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Climate Change

HIGH-LEVEL
DIALOGUE
TO INCREASE
AMBITION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE

G20

THE TRIPLE
CHALLENGE OF THE
G20

Education

ARGENTINE
FULBRIGHT
SCHOLARS VISITED
THE EMBASSY IN
WASHINGTON D.C.

EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

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Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry (Left) and Presidente Alberto Fernández (Right). Photo Credit: Presidency's Office.

HIGH-LEVEL REGIONAL DIALOGUE TO INCREASE AMBITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

In his remarks during the “Leaders’ Summit on Climate” convened by the U.S. government last April, President Alberto Fernández summoned his colleagues in Latin America and the Caribbean to advance in the coordination of measures, in order to allow the region to move, united, towards a time of social, financial and environmental justice. In line with such commitment, the Argentine

Republic, together with the governments of Barbados, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, and the Dominican Republic, co-organized on September 8th a “High-Level Dialogue on Climate Action in the Americas,” intending to promote an engagement that seeks to boost ambition and emphasize the urgency of climate action in our continent, from a Latin-American perspective.



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article about the meeting with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean organized by Argentina jointly with other regional partners to discuss issues related to climate change.

In this edition we also include an article about the triple challenge that the G20 will face during the Summit of Heads of State and Government to begin to design a safe way out of this unprecedented global crisis.

Finally, an article on the visit to our Embassy by a group of Argentine students, who received scholarships in the United States through the Fullbright Program.

Jorge Argüello
Ambassador to the United States

PRESIDENT FERNÁNDEZ
PRESENTED THE MAIN POLICIES
IMPLEMENTED BY ARGENTINA
WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING
THE GOAL OF 1.5 DEGREES AND
CARBON NEUTRALITY.

Bearing in mind the importance of tackling this agenda at the highest level, the Dialogue's first segment gathered, under the title "Sprint to Glasgow: Enhancing Climate Ambition," the President of the Argentine Republic Alberto Fernández; the Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Amor Mottley; the President of Colombia, Iván Duque Márquez; the President of Costa Rica, Carlos Álvarez Quesada; the President of Panama, Laurentino Cortizo; the President of the Dominican Republic, Luis Abinader; the President of Paraguay, Mario Abdo Benítez; the President of Ecuador, Guillermo Lasso, as well as Chile's Minister of the Environment and President of COP 25, Carolina Schmidt. Furthermore, aware of the fact that the protection of our common home knows no borders or regions but involves a global joint effort, the panel also included U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry; United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres and the President of COP 26, Alok Sharma.

In his speech, President Fernández expressed his gratitude to the regional leaders for their presence, as well as for their efforts in order to address climate change, highlighting the urgency of acting within the context of a process of planetary destruction that will not stop, unless it is possible to build a new development paradigm, marked by environmental social justice. In this sense, following Pope Francis, he assured that the current ecological crisis is not alien to a social crisis, all of which leads to the

need of rethinking the pillars of international finance's architecture, with a view to favoring a just transition, one that does not result in a widening of welfare gaps on our planet.

In this context, he presented possible alternatives to build a human, integral and sustainable development, through initiatives such as the adoption of a new method to measure wealth in the world, focused on the environment; the enhancement of environmental assets or establishing that advances in clean technologies are global public goods. On the other hand, he referred to the possibility of applying IMF's Special Drawing Rights to a large environmental solidarity pact; debt swaps for climate action and the concepts of environmental debt and environmental creditors, which he described as key elements to get out of this crisis; in addition to underlining the central role of regional development organizations, which could commit 50% of their loan portfolios to environmental actions.

What is more, President Fernández presented the main policies implemented by Argentina with a view to achieving the goal of 1.5 degrees and carbon neutrality, which are part of a substantive decision aimed at placing climate action at the center of government priorities. Thus, he anticipated that during COP26 in Glasgow a 2% increase in the ambition of our national contribution will be formalized, resulting in a commitment 27.7% higher than the one presented in 2016. He also explained the work that is being carried out to promote renewable energies; the development of a producing and exporter complex of clean hydrogen-based energies, as well as the use of technologies to reduce methane emissions, and the combat of illegal deforestation, among other aspects.

