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EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

FEBRUARY 2022 // NEWSLETTER



Ambassador Jorge Argüello with the State Department Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, Uzra Zeya.

WORKING MEETING WITH UNDERSECRETARY UZRA ZEYA AT THE EMBASSY

Ambassador Jorge Argüello held a productive working meeting yesterday, Wednesday, February 16, with the State Department Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, Uzra Zeya, during which they shared their opinions and points of view on how to enhance their bilateral cooperation regarding the agenda on the promotion and protection of human rights.

Undersecretary Zeya agreed on the importance of the United Nations Human Rights Council, as well as on the possibility of working together within that organization, especially after the election by acclamation of Argentina as Chair in 2022, and the return of the United States to that forum, as decided by President Joe Biden's administration after it had withdrawn in 2018.

During the meeting, Ambassador Argüello and

In this regard, both stressed that the shared determination



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article about the meeting with the Undersecretary for Civil Security, Democracy and Human Rights of the Department of State, Uzra Zeya, to deepen bilateral cooperation in this field.

In this edition we also include an article on the Argentine Antarctic Annual Plan prepared by the National Antarctic Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, that contains all the activities planned to carry out in the Argentine Antarctic Sector until October 31.

Finally, an article on issues related to the Indonesia's presidency in the G20 and its role in leading an agenda aimed at a global economic recovery, one that is resilient, stable, sustainable and inclusive.

Jorge Argüello
Ambassador to the United States

AMBASSADOR ARGÜELLO AND
UNDERSECRETARY ZEYA AGREED
ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE
UNITED NATIONS HUMAN
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of the Argentine and US governments to reinforce the protection of the human rights of the LGBTIQ+ community offers a concrete example -as is the case with gender equity and equality- of the wide-ranging possibilities for the permanent missions of our countries to make significant progress in Geneva.

Bearing in mind that President Biden has been taking decisive action on these issues, and that Argentina also exercises a clear leadership in the region, as demonstrated by the approval of the Equal Marriage Law in 2010, the sanction of the Gender Identity Law in 2012 and, under the mandate of President Alberto Fernández, the creation of the first Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity in history, abortion legalization, issuance of identity documents and non-binary passports, and concrete laws to achieve the inclusion of transvestites, transsexuals and transgender persons in the workforce, with the aim of promoting a real equality of opportunities.

At the meeting, the Argentine Ambassador and Undersecretary Zeya reviewed worldwide scenarios that their respective capitals are following with interest, including issues discussed at the Human Rights Council regarding places where serious violations of the most basic human rights are unfortunately taking place, which

calls for redoubling efforts by the international community to reverse these situations and achieve an effective accountability of those responsible.

In sum, the broad spectrum of shared priorities in the field of human rights that unites Argentina and the United States provides an opportunity for our countries to mutually enrich themselves from this dialogue, and, at the same time, to increase the impact of their international action to promote the construction of more egalitarian, fair, inclusive and diverse societies. ■

PRESENTATION OF THE ARGENTINE 2021-2022 ANTARCTIC ANNUAL PLAN

Last January, the Secretary for the Malvinas, Antarctica and the South Atlantic, Ambassador Guillermo Carmona, presented the Argentine Antarctic Annual Plan at the San Martín Palace. Also present were officials from various agencies of the national government and the Armed Forces.

This document, prepared by the National Antarctic Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, contains all the activities that our country plans to carry out in the Argentine Antarctic Sector between November 1, 2021 and October 31, 2022, and includes diverse activities such as the development of more than 50 scientific-technical projects, environmental management tasks, logistical support, as well as those related to meteorological,

hydrographic and cartographic services, all of which are subject to strict compliance with the Antarctic Treaty System regulations.

Since it established the first scientific station on Laurie Island, one of the South Orkney Islands Archipelago, on February 22, 1904, our country has maintained a permanent and uninterrupted presence in Antarctica, which has grown over time and currently includes six permanent bases and seven temporary bases. The Argentine Republic is one of the 12 countries that participated in the Washington Conference on Antarctica in 1959, which led it to be among the original signatory states of the Antarctic Treaty, an instrument that adequately safeguards sovereignty claims. Since then, the

From L to R: Patricia Ortúzar (DNA), Secretary Guillermo Carmona, BG Edgar Calandín and Sergio Santillana (IAA). Photo Credit: MRECIC.



THE COMMON AIM OF ARGENTINA AND THE US CAN BE HIGHLIGHTED IN THEIR PURSUIT OF MAINTAINING A STRONG ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM, AS AN ESSENTIAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND LOGISTICAL COOPERATION.

continuous strengthening of the Treaty constitutes one of the axes of Argentine foreign policy, as well as an ongoing consolidation of our sovereign rights in the Argentine Antarctic Sector.

Another Argentine priority in this matter is to deepen our relations with other countries, a context in which the common aim of Argentina and the United States can be highlighted in their pursuit of maintaining a strong Antarctic Treaty System, as an essential framework for the development of scientific and logistical cooperation. Likewise, in the framework of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, Argentina offered its support for the approval of a Marine Protected Area in the region of the Sea of Ross, as proposed by the United States and New Zealand, while in turn, Washington strongly supported the Argentine-Chilean proposal for a Marine Protected Area for the Antarctic Peninsula.

