to this agreement, the Government will send to Congress a bill that "promotes externalization and punishes those who engage in money laundering with the full extent of the law" said Minister Massa during the presentation of the agreement at the Kirchner Cultural Center. ■



Ambassadors Jorge Argüello, G20 Sherpa (Ctr.) and Eduardo Tempone, Sous Sherpa (Right), at the first meeting of the G20 Indian Presidency.

FIRST G20 SHERPAS MEETING IN UDAIPUR, INDIA

In Udaipur, a city in the state of Rajasthan in western India, surrounded by the Aravalli mountains and known as “the city of lakes”, the G20 Sherpas met from December 4 to 7 to launch the Indian Presidency with the theme “One Earth, One Family, One Future”.

A few days after the G-20 summit held in Bali, which marked the end of Indonesia’s presidency, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the G20 had a great opportunity to position global public good and sustainable development at the center of the international agenda.

This statement summarizes the general objective of working for a multipolar world, turning the G20 in a catalyst for global change, and reinvigorating South-South

cooperation, with an “inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented, and decisive” approach.

In this context, in his opening remarks at the meeting, India’s Sherpa, Amitabh Kant, explained that the presidency will be guided by the vision of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”, a Sanskrit expression found in ancient Hindu texts and engraved on the entrance hall of the Hindu Parliament, whose philosophy means ‘One Earth, One Family, One Future’.

India’s priorities will be for the G20 to contribute to the progress of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and achieve a “Green Development Deal”, as a contribution to promote sustainable and green global development.

INDIAN PRIME MINISTER
NARENDRA MODI SAID THE G20
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This includes five pillars:

LiFE – a “lifestyle for the environment”: this approach brings together the development and climate agenda, with the goal of resolving and alleviating growth imbalances through collaborative actions, with a special focus on individual actions and behaviors.

The circular economy: promote a change towards the circular economy, giving incentives to supply chains to reuse products that limit the extraction of new resources. Circularity rejuvenates value through the 4Rs framework by fostering discussions around the collaborative economy sectors, examining innovative business models, and fostering consumer awareness and individual behavior changes.

Financing for the climate agenda: efforts should be made to increase new forms of financing for the SDGs, including better leveraging and expanding lending from multilateral development banks and public development banks to achieve the 2030 Agenda, structurally strengthening liquidity support for vulnerable countries through a greater use of SDRs and aligning financial flows

with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

Accelerate progress towards the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): to expedite their achievement in the coming years, short-term crisis response efforts should be tied to medium-term systemic transformative actions. Given its enormous untapped potential and strong multiplier effects, digital transformations and fair green transitions, coupled with a cross-cutting approach to continue empowering women and girls, show great promise to build the much-needed foundation that can place SDGs on a path towards progress.

Transition and energy security: the alignment of the climate and development agenda is essential to advance a sustainable development. This is particularly true for developing countries, which are furthest behind in achieving the SDGs and suffer from critical energy security challenges as well as climate and environmental vulnerabilities.

The priorities identified in each pillar will be discussed in the various Working Groups, in more than 200 meetings, in 50 cities in which government officials and civil society representatives will participate, culminating in the Leaders' Summit to be held in New Delhi in September 2023.

India takes over the G-20 at a time when the world is simultaneously grappling with geopolitical tensions, an economic slowdown, rising food and energy prices, and the negative long-term effects of the pandemic. At this time, the world looks to the G-20 with hope. Argentina is ready to contribute with India in responding to this challenge. ■