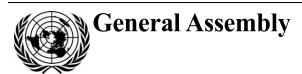
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Item 118 (d) of the preliminary list*

Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of members of the Human Rights Council

Note verbale dated 15 February 2021 from the Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of Paraguay has the honour to refer to the candidature of the Republic of Paraguay to the Human Rights Council, for the term 2022–2024, at the elections scheduled to take place during the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, in the third quarter of 2021.

In this regard, the Government of Paraguay is honoured to forward for your attention an official document on the pledges and voluntary commitments of the Republic of Paraguay, with reference to agenda item 118 (d) of the General Assembly (see annex).

Your assistance in conveying the content of the present note and its annex, to all States Members of the United Nations would be highly appreciated.







Annex to the note verbale dated 15 February 2021 from the Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: Spanish]

Candidature of Paraguay to the Human Rights Council, 2022-2024

Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251

I. Introduction

- 1. The Republic of Paraguay is honoured to present its candidature to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations for the period 2022–2024, within the framework of the elections that will take place in 2021, during the seventy-sixth session s of the General Assembly.
- 2. With the firm conviction that human rights are an essential basis for building and strengthening of the rule of law and for inclusive and sustainable development, Paraguay aspires to contribute to the work of the Council by promoting and supporting proposals that strengthen the efficiency of its organs, procedures and mechanisms for promotion and protection within a framework of openness, collaboration, respect and equality among States, and by fostering cooperation, dialogue, justice and international solidarity.
- 3. Human rights and fundamental freedoms are an integral part of the institutions established by our Constitution to safeguard human dignity as a common and intrinsic condition that universalizes all persons subject to the jurisdiction of the State, endowing them individually and collectively with the rights and freedoms inherent in their own human nature. National legislation recognizes a supranational legal order to guarantee peaceful coexistence among States and respect for human rights, justice, cooperation and development. In its ranking of norms, it gives a privileged place to ratified international instruments, placing them below only the Magna Carta and, inter alia, confers a quasi-constitutional character on human rights instruments by requiring a constitutional amendment procedure for their denunciation.
- 4. Paraguay is a staunch defender of multilateralism and respect for international law. As a responsible member of the international community, it adjusts its actions to the principles of self-determination of peoples, the legal equality of States and international solidarity and cooperation.
- 5. These are the foundations that have guided its actions in the international human rights protection system. At the national level, they have strengthened the recognition and protection of a wide range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, accompanied by the strengthening of institutions and normative development in this area, including the ratification of the main international human rights instruments and the recognition of the competence of the bodies created by those instruments.

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¹ These include the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocols; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and its Optional Protocol; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol; the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols; the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of

- 6. Paraguay's participation in and cooperation with the bodies of the inter-American system, namely the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, has been smooth and fruitful. This has enabled significant progress to be made in fulfilling commitments undertaken as a State party to the American Convention on Human Rights. Paraguay has also actively supported the processes of strengthening the inter-American human rights system and has prioritized the incorporation of the main instruments² of this system into the national legal framework.
- 7. Paraguay considers respect for human dignity to be one of its fundamental priorities, which is why it maintains this premise as an overriding interest. This has led Paraguay to place the most vulnerable persons and groups at the centre of its policies, in line with its international commitments in terms of respect for and the protection and realization of human rights, and the recognition of their universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated nature. It is these principles that inspire Paraguay to present its candidature to the Human Rights Council.

II. Paraguay and the promotion and protection of human rights

A. Strengthening the institutional framework for human rights

8. The institutional framework for human rights in Paraguay has advanced significantly since the 1992 National Constitution, which laid the foundations for the development of democratic institutions and the strengthening of the rule of law, built on the principle of recognition of fundamental rights under the Constitution.

Human rights network of the executive branch

- 9. In 2009 Paraguay established the executive branch of the human rights network, which has been key to better coordination between the different national institutions and has contributed to strengthening an institutional framework for the elaboration and implementation of public policies, in accordance with human rights protection standards. Today, a large number of State agencies and entities have incorporated into their organizational structure an area or unit specializing in human rights issues.
- 10. The consolidation of this network as a space for coordination, initially conceived within the executive branch, has been facilitated by the expansion of its membership to include 35 institutions of the three branches of government and extra-branch organs, in order to optimize the achievement of its essential purpose, which is to coordinate State policies, plans and programmes aimed at improving mechanisms for the promotion, protection and realization of human rights. The approval of the network's rules of procedure and its second plan of action have been strategic elements in strengthening the institutional framework for human rights.

