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AT THE CENTER
OF THE THIRD
SHERPAS' MEETING
IN FLORENCE, ITALY

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ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

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President Alberto Fernández during the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Photo Credit: Presidency's Office.

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT ALBERTO FERNÁNDEZ AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On September 21st, President Alberto Fernández delivered his speech virtually during the High-Level Week of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

On this occasion, the Head of State referred to the challenges faced by the international community in response to a triple pandemic: global inequity, climate

change and COVID-19.

In this framework, after highlighting Argentina's conviction that the vaccines against COVID-19 should be considered global public goods and celebrating the proposal on patent waivers at the World Trade Organization, President Fernández highlighted the importance of addressing not



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article about the remarks by President Alberto Fernández at the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

In this edition we also include an article on the virtual participation of President Alberto Fernández in the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate, invited by the President Joseph Biden.

Finally, an article on the third G20 Sherpas' meeting which was aimed to making progress on a consensus building exercise which will give shape to the Leaders' Communiqué for the Leaders Summit to be held in Rome by the end of October.

Jorge Argüello
Ambassador to the United States

ADDRESSING NOT ONLY THE
HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF
THE PANDEMIC, BUT ALSO THE
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only the health consequences of the pandemic, but also the rebuilding of the economic and social situation, all of which goes hand in hand with caring for our common home, planet Earth. That is why he ratified our country's firm commitment to the Paris Agreement, as well as a transition towards renewable energies, the adoption of clean technologies to reduce methane emissions, the eradication of illegal deforestation and the restoration of ecosystems, commitments consistent with the goal of 1.5 degrees Celsius and carbon neutrality by 2050.

However, President Fernández warned that these objectives cannot be met without fostering a much-needed reconfiguration of global financial architecture, since "climate justice will only be a pipe dream without a global financial and tax justice, which would contribute to achieving a genuine social justice", particularly in the current context marked by the post-pandemic era. He pointed to the case of Argentina, a country subjected to a toxic and irresponsible indebtedness, in what constituted, in the words of the Argentine President, a true "debticide". This enables us to grasp the relevance of rescuing the debt sustainability principles, which were discussed and agreed to in 2015 under Resolution 69/319.

Likewise, President Fernández pointed out that the

issuance of Special Drawing Rights by the International Monetary Fund should give rise to a great environmental solidarity pact, including extending the timelines to make payments and setting lower rates, in addition to promoting payment mechanisms for ecosystem services and the concept of environmental debt, among other innovations.

Regarding the protection and promotion of human rights, he referred to Argentina's concern about the effects of the pandemic on the intensification of violence against women, the stigmatization of migrants, Afro descendants, ethnic minorities, LGBTIQ+ people, senior citizens, people with disabilities and indigenous peoples, noting that we face the challenge of creating a new beginning in favor of more just, inclusive and egalitarian societies, while at the same time, paying attention to the prevention and early warning of situations that could lead to massive violations of human rights, as well as crimes against humanity or genocides, which should be one of the United Nations' main task.

Accordingly, he reaffirmed the Argentine Republic's firm commitment to the historical demands of the women's and diversities movement, reflected in recent concrete measures taken, such as the creation of the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity; the strengthening of care of women who are victims of violence; the adoption of a gender approach in social and labor policy measures; the approval of a transvestite-trans labor quota; the issuance of non-binary identity documents and the passage of the abortion legalization law, without prejudice to which a comprehensive health care law during pregnancy and early childhood was also passed, expanding benefits and rights, guaranteeing health care to women during pregnancy and to children in the first years of their life.

