



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fourth session

Agenda items 8 and 43

### General debate

#### Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

### **Letter dated 28 November 2019 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to write to you in reference to the letter dated 25 September 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations ([A/74/456](#)), circulated in response to the statement on the question of the Malvinas Islands contained in the address by President Mauricio Macri to the General Assembly made on 24 September.

I would also like to refer to the letter dated 30 September 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations ([A/74/487](#)), circulated in response to the statements made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua at the meeting of the General Assembly held on 28 September 2019.

The Argentine Republic reaffirms once again that the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas are an integral part of Argentine national territory and, being illegally occupied by the United Kingdom since 1833, are the subject of a sovereignty dispute recognized by the United Nations, which calls the question of the Malvinas Islands a special and particular case of decolonization.

Argentina recalls that General Assembly resolution [2065 \(XX\)](#) on the question of the Malvinas includes in its geographical scope the South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. The separation of these archipelagos from the territory of the Malvinas, effected by the United Kingdom several decades after adoption of the resolution, was not attributable to either the United Nations or Argentina.

The principle of the self-determination of peoples is not applicable in this case. Indeed, in that connection, none of the resolutions of the General Assembly or the Special Committee on decolonization refer to that principle. Moreover, the General Assembly expressly rejected, on two occasions in 1985, British proposals to



incorporate the principle of self-determination in the draft resolution on the question of the Malvinas Islands.

The vote held in 2013 in the Malvinas Islands was not organized or conducted under the auspices of the United Nations, as was the case in other examples of decolonization. Therefore, in addition to being absolutely inappropriate because the principle of self-determination is not applicable to the question of the Malvinas Islands, that vote lacks any validity or effect, since the General Assembly did not intervene in any way. In line with this, in its recent advisory opinion on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965, the International Court of Justice reaffirmed that the General Assembly and the Special Committee on decolonization have a central role to play in defining and monitoring the necessary modalities for the decolonization of a territory. In that regard, the General Assembly made its position clear in resolution [2065 \(XX\)](#), in which it urged Argentina and the United Kingdom to resume negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. That position was reiterated in General Assembly resolutions [3160 \(XXVIII\)](#), [31/49](#), [37/9](#), [38/12](#), [39/6](#), [40/21](#), [41/40](#), [42/19](#) and [43/25](#) and in the resolutions of the Special Committee on decolonization.

Argentina recalls that the interests of the residents of the Islands and their way of life are adequately addressed in the relevant General Assembly resolutions and in the National Constitution of Argentina.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 8 and 43.

(Signed) Alejandro Guillermo **Verdier**  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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