Their Families; the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol; the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide; the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid; and the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity.

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² These include the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture; the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons; the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Protocol of San Salvador); the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities; the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará); and the Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to Abolish the Death Penalty.

Inter-institutional Commission on Compliance with International Judgments and Recommendations

- 11. In order to better fulfil its human rights obligations and responsibilities, Paraguay established an executive inter-institutional body in 2009, composed of senior State officials with decision-making capacity, to promote the adoption of effective criteria and actions for the follow-up and implementation of judgments, requests, recommendations and other international human rights commitments arising from both the inter-American system and the international protection system.
- 12. After a process of gradual improvement, the Commission has been consolidated, since 2015, under the overall coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Vice-Presidency of the Republic serves as Chair of the Executive Inter-Institutional Commission, which consists of the highest authorities of 12 State institutions. Their work is supported by an advisory council, composed of technical officials. The dynamic work methodology implemented within this Commission has made a system of follow-up and coordinated management possible between State institutions and civil society, which is an executive, expeditious and decisive mechanism.

System for monitoring recommendations on human rights and sustainable development

- 13. Given the need to strengthen the State's capacity to address the challenges of monitoring, implementing and reporting on the recommendations received from international human rights mechanisms, Paraguay has emphasized the key role of national mechanism for timely implementation, reporting and follow-up, and for measuring the impact of the actions taken by States to comply with such recommendations and their benefits to the human rights situation on the ground.
- 14. In this regard, following a major joint effort between national institutions and significant cooperation from the United Nations system, Paraguay developed and implemented a system for monitoring international recommendations on human rights and sustainable development (SIMORE Plus). This mechanism incorporates the human rights recommendations made to Paraguay from both the international system and the inter-American system, links them to the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, and provides a space for the participation of civil society organizations.
- 15. The monitoring system is supported by an online public access computer platform whose operation is based on an online network of around 180 focal points that belong to some 80 institutions of the three State branches and extra-branch organs. This platform is coordinated jointly between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice. It also incorporates the four key conditions proposed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in its practical guide³ to effective State engagement with international human rights mechanisms: engagement, coordination, consultation and information management.

B. National achievements

National Human Rights Plan

16. Guided by the precepts of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which, inter alia, proposed the development of national action plans to improve the promotion and protection of fundamental rights, Paraguay adopted in its first National

³ See www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR_PUB_16_1_NMRF_PracticalGuide.pdf.

Human Rights Plan in 2013. With its various strategic pillars,⁴ the Plan constitutes a road map of concrete commitments in the short, medium and long term.

17. In order to mainstream a human rights perspective in every action and in every government decision, a process is under way to link the National Human Rights Plan with the National Development Plan. The aim is to have an integrated system of public policies in which human rights objectives are harmonized with the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 through the establishment of a dashboard with indicators and targets for monitoring and follow-up.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and 2030 National Development Plan

- 18. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is of special importance for Paraguay as it represents a cross-cutting road map linked to the human rights recognized in various international instruments. The enjoyment of those rights requires concrete commitments that are focused on people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. In view of this ambitious agenda, Paraguay established the Interinstitutional Commission on the Sustainable Development Goals in 2016 for the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Goals.
- 19. As a strategic planning instrument, the "Paraguay 2030" National Development Plan was formulated in a participatory manner with various sectors of society. It seeks to facilitate the coordination of actions in sectoral bodies of the executive branch and to coordinate actions with various levels of government, civil society, the private sector and the legislative and judicial branches. The goals of the National Development Plan have a high degree of alignment and convergence with those of the 2030 Agenda.
- 20. Under the National Development Plan, development policies focus on three strategic areas: poverty reduction and social development; inclusive economic growth; and appropriately integration of Paraguay in the world. Each strategic pillar incorporates the following cross-cutting equal opportunity areas: efficient and transparent public management; land-use planning and territorial development; and environmental sustainability. It thus represents a road map for national development up to the year 2030.

