

Technology & Democracy

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ARGÜELLO
PARTICIPATED IN A
PANEL MODERATED
BY SECRETARY
BLINKEN

Labor

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Bilateral Relations

STRENGTHENING
ECONOMIC
RELATIONS
AMID THE CLEAN
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TRANSITION



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ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

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(From left to right) Antony Blinken, Funke Opeke, Nighat Dad and Jorge Argüello.

AMBASSADOR ARGÜELLO PARTICIPATED IN A PANEL MODERATED BY SECRETARY BLINKEN

On March 30, Ambassador Jorge Argüello participated in a panel session on “Advancing Democracy and Internet Freedom in a Digital Age”, moderated by Secretary of State Antony Blinken, as part of the regional event, the second Summit for Democracy, organized by the United States.

This event took place at the Washington Convention Center, drew an audience of 600 people, and focused on

the links between technology and democracy. It consisted of three sessions, with the participation of important members of the United States government, such as the USAID Administrator, Samantha Power; the Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas; the Director of National Intelligence, Avril Haines, and the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology, Arati Prabhakar, among others.



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article about the panel on democracy and internet freedom in the digital age, moderated by Secretary of State Antony Blinken, during the II Democracy Summit.

In this edition we also include an article on the debate about the role of trade union movements as essential components of democratic societies, with the participation of the Minister of Labor, Employment and Social Security, Kelly Olmos.

Finally, an article on the meeting with Mike Pyle, U.S. G20 Sherpa, and his team of collaborators, in which we addressed issues of common interest to both countries.

Jorge Argüello
Ambassador to the United States

THE RIGHTS OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH, AS WELL AS THOSE OF ASSOCIATION AND PRIVACY, ARE PROTECTED AND GUARANTEED BOTH IN THE VIRTUAL AND REAL WORLD BY THE CURRENT LEGISLATION IN OUR COUNTRY.

This event also included remarks by New Jersey Democratic Senator Robert Menéndez and Connecticut Democratic Representative Jim Himes, as well as members of the European Commission, the private sector, civil society and academics.

The opening remarks were delivered by Secretary Blinken, after which Ambassador Argüello, and the other members of the panel, Nighat Dad, Executive Director of Digital Rights Foundation, and Funke Opeke, CEO and Founder of Main One, made a presentation focused on the main theme of the session.

The Argentine Ambassador to the United States stressed that the exercise of the rights of freedom of expression and association and the right to privacy is protected and guaranteed in the virtual and real world by the three branches of government. He also underlined Argentina's active role in the international arena, by adhering to the Information and Democracy Forum, the Declaration for the Future of the Internet, and the Freedom Online Coalition, among others.

In his speech, he also reaffirmed our country's deep commitment to the development of information and communication technologies as fundamental tools for the empowerment of our peoples, with free access, without exclusion, which allows a true strengthening of societies, helping education, culture and access to information, as

well as an enhanced economic development.

After the individual presentations, Secretary Blinken moderated a dialogue between panelists and proposed a series of questions related to various aspects of the topic discussed, after which the session was opened for audience members to ask their questions.

The closing remarks of this session were delivered by the Administrator of the Agency for International Development (USAID), Samantha Power, and the event continued with the two remaining sessions. ■

THE SUMMIT FOR DEMOCRACY AND ARGENTINA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE DEBATE ON WORK DEMOCRACY

On Tuesday, March 28, in the framework of the Second Summit for Democracy convened by President Joe Biden, the United States Department of Labor hosted a meeting to showcase the role played by trade union movements as promoters of democracy and essential components of democratic societies. The Minister of Labor, Employment and Social Security, Kelly Olmos, was invited to participate in this meeting via video in which she made reference to this.

The opening speech was delivered by the Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights at the State Department, Uzra Zeya, who emphasized the efforts undertaken by the US government to strengthen labor unions and safeguard democracy. It achieves this goal by

meeting with labor unions to hear directly from workers, as well as defending their members from discrimination, building labor union capacity and working with like-minded partners to build coalitions.

The Labor Department's Deputy Undersecretary for International Labor Affairs, Thea Lee, moderated a debate on "No Democracy Without Unions: Labor Movements as Defenders of Democratic Rights." Participating in the panel focused on labor unions as essential components of democratic societies were the executive director of the Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity, Kalpona Akter; Department of State Special Representative for International Labor Affairs, Kelly Fay Rodríguez; the president of the National Education Association,

(From left to right) Thea Lee, Becky Pringle, Kapona Akter, Kelly Fay Rodríguez, Kelly Olmos on video.



DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNIONS
OFFER A COLLECTIVE VOICE
TO WORKERS THAT STAND UP
AGAINST DISENFRANCHISEMENT,
RACISM, SEXISM AND
XENOPHOBIA.