In the field of scientific research in Antarctica, the relationship between both countries has also proven to be very positive, marked by a sustained collaboration, especially between the National Science Foundation of the United States and the Argentine Antarctic Institute, both

having used, for example, the city of Ushuaia as a base for the aerial operations of a NASA program on glaciological studies in Antarctica, the airborne mission Operation Ice Bridge, in which Argentine glaciologists also participated.

These experiences not only demonstrate the shared vision of Argentina and the United States in this area, but, above all, they are a sign of the existing potential to deepen cooperation in Antarctica between our countries. ■



The 1st Sherpa Meeting held under the Indonesian presidency on December 7-8, 2021. Photo Credit: G20.

THE GLOBAL SOUTH LEAVES ITS MARK ON THE G20

Jorge Argüello
Ambassador to the United States
Argentine Sherpa at the G20

The presidency of the Group of 20 (G20) is held by Indonesia in 2022, to be followed by India in 2023 and Brazil in 2024, which opens up an unprecedented continuity of emerging countries at the forefront of the forum that could, finally, draw global attention towards the needs of the global South countries.

Indonesia took over the chair from Italy, whose presidency until December 1, 2021 concentrated the G20's efforts to try to steer a planet devastated by the pandemic and threatened by the effects of climate change.

Coincidentally, we are celebrating 65 years of bilateral

relations between Indonesia and Argentina, marked by a strong friendship and collaboration in international forums. These ties were deepened in the exchange and coordination meeting of the Sherpas of the G20 emerging countries (Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Turkey), which our country coordinates.

Since the G20 became a summit of heads of state and government in 2008, four meetings have been held in the Asia-Pacific region, and this year's meeting in Indonesia will be the first in Southeast Asia.

Indonesia, an insular and diverse country, home to more than 300 ethnic groups, is the region's largest economy and its only representative at the G20. Therefore, its presidency will highlight the key challenges facing Southeast Asia and

UNDER THE SLOGAN “RECOVER TOGETHER, RECOVER STRONGER”, INDONESIA PROPOSES AN AGENDA AIMED AT ACHIEVING A GLOBAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY, ONE THAT IS RESILIENT, STABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE.

will look after the developing countries' broader interests. Recovery is an imperative. Under the slogan “Recover Together, Recover Stronger”, Indonesia proposes an agenda aimed at achieving a global economic recovery, one that is resilient, stable, sustainable and inclusive.

However, the challenge will be to translate those words into concrete and achievable policies, at a time when we are entering the third year of the pandemic under the threat of new variants such as Omicron. This means that a real and tangible economic recovery must be an imperative and not an option.

The emergence of the Omicron variant, which spreads faster than the previous ones, has demonstrated that we are still far from achieving the objective agreed in Rome at the end of October. The goal of the G20 was to vaccinate 40% of the population in each country by the end of 2021, and 70% by the middle of following year.

In this regard, as chair of the forum, Indonesia has the opportunity to take the lead in reforming the global health governance architecture that currently has the World Health Organization (WHO) at its core.

The global disparities in access to health brought to light by the COVID-19 pandemic have highlighted the current

global poverty. At the same time, they threaten to leave developing nations behind in their sustainable economic recovery.

According to the United Nations, for the first time in two decades there was an increase in extreme poverty throughout the world. This situation is closely related to the pandemic crisis, which also contributed to the intensification of the inequality gap between rich and poor in developing countries.

In Latin America, for example, ECLAC estimated that in 2020 the poverty rate had reached 33.7%; the region thus lost more than a decade of the progress it had made to reduce it. And despite seeing an improvement early this year, employment is still 3% below its pre-crisis level.

The agenda. The world is experiencing fragility and inequality. While the global economy performed well in 2021 and a strong economic growth is projected for this year, there are also signs that the recovery will remain uneven and volatile.

Certain projections indicate that GDP per capita among many emerging and developing economies will remain below pre-Covid-19 levels for an extended period.

This year Indonesia's agenda has as one of the main pillars the essential role technology plays in the world economy and the benefits of international cooperation for digital transformation and inclusion.

Updating the status of the G20 Digital Economy Working Group, which will begin its meetings in 2022, will strengthen collaborative efforts, avoid possible duplication with other sectors, and generate greater commitment and legitimacy to discuss digital issues, as Argentina has called for.

Energy transition and the need for financing to mitigate and adapt to climate change will be another priority issue in Jakarta. In the Rome Declaration, the leaders recalled

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the objective of mobilizing \$100 billion per year until 2025, to be provided by the most advanced countries to the developing countries to combat climate change.

Like other developing countries, Indonesia has insisted that the energy transition and all efforts to achieve net-zero emissions must be affordable, and financing to comply with commitments made on climate change will be an issue subject to careful consideration during its presidency.

Indonesia announced that its G20 presidency will reflect the perspective of developing countries to create a more just and shared world order, strengthen global solidarity in mitigating the impacts of climate change, and promoting sustainable development. That is also our goal. ■