#### Bilateral Relations

AMBASSADOR JORGE ARGÜELLO STEPS UP DIALOGUE WITH CONGRESS MEMBERS

#### Agriculture

MERCOSUR, CHILE AND BOLIVIA ARE GETTING READY FOR THE UNITED NATIONS FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

# ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

Y20 SUMMIT: GLOBAL YOUTH VOICES

AUGUST 2021 // NEWSLETTER



(L. to.R.) Ambassador Jorge Argüello with Congressmen Mark Green, Jim Himes and Jeff Fortenberry.

## AMBASSADOR JORGE ARGÜELLO STEPS UP DIALOGUE WITH CONGRESS MEMBERS

On July 27th, Ambassador Jorge Argüello received Congressmen Mark Green, Jim Himes, and Jeff Fortenberry at the Official Residence, where they discussed the bilateral relationship, high priority regional issues for both the Argentine Republic and the United States, as well as several initiatives being discussed in Congress to strengthen hemispheric ties. Mark Green, a Representative from Tennessee, is a decorated veteran with a distinguished career in the Army and the private sector. During his active service in the Armed Forces, he was deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. Green currently serves as Ranking Member of the House Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Civilian Security, Migration, and International Economic



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article about the meeting with Congressmen Mark Green, Jim Himes and Jeff Fortenberry, in which we discussed the bilateral relationship and high priority regional issues for both countries..

In this edition we also include an article on the XLIII Regular Meeting of the Southern Agricultural Council where Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, Tom Vilsack participated as a guess.

Finally, an article on the Youth20 Summit, the G20 engagement group, considered the key platform for the multilateral representation of global youth voices.

> Jorge Argüello Ambassador to the United States

THE SIGNIFICANT DONATION OF VACCINES RECENTLY RECEIVED IN ARGENTINA WILL HELP PROTECT VULNERABLE SECTORS OF THE POPULATION WITH COMORBIDITIES, SUCH AS YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 12-17.

Policy, as well as on the House Armed Services Committee, and the Homeland Security Committee.

Congressman Jim Himes represents Connecticut's 4th District, a state with a significant Argentineborn population, in the House of Representatives. He chairs the Subcommittee on National Security, International Development and Monetary Policy of the House Financial Services Committee and is also a member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth, which he chairs.

Himes knows Latin America and Argentina very well, as he worked there during the 90s. Before serving in Congress, he ran the New York City branch of The Enterprise Community Partners, a non-profit dedicated to addressing the challenges of urban poverty. Himes chairs the Argentina Caucus, together with Representative Jeff Duncan.

Congressman Jeff Fortenberry represents Nebraska's First Congressional District since 2004. He is a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, in charge of issues related to the United States government's expenditures. He is the Republican Ranking Member for the Subcommittee on Agriculture and a member of the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, in addition to co-chairing various parliamentary groups, such as the Nuclear Security Working Group.

During the meeting, Ambassador Argüello held an affable conversation with his guests, all good friends of our country, and referred to the progress of the vaccination plan implemented by the Argentine authorities, and once again expressed his gratitude to the government and people of the United States for the significant donation of vaccines recently received in Argentina, which will help protect vulnerable sectors of the population with comorbidities, such as young people aged 12-17.

President Alberto Fernández had previously welcomed the donation and thanked President Joe Biden for his solidarity in helping other countries, as well as for working together in the fight against the pandemic, which confirms the leadership role assumed by the current US administration in this field, reaffirming its decision to collaborate to mitigate the effects of the pandemic and help the world overcome it.

At the meeting, various issues of bilateral interest were discussed, such as cooperation and building a common position regarding the international agenda on agriculture and food; the prospects for promoting a greater integration in regional value chains, and the importance of continuing to maintain a very fluid dialogue with an active exchange of high-level visits, such as the upcoming visit to Buenos Aires by President Biden's National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, along with Juan González and Ricardo Zúñiga, among other senior officials of the Biden administration for regional issues.

Ambassador Argüello took advantage of the cordial meeting, which at one point had to be interrupted because the legislators had to return to Congress to fulfill their obligations, to invite them to visit the Argentine Republic.