President Fernández also made reference to the scourge of terrorism, highlighting the work of the United Nations offices in support of the States in the implementation of the global strategy, with unrestricted respect for international law, after which he recalled that 2021 marks 27 years

TRANSITION TOWARDS
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Head of State once again referred to the challenge posed on humanity by the triple pandemic as he stated at the beginning of his address, to pose his last and urgent reflection: “it is not about one sole option. It is either solidarity or extinction. From the triple pandemic I referred to at the beginning, we will only make it through bold leaderships, innovative ideas and projects that make possible what seems a pipe dream. The hands of the clock are speeding up. There is no time to waste. It’s now or never. History will judge us not by our words, but by our actions”. ■

since the attack against the headquarters of the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association, an issue in which the policy which began in 2003 of requiring the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran to cooperate with the Argentine judicial authorities to make progress in the investigation of the events has been non-stop. He reiterated, that as Argentina has never ceased doing so, requested that the international community comply with Interpol’s red notices in the event a defendant is present in a country’s territory. In his capacity as Head of State of a food-producing and exporting country, the President mentioned the Food Systems Summit, emphasizing Argentina’s position, and its conviction that the transition towards sustainability in food production systems must be gradual and in accordance with the forms and times that each country decides, based on its productive reality, as there is no single development model. Therefore, it is key to maintain an inclusive vision of sustainability in food systems, with solutions adapted to social realities and needs.

President Fernández also reaffirmed the legitimate and inalienable sovereign rights of the Argentine Republic over the Malvinas, South Georgeas, South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

Finally, before concluding his address, the Argentine

ARGENTINA PARTICIPATED IN THE MAJOR ECONOMIES FORUM ON ENERGY AND CLIMATE INVITED BY PRESIDENT JOSEPH BIDEN

President Alberto Fernández participated virtually in the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate held on September 17, invited by the President of the United States, Joseph Biden.

The main objective of the Forum, which in addition to the Heads of State and Governments of 20 countries was attended by António Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, was to promote a high-level private discussion that allows progress in concrete actions, with a view to face the current global climate crisis that threatens the existence of our planet.

The participation of President Fernández in this important Forum follows his participation in the Leaders' Summit

on Climate held in April. Argentina co-hosted the "High-level Dialogue on Climate Action in the Americas", held at the beginning of this month. The active presence in these forums ratifies the firm decision of our government to place climate and environmental action at the center of its priorities.

During his speech, the Argentine Head of State stated that our country is considering an energy transition towards a clean and low-carbon matrix, which he linked to the enormous potential of renewable energies, especially new non-polluting technologies such as those based on hydrogen. In that regard, he added that the Argentine Republic has decided to increase its climate ambition and commit to carbon neutrality by 2050, in

President Alberto Fernández in the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate, invited by President Joseph Biden.



WE ARE FACING A TRIPLE CRISIS, INVOLVING BOTH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEBT, WHICH MAKES ITS HARSH EFFECTS FELT IN PARTICULAR ON MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES SUCH AS ARGENTINA.

spite of a framework marked by a debt situation that is unprecedented worldwide. To achieve this, he stressed the need to adapt financial conditions in a renewed international financial architecture consistent with the highest level of climate ambition, since many countries are heavily indebted, and a generalized debt crisis would only worsen environmental degradation.

Along these lines, he argued that we are facing a triple crisis, involving both the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change and debt, which makes its harsh effects felt in particular on middle-income countries such as Argentina. This raises the need to address this situation with tools such as capital adequacy of the Development Banks and the debt-for-climate swaps. Therefore, he called for using the Special Drawing Rights issued by the International Monetary Fund to create a pact of environmental solidarity, through a new “resilience and sustainability fund” that links climate action, energy transition and financing, geared above all to low-income and middle-income countries facing a high climate and financial vulnerability.

Likewise, President Alberto Fernández valued the proposal of the United States and the European Union regarding a Global Methane Pledge, as its impact on the atmosphere

is estimated to be 25 times greater than carbon dioxide. Likewise, he affirmed that this step shifts a crucial issue back on the agenda, to which Argentina had made reference to during the Leaders’ Summit on Climate, when he stated that our country will promote the adoption of cutting-edge technologies to reduce the emissions of methane and short-lived pollutants.

