



Climate Change

DIALOGUE BETWEEN
PRESIDENT
FERNANDEZ AND THE
SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL
ENVOY FOR CLIMATE,
JOHN KERRY

Business & Investment

THE LATIN AMERICAN
FORUM OF THE 39TH
EDITION OF
CERAWEEK

G-20

POLICY ACTIONS FOR
A TRANSFORMATIVE
AND EQUITABLE
RECOVERY

EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

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DIALOGUE BETWEEN PRESIDENT FERNANDEZ AND THE SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY FOR CLIMATE, JOHN KERRY

The prominence given to the issue of climate change on the agenda of Argentina and the U.S. provides a new opportunity in our fruitful and long-lasting bilateral relationship. Therefore, it is essential that we work together at a multilateral level and make this a priority issue in our bilateral relations to ensure the post-pandemic recovery is aligned with climate commitments in order to foster a comprehensive and sustainable development.

President Alberto Fernández and John Kerry, the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate of the United States, were in agreement about this in their first telephone conversation.

Both countries agree that climate change is our greatest existential threat and that the path we take will define the destiny of present and future generations. This is why addressing the issue of climate change in the next decade is a top



On the International Women's Day, I want to specially recognize all those who work daily in favor of gender equality. You can count on Argentina's commitment to achieve a fairer world, with equal rights and opportunities for everyone.

In this edition we include an article on the dialog between President Alberto Fernández and John Kerry, the U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate and another one about the Secretary of Energy, Darío Martínez participation in the Latin American Forum of CERWeek,

Finally, an article on the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors virtual meeting to discuss the priorities for the 2021 Italian Presidency.

Jorge Argüello
Ambassador to the United States

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priority in President Fernández's administration. Likewise, potential ways of working together with other countries are key to win the 10-year race towards 2030 and attain a joint response to the scourge of climate change and avoid potential catastrophic climate tipping points.

The clear-cut direction of our policy on this matter was recognized by Special Envoy Kerry, who highlighted there is a genuine desire and a huge opportunity to work together. He also emphasized Argentina's ambitious plans to capitalize on its huge renewable energy potential, "a reminder that our work represents a historic economic opportunity." Thus, the opportunities for both countries "to work in technology and innovation" and cooperate at a global level to strengthen "financing for employment and technological development" were also mentioned.

The Special Envoy transmitted the invitation made by President Biden to our president to participate in the Leaders' Climate Summit to be convened by the United States government on April 22, on World Earth Day.

President Fernández confirmed his attendance at the event and invited the United States to participate in a regional meeting to be held in the coming months in our country, with the support of Chile, which holds the presidency of COP 25, on "Innovative financing mechanisms for climate

change", thereby promoting a fraternal dialogue to define financial instruments, capacities, and technology transfer for climate action in the region.

President Biden's decision to rejoin the Paris Climate Accord is a milestone with a view to agreeing on an effective global response to climate change. We stand ready to work together to achieve rapid climate mitigation by 2030, and on the path towards net carbon neutrality by 2050, by advancing strong mitigation and adaptation strategies to reduce the vulnerability of our peoples. The close relationship with the United States provide an opportunity to jointly develop these strategies, while prioritizing an inclusive economic recovery, sustainable job creation, improved public health, and the promotion of environmental justice. ■

THE LATIN AMERICAN FORUM OF THE 39TH EDITION OF CERAWEEK

The Secretary of Energy, Darío Martínez, participated on March 3rd. in the Latin American Forum of the 39th edition of CERAWEEK, the energy industry's most prominent gathering in the United States, held every year in Houston. However, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, this year it took place virtually between March 1-5.

In his presentation, Martínez thanked the organizers for the invitation and pointed out that "one of the central issues to be addressed in this forum is related to public policies for energy transition in Latin America."

"As to the path we take towards a just energy transition, we believe that it is important that the policy in this area is aligned with our economic policy objectives. he added. "In this regard, from the beginning of his mandate, the Government of

President Alberto Fernández has been working on the formulation and implementation of a series of economic policy objectives to create a productive structure that is inclusive, dynamic, stable, federal and sovereign."

Referring to the energy transition, Martínez indicated that "in the Argentine Republic we have long supported the idea that natural gas is a key component in the use of cleaner fossil fuels, both for power generation and final energy consumption."

"Our country has charted a course in which other more polluting fossil fuels that produce emissions per megawatt-hour generated, will be gradually replaced in the medium term. Indeed, compared to coal, oil and other liquid fuels, natural gas improves air quality, and produces fewer greenhouse gas emissions, especially of carbon dioxide," he added.

