

*Defense*

XIX MEETING OF  
THE ARGENTINA  
– U.S. BILATERAL  
WORKING GROUP  
ON DEFENSE AT  
THE PENTAGON

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EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

# ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

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Francisco Cafiero, Sec. of Foreign Affairs for Defense (Left) & Daniel Erikson, Dep. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Western Hemisphere (Right).

## XIX MEETING OF THE ARGENTINA – U.S. BILATERAL WORKING GROUP ON DEFENSE AT THE PENTAGON

On Monday, November 22, the XIX Meeting of Argentina - U.S. Bilateral Working Group took place in Washington DC, an annual dialogue where both parties discuss at a political level matters related to the bilateral cooperation agenda on defense.

Unlike the XVIII Meeting, which could not be convened in Argentina as planned due to the Covid-19 pandemic

and therefore had to be held virtually, during the current year both delegations met in person at the Pentagon, headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense.

Francisco Cafiero, Secretary of Foreign Affairs for Defense, headed the Argentine delegation, while Daniel Erikson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Western Hemisphere Affairs headed the U.S delegation. The



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article about the XIX Meeting of the Argentina-U.S. Bilateral Working Group in which participated Francisco Cafiero, Secretary of Foreign Affairs for Defense as head of the Argentine delegation.

In this edition we also include an article on the meeting with Ricardo Zúniga, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Special Envoy for the Northern Triangle in the Office of Western Hemisphere, and Kevin O'Reilly, Deputy Undersecretary for Andean Affairs, Brazil and the Southern Cone, along with seven Latin American Ambassadors.

Finally, an article on Aluar, leading company in the aluminum market, that has been enhancing its production with the goal to produce cleaner and greener aluminum.

Jorge Argüello  
Ambassador to the United States

BOTH SIDES ALSO EXCHANGED  
POINTS OF VIEW ON THE  
ISSUE OF CYBER DEFENSE  
AND ON DEEPENING EXISTING  
COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY.

Argentine delegation also included the Defense and Air Attaché Maj. Gen. Néstor Guajardo, the Military Attaché BG Cristian Pafundi, the Naval Attaché RDML Rodolfo Berazay Martínez and diplomatic officials from the Embassy.

In his opening remarks, Secretary Cafiero highlighted the strength of the relationship between both countries in defense matters, an aspect that he illustrated by citing the multiple existing bilateral instances and meetings, as well as through the work carried out by the Argentine Military Attachés in Washington DC and the large number of officers from the three branches who are sent to the United States to perfect their training. In addition, as he did in the XVIII Meeting, he reiterated Argentina's deepest gratitude for the support provided during the search of the ARA San Juan and for the donation of supplies and equipment for the operations conducted by the Armed Forces with a view to containing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Among the several issues tackled during the meeting, the head of the Argentine delegation presented to his U.S. counterpart the main aspects of the defense policy adopted by our country according to the guidelines established in the National Defense Policy Directive, a document approved through a Decree signed by President Alberto Fernández as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces. Furthermore, he focused on the defense industry ecosystem in Argentina and on the impact that the National Defense Fund (FONDEF) - approved by the Argentine

Congress in 2019 and signed into law in 2020 - will have on the recovery and the modernization of military equipment and the creation of jobs, aspects that were complemented by specific projects presented by the Military Attachés.

On the other hand, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs for Defense explained the priority of the gender question as a State Policy in Argentina, after which he shared the results of a survey carried out by the Ministry of Defense based on the identification of strengths, obstacles, weaknesses, and challenges experienced since the incorporation of this perspective in 2006, in addition to referring to the importance that Argentina assigns to the "Women, Peace and Security" agenda. Both sides also exchanged points of view on the issue of cyber defense and on deepening existing cooperation in science and technology.

In his closing remarks, Secretary Cafiero highlighted the meeting's development as an example of cooperation, collaboration, and a shared interest in deepening our bilateral ties on defense. ■

## MEETING WITH LATIN AMERICAN AMBASSADORS AND STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS

On November 17th, Ambassador Jorge Argüello hosted a work meeting with Ricardo Zúniga, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Special Envoy for the Northern Triangle in the Office of Western Hemisphere, and Kevin O'Reilly, Deputy Undersecretary for Andean Affairs, Brazil and the Southern Cone, both from the Department of State, along with seven Latin American Ambassadors in Washington DC.

This last group was integrated by Alfonso Silva Navarro, Ambassador of the Republic of Chile, Juan Carlos Pinzón, Ambassador of the Republic of Colombia, Fernando Llorca Castro, Ambassador of the Republic of Costa Rica, Sonia Guzmán, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic, Antonio Dos Santos, Ambassador of the Republic of Paraguay,

Oswaldo de Rivero Barreto, Ambassador of the Republic of Peru, and Carmen Mora, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Panama.

After some warm words of welcome delivered to all these esteemed guests, Ambassador Jorge Argüello especially greeted his colleagues from Colombia and Peru, who have recently begun their respective missions in this city. Afterwards, Mr. Arguello and guests expressed their deepest condolences to Carmen Mora for the recent passing of her colleague Juan De Dianous, Ambassador of Panama to the United States.

