

**CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
MARCH 26TH**

**ARGENTINE DELEGATION'S COUNTER-REPLY TO THE REPLY MADE BY THE UNITED
KINGDOM.
(ENGLISH VERSION)**

Mr. President,

In relation to what was stated by the Ambassador of the United Kingdom, the Argentine Republic reaffirms, once again, that the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia, South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime spaces are an integral part of the Argentine national territory, and, being illegitimately occupied by the United Kingdom since 1833, are the subject of a sovereignty dispute recognized by the United Nations, which qualifies the Question of the Malvinas Islands as a special and particular case of decolonization.

The illegal occupation by the United Kingdom led the United Nations General Assembly to adopt ten (10) Resolutions on the issue, starting with resolution 2065 (XX). These Resolutions acknowledge the existence of a sovereignty dispute and urge the governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom to resume negotiations in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful and lasting solution to the dispute. For its part, the Special Decolonization Committee has repeatedly ruled in the same direction, most recently through the resolution contained in the report for 2020 (A /75/23).

Likewise, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States adopted on October 21, 2020, a new declaration on this matter in similar terms.

SELF-DETERMINATION:

Argentina reiterates that the principle of self-determination of peoples -an element on which the United Kingdom bases its refusal to resume sovereignty negotiations - is inapplicable to the dispute between the two countries over the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands, and the surrounding maritime areas.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted in 1960 the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Resolution 1514), which governs the processes of decolonization. Said resolution, while enunciating the principle of self-determination of peoples, warns that any attempt aimed at disrupting the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. In other words, resolution 1514 (XV) of the United Nations General Assembly established the principles of self-determination of peoples and of the territorial integrity of the States as guiding principles of the decolonization process. In that sense, the right to self-determination is not absolute, as it is limited by the respect of the principle of territorial integrity.

None of the 10 resolutions by the General Assembly or of the 38 resolutions by the Special Committee on Decolonization regarding the Question of the Malvinas Islands makes a reference to the principle of self-determination. On the contrary, the Question of the Malvinas Islands is considered to be a special and particular case of decolonization, in which the sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom must be resolved by bilateral negotiations, taking into account the "interests" (not the "wishes") of the inhabitants of the Islands.

The invocation of an alleged right to self-determination by the population of the islands is inapplicable to this case and has been repeatedly rejected by the United Nations. This is because the Organization understood that a population transplanted by the colonial power, such as the population of the Malvinas Islands, is not a people with a right to self-determination, since it is not different from the people of the metropolis. In this sense, there is no "people" subdued, dominated or subjugated by a colonial power.

Thank you, Mr. President.