

## **UNION OF SOUTH AMERICAN NATIONS (UNASUR)**

### **SPECIAL DECLARATION ON THE QUESTION OF THE MALVINAS ISLANDS**

The Member States of UNASUR, having gained knowledge of the holding of a referendum in the Malvinas Islands, hereby state that said referendum in no way modifies the essence of the Question of the Malvinas Islands, and that its outcome will not bring to an end the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

The origins and the colonial nature of the dispute cannot be ignored, and neither can the various UN resolutions regarding the Question of the Malvinas Islands, which frame it within Resolution 1514 (XV) and clearly set forth the way to solve it, namely, the resumption of negotiations between Argentina and the United Kingdom, taking into consideration the interests of the inhabitants of the Islands. Also applies to Resolution 31/49 that urges the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the islands are going through the process on the sovereignty dispute.

The Member States of UNASUR highlight that the UN General Assembly, in 1985, rejected by an ample majority the inclusion of the principle of self-determination in the resolution relative to the Question of the Malvinas Islands.

The Member States of UNASUR reiterate their firm support for the Argentine Republic's legitimate rights in the sovereignty dispute with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, and further ratify the permanent regional interest in the United Kingdom agreeing to resume negotiations with the Argentine Republic in order to find –as soon as possible- a peaceful and definitive solution to the dispute, pursuant to the relevant guidelines of the international community, as well as to the relevant resolutions and declarations of the United Nations (UN) and of the Organization of American States (OAS).

Lima, 30 November 2012