

**JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ BY MERCOSUR MEMBER AND ASSOCIATE STATES,
ISSUED ON OCASSION OF THE XLV MEETING OF THE COMMON MARKET
COUNCIL AND THE SUMMIT OF PRESIDENTS OF MERCOSUR HELD IN
MONTEVIDEO ON JULY 11TH AND 12TH 2013, RESPECTIVELY:**

They reaffirmed the terms of the Declaration by the Presidents of the Member States of MERCOSUR, the Bolivian Republic and the Chilean Republic, signed on June 25th 1996 in Potrero de los Funes, Argentine Republic, named Malvinas Declaration, and reaffirmed their support to the legitimate rights of the Argentine Republic in the sovereignty dispute related to the Question of the Malvinas Islands.

They stressed that the adoption of unilateral measures is incompatible with United Nations provisions, and recalled the regional interest in that the pending sovereignty dispute between the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland over the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas reach, as soon as possible, a solution pursuant to United Nations resolutions and the declarations of the Organization of American States (OAS), MERCOSUR, UNASUR and other regional and multilateral fora.

They reaffirmed that the military presence, as well as the military exercises carried out by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the Malvinas, South Georgias and Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas is contrary to the region's policy of seeking a pacific settlement to the sovereignty dispute, and reaffirmed its rejection to unilateral British activities which include, inter alia, the exploitation of renewable and non renewable natural resources in the area under controversy. In this regard, they recognized the right of the Argentine Republic to adopt legal actions implemented in accordance with its legislation against unauthorized hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation activities in that area.

They reiterated the commitments made in the Mendoza Declaration of June 29th 2012 on the exchange of information between MERCOSUR Member and Associate States regarding vessels or naval structures related to the Question of the Malvinas Islands.

Montevideo, July 11th and 12th 2012