

*Bilateral Relations*

MEETING  
WITH UNDER  
SECRETARY JOSÉ W.  
FERNÁNDEZ OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
STATE

---

*Subnational Diplomacy*

STRENGTHENING  
FOREIGN POLICY  
THROUGH  
SUBNATIONAL  
DIPLOMACY AT THE  
MERIDIAN HOUSE

---

*Remembrance*

FIVE YEARS AFTER  
THE TERRORIST  
ATTACK IN NEW  
YORK CITY,  
SURVIVORS AND  
FAMILY PAY  
TRIBUTE

---

EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

# ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

---

JANUARY 2023 // NEWSLETTER 130



Ambassador Jorge Argüello (left) and Under Secretary José Fernández

## MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY JOSÉ W. FERNÁNDEZ OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

At the Argentine Embassy in Washington DC, Ambassador Jorge Argüello held a working meeting with José W. Fernández, the State Department's Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment.

During their conversation, both officials reviewed the bilateral relations in the economic and investment fields within the framework of the celebration this year of the bicentennial of diplomatic relations between the two

countries.

Together with their teams, Fernández and Argüello analyzed investment opportunities in critical mining and referred to the importance of the evolution of the "Minerals Security Partnership" initiative.

"The United States is the main foreign investor in Argentina and is our third trade partner. Our country has



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article about the meeting with José W. Fernández, the State Department's Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment, in which we reviewed the state of bilateral economic and investment relations.

In this edition we also include an article on the panel titled "Strengthening Foreign Policy Through Subnational Diplomacy" organized by the Meridian Center and the Brookings Center, moderated by Senior Fellow at the Center for Sustainable Development at Brookings, Tony Pipa.

Finally, an article on the tribute to the victims of the October 31, 2017 terrorist attack in New York, in which the Argentine Consulate participated along with a group of survivors, family members and witnesses of the event.

Jorge Argüello  
Ambassador to the United States

OUR COUNTRY HAS THE  
POTENTIAL TO INCREASE  
INVESTMENTS AND ATTRACT  
NEW CAPITAL FLOWS IN  
THE FIELDS OF MINING AND  
RENEWABLE ENERGY, AMONG  
OTHER STRATEGIC SECTORS.

the potential to increase investments and attract new capital flows in the fields of mining and renewable energy, among other strategic sectors. It should be noted, for example, that we are the top supplier of lithium to the United States," stated Argüello.

The head of the diplomatic mission highlighted the importance of Argentine lithium as an essential component of batteries for the ambitious electromobility programs undertaken by the automotive industry.

In this regard, Ambassador Argüello mentioned the possible impact that the US Inflation Reduction Act could have on bilateral trade, as it grants tax credits for the purchase of electric vehicles conditioned on the North American content of critical minerals and other battery components.

Argüello also referred to the Bicentennial: "We wish to program activities and provide content on the 200 years of diplomatic relations to promote more bilateral trade, more investments and deepen our ties in many ways, through specific actions in Washington DC and in all US jurisdictions where Argentina has consulates." ■

## STRENGTHENING FOREIGN POLICY THROUGH SUBNATIONAL DIPLOMACY AT THE MERIDIAN HOUSE

On January 17, Ambassador Argüello was part of a panel organized by the Meridian Center and the Brookings Institution titled “Strengthening Foreign Policy Through Subnational Diplomacy”, held at the Meridian House.

The United States Special Representative for Subnational Diplomacy, Ambassador Nina Hachigian, and Mayor Kate Gallego of Phoenix, Arizona, also participated in this event, which was moderated by Senior Fellow at the Center for Sustainable Development at Brookings, Tony Pipa. It focused on the growing role of countries’ subnational units in international affairs.

Ambassador Argüello spoke about the organization of the Argentine federal system, which is similar to the United

States’ system. The Argentine provinces (equivalent to the states here) retain multiple powers. Each has its own constitution and its own legislative and judicial branches. They also collect different types of taxes, so they manage their own resources.

