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of the Argentine Republic to Ukraine

‘WE FORESEE A VERY PROMISING AGENDA FOR BOTH COUNTRIES’

— *Your Excellency, what has been the support from Argentina to Ukraine at the political level since the beginning of the Russian full-scale invasion?*

— The Argentine Republic has condemned the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine since the very beginning. We voted in support of Ukraine in all relevant international organisations. Argentina voted in favour of all resolutions of the UN General Assembly regarding the Russian invasion of Ukraine:

- ES-11/1 ‘Aggression against Ukraine’ on 2 March 2022;
- ES-11/2 ‘Humanitarian consequences of the aggression against Ukraine’ on 24 March 2022;
- ES-11/3 ‘Suspension of the rights of membership of the Russian Federation in the Human Rights Council’ on 7 April 2022;
- ES-11/4 ‘Territorial integrity of Ukraine: defending the principles of the Charter of the United Nations’ on 12 October 2022;
- ES-11/5 ‘Furtherance of remedy and reparation for aggression against Ukraine’ on 14 November 2022;
- 77/229 ‘Situation of human rights in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine’ on 15 December 2022;
- ES-11/6 ‘Principles of the Charter of the United Nations underlying a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine’ on 23 February 2023;
- 77/284 ‘Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe’ on 26 April 2023;
- 78/221 ‘Situation of human rights in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol’ on 19 December 2023.

It is worth noting that Argentina, when presiding over the Human Rights Council in Geneva, promoted and voted in favour of the creation of an International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, an independent committee of three human rights experts with a mandate to investigate alleged violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the Russian invasion of Ukraine (Resolution 49/1 on 4 March 2022).



Двостороння зустріч президентів Аргентинської Республіки та України (Буенос-Айрес, Аргентина). 10 грудня 2023 року

Bilateral meeting between the presidents of the Argentine Republic and Ukraine (Buenos Aires, Argentina). 10 December 2023

Furthermore, at her meeting with First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy of Ukraine, Yuliia Svyrydenko, the Argentine Minister of Foreign Affairs, Diana Mondino, announced that Argentina would join the Peace Formula of President Zelenskyy on points number 1 (Radiation and nuclear safety) and 5 (Restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity).

— *Argentina demonstrated solidarity with Ukraine by providing humanitarian aid, including a mission involving experts from the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs' White Helmets Commission, who assisted in evacuations and supporting refugees in Poland and Romania. Your Excellency, how has Argentina's involvement in providing humanitarian aid to Ukraine strengthened bilateral diplomatic relations and fostered cooperation in other fields?*

— The provision of humanitarian aid from Argentina to Ukraine was implemented immediately as early as March 2022. Since then, 16 shipments have been sent from Ezeiza Airport in Buenos Aires to Ukraine, reaching a variety of institutions and communities in need. It has been a collaborative effort by several departments of the Argentine Government, as well as the civil society, in particular, the Ukrainian diaspora through its many institutions: Argentine-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Executive President Oleh Jachno), the Ukrainian Central Representation (President Dr Pedro Lylyk), the Ukrainian Culture Association 'Prosvita' (President Arq. Jorge Danylyszyn), and the Ukrainian

Association 'Renacimiento' (President Victor Budzinski), the Argentine NGO 'Solidaire', led by philanthropist and pilot Enrique Piñeyro, the Embassy of the Argentine Republic in Ukraine, the Embassy of Ukraine in Argentina, and other Argentine companies and institutions. This relevant work has naturally played an important role in strengthening our current and future relations in different fields, such as agriculture and pharmaceuticals. However, more importantly, it has shown the sympathy of the Argentine society towards Ukraine at these dramatic times. I cannot stress enough that we conceive humanitarian aid, first and foremost, as an altruistic and disinterested act, which should never be used as an opportunity for companies or individuals to promote themselves.

