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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 10 June 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the official statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Argentine Republic on the occasion of the Day of Affirmation of Argentina's Rights over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, which is commemorated every 10 June (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 47, concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

(Signed) **Martín García Moritán**
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 10 June 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Day of Affirmation of Argentina's Rights over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas

On 10 June we commemorate a new anniversary of the creation, in 1829, of the Political and Military Commandancy for the Malvinas Islands and the islands adjacent to Cape Horn in the Atlantic Ocean.

Its creation was the affirmation of our sovereignty which, since our emancipation, we have exercised over this territory and other islands in the South Atlantic, as legitimate successors of Spain.

During those years, legislation was enacted from Buenos Aires and legal and administrative structures were established that consolidated the full exercise of our sovereignty, promoting the development of commercial activities, the settlement of a population and the establishment of a local government on the date we commemorate today, with Luis Vernet being appointed Governor.

This effective exercise of sovereignty was interrupted on 3 January 1833, when the United Kingdom expelled, through an act of force, the legitimate Argentine authorities and the population that had settled there, disrupting our country's territorial integrity. Since that date, no Argentine Government has consented to this act of force and until the present moment, the islands have been the subject of a sovereignty dispute with the United Kingdom, recognized by the United Nations through General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX).

Therefore, recovering the full exercise of our sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, respecting the way of life of their inhabitants and in accordance with international law, constitutes a permanent and non-renounceable objective of the Argentine people, as established in the first transitory provision of our National Constitution.

Since 2016, the Argentine Government has promoted a constructive relationship with the United Kingdom that has allowed us to make progress in areas of mutual interest in the South Atlantic, reflecting our full willingness to engage in a substantial dialogue inclusive of all issues.

We are convinced that this climate of dialogue will also generate a proper framework for the resumption of negotiations on sovereignty, in the terms established by the resolutions of the United Nations and its Special Committee on decolonization.

This aim is shared by our region and numerous multilateral forums such as MERCOSUR, the Organization of American States (OAS), the Group of 77 and China and the Ibero-American Summits, where on many occasions we have received support in favour of the resumption of negotiations to find a definitive solution to this protracted controversy.

Argentina is committed to the peaceful settlement of disputes and multilateralism within the framework of a rule-based international order. In this regard, we trust that through the efforts of the United Nations General Assembly and its Special Committee on decolonization, which were recently reasserted by the

International Court of Justice, it will be possible to move towards the goal of eliminating colonialism all over the world and in all its forms, including as it pertains to the question of the Malvinas Islands.

On this significant date for the Argentine people, we reaffirm once again our sovereignty rights over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, as they are an integral part of our national territory.
