



Argentina – Statement concerning the
issuing of postage stamps

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Government of **ARGENTINA** asks me to circulate the following statement to Union member countries:

"The Argentine Republic refers to four postage stamps and a miniature sheet of postage stamps issued by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 15 February 2013 concerning an illegal referendum organized in the Malvinas Islands on 10 and 11 March 2013.

"In this connection, the Argentine Government recalls the reservation made on ratification of the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union, signed in Vienna (Austria) on 10 July 1964, and reaffirms its sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia, the South Sandwich Islands and the Argentine Antarctic sector, which form an integral part of Argentina's national territory.

"It further recalls that, in relation to the "Question of the Malvinas Islands", the United Nations General Assembly has adopted resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25, recognizing the existence of a dispute over sovereignty and requesting the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume negotiations with a view to finding a solution to that dispute, taking due account of the provisions and objectives of the United Nations Charter and resolution 1514 (XV) and the interests of the people of the Malvinas Islands.

"The Argentine Government further points out that the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization has made repeated pronouncements along the same lines, most recently through the resolution adopted on 20 June 2013, and that the General Assembly of the Organization of American States adopted a further similarly worded pronouncement on the question on 6 June 2013.

"In this connection, the Argentine Government recalls that, in accordance with article 8.5.4 of the Universal Postal Convention, the subjects and designs of postage stamps shall "be devoid of political character or of any topic of an offensive nature in respect of a person or a country". The Argentine Republic notes that the theme of the above-mentioned postage stamps and miniature sheet runs counter to this provision of the Convention.

"Consequently, the inclusion of a caption referring to a referendum that runs counter to the provisions of 10 UN General Assembly resolutions and over 30 resolutions of the UN Special Committee on Decolonization is unacceptable to the Argentine Republic as a UN and UPU member country.

"The Argentine Government reiterates its rejection of the above-mentioned postage stamps and asks the International Bureau to circulate the present statement to all Union member countries."

Yours faithfully,

Juliana Nel
Director of Markets Development