



ARGENTINE REPUBLIC
CANDIDATE
FOR THE UN HUMAN
RIGHTS COUNCIL
2019 – 2021





Argentina's candidacy to the Human Rights Council

Period 2019 - 2021

ARGENTINA AND THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Argentina has presented its candidacy to the Human Rights Council (HRC) for the period 2019-2021 within the context of the elections to be held at the United Nations General Assembly, in October 2018.

The promotion and protection of human rights has been a State Policy underlying all public policies and reflecting the main concerns of Argentine society. This is the reason why their defence and promotion are central pillars of Argentina's foreign policy.

With the 1994 Constitutional reform, the commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights was strengthened by incorporating -with constitutional status- the main instruments of international human rights law.

As a State party to the inter-American and international Human Rights system, Argentina is committed and on the path to guaranteeing that all individuals have equal enjoyment of all economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, as well as to protecting and ensuring their full force.

Argentina understands that in order to have a discrimination-free society, it is necessary to guarantee freedom of speech, belief, sexuality, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity expression, personal identity, and cultural identity, so as to form a plural, democratic society, based on respect for diversity.

In order to strengthen, systematize and consolidate public policies on human rights, in December 2017 Argentina launched the 2017-2020 National Human Rights Plan. This action plan is based on international commitments made by the Argentine State as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its pillars are: inclusion, non-discrimination and equality, public security and non-violence; memory, truth,





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justice and reparation policies; universal access to rights and civic culture as well as commitment to human rights.

At the international and regional levels, Argentina has actively promoted and participated in the negotiation of human rights protection instruments. This is within the framework of a foreign policy aimed at the enhancement of international law, cooperation, the promotion of universal values associated with peace and security, representative democracy, respect for and promotion of economic, social and cultural human rights, as well as civil and political rights.

Regarding control mechanisms adopted in human rights treaties, Argentina has fulfilled obligations undertaken in relation to the submission of Periodic Reports to the Human Rights Committee, Committee on the Rights of the Child, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Committee against Torture and Committee on Enforced Disappearances.

As regards equity and women's rights, the Argentine State seeks to achieve gender equality as well as the political, social and economic empowerment of all women and girls. In November 2017, Argentina took a significant step by passing the Law on Gender Parity in Political Representation, which provides that, as of 2019, 50% of candidates for the Argentine House of Representatives and the Senate and for the Mercosur Parliament must be women and which amends the Organic Law on Political Parties by introducing the obligation to respect gender parity in their charters and in respect of access to party positions.

As a result of sustained efforts by Argentina's foreign policy on women's human rights, in 2018 UN Women -through its Country Office- will start its activities in Argentina by implementing the "National Programme for Equality". As part of the programme, different projects will be developed in order to encourage women's political participation and leadership, promote economic empowerment and the incorporation of women into non-traditional economic sectors, improve femicide data collection systems, and eradicate gender-based violence, as well as to contribute to pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals from a gender perspective.





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The path followed by the Argentine State since 1983 has placed our country in a position of leadership at the global level in the construction of a fairer international order. Argentina firmly believes that it is necessary to continue strengthening the universal system of promotion and protection of human rights; therefore, it wishes to contribute determinedly in this stage of UNHRC consolidation, so as to further improve international protection levels.

ARGENTINA'S ROLE IN THE UNIVERSAL SYSTEM OF PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Within the framework of the United Nations, Argentina was a member of the Commission on Human Rights during the following periods: 1957-62, 66-68, 80-93. Since 1997, it has been a continuous member of the Commission, having been re-elected in May 2005, until the creation of the Human Rights Council (HRC), of which it was a member during the periods 2006-2007, 2009-2011 y 2013-2015.

Argentina's close cooperation with all the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (HRC) is worth highlighting. We receive visits from various Rapporteurs and Working Groups related to the promotion and protection of human rights and we support initiatives aimed at the renewal of existing mandates and the creation of new ones.

Furthermore, Argentina has submitted several novel draft resolutions within the framework of the HRC, prominent among them the inclusion of the item "Right to the Truth" on the international agenda, as well as initiatives on Forensic Genetics and Human Rights; Human rights and transitional justice; Business and Human Rights; the Negative Impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights; Child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian situations; Cultural rights and cultural heritage; the Rights of older persons and Enforced Disappearances.

The activities relating to the universalization of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED) are a main foreign





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policy pillar for our country, in addition to efforts at UNGA in connection with the drafting of a Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Older Persons.

