

G-20

PRESIDENT  
ALBERTO  
FERNÁNDEZ AT THE  
RIYADH LEADERS'  
SUMMIT

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EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

# ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

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G20 Leader's Summit, November 21-22, 2020

## PRESIDENT ALBERTO FERNÁNDEZ AT THE RIYADH LEADERS' SUMMIT

Address by Alberto Fernández on November 22, participating by videoconference at the second plenary session of the G20 Leaders' Summit, which focused on "Building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future":

"Your Majesty, distinguished colleagues. As I previously told you, I am convinced that we may be facing a true change of era. To the global challenges we already faced, such as climate

change, the asymmetries between central and peripheral countries, and the social inequality suffered by Latin America and other continents, today we must add the health, economic and social effects of the pandemic. The current situation invites us to reflect on a strategy to harness the crisis in such a way that we will not be left behind, in a place of too much imbalance and discord.



Once again, in this day saddened by the passing of Diego Maradona, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes the speech by President Alberto Fernández at the second plenary session of the G20 Leaders' Summit on November 22.

This edition also includes an article about XVIII Meeting of the Argentina-United States Bilateral Working Group on Defense.

Finally, an article on the bilateral relationship between the United States and Argentina in the field of knowledge-based services.

Jorge Argüello  
Ambassador to the United States

“HOW WE ACT TODAY WILL  
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How we act today will determine the post-COVID-19 world. The way out requires promoting economic, industrial, and social policies aimed at a structural change in our economies, which at present only enables income to be concentrated in very few, while poverty is spread among millions. It demands a profound transformation that guarantees a balance between economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

The pandemic has caused the loss of more than a million human lives and its consequences are still difficult to measure. As we committed to do in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, eradicating poverty must be a key objective that engages us. Today, we must renew our determination to respond to the global challenge that the present is imposing on us.

COVID-19 aggravated the global food crisis. We need to make a commitment to mitigate that situation. Our policies aim to increase the agricultural productive potential in all regions of the country. An open and transparent agricultural trade is essential to end hunger, by meeting the needs of the most disadvantaged. However, it is not just about securing food to simulate a 'decent livelihood'. It is imperative that everyone has access to property without leaving anyone behind.

This implies access to health, access to employment and, especially, access to education. Public education is the basis for building a democratic society, with social justice and respect for human rights.

The pandemic highlighted that connectivity and digital inclusion are basic rights that we must guarantee for everyone. Considerable gaps still remain in having an effective access to the digital world. Therefore, we designed a connectivity plan, distributed equipment, and provided teacher training in the use of digital tools. We are committed to give access to inclusive, equitable and quality education to all, and in particular and fundamentally to girls and vulnerable groups.


The pandemic calls on us to accelerate the process of digital financial inclusion, granting equal and universal access, as well as adopting the necessary measures to ensure that no one is left behind. To sustain the recovery, we must increase quality investment in infrastructure in order to increase productivity, create jobs and achieve a strong growth. Technology can increase efficiency in many sectors of the economy, but we must be aware of the social costs it entails, in both the short and long term.

The gender gap must be reduced, not only as regards education or access to technology, but also in the labor and productive market. In Latin America, the end of patriarchy has begun. Patriarchy has begun to be called into question. Women's empowerment is a moral and ethical imperative that, in addition to legitimately expanding rights, helps in the fight against poverty, food insecurity, and promotes a faster development of our societies.

The pandemic imposed enormous challenges on us in all areas: also, on the energy sector. It generated a very negative impact on production, investment, and employment. Strengthening international energy cooperation is essential to increase innovation. Our country is committed to a just transition agenda towards an integral and sustainable development.

This crisis also urges us to address the sustainability of our environmental future. We must enhance our joint efforts for the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems and associated goods and services. A commitment to the environmental agenda also requires a significant provision of financial resources, capacity building and technology transfer, in light of the Principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities. A collective commitment is also necessary to achieve the prompt and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement. No one is saved alone, on a planet that catches fire, is flooded, or poisoned.

