Bilateral Relations

PRESIDENT ALBERTO FERNÁNDEZ RECEIVED A DELEGATION OF U.S. SENATORS AT CASA ROSADA

Nuclear Energy

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THE VICE MINISTER OF HEALTH SANDRA TIRADO PARTICIPATED IN A SYMPOSIUM ON REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

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President Alberto Fernández received a bipartisan legislative delegation of US senators who made an official visit to Argentina, in his office at Casa Rosada on October 24-26.

At the meeting, the head of state, accompanied by the Chief of Staff, Juan Manzur, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Santiago Cafiero, met with Senators Robert Menendez, Benjamin Cardin, Robert Portman, Benjamin Sasse, the US Ambassador in Buenos Aires Marc Stanley, and legislative advisers, regarding the importance of the bilateral relationship, as well as on the strengthening of democratic institutions and human rights in the region.

In this regard, ratifying that the promotion and protection of human rights around the world is a priority shared by both countries, President Fernández and the legislators reviewed the work being carried out by the Argentine
of parliamentary diplomacy as an extremely positive tool to enhance bilateral ties, the Senators’ delegation held meetings with key national authorities and other important leaders in our country. ■
ARGENTINA AT THE NUCLEAR ENERGY CONFERENCE


The forum enabled holding a high-level dialogue on the role of nuclear energy in the transition to clean energy sources and its contribution to sustainable development and climate change mitigation. Key nuclear power issues were also discussed, including the reliability and flexibility of the nuclear industry during the global COVID-19 crisis and its contribution to the economic recovery efforts amidst the global pandemic.

The Argentine delegation was headed by Ambassador Jorge Argüello, who read the country’s National Declaration, accompanied by the President of the National Atomic Energy Commission, Adriana Serquis, the Director of Nucleoeléctrica Argentina SA, Isidro Baschar, the Director of Nuclear and Space Affairs of the Foreign Ministry, Lorena Capra, and other officials.

Argentina is a nuclear country with more than 70 years of experience and extensive scientific, technological and industrial capabilities. In addition to being one of the 32 countries with nuclear power in their energy matrix, it is also one of the few countries that control the complete nuclear fuel cycle, while maintaining a firm commitment to peaceful uses. It is a responsible supplier of nuclear research and radioisotope production reactors to many countries on several continents, as well as other nuclear
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components and services.

Our country is working on the completion of a CAREM reactor project, a prototype nuclear power plant of the SMR (Small Modular Reactors) type. Its design, construction and component manufacturing are entirely Argentine. This technology holds great potential not only for the future of the Argentina’s nuclear sector, but also globally positions us in this segment as a solid and reliable alternative.

On the other hand, in terms of nuclear applications in the health sector, it is important to highlight the advanced initiatives of the Argentine Multipurpose Research Reactor RA-10 (which will expand Argentine and regional capacity in the supply of radioisotopes for medicinal use), and the Argentine Center for Proton Therapy (nuclear medicine that combines research and development activities with patient care, with unique equipment and services in Latin America).

All this, together with a highly developed academic sector that attracts greatly skilled professionals, allow us to ratify that Argentina is a reliable partner to work with to address the global challenges we face in the 21st century, in which nuclear energy is a part of an actual solution.
THE VICE MINISTER OF HEALTH SANDRA TIRADO PARTICIPATED IN A SYMPOSIUM ON REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

On October 27, the Argentine Embassy co-organized a symposium together with the Inter-American Dialogue, Fos Feminista and the Center for Reproductive Rights: “Faces of the Green Wave in Latin America: from Argentina to Mexico, Leaders share their experiences”, with the participation of Dr. Sandra Tirado, Argentina’s Vice Minister of Health.

This well attended activity, both in person and virtually, took place at the Inter-American Dialogue, and is part of an intense agenda deployed by Argentina regarding the protection and promotion of women’s rights. In October our country hosted the Women’s Economic Forum, and it now prepares to host the XV Regional Conference on Women of Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in Buenos Aires on November 7-11.

On behalf of the Argentine Embassy, Ambassador Jorge Argüello delivered the opening remarks at the symposium, and made reference to the final stages of the process that culminated in the approval of Law 27,610 in December 2020, which was accompanied by events both before and after that historic vote in Congress, and also commented on the need to celebrate this achievement. At the same time, it is important to reflect on the multiple challenges still facing the full implementation of safe, legal and free abortion throughout the national territory. Elizabeth Belair from the Inter-American Dialogue, Catalina Martínez Coral from the Center for Reproductive Rights, and Luisa Kislinger from Fos Feminista, also addressed the audience.
As for Dr. Tirado, she participated in one of the two panels around which the symposium was structured, focused on the perspectives from decision makers regarding reproductive autonomy. In this context, the Vice Minister of Health explained the different milestones that led to the law's approval in 2020, after which she engaged in a dialogue with the panel's moderator, María Claudia Pulido, from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, covering questions such as lessons learned by the Argentine government after the expansion of reproductive rights in Congress, the main challenges in the implementation of the regulation, and the way in which bridges could be built with other State actors to guarantee these rights. Likewise, the Argentine official was accompanied on the panel by the former Justice of the Colombian Constitutional Court, Alberto Rojas, and the General Director of the National Center for Gender Equity and Reproductive Health of Mexico, Karla Berdichevsky.

Based on the notable relevance of the Argentine women's movement and its tireless struggle for the legalization of the voluntary interruption of pregnancy, she was asked to also join the second panel moderated by Luisa Kislinger, and whose purpose was precisely to gather the perspective of Latin American feminist activists: the founder of the organization “Catholics for the Right to Decide Argentina” Marta Alanis, who offered a heartfelt first-person presentation about this process, as one of its main protagonists. In this segment of the symposium, Alanis, together with activists Ana Cristina González from the Just Cause Movement of Colombia, and Rebeca Ramos, Executive Director of GIRE Mexico, presented their perspectives.

Finally, the symposium ended after the presentation of the Center for Reproductive Rights report on abortion legislation around the world, by its Regional Director for Latin America, Catalina Martínez Coral, and commented on by Mariela Belski, Director for Argentina of Amnesty International. ■