At the meeting, the participants later had the opportunity to address various issues on the regional and global agenda.

Ambassador Jorge Argüello with ambassadors from Latin America and officials from the Department of State.





THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR  
REFERRED TO THE RECENT  
TREATMENT OF THE QUESTION  
OF THE MALVINAS ISLANDS  
DURING THE GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY OF THE OAS, WHERE  
A NEW DECLARATION ON THE  
SUBJECT WAS ADOPTED BY  
ACCLAMATION.

There were three major topics discussed throughout the event: the Summit for Democracy, a virtual conference held by the White House on December 9th and 10th of the current year; the 9th Summit of the Americas, to be organized by the U.S. government mid-2022, and a forthcoming Summit focused on the Covid-19 pandemic.

Lastly, the Argentine Ambassador referred to the recent treatment of the Question of the Malvinas Islands during the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, where a new declaration on the subject was adopted by acclamation on November 12th. Ambassador Argüello highlighted the great relevance this issue has in our foreign policy and expressed his gratitude to the participants for the support that led to the Declaration approval on behalf of both the government and the people of Argentina. ■



Photo Credit: ALUAR.

## THE PATHWAY TO GREEN ALUMINUM IN ARGENTINA

In the aftermath of the COP-26 ARG in Focus held a fruitful dialogue with the largest aluminum producer in Argentina to better understand how this leading company in the aluminum market has been enhancing its production practices with the goal to produce cleaner and greener aluminum.

What we were told was impressive and encouraging: Aluar Aluminio Argentino ('Aluar') is an Argentine Company managed according to the highest international standards of the industry, in permanent growth, and bearing a constant commitment to the sustainable development of its activities. The environmental protection is a guiding principle for the aluminum production, which aims to meet the sustainability requirements.

Its 'Primary Division' is located in the city of Puerto Madryn,

province of Chubut, 1,400 km south of Buenos Aires city, which has an installed aluminum production capacity of 460,000 tpy, where slabs, ingots, extrusion billets, wire rods and aluminium foundry alloy ingots are produced to satisfy the requirements of a wide range of industries, such as construction, automotive, packaging, power transmission lines, among others.

Through its 50 years of life, the Company has kept a firm vision and a historical identity, expanding its activities beyond the production and transmission of electric energy, by entering into a concession contract with Hidroeléctrica Futaleufú S.A., a hydroelectric power generator, whose installed power capacity is of 560 MW and has an average power generation of around 2,900 GWh per year.

The Company has continued to diversify its commercial

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IS A GUIDING PRINCIPLE FOR THE ALUMINUM PRODUCTION, WHICH AIMS TO MEET THE SUSTAINABILITY REQUIREMENTS.

and production activities, and in 2016 started its own project of renewable energy, Aluar's Wind Farm Project, which nowadays operates with an installed capacity of 164,8 MW, located in plots of land nearby the industrial plant in Puerto Madryn which have been purchased by the Company for that purpose.

In the world, among the 179 smelters that were operating in 2020, 58% of the total world energy production was produced from coal, 11% from natural gas, 1,4% were nuclear, 27% from hydro power and only 2,6% from renewable sources wind or solar power.

In the specific case of Aluar's, approximately 10% of its production was produced from renewable energy -wind-, 42% from Hydro and 48% from natural gas combined cycle. No process in the smelter involves coal to produce energy.

Therefore, the energy matrix of Aluar is much more environmental friendly than the average of the smelters. Furthermore, Aluar is one of the few smelters that have a wind farm in its own facilities. Next year, the wind farm will grow by 50 MW with the solely destination to the smelter. Additionally, solar generation to complement the wind source is under study.

Aluar's goal is to reduce its natural gas share by half in the near future.

With the aim of contributing to meet the obligations of our country referred to the reduction of gases with potential greenhouse effects Aluar carries out several actions and adjusts its procedures in order to boost global and national efforts driven towards minimizing the effects of climate change.

All of these actions executed along the years to reduce emissions and in search of an improvement in the energy management efficiency allow us to keep an Organizational Carbon Footprint of 5.3 CO2 equivalent to one aluminum tonne produced for Scope 1 and 2 (Source: TUV NORD Argentina and LEAF SOLUTION, 2019).

The Company is nowadays carrying out with the Consultant LEAF SOLUTION the calculation of the Carbon Footprint according to the methodology established in the standard ISO 14064, including Scope 3, in order to quantify the impact that the value chain represents to the Greenhouse Gases Emissions inventory.

Likewise, Aluar holds all the authorizations, certificates and regular permissions granted to its environmental management system, issued by public entities authorized for that purpose, as well as by private international entities with renowned expertise in this field, achieving the standards established by Bureau Veritas Certification according to ISO 50001, ISO 14001, ISO 9001, OHSAS 18001, IRAM 17550 and ISO-TS 16949 certifications.

The above referred actions illustrate Aluar's commitment to ensure a sustainable aluminum production through all its departments and processes. ■