We invite you to redouble your efforts to support actions in the area of adaptation and disaster risk reduction, in particular for the most vulnerable communities. Promote consistency between mitigation actions, adaptation measures and environmental protection, in light of climate science. Our commitment is to ensure a fair and inclusive transition towards a sustainable development. Thank you".





## ARGENTINA'S PRIORITIES FOR BILATERAL DEFENSE COOPERATION

On Friday, November 20, the XVIII Meeting of the Argentina-United States Bilateral Working Group on Defense took place. This group, which meets annually, makes it possible to deal with the most diverse issues on the bilateral cooperation agenda at a high political level.

This year, although the pandemic prevented the meeting from taking place in Argentina as had been planned, and which both delegations were looking forward to, the annual meeting was held virtually to honor a tradition of friendship and cooperation that unites both countries.

Francisco Cafiero, Secretary of International Defense Affairs, chaired the Argentine Delegation,

while John Kreul, Deputy Secretary of Defense for the Western Hemisphere of the Department of Defense, chaired the United States Delegation. In addition to Secretary Francisco Cafiero, the Argentine delegation was also comprised of the Secretary for Research, Industrial Policy and Production for Defense, Daniela Castro; the Secretary for Military Coordination in Emergencies, Inés Barboza; the Undersecretary for Cyber Defense, Oscar Nis; the Undersecretary for International Defense Affairs, Roberto De Luise; the National Director of International Defense Policy, Natalia Tini; the Director of Gender Policies, Laura Masson; and the Operational Commander, Deimundo Escobal.

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Francisco Cafiero, Secretary of International Defense Affairs (center), Roberto De Luise, Undersecretary for International Defense Affairs, and Laura Mazzon, Director of Gender Policies



## ARGENTINA PRESENTED ITS TOPICS OF MAJOR INTEREST, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY, AND CYBER DEFENSE.

On this occasion, as the host country for the virtual meeting, Argentina presented its topics of major interest, with special emphasis on Science and Technology, Women, Peace and Security, and Cyber Defense.

In his introduction, Secretary Cafiero conveyed great appreciation to the United States for its support in the search operations of the ARA San Juan and for the donations of supplies and equipment for the operations that the armed forces carried out, complying with the instructions given by President Alberto Fernández to contain the impact of the pandemic.

The head of the Argentine Delegation highlighted the importance of strengthening cooperation in science and technology, as well as the priority given to the gender issue as a State policy in Argentina, noting that a few days before the meeting, the Minister of Defense, Agustín Rossi, had presented the diploma to the first female fighter pilot in the history of the Argentine Air Force. Cafiero also highlighted the commitment and work, following the President's instructions, of the national armed forces in preventing the spread of the virus through the Operation General Belgrano. Likewise, he emphasized the priority for his Ministry and the Government to revitalize the national defense industry and thereby contribute to the creation of jobs.

In turn, Daniela Castro presented the guiding principles of the government plan to generate scientific and technological knowledge, highlighting the importance of national coordination as a framework to strengthen or acquire skills on these issues.

Laura Mazzon, Director of Gender at the Ministry of Defense, described gender policies as State policies, with advances made in the domestic legal system, the creation of the Ministry of Women, and the training programs that are being carried out in all state agencies.

General Deimundo Escobal described the work carried out by the Armed Forces in Operation General Belgrano to combat the pandemic, highlighting the success of the civil protection operation and the commitment of the women and men members of the forces that are providing support to the civilian population.

Both sides also exchanged views to promote cooperation on cyber defense; Oscar Niss highlighted the efforts of the Argentine government to strengthen this agenda in multilateral, regional and bilateral forums.

In closing, Secretary Cafiero highlighted that the meeting was a demonstration of cooperation, collaboration, and a shared interest in strengthening this agenda in the future.



