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FOR THE FIRST TIME

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EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

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Ambassador Federico Villegas Beltrán.

ARGENTINA WILL CHAIR THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL FOR THE FIRST TIME

On December 6, the United Nations Human Rights Council elected Ambassador Federico Villegas Beltrán, Permanent Representative of the Argentine Republic to the organization in Geneva, as its president for a one-year term, starting on January 1, 2022.

Our country has firm commitment to the promotion and

protection of human rights, which has been a permanent State policy since its return to democracy in 1983. Although Argentina has been a member of the Human Rights Council on several occasions, this designation has a particular relevance, not only because it has occurred with the support of the entire Latin American and Caribbean region and by acclamation; i.e., through the consensus



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article about the election as president of the United Nations Human Rights Council of Ambassador Federico Villegas Beltrán, Permanent Representative of the Argentine Republic to the organization in Geneva.

In this edition we also include an article on my trip to the State of Texas to continue the trip made in June of this year, in which we met Governor Greg Abbott and the mayors of Houston, Sylvester Turner, and of Austin, Steven Adler.

Finally, an article on the working meeting with senior executives of the Honeywell during the visit to the company's Technology Center in Washington DC.

Jorge Argüello

Ambassador to the United States

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of the 47 Council members, but also because it is the first time since its creation in 2006 that a Permanent Representative from our country occupies this position.

This election confirms Argentina's deep vocation to share the human rights lessons learned from its past and the progress made since 1983 with a view to building a more democratic, egalitarian, diverse and inclusive society. In this regard, in his speech Ambassador Villegas Beltrán emphasized Argentina's special responsibility by assuming the Presidency of the Council, considering the impact that the universal system for the promotion and protection of human rights has had and continues to have in our country.

On the other hand, the Argentine Permanent Representative also highlighted specific challenges that the Human Rights Council will face throughout 2022, and outlined certain actions that could be carried out during that period, such as creation by the Council of a stable platform to increase dialogue and deepen the understanding of the commonalities and differences of Member States; learn more about the multiple roles that civil society organizations can play to improve the human rights situation; foster a systemic reflection in order to strengthen the Council's contribution to conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction; and strengthening cooperation to incorporate a human rights

perspective in a cross-cutting manner in public policies, working in coordination with the agencies of the United Nations agencies in our countries and follow up on Universal Periodic Review.

Throughout history, the Argentine Republic was a member of the former Human Rights Commission in 1957-1962, 1966-1968 and 1980-1993. Since 1997 it has continuously been a member, and was reelected in May 2005, until the creation of the Human Rights Council, a body that it has been part of in 2006-2007, 2009-2011, 2013-2015, 2019-2021 and, after the elections held at the United Nations General Assembly on October 14, 2021 (between 2022 and 2024).

The Argentine Republic has submitted several draft resolutions to the Council, such as the introduction in the international agenda of the Right to the Truth, initiatives on forced disappearances, use of forensic genetics and human rights, the rights of the elderly, the right to education and culture, business and human rights, and children's rights, among others.

Our country has also played a role in establishing a new thematic mandate, that of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, and the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, as well as the mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. ■

AMBASSADOR JORGE ARGUELLO'S ACTIVITIES IN TEXAS

Ambassador Jorge Argüello visited Texas again on December 3 and 4, after the visit he made last June when he met with Governor Greg Abbott and the mayors of Houston, Sylvester Turner, and Austin, Steven Adler.

On this occasion, on December 3 the Ambassador appeared in person before the Collin County Court to present our position regarding the situation of Argentine citizen Víctor Saldaño, who has been on death row for more than 25 years in Texas.

During the process, the Ambassador confirmed that the Argentine Government is very interested in this case and particularly in the deterioration of Saldaño's mental health throughout these years. It is a case that from the beginning has touched and mobilized the Argentine leadership, and

whose development is personally followed by President Alberto Fernández.

Argentina is against the death penalty and has ratified all existing international instruments on this matter. Since Saldaño was convicted of murder in 1996 and sentenced to death, eight Argentine presidents, 11 Foreign Ministers, and 13 ambassadors in Washington DC have accompanied Saldaño, his family, and his defense attorneys.

On Saturday, December 4, Ambassador Arguello and the Consul General in Houston, María Cristina Tosonotti, were received by Macs Reynolds, Manager of International Protocol at the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth, and by Nicola Longford, Executive Director of the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, an institution that contributes to

Consul General, María C. Tosonotti, Director of the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, Nicola Longford (Left) & Amb. Jorge Argüello (Right).



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disseminate the legacy of President John F. Kennedy after his assassination on November 22, 1963. During the visit, the role of President Kennedy in spreading democracy throughout the world was highlighted in pursuit of building a more free, just and inclusive society.

The Ambassador then went to the George W. Bush Presidential Center, which houses the Library and Museum dedicated to the 43rd President of the United States. There, he was received by its president, Kenneth A. Hersh. The center also includes the Policy Institute and the offices of the George W. Bush Foundation. Since 2013 it is located in the Southern Methodist University campus.

As to the promotion of initiatives that contribute to the inclusion of immigrants, assistance to war veterans, defense of women's rights and access to quality education for all children, core subjects of interest to the Center, Mr. Hersh presented the Ambassador with a copy of the book published by President Bush: "Out of many, One - Portraits of America's Immigrants." Its objective is to humanize the debate regarding the immigration issue in the United States, based on portraits of immigrants who stand out and contribute positively to this country in different areas.

The bilateral relationship between Argentina and the state of Texas is significant and growing; The continuity of visits and meetings with senior government authorities, private entities, personalities from academic life and civil society are essential to enhance opportunities to deepen the relationship at all levels. ■



Ambassador Jorge Argüello with Honeywell executives.

VISIT TO THE HONEYWELL TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Ambassador Jorge Argüello held a working meeting with senior Honeywell executives during his visit to the company's Technology Center in Washington DC, where he was received by the company's Chief of Operations for High Growth Regions, Ben Driggs; the Director of Public Affairs for Latin America, Andrés de la Cadena; and the Vice President Government Relations, Stacey Bernards.

During the meeting, Honeywell executives gave a presentation on their investments in Argentina, highlighting its engineering solutions center located in the City of Buenos Aires and its smart electricity and gas meter plant in Ezeiza.

Honeywell has been operating in Argentina since 1968 in a wide variety of industries, including the control and automation of industrial processes for the refining, oil &

gas, pulp and paper, and mining sectors, among others.

The COO, Benjamin Driggs, emphasized the current professional talent in Argentina and made reference to the potential for expansion of the export of engineering services from Buenos Aires. He also mentioned to the Ezeiza plant, where they employ more than 300 people.

Likewise, Honeywell has an alliance with FADEA through which it provides supplies for manufacturing Pampa III aircraft. The company also has an agreement with Fabricaciones Militares to produce advanced bulletproof vests and has partnered with YPF for its automation solutions.

The Ambassador had the opportunity to visit the company's technology center, where he observed the wide range

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of sectors in which the company develops technological innovations: from logistics to research and development of materials, aerospace industry, process automation, among others.

The company demonstrated the technology it uses to manage and control complex infrastructures such as skyscrapers, airports or stadiums, as well as its systems for warehousing and logistics centers.

The Ambassador and the Honeywell executives discussed the energy transition and the decarbonization of industrial processes. The company expressed special interest in the development of renewable fuels and in particular delved into opportunities in the area of green hydrogen in Argentina. ■