## MERCOSUR, CHILE AND BOLIVIA ARE GETTING READY FOR THE UNITED NATIONS FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

The United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021, convened by Secretary-General António Guterres, will be held next September. It aims to launch new measures, solutions, and strategies to achieve progress on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); one of these goals calls for food systems to be healthier, more sustainable, and more equitable.

As part of the bilateral meetings prior to this Summit, the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina, Luis Basterra, and the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, Tom Vilsack, met on May 17. During their conversation, Minister Basterra invited Secretary Vilsack to coordinate strategies that allow countries of the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS), a forum for consultation and coordination of regional actions, comprised of the ministers of the Mercosur countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay), Chile and Bolivia, as well as North America.

Based on this initiative, on July 22 Vilsack participated as a guest in the XLIII Regular Meeting of the Southern Agricultural Council, in which the ministers emphasized that during the Food Systems Summit, agriculture's vital role must be recognized as an activity that contributes to solving the challenges facing humanity in the future.

Minister Basterra stated that "agriculture is part of the solution to the sustainability problems facing the world", while highlighting the need to "value



THE MINISTERS EMPHASIZED THAT THE VITAL ROLE PLAYED BY AGRICULTURE MUST BE RECOGNIZED AS AN ACTIVITY THAT CONTRIBUTES TO SOLVING THE CHALLENGES FACING HUMANITY IN THE FUTURE.

everything that has been done in the region, monetizing ecosystem services that we provide to the international community."

On the other hand, he also added that "Argentina has made a deep commitment to sustainability and to the principles enshrined in the CAS Declaration regarding food security, a just transition and historical responsibilities, among others."

The need to join forces to increase research, a vital component to achieve the objectives imposed on climate change, was one of the points made by Secretary Vilsack. He stated: "We must optimize three dimensions of food system sustainability: the social, the economic and the environmental. Agriculture stimulates economic growth and is essential for tackling poverty and feeding the world. However, we must produce more with less land, water, inputs, and resources to reduce its environmental impact."

He also added that "Science and knowledge, including biotechnology, can expand our producers' toolbox, as well as increase resilience and competitiveness. There is no one solution for all countries and regions. Technology will help us to create precision agriculture and to acknowledge the role of agriculture in ensuring the adequate nutrition of our people,"he added.

The ministers emphasized that the different modes of production in countries and regions should be taken into account and that no single model should be imposed, as well as the importance of laying the foundation so that international regulatory frameworks are based on scientific evidence. Likewise, ensuring that representatives from the agricultural and rural sectors of the Americas attend international forums with a unified voice this year was pointed out as a significant measure.

The Hemisphere's position is set out in "On the road to the United Nations Food Systems Summit: key messages from the perspective of agriculture in the Americas," a document prepared by the member states with the coordination of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation for Agriculture (IICA), a member of the Summit Champions Network, one of the forum's organizational structures.

This document contains 16 key messages about the irreplaceable role of agriculture. They highlight that agricultural producers and other food system workers are an essential and central link and that without agricultural production there would be no raw material to transform into food. In addition, they highlight agriculture as central to poverty eradication, promoting rural development, and protecting the environment.

During the meeting, an IICA technical report on beef as a regional "strategic asset" was discussed, given that livestock systems are being put into question by interest groups due to their alleged negative impacts on the environment, human health, zoonotic diseases, or due to ethical considerations related to animals. However, beef production SCIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE, INCLUDING BIOTECHNOLOGY, CAN EXPAND OUR PRODUCERS' TOOLBOX AND INCREASE THEIR RESILIENCE AND COMPETITIVENESS.

systems are central to the sustainable, economic, social, and environmental development of our countries. They generate foreign exchange, employment, strengthen development processes, provide ecosystem services and play an essential role in the proper nutrition of the population, particularly for children and the most vulnerable communities.

Finally, Basterra anticipated that during the Summit, "we will strive to ensure that the narrative emphasizes the need for development, guaranteeing that no-one is left behind, and enabling all countries to advance towards equitable development."



Photo Credit: Youth20.

### Y20 SUMMIT: GLOBAL YOUTH VOICES

The Youth20 (Y20) Summit, the G20 engagement group for youth, met from July 19 to 23. Established in 2010, it is considered the key platform for the multilateral representation of global youth voices.