Secretary of Energy, Darío Martínez (L), Ambassador Jorge Argüello (R up), and Carlos Pascual IHS Markit (R down.)

Salir

Zoom

No silenciar Iniciar video Compartir Participantes Más



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Renewable energies, such as wind and solar, were also highlighted as one of the mainstays of the energy transition planned by Argentina to promote the proper use of our natural resources and achieve environmental sustainability, in line with the commitments made internationally. Likewise, Secretary Martínez stated that at present, “renewable energies represent 12% of our energy matrix; he also highlighted the government's commitment to reach a 20% share of electricity demand by 2025.”

This meeting is organized by Cambridge Energy Research Associates (CERA), an energy research and consulting firm established in 1983, that for four decades has brought together world leaders to promote new ideas, knowledge and solutions to the greatest challenges facing the future of energy, environment, and climate.

The discussions organized by CERA are also considered the most prestigious annual meeting of CEOs and ministers of energy and public services globally, as well as the automotive, manufacturing, political and financial communities, along with a growing presence of technology.

Secretary Martínez ended his speech by pointing out that the government is working to ensure that

our energy standards move towards a cleaner matrix, in compliance with our international commitments, and added: “We believe that although the State plays a leading role in strengthening and expanding the energy infrastructure, the role of the private sector and multilateral and local credit institutions is essential to complement the efforts made by governments. That is why it is very important that we share our objectives and work in a coordinated way.”



February 26, 2021

1st Finance Ministers and Central Banks Governors Meeting



[G20 Italy 2021-Official site.](https://www.g20italia2021.it/)

POLICY ACTIONS FOR A TRANSFORMATIVE AND EQUITABLE RECOVERY

With an agenda focused on the state of the global economy and a particular emphasis on a resilient and equitable economic recovery, the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FM&CBG) gathered virtually last Friday to discuss the priorities for the 2021 Italian Presidency.

The Italian presidency has decided to focus its agenda around three priorities: people, planet and prosperity. Through a constructive global dialogue, during this year the G20 is expected to advance to a new normal, with the design of long-term strategies on issues such as climate change and development, that will contribute to achieve a durable recovery of the global economy and, at the same time, overcome the barriers that prevent strong, sustained and inclusive growth.

While there are positive signs of a recovery, the outlook for the global economy remains uncertain. The impacts of the pandemic have been more severe in developing and low-income countries and, in those countries; it will take the longest time to return to pre-crisis economic levels. Within countries, the young, women, the low-skilled and informal workers, have been particularly hard hit, worsening poverty levels and rising inequality.

G20 FM&CBG reacted to this context and expressed their concerns. A main take from the meeting is that the G20 remains committed to scaling up international coordination to tackle current global challenges by adopting a stronger

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multilateral approach and focusing on a set of core priorities.

During the meeting, Argentina recalled that emerging and low-income countries are suffering from the consequences of a crisis that could have long lasting consequences. In the words of Minister of Economy Martin Guzman "if we don't take the necessary measures at the global level, the recovery will certainly be asymmetric."

During his intervention, he alerted that "if we do nothing to change the current asymmetries at the global level, the recovery will be slower for emerging, developing, and low-income economies than it will be for advanced economies". For minister Guzman "the challenge is to build conditions that ensure we can have a sustainable, equitable and lasting recovery."

For that purpose, two priority issues within the international financial architecture need to be addressed. First, G20 should act boldly and agree on a new general allocation of IMF special drawing right (SDRs) to support the recovery: "Argentina fully supports an allocation of special drawing rights, which will provide liquidity for low and medium-income economies that is urgently needed, (...) the moment when is needed the most is now, so we need to act fast".

Second, Argentina called on the IMF to take the opportunity to review its policy of surcharges applied to its loans. While recognizing the importance of IMF lending during crisis times, reviewing its efficiency is key and the G20 has a central role to play in shaping the international financial architecture "The policy of surcharges is unequal, because it affects disproportionately the emerging and middle-income countries with the lowest quotas and it is procyclical, because it imposes harder conditions to countries that have more adverse market conditions". (...). In order to safeguard global financial stability, it is very important that G20 works together to achieve a system that is more fair, equitable, and that is not pro-cyclical.

Finally, FM&CBG recognized the need to address the impact of climate change on the financial system and to ensure its capacity to support the transition towards more sustainable economies. To that end, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors agreed to re-establish the Sustainable Finance Study Group and to foster this agenda.

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