— *On 22 June 2023, the Embassy of the Argentine Republic in Kyiv celebrated its 30th anniversary. Your Excellency, reflecting on these three decades, what pivotal achievements do you see in forging the bond between our two nations? Can you highlight key projects led by the Embassy that have effectively strengthened bilateral ties?*

— Argentina was the first country in Latin America to recognise the independence of Ukraine on 5 December 1991 and establish diplomatic ties with Ukraine on 6 January 1992. The following year, on 22 June 1993, the Embassy opened in Kyiv. Since then, the bilateral relations between Argentina and Ukraine have continued to grow and deepen. Last year, we commemorated the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Argentine Embassy in Kyiv with an important cultural and commercial programme. For instance, we participated in the Grand Astor concert at the National Philharmonic of Ukraine, paying homage to the Argentine composer Astor Piazzolla, who is widely recognised as one of the greatest 20th-century composers in the world. We also placed a plaque on the monument of the Argentine national and regional hero General José Francisco de San Martín in Kyiv to pay tribute to all the Ambassadors, diplomatic personnel, and local staff who have worked at the Embassy since its opening. In these thirty years, we have signed significant memoranda in various fields, for instance, trade and investments, immigration, education, space, and technology, among others. There have been official visits to Argentina at the highest level, such as President Kuchma's visit in 1995 and President Menem's visit to Ukraine in 1998. More recently, in December 2023, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy attended the President of Argentina Dr Javier Milei's inauguration.

— *President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's visit to Argentina on 10 December 2023 heralded a new era of partnership between Ukraine and Argentina. Your Excellency, following this historic visit, how do you foresee the prospects of collaboration between Ukraine and Argentina?*

— The bilateral ties are now reaching a high point, and we foresee a very promising agenda for both countries. On the second anniversary of the commencement of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the Argentine Republic

reiterated its strong condemnation of the invasion and urged the Russian Federation to immediately cease the unlawful use of force and military operations in Ukrainian territory, as well as to withdraw its military equipment and personnel. The Argentine Government firmly advocates respect for the principles of the UN Charter and general international law, in particular, the duty to respect the sovereignty of States and the principle of territorial integrity, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the protection of human rights of the civilian population affected by the conflict. Also, our shared values of respect for freedom, independence and sovereignty make Argentina and Ukraine like-minded countries and place us on the same side on the international stage. We will continue working to bring our countries closer together, either by widening and deepening our legal instruments, or by exploring new paths in a range of areas of expertise.



Команда Посольства поблизу пам'ятника генералові Хосе Франсіско де Сан-Мартіну та меморіальної дошки, яка вшановує 30-річчя відкриття диппредставництва та послів Аргентини в Україні, які започаткували цей проєкт

The Embassy team near the monument to General José Francisco de San Martín and the plaque commemorating the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Argentine diplomatic mission and the ambassadors to Ukraine who launched the project

— *The Ukrainian diaspora in Argentina has played a significant role in cultural initiatives, notably in financing projects such as the Taras Shevchenko monument in Lviv. What further opportunities do you see for leveraging diaspora engagement to strengthen these ties?*

— Mr Oleh Jachno, a respected member of the Ukrainian diaspora in Argentina and Executive President of the Argentine-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has recently shared the very interesting background and history of the construction of the Taras Shevchenko monument in Lviv. When a project for the monument was finally approved in 1988, after many years of public demand in Lviv, the funds collected were not enough. At that moment, Vasyl Ivanytskyi, president of the Ukrainian Central Representation in Argentina, intervened to help organise the fundraising and the



Пам'ятник, який спорудили в місті Монте-Гранде, провінція Буенос-Айрес

The monument being erected in Monte Grande, Buenos Aires province

construction of the sculpture on Argentine soil. The sculpting work was performed in the city of Monte Grande (Esteban Echeverría county). In 1991, the two Ukrainian sculptors, Volodymyr and Andrii Sukhorskyis, travelled to Argentina to complete the construction. The sculpture was then shipped to Hamburg and transported to Lviv. The grand inauguration took place on 24 August 1992, on the first anniversary of the independence of Ukraine. It received the blessing of the Orthodox, the Greek Catholic, the Armenian, and the Roman Catholic Churches. We invite all readers to visit our website and social media to learn the full story of such an iconic accomplishment in

which Argentina was directly involved.

