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ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

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Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Pablo Tettamanti, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of International Security and Non-Proliferation Ann Ganzer (Ctr.) and delegations.

BILATERAL NUCLEAR COOPERATION: ANOTHER MEETING OF THE ARGENTINA-UNITED STATES JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE

The 17th Meeting of the Argentina-United States Joint Standing Committee on Nuclear Energy Cooperation was held on April 5-8 in Buenos Aires, a mechanism coordinated by the Argentine Foreign Ministry and the Department of State that meets once a year, alternately in one of the two countries. Both delegations discuss the main issues on this important agenda and review the status of bilateral nuclear cooperation.

The meetings of the Joint Standing Committee represent a significant channel of communication between both countries, demonstrate the existing mutual trust on nuclear issues, and constitute a propitious environment for deepening and diversifying the bilateral cooperation in this area. The Argentine delegation, headed by the Foreign Ministry, also included representatives of the National Atomic Energy Commission and the Nuclear



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article about the 17th Meeting of the Argentina-United States Joint Standing Committee on Nuclear Energy Cooperation, held on April 5-8 in Buenos Aires.

In this edition we also include an article on the signature of an agreement between Ford Motor Co. and Lake Resources to buy an approximate volume of 25 thousand tons per year of Argentine lithium.

Finally, an article on the appointment of the first Special Representative on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, position to be held by a trans woman.

Jorge Argüello
Ambassador to the United States

BOTH COUNTRIES REAFFIRMED THE VALUE OF CIVIL NUCLEAR COOPERATION AS AN ELEMENT TO STRENGTHEN THEIR STRATEGIC AND POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP AND RATIFIED THEIR COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL SECURITY PRINCIPLES AND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION REGIMES.

Regulatory Authority. The U.S. delegation included officials from the Department of State, the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Embassy in Buenos Aires.

During the meeting, besides reaffirming the value of civil nuclear cooperation as an element to strengthen their strategic and political relationship, both countries ratified their collective commitment to international security principles and nuclear non-proliferation regimes. This includes principles related to solid physical security and nuclear technology practices, especially with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which they recognized as having lasting benefits. They also ratified their willingness to strengthen their non-proliferation regime, highlighting the relevance of focusing and promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, within the framework of Article IV of the Treaty.

On the other hand, the Argentine and U.S. delegations agreed to continue exchanging points of view and identifying common areas for cooperation on nuclear

matters, bearing in mind that they share a particular interest in small modular reactors and other advanced nuclear technologies, which undoubtedly offer a great potential to support the economic growth and development of both countries.

Likewise, cooperation on the exchange of technical information and other activities in regulatory matters, licensing and physical and technological security were discussed, a framework in which the delegations led by Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Pablo Tettamanti and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of International Security and Non-Proliferation Ann Ganzer expressed their commitment to continue working together on international safeguards and export controls.

Finally, regarding the two priorities shared by the governments of President Alberto Fernández and President Joseph Biden, the Argentine Republic and the United States underlined the enormous value of nuclear energy and civil nuclear cooperation to promote their common interests in the fight against climate change, as well as the utmost importance of achieving greater gender equality in the nuclear sector and defending the rights of women and diversities. ■

FORD MOTOR CO. SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH LAKE RESOURCES TO BUY ARGENTINE LITHIUM

Within the framework of several lithium investment projects being developed in Argentina that position our country as the main supplier of this resource to the United States, Ford Motor Co. signed an agreement with Lake Resources to buy an approximate volume of 25 thousand tons per year of Argentine lithium.

This will be sourced from the Lake Resources' Kachi Project, one of the most symbolic initiatives of the company, located in the Province of Catamarca. In this operation, the use of direct extraction technology from the U.S. company Lilac Solutions enables the development of a pure, sustainable and competitive product for battery producers.

In this regard, the Vice President of Ford EV Industrialization,

Lisa Drake, stated that the agreement is part of the company's search to guarantee a secure supply that supports the aggressive acceleration they are leading in the field of e-mobility.

