

Puerto Iguazú Commitment Development, Justice and Integration

Presidents Kirchner (Argentina) and Lula (Brazil) celebrated today the 20th anniversary of the Declaration of Iguazú, undersigned by Presidents Alfonsín and Sarney (respectively) during their historical meeting of November 30, 1985.

The Presidents renewed the commitment by their people and their governments concerning the strengthening of the cooperation, integration and friendship between them, which support common values and objectives, such as the development with equity, the eradication of hunger and poverty, and the promotion of democracy and human rights. The alliance between Argentina and Brazil is the key for the success of the common integration project, in which they highlight the relevance of providing greater depth to the Mercosur, consolidating the Common Market and building up the South American Commonwealth. Regional integration will bring along a solid base for the negotiation of more balanced and fair commercial agreements both in the regional, extra-regional and American arenas and within the framework of the World Trade Organization.

Presidents Kirchner and Lula have decided to strengthen multilateralism as the best way to deal with the great contemporary challenges: respect to international law, the struggle against terrorism and the fight against racism and intolerance. They emphasize their commitment to bring the reform of the United Nations to a successful conclusion, for which Brazil and Argentina will cooperate with each other actively and will work in close coordination.

In the area of the multilateral credit institutions, Presidents Lula and Kirchner will fight jointly for avoiding the demand for conditions affecting the Governments' capacity to promote policies aimed at growth, decent employment and social inclusion. On the basis of the experience gained in the region, Brazil and Argentina consider that the market does not solve all the problems and that it is essential to develop a common strategy for promoting development and aimed at a direct fight against exclusion.

Argentina and Brazil have been following a path of prolific cooperation since that historical meeting in Iguazú, twenty years ago, when both countries expressed their belief in developing an integration process on the basis of a permanent political dialog, of the creation of a common economic environment and of the establishment of conditions leading the southern hemisphere to become a peaceful zone free from mass-destruction weapons. The rich patrimony obtained throughout these two decades is celebrated today in the certainty that, together, both countries will be able to overcome the internal and external barriers to development and will build more prosperous, fair and democratic nations.

As well as, in 1985, Argentina and Brazil established patterns for regional integration and peace, in this stage, our efforts are increasingly aimed at

attaining that the benefits of integration can be effectively reflected in our citizens' daily life. For this purpose, in this 20th anniversary of the Declaration of Iguazú, Presidents Lula and Kirchner celebrate the signature of a significant set of new cooperation protocols and instruments in strategic areas, representing the will in both countries to enhance integration and continue to strengthen the Argentine-Brazilian friendship.

The Presidents have given orders to their Ministers of Federal Planning, Public Investment and Services, and Mining and Energy to perform a feasibility study —along with Venezuela and in coordination with other interested countries in the region— aimed at the construction of a gas pipeline connecting Argentina, Brazil and other South American countries.

Both Heads of State have established that the best efforts must be made in order to complete, before January 31, 2006, an instrument liable to prevent the impact of unbalance in business and of asymmetries among the production sectors in both countries and to promote integration in production and a balanced and dynamic expansion of their bilateral trade.

APPENDIX

The Presidents made emphasis on the performance of the “Bilateral Reflection Forum”, which was held in the city of Foz de Iguazú on November 29 last.

This meeting fostered a historical and structural analysis of the bilateral relationship, as well as of the role of Argentina and Brazil in the regional environment and in the international arena.

Besides, they highlighted the importance of the extensive set of new cooperation protocols and instruments undersigned during the Iguazú summit, as detailed below:

Joint Declaration on Nuclear Policy;

Additional Protocol to the Agreement on Cooperation in the Development and Application of the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy in connection with Reactors, Nuclear Fuels, with the Supply of Radioisotopes and Radiopharmaceuticals, and with Radioactive Waste Management.

Additional Protocol to the Agreement on Cooperation in the Development and Application of the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy in the Areas of Standardization and Implementation of Nuclear Regulations;

Supplementary Protocol to the Framework Agreement on Cooperation in the Peaceful Application of Space Science and Technology, signed between the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Government of the Argentine Republic for the Joint Development of an Argentine-Brazilian Satellite for Information on Water Resources, Agriculture and the Environment.

Agreement for the Establishment of a Commercial Cooperation Mechanism between the Argentine Republic and the Federative Republic of Brazil.

Bilateralization of the Agreement on Residence of the MERCOSUR;

Agreement between the Argentine Republic and the Federative Republic of Brazil for the granting of Permanent Residence Permits to holders of Transitory or Temporary Residence Permits.

Protocol for the Creation of a High-Level Team entrusted with the Implementation of Free Circulation of Persons between the Argentine Republic and the Federative Republic of Brazil.

Bilateral Agreement on Connected Bordering Towns between the Argentine Republic and the Federative Republic of Brazil.

Declaration on the abduction and restitution of children;

Framework Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Defense between the Argentine Republic and the Federative Republic of Brazil.

Supplementary Agreement to the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Argentine Republic and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil;

Regulation by the Binational Argentine-Brazilian Commission for Facilitating the Construction and Operation of New Crossings on the Uruguay River;

Protocol for the Creation of the Argentine-Brazilian Nanotechnologies (CABN) between the Argentine Republic and the Federative Republic of Brazil;

Supplementary Agreement to the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Argentine Republic and the Federative Republic of Brazil for Research, Technological Development and Production of Active Substances, Medical Drugs and Resources for Diagnosis;

Bilateral Declaration on Energy Matters;

Cooperation Agreement between the Ministry of Federal Planning, Public Investment and Services of the Argentine Republic and the Ministry of Communications of the Federative Republic of Brazil in the Area of Digital Terrestrial Television;

Cooperation Program between the Brazilian Space Agency and the National Commission on Space Activities of the Argentine Republic with regard to the SAC-D/Aquarius Project.

Work Program between the Secretariat of Agriculture, Cattle, Fishing and Food of the Argentine Republic and the Ministry of Agriculture, Cattle and

Supply of the Federative Republic of Brazil for the Assessment of Equivalence between their Health Inspection and Phytosanitary Systems.

Protocol between the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of the Argentine Republic and the Ministry of Education of the Federative Republic of Brazil for Promoting the Teaching of Spanish and Portuguese Teaching as Second Languages;

Cultural Cooperation Agreement between the Culture Secretariat of the Argentine Presidency and the Ministry of Culture of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

Protocol of Intent between the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security of the Argentine Republic and the Ministry of Labor and Employment of the Federative Republic of Brazil on Cooperation in Labor Affairs;

Cooperation Agreement on Sports Matters between the Secretariat of Sports of the Argentine Republic and the Ministry of Sports of the Federative Republic of Brazil.