Through its foreign policy, Argentina is committed to working within the United Nations and in the region in order to enhance the inclusion of a gender-based perspective in the Women, Peace and Security issue (Security Council Resolution 1325/2000)

At forums for the promotion and protection of human rights, Argentina is highly committed to protecting and promoting the rights of LGBTI individuals, advancing resolutions on this issue at different regional and global forums and forming part of all existing LGBTI core groups: together with the Netherlands it chairs the UNGA group and is part of the Human Rights Council and the OAS. In this regard, at the HRC Argentina advanced and supported Resolutions on the Protection against Violence and Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. The adoption of the third resolution was a very important step since it created a special procedure (the Independent Expert) to defend the rights of LGBTI individuals.

Moreover, Argentina has ratified all existing international and regional instruments on the abolition of the death penalty and has launched various initiatives at different levels aimed at attaining such goal. One of the initiatives is participation in the Task Force that has presented the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the "Moratorium on the use of the Death Penalty" on a biannual basis since 2008. In 2007 Argentina co-sponsored with the European Union and Mongolia the creation of the "Global Alliance to end trade in tools of torture, capital punishment and any other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

Argentina supports the Universal Periodic Review as it considers this mechanism to be a significant and objective tool of the universal human rights promotion and protection system. In this context, all rights, whether civil, political, economic, social or cultural -including the right to development- must be observed equally.

Furthermore, as in the case of UN mechanisms, Argentina has extended an open and permanent invitation for the organs of the Inter-American Human Rights system to





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visit the country. This is supplemented by the recognition of the competence of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IHR Court) for receiving complaints against the Argentine State related to human rights violations, as set forth in the American Convention on Human Rights.

**ARGENTINA'S COMMITMENTS DURING
ITS MANDATE**

Hoping to receive full support from Member States, Argentina undertakes to:

At a universal level:

- *Strengthen the promotion and protection of all human rights -civil, political, economic, social and cultural-, pursuant to the principles of universality, interdependence and indivisibility.*
- *Strengthen ties with universal and gender-specialized organizations for them to contribute to women's empowerment and to the prevention and eradication of gender-based violence.*
- *Promote multilateralism as an effective tool for defending human rights, presenting and co-sponsoring resolutions at the General Assembly and at the HRC that contribute to raising international standards on human rights protection.*
- *Work with all civil society organizations, by engaging in interactive dialogue with them, in order to create new opportunities for enhancing their mechanisms of participation in the HRC and to acknowledge their role as human rights advocates.*
- *Empower the HRC for it to act effectively in urgent situations involving serious violations of human rights and of countries' mandates.*
- *Ratify the commitment undertaken to discourage, through diplomatic consultations, practices such as "no-action motions" on certain draft resolutions. It is necessary, in a spirit of dialogue and cooperation, for the members of the Council to be willing*





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to consider all issues related to the promotion and protection of human rights, duly observing Resolution 60/251 adopted by the General Assembly.

- *Support the reinforcement and independence of special procedures, guaranteeing absolute liberty to mandate holders. The special procedures should have due regard to the respect for all human rights -economic, social, cultural, and civil and political rights-, including the right to development.*
- *Continue supporting the work of the High Commissioner and its mechanisms, endeavouring to enhance its participation in the tasks of the HRC.*
- *Participate constructively with a view to strengthening the transformative capacity of the Universal Periodic Review, ensuring technical cooperation for all States requiring it. When making recommendations, the Review should also take into account the different levels of development of the countries under review and the gender perspective.*
- *Include aspects related to the fight against all forms of discrimination and gender-based violence in its recommendations within the framework of the Universal Periodic Review.*
- *Continue efforts to ensure full application and observance of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance by all States.*

At a regional level:

- *Continue fostering dialogue and cooperation among States of the region in order to contribute to the strengthening of human rights and to provide a constructive and agreed perspective at the HRC.*
- *Cooperate to the strengthening of democracy in the region, ensuring full respect for human rights.*





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- *Actively participate in the Working Group (WG) on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons established within the OAS, the purpose of which is to protect older persons.*
- *Actively work at the Committee for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CEDDIS) of the OAS.*
- *Promote the adoption of National Action Plans with a view to implementing Resolution 1325/2000 of the United Nations Security Council as regards Women, Peace and Security, in order to consolidate fairer, more inclusive and more peaceful societies.*

At a national level:

- *Implement, within our country and in a comprehensive manner, the obligations undertaken by Argentina through international human rights instruments.*
- *Continue and expand the promotion and protection of human rights as a State Policy at a national level, based on the firm belief that they are rights inherent to all human beings.*
- *Comprehensively implement the five pillars of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017-2020.*
- *Integrate gender perspective, as a cross-cutting issue, into public policies within the different national, provincial and local state bodies.*
- *Cooperate with the UN Women country office in Argentina to implement the "National Programme for Equality."*
- *Work in a coordinated effort with civil society and non-governmental organizations to promote public policies that guarantee respect for human rights.*
- *Apply gender perspective in the follow-up to the Universal Periodic Review.*

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