

Dear fellow citizens, estimated friends, and partners

I presented my credentials, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, on 11th of December 2019, to H.E the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, The Honourable General David Hurley AC DSC.

Since then, we have been going through particularly challenging times, due to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis. Hopefully all those sad events are coming to an end. The lessons learned from the pandemic show us how strong the human resilience to whatever crisis, thanks to solidarity and cooperation between peoples and states.

As you know, Algeria and Australia, though being, geographically, far from each other, share a lot of common values, principles, and objectives, upon which we can build fruitful political and economic relations.

On the bilateral field, firstly, both countries are endowed with significant human, mineral, or agricultural and touristic resources, etc., which could serve as a basis for the establishment of a strong and mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation. The creation of the needed conditions for this win-win cooperation will be one of my main tasks during my tenure.

Secondly, on the regional and international fields, beyond their pivotal role in their respective subregions, our two countries are committed to an equitable and peaceful international order based on the respect of principles of national sovereignty, territorial integrity, no interference in internal affairs, and the right for self-determination. I will continue to maintain and reinforce the existing bilateral consultations on these matters.

And, finally, my action will be directed toward the protection and promotion of the interests of the Algerian community living in Australia and the countries of the region (New Zealand and Pacific countries). Happily, our small national community living in those countries is comprised by qualified and well-integrated members in their respective countries. I will strive to maintain, during my tenure, a close contact with all of them, collectively and individually.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of you for your interest in the website of the Algerian embassy in Canberra and look forward to hearing any comment aiming at its improvement.

**The Ambassador
Merzak BELHIMEUR**