

## **PRESENTATION OF THE FOOTBALL TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE AFA-FTI**



On February 17th, Ambassador Manuel Balaguer Salas held a video call with the Secretary General of the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM), Stuart Ramalingam, in order to introduce the [Football Technology Institute AFA-FTI](#), an Argentine development sponsored by the Argentine Football Association (AFA), which aims to promote Argentine football training techniques and to train future players, combining the philosophy of Argentine football with advanced technological resources for greater physical and football development. One of the Institute's training cores is a digital platform -developed by an Argentine company- which allows e-learning, the video recording of the trainings with the purpose of correcting technical mistakes and the measurement of the physical and technical potential of each student.

In this context, the Ambassador highlighted the main aspects of the platform and the benefits it could bring to the development of Malaysian football.

Secretary Ramalingam showed his interest in the project, indicating that one of the goals of the FAM is to improve the quality of its players, through a better competition structure, both at the professional level and at its lower divisions.

## **VIDEOCONFERENCE WITH ANTARCTIC STATION FOR COMMEMORATION OF ARGENTINE ANTARCTICA DAY**



On February 22nd, at Tecnópolis Conference Center in Buenos Aires -the perfect place to showcase the substantial scientific activity being carried out by Argentina on the White Continent - an event was held to commemorate the Argentine Antarctica Day, during which federal government authorities held a video conference with the personnel working at the six permanent Argentine stations in Antarctica.

The event was presided over by the Ministers of Defence, Agustín Rossi, and Culture, Tristán Bauer, and by the Secretary for the Malvinas, Antarctica and South Atlantic, Daniel Filmus.

Filmus stated that: “We are immensely proud of these 117 years of uninterrupted presence in Antarctica, and 2021 is a really special year, as it marks the 70th anniversary of the

creation of the Argentine Antarctic Institute, which was the first Antarctic institute in the world, established with a strategic and forward-looking vision”.

On 22 February 1904, Argentina took possession and raised the Argentine flag in the Meteorology and Magnetic Observatory on Laurie Island, South Orkney Islands (currently called “Orcadas Station”), and established the first Post Office, which was the first permanent facility of a country in Antarctica and the only one for the following 40 years. Since then, Argentina has been the country with the longest permanent presence on the White Continent, paving the way for an era of expeditions that allowed the creation of Antarctic stations, the conduct of Argentine scientific activity and the consolidation of our presence in Antarctica, which is a State policy.

Within the context of the Antarctic Treaty System, Argentina cooperates and makes essential contributions to the protection of the Antarctic environment by means of its scientific activity, which is a core focus of our activity in Antarctica. An example of this is the proposal put forward by Argentina and Chile in the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCRVMA) for the creation of a Protected Maritime Area in the western zone of the Antarctic Peninsula. Buenos Aires has been the seat of the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat since 2004, which is a source of pride for all Argentines.

## **MALVINAS: BUREAU OF UN COMMITTEE ON DECOLONIZATION REAFFIRMED SUPPORT FOR RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND UNITED KINGDOM**



On February 10th, during a meeting with the Secretary for the Malvinas, Antarctica and South Atlantic of the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Daniel Filmus, the members of the Bureau of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization (C24) unanimously reiterated their support for the resumption of negotiations between Argentina and the United Kingdom with a view to finding a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands.

C24 is the main United Nations organ on decolonization, and its Bureau is currently composed of representatives of Grenada (Chair), Cuba, Indonesia and Sierra Leone (Vice-chairs), and Syria (Rapporteur).

Speaking for the Argentine Government, Filmus reaffirmed the legitimate rights of Argentina over the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas and called on the United Kingdom to resume negotiations in order to find a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute.

The representative of Cuba reiterated his support for Argentina's sovereignty rights regarding the Question of the Malvinas and highlighted Argentina's permanent constructive position, as opposed to the UK's lack of response. The Syrian delegation also supported the full restoration of Argentina's sovereignty over all territories and maritime areas usurped by the United Kingdom, and the need to put an end to the colonial situation in the South Atlantic.

The representatives of Sierra Leone and Indonesia stressed the importance of the calls for Argentine-British negotiations in order to solve the sovereignty dispute, and expressed their support for the efforts of the Committee on Decolonization to that end and for the good offices mission of the UN Secretary General.



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## MERCOSUR-EU: ARGENTINA, THE EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES DISCUSSED NEXT STEPS TOWARDS SIGNING AGREEMENT BETWEEN BLOCS



On February 4th, the Secretary for International Economic Relations and Chief Negotiator for Argentina, Jorge Neme, held a video conference with the Ambassador of the European Union in Argentina, Aude Maio-Coliche, and the Ambassadors of the EU Member States to discuss Mercosur-EU Agreement challenges for this semester, during which Argentina holds the Mercosur Pro Tempore Presidency and Portugal the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Secretary Neme and the European Ambassadors agreed on the importance of the signing and entry into force of the Mercosur-EU agreement for the purpose

of boosting trade between the blocs and supporting the economic recovery of our countries.

