

URUGUAY'S CANDIDACY FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD 2019-2021

Uruguay has presented its candidature to the Human Rights Council for the period 2019-2021, a body with which it has been actively involved since its own creation. During this process, our country promoted the approval of a solid and ambitious legal framework for carrying out the Human Rights Council mandate, and contributed to the Council's institutional consolidation through the consistent participation in its work, making constructive contributions aimed at raising the standards of protection and strengthening its mechanisms. Uruguay's aspiration to integrate its membership appears to be a natural component of the principles and objectives of the country's foreign policy.

The universality, interdependence and interrelation of human rights, the adherence to International Law and the respect for the principle of the sovereignty of States, maintaining at all times the centrality of the dignity of human beings as rights holders, are the basic principles on which Uruguay has developed a coherent and active work at the international level, both in the Human Rights Council and within the previous Rights Council Commission.

These principles are the ones that have always inspired Uruguay's participation in the Council. Its purpose has been to advance the international rights agenda, to raise the standards of protection and to improve the effectiveness of the monitoring bodies.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251, Uruguay presents the following voluntary pledges and commitments:

- **Promotion and protection of human rights at the international level**
 - To continue contributing to the strengthening of the Universal System for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights through an approach that favors cooperation among States and the effectiveness of the different mechanisms of the system.
 - To continue supporting the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, including through the provision of unconditioned financial resources, which will enable the OHCHR to more effectively implement the growing number of mandates received from States and to strengthen its ability to provide valuable technical cooperation.

- To keep updated the Common Core Document and the presentation of the national reports to the different treaty bodies through an elaboration process that include, in addition to the participation of relevant state actors, consultation with the National Human Rights Institution and civil society.
- To privilege a more rational, objective and non-selective use of Special Procedures and Human Rights Council's mandates, which includes the need to improve its working methods.
- To maintain the Standing Invitation that Uruguay extended in 2005 to all HRC Special Procedures and to grant them all facilities needed in order to make sure that these visits are carried out without delays or obstacles.
- To continue favoring dialogue, negotiation and the pursuit of consensus as pillars of the working methods of the Human Rights Council. It is necessary to strengthen the cooperative and non-confrontational approach in the consideration of issues related to human rights.
- To continue promoting an objective, non-selective and non-discriminatory approach, with the understanding that all human rights, whether civil, cultural, economic, political or social rights, including the right to development, are interdependent, interrelated and mutually reinforcing.
- To continue promoting the full participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in the Human Rights Council's agenda, preventing reprisals against those who cooperate or seek to cooperate with the Council's mechanisms, in accordance with the ECOSOC resolution 1996/31 and HRC resolution 16/21.
- To continue making efforts to improve the functioning and effectiveness of the Universal Periodic Review, as a fundamental and unique mechanism of the Council for the fulfillment of its mandate. In this regard, we will present our third national report and we will continue participating actively in all countries reviews by making recommendations aimed at promoting objectively and non-selectively the strengthening of human rights in the country concerned. Uruguay voluntarily submitted its mid-term report in 2016.

With this new candidature Uruguay aim to continue contributing to achieve these objectives, highlighting the invaluable role of negotiation and the promotion of consensus to build a stronger foundation for the Human Rights Council that reflects diversity but also universality with the share commitment to protect human rights and prevent them from being diminished.

- **Promotion and protection of human rights at the national level**

- To adopt a protocol of action for complaints related to situations of racism, xenophobia or any other form of discrimination between the National Human Rights Institution and the Honorary Commission against Racism, Xenophobia and any other form of Discrimination, in order to act as early as possible against discriminatory behavior, avoiding the crystallization of conflicts and minimizing their consequences for victims.
- To deepen measures aimed at achieving gender equity, as well as preventing and eradicating gender-based violence, and to approve the comprehensive bill on trafficking in persons.
- To consolidate the implementation of the program related to children living on the street, in line with General Comment No. 21 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- To deepen measures aimed at combating racial discrimination, taking advantage of the momentum created by activities developed within the framework of the International Decade for People of African Descent.
- To continue efforts aimed at the fulfillment of the economic, social and cultural rights of the Uruguayan society, especially the fight against poverty.
- To establish an independent mechanism, in accordance with article 33.2 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in order to promote, protect and monitor the application of such international instrument.
- To strengthen the monitoring mechanisms, as well as resources for access to justice and protection of rights for the most vulnerable groups.
- To continue expanding human rights training programs for public servants.
- To improve inter-institutional responses provided to refugees and migrants.
- To strengthen the National Follow-up Mechanism of Human Rights Recommendations established in 2016.
- To consolidate the System of Dialogue and Consultation with civil society as a tool for dialogue and participation in decisions related to foreign policy, created by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.