Sectoral and thematic policies, plans and programmes

- 21. Within this policy framework, Paraguay is committed to the formulation and implementation of plans and programmes focused on the most vulnerable individuals and groups. Within the framework of the principles of universal, comprehensive, high-quality and humanizing health care conceived in the National Health Policy (2015–2030), national plans are being implemented, including the National Plan for Sexual and Reproductive Health (2019–2023), the National Plan for Comprehensive Child Health (2016–2021) and the National Plan for Adolescent Health (2016–2021), based on integrated and comprehensive health services networks and on the primary health-care strategy.
- 22. The National Policy for Children and Adolescents (2014–2024) guides efforts to strengthen coordination among the entities that constitute the national system for the protection and comprehensive promotion of children's rights. It also coordinates the actions of other care and protection programmes such as the "Abrazo" programme,

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⁴ Transformation of structural inequalities for the enjoyment of human rights; education and culture in human rights; the rule of law; and human security.

the comprehensive care programme for street children and young people, and the set of permanent care strategies that comprise the immediate response system.

- 23. Based on the National Youth Plan (2016–2030) and aware of our reality as a country with a mostly young population, progress is being made in designing a comprehensive and sustainable development process through an instrument entitled "Towards a Comprehensive Public Policy Paraguay Youth by 2030", in order to address the challenges posed by this demographic dividend and leverage its potential. The National Education Plan, which runs up to the year 2024, promotes equal opportunities for access and guarantees conditions for the timely completion of studies in different educational modalities at the initial, basic, secondary and higher levels of education.
- 24. As a strategy to promote substantive equality between women and men and to eradicate negative stereotypes that impede the full development and empowerment of women and girls, Paraguay is implementing the National Equality Plan (2018–2024). This includes specific areas of work, identifies recurrent and persistent obstacles and sets specific goals to achieve the necessary social, cultural and political changes. For its part, Act No. 5777/16 on the comprehensive protection of women against all forms of violence provides prevention strategies, care mechanisms and comprehensive protection, punishment and reparation measures in the public and private spheres.
- 25. In recent years, efforts to implement the National Programme to Prevent and Combat Trafficking and Provide Assistance to Victims have increased through the Inter-Institutional Roundtable to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which consists of State institutions and civil society organizations. These efforts were also strengthened by the inclusion in the Act of budget items for its dedicated investment fund. The migration policy approved in 2015 establishes a framework that corresponds to the new realities, which includes constitutional principles, international law and human rights, and is accompanied by an efficient institutional restructuring that is capable of meeting the current challenges of human mobility.
- 26. As a guiding instrument for actions to promote and protect the human rights of persons with disabilities, Paraguay has developed the National Plan of Action for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2015–2030), designed with a human rights-based approach and in a participatory manner with persons with disabilities and civil society organizations, to guide inter-institutional actions at the national, departmental and local levels.
- 27. Following extensive and inclusive consultations with indigenous organizations and leaders throughout the country, a national public policy plan for indigenous peoples is now in its final phase. The plan incorporates the vision of indigenous peoples, based on various thematic areas agreed upon as essential, namely: land, territory and natural resources; legal pluralism and access to justice; indigenous women; economic, social and cultural rights; peoples living in voluntary isolation; children and adolescents; urban and cross-border communities; and institutions. A protocol for consultation with and the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples of Paraguay was approved in 2018 a result of the dialogue held and consensus reached between the State, grass-roots communities and indigenous organizations.
- 28. Paraguay has made the fight against poverty a national priority. Resolved to effectively address this problem, the State implements actions aimed at promoting and protecting the human rights of the most vulnerable families, especially the rights to health, food, housing and economic and social inclusion. It has significantly increased investment in flagship social protection programmes such as Tekoporã, Tenonderã and Tekoha, which aim to promote access to quality basic services, strengthen community networks and interrupt the intergenerational transmission of poverty.

29. As a corollary to optimizing the coordination, cooperation and integration of inter-institutional efforts that seek to enhance the impact of the State's social policies, the social protection system "Vamos!" ("Let's go!") was recently launched. This is a public policy aimed at expanding access to health and education systems; improving employability and productivity; enhancing opportunities for economic development; promoting the social inclusion of people in vulnerable situations; allowing access to social benefits with a comprehensive and rights-based approach; and assisting people in each stage of their lives.