Both companies stated that this is the beginning of a long-term cooperation that can be expanded and deepened, focused on sustainable production. Lake Resources Chairman Stu Crow said the growing demand and scrutiny around lithium production require projects to adhere to the highest quality standards. He framed the agreement with Ford as part of a search to minimize the environmental footprint and contribute to a clean energy future.

Several analysts have been warning about the need to



IT IS ESTIMATED THAT BY 2030, THE DEMAND FOR LITHIUM WILL RISE TO 1,800,000 TONS AND THAT ARGENTINA, ALREADY THE FOURTH LARGEST PRODUCER IN THE WORLD, COULD CONTRIBUTE 17% OF THIS DEMAND.

its Role in the Transformation of the Global Energy Matrix” was held, organized together with the Wilson Center and the Inter-American Development Bank. That Seminar is part of the “Federal Agenda” Program through which the Argentine Embassy seeks to enhance opportunities for linking the Provinces of Argentina with the United States. ■

build a sustainable lithium supply chain in order to avoid bottlenecks in the explosive growth of electric vehicle manufacturing. There is a real possibility that battery producers may not be able to source enough lithium to meet demand.

Both the pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine highlighted the need to ensure secure supply chains.

It is estimated that by 2030, the demand for lithium will rise to 1,800,000 tons and that Argentina could contribute 17% of this demand. South America holds half of the world’s lithium reserves and Argentina is already the fourth largest producer in the world.

The Argentine Embassy in the U.S. has been working with various agencies of the United States government, Argentine authorities and the provinces of Catamarca, Jujuy and Salta, as well as with the Argentine Mining Geological Service, to advance in putting in place best practices and regulations in order to guarantee the role our country plays as the main supplier of lithium to the United States market, and also to make progress in the value chain.

In 2021, the Seminar “The Argentine Lithium Industry and



From left to right: Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta, Alba Rueda, María Cristina Perceval and Santiago Cafiero.

APPOINTMENT OF THE FIRST TRANSGENDER WOMAN AS A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

On March 4, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Santiago Cafiero, together with the Minister of Women, Gender and Diversity, Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta, met with Alba Rueda, who will become the first trans woman to be appointed a Special Representative on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, a decision that ratifies the Argentine Republic's leadership over the last decades in the protection and promotion of the human rights of LGBTIQ+ persons.

This measure not only prioritizes the demands and interests of the diversity community, but also deepens the similarities between the equality agendas promoted in their respective countries by Presidents Alberto Fernández

and Joe Biden, bearing in mind that in June 2021 the US president appointed Jessica Stern as Special Envoy to promote the human rights of LGBTIQ+ persons, a position that until now has only been replicated in three other countries: the United Kingdom, Italy and Germany. During the meeting, Minister Cafiero pointed out that through the work of the new Special Representative, Argentina will continue to support a foreign policy that promotes LGBTIQ+ rights in the region and throughout the world.

Alba Rueda is a recognized activist for LGBTIQ+ rights who works as Undersecretary of Diversity Policies at the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity, and was also the first trans woman to hold such a high public office position. She played a key role in promoting important public

THE APPOINTMENT OF THE
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Observatory. She also participated in the first trans magazine in Argentine history. Previously, she worked at the National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism, an agency in which she managed to have her self-perceived identity recognized, and in 2010 and 2011 participated in the introduction of collective appeals, allowing her to process a National Identity Document which included a change of name and sex. ■

policies such as the National Action Plan against Gender-Based Violence 2020-2022, the National Plan for Equality in Diversity 2021-2023, Decree 721/ 2020 Job Quota for Transvestites, Transsexuals and Transgender Persons in the Public Sector, and Law 27,636 on the Promotion of Access to Formal Employment for Transvestites, Transsexuals and Transgender Persons - Diana Sacayán-Lohana Berkins.

Likewise, Alba Rueda chairs Mujeres Trans Argentina and is part of the research team at the Department of Gender and Communications of the Floreal Gorini Cooperation Center, as well as of the advisory council of the Gender