— *Your Excellency, considering Argentina's significant stature in the global economy and its membership in MERCOSUR, how do you assess its potential to advocate for Ukraine's interests on the South American continent?*

— President Zelenskyy has made it very clear that Latin America is a priority for Ukraine. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dmytro Kuleba, stated back on 10 January that '2024 will be the year of Ukraine's return to Latin America and the Caribbean.' Following that lead, there is enormous potential for both Ukraine and Latin America to benefit from increasing political, economic, and cultural ties. In the economic arena, bilateral trade still has plenty of space to grow both ways. But there are also many opportunities to cooperate in joint ventures, technology and know-how transfer, integration of supply chains, to name a few. Argentina has the 3rd largest GDP in Latin America; it is the 8th largest country by surface in the world, and MERCOSUR is a market of 270 million people. Argentina ranks 13th in technological development among the 193 members of the United Nations. We are the 10th country worldwide with the most companies in the biotechnology and nanotechnology sector. Argentina is one of the few countries that can produce and operate satellites (it is the 11th country with the most geostationary satellites in orbit) and is one of the only 12 countries capable of operating the full cycle of nuclear fuel for peaceful purposes on an autonomous way, with its own human and technological resources.

— *How do you perceive the potential for Argentine companies to contribute to Ukraine's reconstruction and post-war recovery efforts, particularly in infrastructure development and investment projects in agriculture?*

— To mention one, agriculture is an excellent example of the potential of cooperation. Both Argentina and Ukraine are global agricultural powerhouses. This is not only because of the quality and availability of arable land but mainly because of a history of technological advances and productivity improvements. Argentina produces food for 500 million people annually and is a leading exporter in soybean, corn, lemons, among others. It also has a well-integrated, innovative, and competitive agricultural equipment manufacturing and agri-tech sectors. Argentina is a world leader in no-till farming and precision agriculture, which not only results in better yields but also significantly reduces the stress on the hydrologic and land resources. In that sense, I can envision Argentina contributing to the reconstruction and post-war recovery efforts by integrating our agricultural, industrial and service sectors through trade, investment and joint ventures, as well as sharing Argentina's expertise in fields such as demining, forensics, or clean and renewable energies.

— *What role does the Embassy play in promoting educational exchanges and fostering academic partnerships between institutions in Argentina and Ukraine?*

— Argentina has historically been a welcoming country to students who want to continue their education in our state at every stage. A very useful initiative by the Ministry of Human Capital is Campus Argentina Global (Argentina Global Campus), which is a digital platform that gathers all the information regarding scholarships, courses, training programmes and education opportunities offered by academic institutions in Argentina. We also have a bilateral agreement in effect between the Government of the Argentine Republic and the Government of Ukraine on Cultural, Educational and Scientific Cooperation, which, among other goals, encourages the interchange of scholars, professors, students and experts between Argentina and Ukraine.

— *Your Excellency, acknowledging the strong sense of community displayed by the diaspora, how does the Embassy intend to leverage this invaluable resource to facilitate deeper cultural exchange?*

— The Ukrainian diaspora has a long-standing tradition in Argentina, whose roots date back to the end of the 19th century. Nowadays, it is the seventh largest in the world, with roughly 350,000 members. The set of institutions that represents Ukrainian members is also very well known, among which it is worth mentioning the Ukrainian Central Representation, the Ukrainian Culture Association 'Prosvita', the Ukrainian Association 'Renacimiento', and the Argentine-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The construction story of the Taras Shevchenko Monument in Lviv is just an example of the extent of the cultural linkages between our countries. The monument to Taras Shevchenko in Buenos Aires' Tres de Febrero Park was unveiled in 1971. It was donated by the Ukrainian community in Argentina two years before the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the first emigrants from Ukraine as a sign of gratitude for the asylum they had

been granted. Notably, an exotic South American bird, the hornero (also known as the ovenbird), made a nest in the crook of the poet's arm, truly symbolising the unity of the Ukrainian community with the Argentine land. Having arrived in Ukraine, I launched a newsletter called *Descubriendo mis raíces* (*Discovering my roots*) in 2020, based on a series of interviews with very important public figures (or their families) who are native Ukrainians or Ukrainian descendants. Among them, we can mention world-renowned pianist Marta Argerich, popular folklore musician Horacio Eugenio 'Chango' Spasiuk, biochemist and virologist Dr Pablo Goldschmidt and former Argentina national team coach Nestor Pekerman. It also pays homage to those who have already passed away, such as Nobel-prize laureate in Medicine Dr Cesar Milstein, iconic poet Alejandra Pizarnik, and the founder of Rosamonte, a very well-known yerba mate brand, Demetrio Hreňuk. We invite all the readers to discover their amazing stories on the twelve newsletters that are available on Embassy's website.