III. Participation of Paraguay in the international system for the promotion and protection of human rights

- 30. Paraguay was a member of the former Commission on Human Rights (2003–2005) and was honoured with the distinction of taking up membership of the Human Rights Council for the first time between 2015 and 2017, a period during which it was able to exercise with the utmost commitment one of the four regional vice-presidencies (2015). Paraguay was also a member of the Working Group on Situations from 2016 to 2017, serving as Chairperson-Rapporteur in 2016.
- 31. Today, in aspiring once again to become a member of the Human Rights Council for the period 2022–2024, Paraguay is convinced that membership represents an opportunity to make a constructive contribution to the community of nations and to move towards dialogue, exchanges, agreements and the strengthening of a comprehensive human rights agenda that transforms the international community into increasingly respectful, inclusive and supportive societies.
- 32. In that conviction, three main areas guide the action of Paraguay in the international system: (a) openness to all human rights mechanisms and promoting collaboration, transparency and access to information; (b) cooperation with initiatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the provision of bilateral assistance to other States in order to strengthen capacities to follow up on and implement human rights recommendations; and (c) dialogue with civil society, including taking significant steps to strengthen constructive exchanges in order to advance a democratic culture and protect the most vulnerable sectors.
- 33. The presence of Paraguay in the Human Rights Council has meant strengthening its foreign policy position on human rights. During regular sessions, it has promoted and supported initiatives on issues such as strengthening the international system for the promotion and protection of human rights; international cooperation on human rights; national follow-up mechanisms; support for mandate holders; abolition of the death penalty; the fight against poverty; the right to food, health, education, decent housing and a healthy environment; the rights of children and adolescents, women, indigenous peoples, human rights defenders, persons with disabilities and older persons; and the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition.
- 34. During the twenty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council, Paraguay was presented as an "example country" with respect to its best practice of establishing the system for monitoring international recommendations on human rights and sustainable development, which clearly shows the onus placed on recognition of the fundamental role played by national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up in collaborating meaningfully with international human rights mechanisms and ensuring a greater impact for their recommendations.
- 35. Based on the recognized national track record gained through its monitoring system, Paraguay raised the issue of national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up within the Human Rights Council. As a member of the

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Council during the period from 2015 to 2017 and subsequently in 2019, Paraguay presented and promoted the approval of resolutions⁵ aimed at fostering international cooperation through such national mechanisms. The last of these resolutions requested the holding of regional consultations to collect best practices related to the establishment and strengthening of national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, and their impact on the fulfilment of human rights obligations and commitments. As host of the regional consultations for Latin America and the Caribbean, Paraguay is currently coordinating actions with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in relation to organizational aspects.

- 36. National experience has also supported the development and successful implementation of Paraguay's technical cooperation programme within the framework of its monitoring system, in various countries on our continent and in the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, as one of the main areas of Paraguay's South-South and triangular cooperation. Interest has also been raised at the various international seminars, workshops and presentations held to share our experience with countries in South America, Central America, the English-speaking Caribbean, Portuguese-speaking countries, East and North Africa, Central Asia and the Pacific.
- 37. Collaboration with the special procedures is another sign of Paraguay's commitment to human rights and its willingness to engage in ongoing dialogue and cooperation with international protection mechanisms. Paraguay maintains an open and standing invitation to the special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council. In this context, it has received a number of visits from mandate holders, whose recommendations have been very useful in guiding the State's efforts and bringing about significant progress.
- 38. Since 1998, Paraguay has received visits from the following special rapporteurs: on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes (1998); on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material (2004); on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (2006); on the right to education (2009); on freedom of religion or belief (2011); on extreme poverty and human rights (2011); on the rights of indigenous peoples (2014); on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (2015); on the rights of persons with disabilities (2015); on the right to food (2016); and on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences (2017).
- 39. Paraguay also looks forward to visits shortly by the following special rapporteurs: on the situation of human rights defenders; on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material; on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation; on minority issues; on the independence of judges and lawyers; and on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes. The coordination and organizational aspects of these visits are ongoing.
- 40. Paraguay reaffirms its commitment to and open and transparent collaboration with the universal periodic review mechanism. It has accepted almost all recommendations received in the first two cycles of the review (2011 and 2016) and believes that they contribute substantially to the improvement of standards for the promotion and protection of human rights. Paraguay is currently promoting a broad and participatory preparatory process for its national report during the third cycle,

⁵ See Human Rights Council resolutions 30/25 (2015), 36/29 (2017) and 42/30 (2019).

