

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN THE

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND
WORSHIP
OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC**

AND THE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CONCERNING

**COOPERATION TO STRENGTHEN
CRITICAL MINERAL RESOURCE SECTOR GOVERNANCE, INVESTMENT,
AND GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN SECURITY**

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This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into, by and between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Argentine Republic and the Department of State of the United States of America, hereinafter referred to as “the Participants;”

SEEKING to cooperate in strengthening critical mineral resource sector governance and investment in the Argentine Republic, to help expand its integration and support of secure and reliable global supply chains;

CONSIDERING the extensive and productive history of energy and critical minerals cooperation between the countries of the Participants, including through a 2019 Memorandum of Understanding concerning cooperation on lithium mining, as well as the importance of promoting foreign investment for economic and social growth and development;

RECOGNIZING the importance of critical minerals supply chains with respect to supporting exploration, extraction, processing, optimized end-use applications, recovery, and recycling to help underpin the clean energy transition and adoption of clean energy technologies;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the United States of America is a founding member and current chair of the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) to secure and diversify critical mineral supply chains, and that the Argentine Republic has joined the MSP Forum to formalize and expand engagement with MSP Partners;

ADDITIONALLY RECOGNIZING the desire to deepen cooperation between the United States of America and the Argentine Republic to benefit mutual economic and resource security;

EMPHASIZING the importance of promoting mineral extraction, processing, and recycling opportunities that adhere to high environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards;

NOTING the technical, regulatory, policy, operational, and sector management expertise and unique experiences in critical mineral resources that the countries of the Participants possess;

DESIRING to strengthen trade and investment in critical mineral supply chains between the countries of the Participants as well as in support of ensuring secure and reliable global supplies; and

BELIEVING that cooperation between the Participants would serve their common interest in the clean energy transition and deploying clean energy technologies;

Have reached the following understanding:

1. OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to strengthen cooperation between the Participants on critical mineral resource supply chains and to promote trade and investment between the countries of the Participants in critical mineral resource exploration, extraction, processing and refining, and recycling and recovery. The goal is to increase awareness of investment opportunities and identify potential co-financing opportunities for critical mineral investments.

2. AREAS OF COOPERATION

1. The Participants intend to share information, knowledge, and technical expertise on leading international practices to help increase the competitiveness of the Argentine Republic's mining sector; help the Argentine Republic better analyze the extent of its critical mineral resource base; and coordinate support for priority projects that advance secure, resilient, and responsible critical mineral supply chains. Each Participant may determine if such a project is suitable to satisfy the purposes of this Memorandum of Understanding.

2. Mechanisms for cooperation may include meetings between government officers of the countries of the Participants; workshops, seminars, joint geoscience work, information exchanges, and other mechanisms on topics of mutual interest; meetings and information exchanges with the private sector, universities, and other stakeholders; and capacity-building activities.

3. Areas of cooperation may include topics relating to good regulatory practices; environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards and sustainability; global and regional supply chains and interactions between national governments and provinces, states, or other sub-national government entities. The Participants commit themselves to develop a roadmap specifying the projects and activities that will be implemented through this Memorandum of Understanding.

4. In furtherance of the cooperation described in this section, the National government of the Argentine Republic intends to provide information to the United States of America regarding potential tenders and projects in the Argentine Republic as soon as it becomes available. The National government of the Argentine Republic shall make its best efforts to encourage subnational governments to provide this information at the earliest practicable moment, to ensure U.S.-based companies and partners in the Mineral Security Partnership have sufficient time to participate.

3. IMPLEMENTATION AND INFORMATION SHARING

The Participants intend to meet annually through a bilateral Energy Security Dialogue and to coordinate periodically at the working level to discuss critical minerals supply chain project development and investment opportunities, or on an *ad hoc* basis if a time-sensitive matter arises as the Participants mutually agree. Each Participant intends to determine independently if a project discussed is suitable for further engagement.

4. COMMENCEMENT, TERM, AND DISCONTINUATION

1. This Memorandum of Understanding is intended to become operative on the date of signing.

2. All cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding is subject to the availability of funds. This Memorandum of Understanding does not represent an obligation of funds.

3. The Memorandum of Understanding is not intended to be legally binding nor to affect any existing agreements between the countries of the Participants.

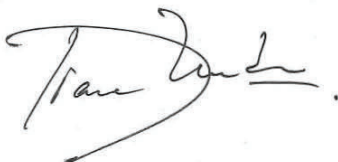
4. Either Participant may discontinue cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding at any time and should provide written notice to the other Participant via diplomatic note.

5. Discontinuation is not intended to affect the implementation of ongoing activities facilitated under this Memorandum of Understanding prior to discontinuation.

Signed in Buenos Aires on the 22nd day of August, 2024 in two originals, each in the Spanish and English languages, both being equally official.

**For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
International Trade and Worship
of the Argentine Republic**

**For the Department of State of the
United States of America**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ramon" followed by a stylized surname.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John" followed by a stylized surname.