— *The Embassy of Argentina in Ukraine organises events aimed at uniting the cultures of the two countries through Argentine meat and Ukrainian wine. As part of this project, visits to Radomyshl and Ternopil have already taken place. Your Excellency, please tell us more about these events.*

— Gastronomic and cultural diplomacy is a powerful tool to unite countries. Since my arrival in 2019, the Embassy of Argentina has organised a series of



Амбасадорка Аргентинської Республіки в Україні Елена Летісія Мікусінскі, головний сомельє Віктор Медвідь із постійною співробітницею Посольства Ольгою Ємець та командою «Le Silpo» (14-й Усесвітній день мальбека в «Le Silpo»). 17 квітня 2024 року

Ambassador of the Argentine Republic to Ukraine, Elena Leticia Mikusinski, and Chief sommelier Viktor Medvid, with Embassy of Argentina permanent staff member Olga Yemets and Le Silpo staff (14th Malbec World Day at Le Silpo). 17 April 2024

activities, such as gastronomic fusion in the form of professional tastings and pairings and masterclasses. In 2019, we combined cultural, gastronomic and sports diplomacy by organising the first-ever polo event in Ukraine with the participation of the GDIP. In 2024, the Embassy organised and participated in activities aimed at promoting Argentine food, wines and culture, such as the events called Symphony of cultures: uniting cultures through Argentine beef and Ukrainian wine, that took place in Radomysl Castle and Museum and Podolyany Mall in Ternopil. We served premium steak provided by the Institute for the Promotion of Argentine Beef (IPCVA), paired with a selection of Ukrainian wines by Ukrvynprom Corporation. These events, co-organised with the GDIP, were a great success and were highly appreciated by the distinguished guests from the public and private sector. More recently, the Embassy offered a selection of Argentine Malbec wines and Argentine beef at Equides Club, where also the renowned Ukrainian artist Sviatoslav Vakarchuk gave a live performance. Lastly, on 17 April, we joined the global celebrations of the 14th Malbec World Day, established by Wines of Argentina, offering a professional tasting of Malbec wines paired with Argentine beef at Le Silpo supermarket.



Амбасадорка Аргентинської Республіки в Україні Елена Летісія Мікусінські, секретар Посольства Мартін Куаранта, сомельє Альбіна Чайковська та постійні співробітники Посольства на відкритті аргентинського стенда з вином сорту мальбек («Chalet Equides»). 6 квітня 2024 року

Ambassador of the Argentine Republic to Ukraine Elena Leticia Mikusinski, Embassy Secretary Martín Quaranta, sommelier Albina Chaikovska and Embassy permanent staff at the inauguration of Argentine Malbec wine stand (Chalet Equides). 6 April 2024

— Mrs Ambassador, please elaborate on the Embassy's cooperation with representatives of Ukraine's regions and the prospects for cooperation between the regions and cities of Ukraine and Argentina.

— There are different binding documents that unite regions and cities of Argentina and Ukraine in the form of sister-cities agreements, friendship declarations or cooperation memoranda, such as the ones between Buenos Aires Autonomous City and Kyiv, Misiones province and Ternopil region, Chaco province and Volyn region, Córdoba province and Lviv region, Buenos Aires province and Kharkiv region. This is a legal basis for cooperation at the regional level, and the parties were selected with the consideration of the similarities and special bounds between them. For example, Misiones was the province that received the first wave of Ukrainian settlers in the city of Apóstoles at the end of the 19th century. We will continue to identify more opportunities across a range of fields.