

ARGENTINA ELECTED TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

On 12 November, Argentina was elected as a member of the Human Rights Council for the 2013-2015 period with 176 votes in the election held in the City of New York during the 67th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (UNGA). The Group of Latin American and Caribbean States was to renew three of its members for said period. Brazil and Venezuela were also elected.

The Human Rights Council is the main permanent body dealing with this subject at the world level, and it is headquartered in Geneva. It has 47 members, which are elected by direct universal suffrage, through secret ballot of the members of the UNGA. The criteria to elect Council Members are related to the contributions of the candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights, including related promises and voluntary contributions made in this respect.

Argentina will participate in the Human Rights Council for the third time since the body was created in 2006. The country has always been an active member, promoting various initiatives to raise the international standards on the subject, notably the adoption of the Right to the Truth, the use of Forensic Science to investigate grave human rights violations, and the recent creation of the Special Rapporteurship on the promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-recurrence.

In 2013, Argentina will mark 30 years since the restoration of democracy, and its election as a Council Member is an acknowledgement of the work done by the country during said time, particularly in connection with the adoption of a genuine State policy on human rights since 2003. This has reinforced the country's leadership in the subject, in connection with both the eradication of impunity for crimes against humanity and the significant progress made against discrimination and for social inclusion.