Once the leaders of the region, together with high-level participants, presented the vision of their respective governments and organizations, the conference was organized around five panels that addressed a comprehensive and concrete agenda focused on issues

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such as the development of innovative mechanisms for means of implementation, the acceleration of climate action through regional cooperation, the importance of engaging the private sector in climate action, the strengthening of coastal-marine resilience or the adoption of transformative approaches for adaptation and climate action. The coordination of these specific panels was assigned to high governmental officials, among which the Secretary of Strategic Affairs of Argentina, Gustavo Béliz, who reflected around Pope Francis' teachings when "he summons us to take care of the common home, but that common home requires a common table, table from which no one can be a stranger or not be seated", and the U.S. Deputy Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, Jonathan Pershing.

The Dialogue's closing session was marked by a roundtable moderated by Juan Cabandié, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina. This roundtable was integrated by Jonathan Pershing, U.S. Deputy Special Presidential Envoy; the Minister of Environment of the Dominican Republic Orlando Mera; the Minister of Environment of Colombia Carlos Correa; the Ambassador for Climate Change of Barbados Elizabeth Thompson; the Minister of Environment of Jamaica Pearnel Charles and the Minister of Environment of Costa Rica, Andrea Meza Murillo.

The event's closing remarks were in charge of Minister Juan Cabandié and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina, Felipe Solá, who analyzed the main aspects of what was said during the Dialogue. In particular, Minister Solá emphasized the importance of coordinating a common action, with a view to moving forward with hope towards the Glasgow meeting.

In short, this fruitful dialogue fulfilled, without a doubt, one of its central objectives: to ratify that climate change is an existential threat which requires both the collaboration and urgent action of all of us, verifying, as President Fernández said, "that all of America, from North America to South America, is committed to the need to face the challenge posed by climate change." ■

THE TRIPLE CHALLENGE OF THE G20

Jorge Argüello, Ambassador of Argentina to the United States. Argentine Sherpa in the G20.

The G20 Summit of Heads of State and Government that will meet at the end of October in Rome will open a new opportunity to reaffirm the points of convergence and common actions of this international forum and to start designing a secure way out of this global crisis of unprecedented proportions.

Therefore, ending the pandemic and preventing future ones is at the top of the agenda of this Rome Summit. But also, how to ensure an inclusive economic recovery and mitigate the pressing effects of climate change as droughts, floods and forest fires.

Before our leaders can address at the upcoming Summit all angles of these issues of the present and the future, the G20 Sherpas will complete, by mid-September, the discussion process started at the beginning of the year, that lays the foundations for the discussions at the Summit.

In light of the risks the world faces today, the solutions admit no postponement. For example, it is urgent to coordinate and execute a global vaccination plan that will reach 40% of the population of each country by the end of the year and 60% by the middle of next year, as proposed by some international institutions.

In January of this year, the G20 asked an Independent

Photo Credit: Italian G20 Presidency.



TO FILL THE MAIN GAPS IN THE PANDEMIC RESPONSE SYSTEM, FINANCIAL RESOURCES WILL NEED TO BE INCREASED BY \$ 75 BILLION OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, OR \$ 15 BILLION PER YEAR.

High-Level Panel to analyze that global health framework. The bottom line: To fill the main gaps in the pandemic response system, financial resources will need to be increased by \$ 75 billion over the next five years, or \$ 15 billion per year.

Such an increase would enable the creation of a coordinated network for surveillance and research on infectious diseases, increasing global vaccine production capabilities and strengthening health systems and global health governance.

We all agree on the diagnosis, but there are different views among the G20 countries on how to address each of these aspects. These different points of view will concentrate a large part of our attention in the coming weeks.

The October leaders' meeting will also be reflected, unfailingly, on the November UN Climate Summit (COP26) in Glasgow: the G20 countries, together, produce around 80% of the annual emission of greenhouse gases.

The risks associated with climate change, while developing less rapidly, are just as challenging as those posed by COVID-19. In recent days we have seen how it develops in real time and affecting all regions with heat waves, forest

fires and floods.