A key issue in the latest constitutional reform refers to the control over the exploitation of subsoil resources, which belongs to the provinces. For example, regarding exploitation, in Vaca Muerta —one of the largest unconventional oil and gas reserves in the world— Neuquén Province plays a key role, while in the case of lithium in northwestern Argentina —among the largest global reserves— the provinces of Salta, Jujuy and Catamarca play a pivotal role. Thus, the provinces

(Left to Right) Moderator Tony Pipa, Ambassador Nina Hachigian, Mayor Kate Gallego and Ambassador Jorge Argüello.



THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY'S PROGRAM KNOWN AS "FEDERAL AGENDA", FOSTERS A DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE PROVINCES TO ESTABLISH A CONCRETE WORK PROGRAM BASED ON THEIR SPECIFIC NEEDS.

---

maintain an active presence and an ongoing dialogue with international stakeholders, including representatives of multinational companies.

On the other hand, the Ambassador highlighted the Argentine Embassy's program known as "Federal Agenda", which fosters a direct contact with the provinces to establish a concrete work program based on their specific needs. The first phase, at the beginning of the pandemic, was carried out virtually. In the second stage, the Ambassador visited the Governors in person. At present, visits by Argentine Governors to the United States are being organized, similar to the one made by the 10 Governors of the Norte Grande last October.

The three panel participants agreed on the importance of continuing to strengthen the international activities of cities and provinces, which are primarily responsible for the implementation of far-reaching national commitments to the daily reality of our countries' residents. ■



Tribute to the victims of the October 31, 2017 terrorist attack in New York.

## FIVE YEARS AFTER THE TERRORIST ATTACK IN NEW YORK CITY, SURVIVORS AND FAMILY PAY TRIBUTE

October 31st marked the fifth anniversary of the brutal terrorist attack in New York City. That day, a van drove onto a bike path along the Hudson River and intentionally ran over cyclists and pedestrians, killing eight people and wounding several others. Among the victims were five Argentines, part of a group of 10 friends from the city of Rosario, who were celebrating more than 30 years of friendship.

After more than five years, the trial for this attack began on January 9. The only defendant is Sayfullo Saipov, an Uzbek national.

On January 12, the Argentine Consulate, together with a group of 50 people -including survivors, family members and witnesses to the event- took a walk on the bike lane

sector, and reached the site where the victims were attacked. There is a plaque in honor of the Argentines killed: Diego Enrique Angelini, Ariel Erlij, Hernan Ferruchi, Hernan Diego Mendoza and Alejandro Damián Pagnucco. A tribute was also paid to a Belgian citizen and two US citizens who lost their lives in this rampage.

The commemoration reaffirmed once again that we honor life, and allowed us to let victims and their families know that they remain in our memories and in our hearts.

For the first time, when the trial has just begun, the survivors and widows of the five Argentines killed are together at the scene of the event, accompanied by their relatives. They traveled to be present at the trial, and some of them will give testimony in the process that will last several weeks. It

THE COMMEMORATION  
REAFFIRMED ONCE AGAIN THAT  
WE HONOR LIFE, AND ALLOWED  
US TO LET VICTIMS AND THEIR  
FAMILIES KNOW THAT THEY  
REMAIN IN OUR MEMORIES AND  
IN OUR HEARTS.

difficult time, and now, when they are searching for justice, love and solidarity will always overcome hatred.

Argentina has constantly ratified its total commitment to the fight against terrorism in all its forms, its absolute repudiation of any type of hate crimes, and support for victims in their search for memory and justice. ■

will be very moving for the entire group, as well as for the Argentine society as a whole.

After the tribute, the group walked towards the Consulate, which served as a meeting place on the day of the tragic attack and in the aftermath, and where a painting by Ana Pérez Grassano from Rosario, which was exhibited last November to honor the memory of her friends five years after the attack, was again on view.

Meeting at the scene of the event and once again expressing our commitment is not an empty ritual. It has strong meaning. It is a symbol of our unwavering determination. We tell the world that those who want to spread terror will never succeed because we will not allow this brutal attack to fade into oblivion. We must never naturalize horror.

Immediately after the rampage, the Argentine Consulate in New York gave its full support to the widows and survivors of the tragedy. The world was moved by their stories; it revealed the importance of friendship as a fundamental value of our culture, demonstrating that even at that