

# Walking together for benefit

By H.E. RENATO CARLOS SERSALE DI CERISANO

AMBASSADOR OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED KINGDOM



**RENATO CARLOS SERSALE DI CERISANO** trained as an economist before joining the Argentine diplomatic corps in 1979. He subsequently worked as an Argentine representative in various UN institutions in New York City and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), before participating in cooperation treaty negotiations between Argentina and Italy. In the 1990s he worked for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In 2005 he was appointed Ambassador to South Africa. He was appointed Ambassador to London in 2016.

Argentina's G20 Presidency underscores President Mauricio Macri's strategic policy of re-engaging Argentina with the global economy. At the same time, it reflects a contribution to building consensus through multilateral dialogue in all areas of the G20 agenda facing global challenges. In this sense, Argentina's G20 Presidency focuses on "Building consensus for fair and sustainable development" setting out three pillars: the future of work, promoting investment for infrastructure, and securing a sustainable food future.

The G20 is not just a summit that provides an annual gathering for the heads of state of the 20 countries that shape the global economy. It is an ongoing process that, in Argentina's case, started almost a year before the Summit. During that time fifty-four preparatory meetings were held, most of them at ministerial level, addressing the various areas of the G20 agenda with the aim of building consensus on how to tackle global challenges. These meetings provide vital inputs for the Summit's Final Declaration. Argentina's G20 Presidency thus encompasses a commitment to multilateralism and transparency that is shared across the international community.

During this period Argentina has engaged in other important initiatives highlighting our commitment to re-engaging with the global economy. The WTO Ministerial Conference hosted in Buenos Aires in November 2017 has been praised for the professional organization, dedication and hospitality shown by our country. At a regional level, following a 20-year hiatus, Mercosur has re-launched negotiations for a free-trade agreement with the EU and the Pacific Alliance has welcomed Argentina as a new Observer State. Argentina has requested accession to the OECD and in doing so is adopting international standards that will guide us,

institutionally and economically, toward the changes needed to fully reintegrate into the global economy.

As ambassador to the United Kingdom, the G20 process and in particular its three pillars has provided guidance to our bilateral agenda whilst simultaneously contributing to the global agenda of the G20.

The joint communiqué between Argentina and the United Kingdom agreed on September 13th 2016 serves as a roadmap in that direction. It provides for consultation and cooperation in different areas such as democracy, human rights and gender issues, cooperation in international peace and security, non-proliferation, drug trafficking and terrorism, fighting corruption and organized crime, the environment, climate change, clean/green energy, trade and investment, science, technology and innovation, tourism, the arts, culture, education and sport.

Since President Macri's government took office, we have signed and started to implement fifteen agreements, foremost among which is the Memorandum of Understanding on "UK-Argentina Commercial Dialogue" (2017). This agreement aims to foster trade and investment, which, in line with Argentina's priorities, could help expand both the infrastructure and mining sectors. Likewise, the UK is committed to this strategy and to that effect has, through its UK Export Finance (UKEF), established a £1 billion export credit facility to support trade with Argentina as well as established high value campaigns, i.e. sectors where joint cooperation between our business communities is promising, such as in oil and gas, infrastructures and agritech. In the field of science and technology, we have been working together in agreed areas, focusing particularly on applied science. Our Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation and the British Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) have signed an agreement to promote cooperation in biology, agritech, nanotechnology, communication and information technologies, paleontology and oceanographic research.

Finally, putting all of the above into perspective, Argentina –within its MERCOSUR institutional framework– is keen to cooperate with the UK in order to leverage the mutually complementing economies seeking comparative advantages the two countries share in trade, investment and finance. Thus our approach is one of "walking together" for the benefit not only of both our countries but also for the benefit of a prosperous and sustainable world.



UK Foreign Secretary  
Jeremy Hunt with  
Ambassador Sersale  
and Argentine Foreign  
Minister Jorge Faurie