Those impacts will also seriously damage many natural species and negatively affect the possibilities and conditions of human life. In Latin America, extreme climate impacts caused at least 312 thousand deaths in 2020.

That is why the need to set emission reduction targets and climate finance commitments, with the degree of ambition that the world needs to avoid an increase in temperatures of more than 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels. This is a central topic of this year's G20 agenda.

But, again, the decisions will not be easy. A few weeks ago, the Ministers of Energy and Environment of the 20 countries considered a significant number of actions necessary to promote the effective and full implementation of the objectives of the Paris Agreement, and also to initiate a sustainable energy transition at a global level in the coming years.

Two questions, however, remained unresolved after a long debate and will be decided by the leaders in Rome: a) how to accelerate the decarbonization of economies and set a date for their gradual elimination, and b) how to stop international public financing for coal energy and setting a timeframe for phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

The G20 must exercise its leadership and create the necessary conditions to allow all countries to recover from this crisis, through an improvement in the financing conditions of middle-income countries and debt restructuring in the long term, and also avoid the risk of asymmetric recoveries that deepen inequality between and within countries.

To reach a common response to these challenges, the Sherpas' priority task requires, as a necessary condition, to recreate a climate of trust, putting geopolitical tensions aside and allowing the cooperation degree required to live on a shared planet.

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Achieving more equitable progress in the global distribution of vaccines; meeting the financial commitments made by developed countries to sustain the energy transition of countries with fewer resources and avoiding the deepening of asymmetric recoveries, would be a good starting point. ■



Adrian Nador, DCM of the Embassy (Left), Ambassador Jorge Argüello and Argentine Fulbright Scholars.

ARGENTINE FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS VISITED THE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON D.C.

On Tuesday, August 31st, nine Argentinian undergraduate students, who won scholarships in the United States through the Fulbright Program, visited the Argentine Embassy and met with Ambassador Jorge Argüello. These young citizens, outstanding for their academic and social qualities, participate in the “Friends of Fulbright Student Exchange Program” at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

There are forty-five undergraduate students who are currently doing this six-week experience in five universities of the United States. The “Friends of Fulbright Student Exchange Program” offers scholarships to students to participate in educational exchange programs at USA universities. A key aspect of this program is that it selects

students from each of the Argentine provinces.

Participants are selected based on their academic excellence and potential leadership. In the universities in the United States, they take classes related to their fields of study, attend intensive English lessons, participate in internships and research, and share the experience of living and studying in the USA.

The “Friends of Fulbright Program” is part of the “Fulbright Scholarship Program for Student Academic Exchange”; internationally renowned and sponsored by the United States Government. Fulbright alumni have distinguished themselves in a wide variety of fields, such as public administration, science, arts, business, philanthropy, or

MORE THAN 400,000 STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING APPROX. 10,000 ARGENTINES HAVE STUDIED AND PARTICIPATED IN INTERNSHIPS AND RESEARCH PROGRAMS IN SEVERAL UNIVERSITIES IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

graduates, or six-week exchanges for university students. It is important to note that these scholarships are also open for US students to carry out research and/or internships in Argentina.

This type of exchange helps to build lasting ties among people from different parts of the world because it allows them to work together towards common goals. Undoubtedly, academic exchange programs bring people and nations closer together and inspire them to build a more peaceful world. ■

education, to name a few examples. Among the Fulbright alumni are 60 Nobel Prize winners.

The scholarship program mentioned above was created in 1946, so it celebrates 75° years of experience this year. Since then, more than 400,000 students from around the world, including approx. 10,000 Argentines have studied and participated in internships and research programs in several universities in the United States of America. Currently, an average of 8,000 young people from more than 160 countries receives this scholarship.

Each year, the United States Congress allocates funds to the State Department to sponsor the Fulbright Program. Foreign counterparts also contribute substantially. In the case of Argentina, the National Ministry of Education allocates funds to support this program.

The different lines of scholarships include stays of one or two years for masters and doctorates, one-year stays for English teachers, three-month research stays for