To that end, Secretary Neme reiterated the need to solve pending issues. In line with what he had told his Portuguese counterpart, Ana Paula Zacarias, the Secretary of State for European Affairs of Portugal, he highlighted the following main issues: approving a statement on the Question of the Malvinas, finalizing the lists of prior users of geographical indications (including designations of origin) and dealing with environmental issues with a commitment to the sustainable development of economies and not in isolation. On this subject, he stated that “we can be partners in the protection of the environment,” as further development will lead to better environmental standards.

Furthermore, the European Ambassadors expressed their interest in learning about Argentina’s priorities during its Pro Tempore Presidency, the possibilities of Mercosur expanding, about the investment climate in the country and the possibility of renegotiating bilateral agreements on protection and promotion of investments.

## THE PRESIDENT SPOKE WITH FRENCH COUNTERPART EMMANUEL MACRON AND AGREED ON DECLARING COVID-19 VACCINE UNIVERSAL GOOD



On February 5th, President Alberto Fernández held a video conference with his French counterpart, Emmanuel Macron, who pledged his support for Argentina’s debt renegotiation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

During the conversation, which lasted more than 50 minutes, Fernández and Macron discussed the epidemiological situation in their countries, the restrictions to control the spread of COVID-19, the new variants of the virus and the vaccination process. The presidents agreed on the need to increase production of vaccines as a universal good without intellectual property, in order to guarantee access for developing countries.

The two leaders also talked about working on a common position in the G20 regarding the debt problem of countries and to achieve a more equitable production and distribution of vaccines.



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## MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF UN DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE



During his participation in the United Nations Conference on Disarmament's High-Level Segment in February, Minister of Foreign Affairs Felipe Solá referred to that event as being “the only forum of the international community to negotiate disarmament, non-proliferation and control of armaments,” and highlighted “the importance of all Member States resuming pending tasks”.

Furthermore, he stated that Argentina is confident that the next Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty will enhance and reaffirm our commitment to the Treaty. In this regard, he stated that the Treaty's legally binding obligations regarding disarmament are clear, and that, together with the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the negotiation of a convention to prohibit fissile material production, they are the essential basis for the future total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Solá highlighted that countries that, as Argentina, have renounced nuclear weapons and have denuclearized their region “cannot be subject to the arbitrary behavior of those who possess them,” and he called on those States that still believe that nuclear weapons have an important role in this global scenario to make the efforts needed to guarantee that such weapons will not be used against other countries.



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## MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF 46TH SESSION OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL



“Argentina is here to reaffirm its commitment to build more equal, just, humanitarian, diverse, and inclusive societies,” stated Minister of Foreign Affairs Felipe Solá during the High-Level Segment of the 46th United Nations Human Rights Council, held virtually from February 22 to 24.

The Minister highlighted that Argentina's multiple actions in the field of Human Rights are based on our memory, truth, and justice process. He stated that, since democracy was restored, “Argentine society has vigorously promoted an agenda focused on equality and expansion of rights, without exclusions or discrimination. This achievement, that involved the invaluable help of our Mothers and Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo, made our promotion and protection for Human Rights a State policy and an essential part of our identity as members of the international community”.

The Argentine Minister of Foreign Affairs stated that, for our country, the achievement of substantive equality between men and women is a priority and a basic tenet of democracy. In that sense, he highlighted the gender approach used in social and labour protection measures in the context of the pandemic. In addition, he highlighted the need to “put an end to the culture of silence and impunity regarding attacks on women, using all the tools and resources we have as a Government and holding the gender-based violence perpetrators responsible before the courts”.

Finally, the Minister called on all countries to adhere to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and highlighted Argentina's candidacy to be a member of the Human Rights Council for the 2022-2024 term, stressing that our country “hopes to continue making substantial contributions to the progressive development of international human rights law”.



## **ARGENTINA CONGRATULATES NEW WTO DIRECTOR-GENERAL**



The Argentine government congratulates Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the first African and the first woman to lead the World Trade Organization (WTO), for the 2021-2025 term.

A two-time Nigerian Finance Minister and Foreign Minister, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala began her career at the World Bank in 1982. She worked there for 25 years and rose to the second most senior position, that of Managing Director, Operations. She is an economist, global finance expert, and international development specialist with over thirty years of experience.

Argentina is committed to multilateralism and highlights the importance of advancing swiftly in the preparation of the next WTO ministerial conference, to be held this year on a date to be determined, where progress is expected to be made, among other things, with regard to agriculture and the elimination of fisheries subsidies.



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