Finally, President Fernández summoned everyone to work towards a just climate and energy transition, one that does not expand the gaps in well-being throughout our planet. He defined this challenge ahead of us as the option for us to choose between a globalization of solidarity and a globalization of indifference. ■



Ambassador Jorge Argüello in the third meeting of the representatives of the Leaders of the G20.

HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE AT THE CENTER OF THE THIRD SHERPAS' MEETING IN FLORENCE, ITALY

Ambassador Jorge Argüello, in his capacity as our country's G20 Sherpa, participated in the third meeting of the representatives of the Leaders of the main forum for international economic and financial cooperation, which includes the perspectives of both developed countries and the emerging economies, which this year is under the presidency of Italy.

The objective of this meeting was to advance in discussions about the first draft of the Leaders' Communiqué at the Summit to be held in Rome, scheduled for the end of October. Undoubtedly, all the issues discussed so far

under the Italian presidency played a major role, and in turn, there was also a clear intention to identify areas of consensus among the participating countries.

On September 15 and 16, in the historic city of Florence, birthplace of the Renaissance, an artistic movement that originated in the second half of the 14th century, the Sherpas debated issues related to the priorities set by the Italian presidency, which are based on three main pillars: People, Planet and Prosperity. Other issues were also discussed, including health, sustainable development, food security, environment, cities and circular economy,

WE MUST COOPERATE, NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF GLOBAL HEALTH, BUT ALSO IN ADOPTING JOINT MEASURES TO AVOID THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, WHICH ARE INTENSIFYING AND ACCELERATING.

energy and climate change, gender, employment and social protection, education, digital economy, fight against corruption, culture, and tourism.

Argentina believes it is important that in October the role of the G20 be reaffirmed as a first-level international forum for economic cooperation and sustainable development, with a balanced approach of its economic, social and environmental pillars.

In his first intervention, Ambassador Argüello, highlighted the persistent inequality in the distribution of vaccines throughout the world, a fact that further widens the gap between poor and rich countries, and overlooks the premise that a crisis with global dimensions like this one can only be overcome through joint actions and global solidarity.

If international efforts are not stepped up to overcome this situation, the virus will continue to circulate, strengthening its aggressiveness and, inevitably, new variants will continue to emerge that would jeopardize the prospect of herd immunity. For this reason, it was proposed that the G20 should make a commitment to enable the vaccination of 70% of every country's population by mid-2022, in accordance with the strategy proposed by the World

Health Organization (WHO)

In this context, it was pointed out that the pandemic has hit many regions, but that the G20 should note that in Latin America and the Caribbean the impact has been significant in terms of human and economic losses, in particular where it hurts the most: the most vulnerable and in the informal sectors. Even more so when the region represents a key piece in the political and economic balances and, especially, in the fight against climate change.

However, beyond the different perspectives mentioned on a number of issues, it seems auspicious that everyone in the G20 agrees that we must cooperate, not only on global health, but also to take joint action to avoid the effects of climate change, which intensify, accelerate and are felt throughout the planet. And where differences exist, we must make additional efforts to maintain the spirit of cooperation and make our societies more sustainable.

In this spirit, Argentina took the initiative and summoned the group of emerging economies, a traditional Sherpa space that had been overlooked since meetings have been held virtually, to a meeting for reflection, in order to identify points of convergence, and which were enriched with a series of bilateral meetings with other G20 countries.

From these meetings, a common understanding was reached that international cooperation does not mean sacrificing national interests, but rather placing them within the broader framework of collective interests.

This is why Argentina maintains that up to now, the global governance system has not proven to be sufficiently effective to encourage further advances in clean technologies and their transfer, nor to mobilizing resources to developing countries and strengthening the implementation of the Paris Agreement commitments, in order to make it possible to reconcile the economy and production with nature.

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Beyond the nuances and the different points of view, at the Florence meeting the G20 Sherpas established that health and climate change are crucial to relaunch a strong, balanced, sustainable and inclusive global economic recovery. ■