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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 30 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the official press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina on the occasion of the 188th anniversary of the British usurpation of the Malvinas Islands, which is commemorated on 3 January (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 46, concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

(Signed) María del Carmen **Squeff**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 30 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

The 188th anniversary of the illegal occupation of the Malvinas Islands

On 3 January 1833, the Malvinas Islands were illegally occupied by British forces, which evicted the Argentine population and authorities lawfully established there and replaced them with British subjects. Since the beginning of its independence process, Argentina, as the legitimate heir to the continental, island and maritime territories that had belonged to Spain, exercised its sovereignty over these archipelagos and maritime areas through various acts of government, including by appointing authorities, solemnly taking possession of the Malvinas Islands in the name of the United Provinces of the Río de la Plata and raising the Argentine flag on that soil for the first time. 2020 was the 200th anniversary of that event. The British act of force that culminated in the illegal occupation of the Malvinas Islands was immediately protested by the Argentine authorities of that time and no Argentine Government has ever consented to it. Throughout the 188 years of this usurpation, Argentina has at all times vigorously asserted its claim to exercise its effective sovereignty over these Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

The recovery of the effective exercise of our sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, in accordance with international law, while respecting the way of life of their inhabitants, is a permanent and unrenounceable objective of the Argentine people, as reflected in the national Constitution, and constitutes a State policy.

The call of the international community for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Argentina to engage in bilateral negotiations with a view to finding a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute, bearing in mind the interests of the inhabitants of the Islands, is enshrined in General Assembly resolution [2065 \(XX\)](#), adopted 55 years ago with no dissenting votes. The said declaration, which recognized the question of the Malvinas Islands as a special and particular colonial situation, has been reiterated by subsequent General Assembly resolutions and by the annual resolution adopted by consensus by the members of the United Nations Special Committee on decolonization.

The international community has also reiterated this call for dialogue through numerous declarations by multilateral forums such as the Organization of American States (OAS), the Group of 77 and China, the Ibero-American Summit, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the MERCOSUR Parliament (PARLASUR), the Africa-South America Summit (ASA) and the Summit of South American-Arab Countries (ASPA), which have called for negotiations to be resumed as soon as possible.

The refusal by the United Kingdom to comply with its obligation to resume sovereignty negotiations is exacerbated by its continuous introduction of unilateral acts. These acts include the exploration and exploitation of renewable and non-renewable natural resources – which Argentina has constantly rejected – and an unjustified and disproportionate military presence in the Islands. All these acts are contrary to General Assembly resolution [31/49](#) and have given rise to expressions of concern and rejection by the international community.

Reaffirming the legitimate sovereignty rights of Argentina, in 2020 the National Congress unanimously adopted three laws that strengthen the work undertaken in relation to the Argentine claim. First, the National Council of Affairs relative to the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas was established with the aim of constituting a diverse forum at the highest institutional level to elaborate mid- and long-term State strategies. In addition, the outer limit of the Argentine continental shelf was definitively demarcated, consolidating the result of more than two decades' work by the Commission on the Outer Limit of the Continental Shelf, which had been duly submitted to the United Nations. Lastly, the fines and penalties for illegal fishing in Argentine waters were increased, to discourage poaching and promote the conservation and efficient management of our resources in the South Atlantic.

We wish to reiterate our firm commitment to the peaceful settlement of the dispute, in full respect for international law and the interests of the inhabitants of the Islands. We also reaffirm our willingness to resume negotiations with the United Kingdom in accordance with the repeated calls of the international community, maintaining the same constructive spirit as in the years following the adoption of resolution [2065 \(XX\)](#), when the two parties set in motion the negotiation mechanisms stipulated in that resolution. Furthermore, we call on the Secretary-General of the United Nations to renew his efforts to fulfil the mission of good offices entrusted to him by the General Assembly in successive resolutions.

The Government and people of Argentina reaffirm once again, 188 years after the usurpation of the Malvinas Islands, their legitimate and imprescriptible sovereignty rights over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

Buenos Aires, 3 January 2021
