

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

26 MARCH

**SECOND COUNTER REPLY OF THE ARGENTINE DELEGATION TO THE COUNTER REPLY OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM`S DELEGATION**

(ENGLISH VERSION)

Mr. President,

Regarding the referendum alleged by the Ambassador of the United Kingdom, we would like to point out that the vote that took place in 2013 in the Malvinas Islands was simply a British unilateral act, and was neither organized nor carried out by the United Nations. In consequence, that consultation has no validity or legal value. The solution to the sovereignty dispute does not depend on the results of a voting process in which British citizens express their desire to remain British. Allowing the British citizens of the islands to constitute themselves as arbitrators of a dispute in which their own country is part distorts the right to self-determination of peoples, since there is no "people" entitled to such a right under international law in the Question of the Malvinas Islands. The exercise of an alleged right to self-determination to "legitimize" an illegal factual situation and endorse the disruption of Argentine territorial integrity cannot be allowed.

Finally, Argentina recalls that the interests of the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands and their way of life are adequately protected by the Argentine National Constitution and by the pertinent United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the Question of the Malvinas Islands.

Thank you, Mr. President.

END