Becky Pringle; and the President of the Trade Union Confederation of Workers of the Americas and Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO, Fred Redmond.

In her remarks, Lee noted that “Just as they’ve done for over a century, democratic labor movements today offer collective voice to workers standing up against disenfranchisement, racism, sexism, and xenophobia and advocating for their seat at the table.”

The event concluded with two videos. The first was in charge of Minister Olmos, who said she appreciated the opportunity to participate in this event, adding that Argentina emphatically supports the Summit for Democracy and the MPOWER initiative, together with the United States, Canada, Germany, Spain and South Africa. She also highlighted the importance of the full enforcement of labor rights, which requires strengthening democratic values.

Minister Olmos also emphasized that social aspirations must be included in a framework of respect for institutionalized social dialogue, and is an essential step to consolidate an inclusive democratic path forward. Finally, she remarked that she was very pleased to be able to participate in the debate this year in which our country celebrates 40 years of continuous institutional democracy.

The second video featured the Director General of the International Labor Organization (ILO), Gilbert F. Hougbo,

who highlighted that in its 100 years of existence, the ILO has witnessed the challenge posed by trade unions, which are essential to guarantee peace and democracy. He also stressed that freedom of association is intrinsic to democracy and that the ILO will always support the necessary measures to build strong organizations and preserve freedom of expression and association. ■



Ambassador Jorge Argüello and Mike Pyle, U.S. G20 Sherpa.

STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC RELATIONS AMID THE CLEAN ECONOMY TRANSITION

As an outcome of last week's bilateral between Presidents Joe Biden and Alberto Fernández, this meeting allowed following up on the conversation between both leaders, a conversation that was considered very positive.

Mike Pyle and Ambassador Jorge Argüello, in their roles as G20 Sherpas, agreed on the importance of the G20 agenda for the developing world and the need to focus on pressing issues such as food security, energy security, and climate change. Ambassador Argüello highlighted the leadership of Argentina and the significant role the G20 has played in the economic agenda of cooperation for development.

Pyle was accompanied by Daniel Hornung, Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy; Nicholas

Klinger, Director for Global Engagement and Multilateral Diplomacy; Gladys Cisneros, Director and Special Advisor for International Economics; and Sean Coari, Policy Advisor to DNSA. Ambassador Argüello addressed the current challenges faced by the Argentine economy, and the special negative effects that impact it due to the drought.

The Ambassador pointed out that there are still many ways in which Argentina and the U.S. economies can cooperate bilaterally, as an example of this would be cooperation and investments in critical minerals and oil and gas. In the area of critical minerals, according to the projections of the international Energy Agency (IEA) by 2040, the global demand for minerals and metals for clean energy technologies would double; Argentina could become a key actor for reducing the gap between current

THE TWO SHERPAS AGREED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE G20 AGENDA FOR THE DEVELOPING WORLD AND THE NEED TO FOCUS ON PRESSING ISSUES SUCH AS FOOD SECURITY, ENERGY SECURITY, AND CLIMATE CHANGE.

production and future demand for critical minerals in the energy transition.

Argentina currently has 18 mining projects in production: 12 gold, three silver, two lithium and one coal. This allowed that, in 2022, Argentine mining exports had the best result since 2012 reaching USD 3,857 million.

Regarding lithium, Argentina, the fourth largest producer worldwide after Australia, Chile and China; and the second in resources (concentration of a material of economic interest), only surpassed by Bolivia. While, in terms of reserves (which are the resources with economic viability of exploitation), it is positioned as the third country, below Chile and Australia. The potential for investments and complementarities among both economies for the clean economy in the upcoming years is setting the stage for more bilateral collaboration.

Argentina is currently positioned in the market with an installed production capacity of 37.5 thousand tons of lithium carbonate and an average annual production of 33

thousand tons. The productive potential and the growing demand presented by the projects in operation are reflected in the increase in sales abroad. In 2022, lithium exports reached USD 696 million, which implied a growth of 234% year-on-year (in 2021 they were USD 208 million) and representing 18% of total mining exports. Between 2020 and the present, investment announcements have been made for USD 11,318 million. Of which: USD 4,853 million correspond to copper operations, USD 5,141 million to lithium; USD 1,293 million gold; USD 30 millions of silver, while the remaining sum corresponds to potassium plants and other minerals. In the short term, it is expected that six lithium projects, which to date are under construction, will come into production in the provinces of Jujuy, Salta and Catamarca

The diversification of the supply chain for greater economic resilience, after the lessons learned from the Covid19 pandemic, and the economic value proposition of the countries were also part of the conversation and addressed as part of the response to the key challenges the developing world faces today related to food security and energy security.

The meeting, served for setting up the stage for the continuation of technical work in various aspects of the bilateral economic trade agenda and setting our sights on the clean economy transition and complementarities among both partners. ■