This year, under the G20 Italian presidency, the Y20 set three priority areas: innovation, digitization, and the future of work; sustainability, climate, and energy; inclusion and equal opportunities. Besides involving issues that are especially relevant to young people, they reflect the G20 pillars of action for 2021: "People, Planet, Prosperity."

This year's Y20 delegation was made up by Tomás Listrani, Pía Ravicini and Mercedes Salgado. As detailed in a previous edition of ARG In Focus, this team from Argentina developed a series of actions to generate a broad dialogue with young activists from all over the country and take the different voices of young Argentines to international negotiations.

The Y20 formally began its work in March and developed an extensive agenda of interactive academic sessions and specialized conferences with senior representatives of international organizations, the private sector, and civil society organizations. These activities complemented the regular negotiations in which the Y20 delegates shared their visions and proposals for each priority thematic area.

Similar to the 2020 summit under the Saudi Arabian presidency, this year it repeated the THE Y20 HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING COMPUTER SCIENCE AND PROGRAMMING, INCLUDING CRITICAL THINKING CONTENT, AND THE FIGHT AGAINST DISINFORMATION IN CYBERSPACE.

virtual modality to ensure fair and fluid participation despite the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Young Ambassadors Society, an organization that contributed to the creation of the Y20, met in Bergamo with a reduced number of attendees present to promote the recovery of one of the sites that was hardest hit by the pandemic in 2020.

In the group on innovation, digitization, and the future of work, the delegations highlighted the need to guarantee equal opportunities in a workplace undergoing unprecedented transformations. Infrastructure, especially digital infrastructure, was highlighted as a factor that can narrow the differences between and within countries.

Furthermore, digital literacy deserved a separate chapter. The youth highlighted the importance of teaching computer science and programming, including critical thinking content, as well as the fight against disinformation in cyberspace and raising standards to guarantee the neutrality of computer platforms.

Despite being the thematic area most closely linked to economics, a rights-based approach was preserved, thanks to the contribution of the delegations of the Global South, such as Argentina. This included expanding worker protection due to the digital age changes in labor dynamics; the development of digital rights for an open, free and secure cyberspace; and coordination to establish a universal digital credential to enable the authentication of academic and work skills at an international level.

In the group on inclusion and equal opportunities, young people recognized the challenge of building more inclusive, egalitarian, and participatory realities. Proposals were made to improve access to education and stimulate youth employment, two challenges that still do not recognize borders.

This thematic area researched the priority actions to ensure that people can really develop fully their vouth, both through during the universalization of basic services such as financial inclusion as well as the promotion of direct participation. Women, diverse gender identities and sexual orientations, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, refugees, and marginalized minorities were the focus of public policy proposals, with the aim of ending their systematic marginalization.

Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic did not go unnoticed. Special attention was given to the effects of this global crisis on persistent inequalities. The issue of mental health in young people was highlighted, with government action implemented at the national and local levels to achieve a better response.

In the group on sustainability, climate, and energy, the young people highlighted the mainstreaming and urgency of the environmental issue. For the first time, this year's proposals include carbon neutrality by the middle of this century through a just energy transition. FOR THE FIRST TIME, THIS YEAR'S PROPOSALS INCLUDE CARBON NEUTRALITY BY THE MIDDLE OF THIS CENTURY THROUGH A JUST ENERGY TRANSITION.

Along these lines, global finance was linked to sustainability through the creation of a global taxonomy and green bonds that sponsor youth projects. Furthermore, the Argentine delegation was emphatic on the importance of preserving a balance between the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social, environmental), to achieve a sustainable post-pandemic recovery, intergenerational justice, and climate action.

There was also room for innovative recommendations, ignored in previous years. Under the paradigm of the circular economy that preserves biodiversity and encourages youth participation, sustainable fashion, electronic waste, and pollution in outer space were discussed.

The final communiqué with the 24 proposals from the global youth was read and formally delivered to the Italian presidency at the closing ceremony led by the Italian Sherpa, Luigi Mattiolo, who highlighted the level of commitment and thematic knowledge that the Y20 delegations demonstrated throughout the process in 2021.

Facebook: ARGinUSA Twitter: ARGinUSA Instagram: ARGinUSA arginfocus@embassyofargentina.us eeeuu.cancilleria.gob.ar