Photo Credit: [en.argencon.org](http://en.argencon.org)

## U.S. COMPANIES CHOOSE ARGENTINA FOR DEVELOPING GLOBAL SERVICES

The United States and Argentina have a close relationship as relates to knowledge-based services. Our country offers great competitive advantages when exporting global services, which is why US investment there for local development and sales abroad is increasing.

Among the many reasons that make Argentina an attractive place for this type of investment, its highly qualified workforce and their great command of English stand out. The capacity of the Argentine university system to train high-quality human resources represents a solid pillar that guarantees the sustainability of this sector's activities in the future. The country also has excellent infrastructure at highly competitive prices within the region and is located in a convenient time zone. These activities also have

government support, which grants tax and pension incentives to companies that establish in the country.

Professional services stand out in all knowledge activities both for their importance in terms of exports (58% of total services exports) and employment (over 65% of the total share of the services sector). For more than a decade, large US corporations have chosen Argentina as a base for the provision of services, through the installation of global centers. Among many cases, the following can be highlighted:

- **IBM** was one of the pioneers in setting up a center in the country in 2005. More than 4,000 professionals work in IT, software, business processes and accounting.



- **Exxonmobil** also opened its Business Support Center in Argentina in 2005. It has more than 1,800 professionals who provide tax, purchasing, human resources and accounting services.
- **Chevron** has more than 650 professionals dedicated to providing IT and accounting services.
- **JP Morgan** hired 1,100 employees in the last two years providing IT, research, credit analysis and processing services. It started its activities in 2014 and its current staff exceeds 2,000.
- **AES**, a multinational company that generates and distributes electricity operates in the country with more than 400 accounting and administration professionals.
- **Baker McKenzie** has more than 200 professionals that provide legal services.
- Other examples are American Express, ESPN (Disney) and Microsoft service centers.

**New projects.** Besides the traditional players in the Argentine market mentioned above, in recent months many important investment projects in this sector were defined or announced by North American companies:

- **Imperva**, a leading database security company which last January launched a new data center in Buenos Aires, investing \$134 million and generating 200 jobs. They decided to do this, because e-commerce market predictions foresee that Argentina will have more than 32 million users who will spend more than \$5 billion in 2023; Internet penetration rate reaches 92.2%, compared to 71.2% in South America, and also, Argentina is the eighth largest country in the world.

THE COUNTRY ALSO HAS  
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- **Netskope**, another specialist in cloud security, also opened a data center in the Argentine capital last April with an investment of \$43 million. This company, based in California, has been serving clients from our country, focusing its services on cybersecurity.
- **Securitize**, attracted by the quality of our country's human resources, these digital assets management platform opened a new R&D center, and hired local developers to reinforce its existing capacities and global coverage.
- **Netflix**, announced it was opening new offices in Buenos Aires, in order to produce local content in the country. Reed Hastings, founder and CEO of the company, emphasized that Argentina is "one of the 10 most important countries" for the company. He said, "we produce wonderful content in Argentina, which is seen all over the world, so (opening offices in Buenos Aires) makes sense."
- **INTEL**, on October 7, this technology and microprocessor company confirmed that it is going to increase its presence in the country, expanding its regional hub to offer services to the Americas. The company also highlighted its performance in the planning, execution, and evaluation of the *Conectar Igualdad* program, through which Intel maintains an alliance with the Argentine State. This initiative will generate more than 100 new jobs.



**A dynamic present, a promising future.** The benefits established in the recent Economy Knowledge Law reinforce the Argentine state's commitment to incentivize investments in this strategic sector. It provides a series of tax benefits for companies, including reductions in labor charges, income tax and VAT for exporters. With these measures, the aim is to achieve a considerable increase in exports, employment, and investments, especially among companies that base service centers in our country, bolstering a trend that has been consolidated in recent years. ■

A blue-tinted background image showing a classical building facade with columns and a flag flying on a pole in the foreground.

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