⁶ Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras and Uruguay.

having submitted its voluntary midterm report at the beginning of 2019 within a framework of progressive improvement to its monitoring system as a permanent national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up. Paraguay participates actively in the review processes of other countries by making constructive recommendations and taking responsibility for follow-up on them throughout the different cycles.

41. Paraguay maintains ongoing cooperation with the human rights treaty bodies. It regularly fulfils its obligations regarding the submission of periodic reports; cooperates in good faith in the context of individual communications procedures brought before the bodies whose competence it has accepted; and seriously follows up on the recommendations issued by them. In this regard, State institutions are currently engaged in the preparation of periodic reports to be submitted to various Committees⁷ and are awaiting the confirmation of dates for constructive dialogues with several others.⁸

IV. Participation of Paraguay in the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights

- 42. As part of the State's foreign policy, Paraguay places full confidence in and provides ongoing support for the strengthening of the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights. It has actively participated in the reflection process on the functioning of the system, in particular of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The Special Working Group to reflect on the workings of the Commission with a view to strengthening the inter-American human rights system therefore received contributions from Paraguay at different stages of the process.
- 43. Within the inter-American human rights system, Paraguay promoted friendly settlement agreements in dealing with the cases brought before it relating to allegations of human rights violations. Approximately 40 per cent of the average number of petitions and cases that are processed before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights come under this mechanism. Paraguayan experience in this field has been considered good practice at the regional level.
- 44. In the context of the forty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States held in 2014, Paraguay demonstrated its commitment to the inter-American system by hosting the Second Inter-American Conference on Human Rights and Best Practices in Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights; the Second National Seminar on the Friendly Settlement Mechanism; and a seminar on the domestication and implementation of the inter-American judicial system. Paraguay also hosted the fifty-first session of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in September 2014.
- 45. In accordance with the open invitation that it also maintains within this system, the State has facilitated visits by several representative authorities, including Florentín Meléndez, Chair of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty (2007 and 2008); Paolo Carozza, Vice-Chair of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and Rapporteur for Paraguay (2007); Dinah Shelton, Chair of the Inter-American

⁷ The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances.

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⁸ The Committee on the Rights of the Child; the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and the Committee for the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

Commission on Human Rights and Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2010 and 2011); José de Jesús Orozco, Vice-Chair of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and Rapporteur for Paraguay (2011); James Cavallaro, Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty (2014); Paulo Vannuchi, Head of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit and Rapporteur for Paraguay (2014–2017); Patricio Pazmiño Freire, Judge of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (2017); and Joel Hernández, Commissioner of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and Rapporteur for Paraguay (2019).

V. Commitments of Paraguay as a member of the Human Rights Council

1. At the international level

- Continue working for the promotion and protection of all human, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights while maintaining a frank and constructive dialogue on all human rights issues, in accordance with the principles of universality, interdependence and indivisibility.
- Strengthen the multilateral system as an instrument for the promotion and protection of human rights, favouring dialogue, negotiation, openness and consensus-building.
- Support and promote initiatives that seek to universalize ratifications of the main human rights instruments and extend standing open invitations to the special procedures.
- Promote and support initiatives that respond to serious human rights situations and seek to raise international standards for the protection of human rights, in particular for the benefit of the most vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, those living in poverty and extreme poverty, older persons, women, girls, boys and adolescents.
- Promote international cooperation and technical assistance for capacity-building as a useful tool for the realization of human rights, in particular by strengthening the cooperation programme on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up.
- Continue to support the work of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and maintain the open and standing invitation extended by Paraguay in 2003.
- Continue participating constructively in the universal periodic review and continue seriously and responsibly following up on the recommendations arising from this mechanism and submitting the respective periodic reports.
- Strengthen collaboration with the treaty bodies by submitting the corresponding periodic reports and following up on their recommendations.
- Encourage dialogue with civil society and its participation in the Council's work, recognizing the role of civil society and supporting initiatives against all forms of reprisals.
- Continue to cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and to support its mandate and independence.

2. At the regional level

- Continue to support the work of the organs of the inter-American system: the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.
- Continue to comply with the recommendations, friendly settlement agreements and judgments of the protection bodies of the inter-American human rights system.
- Actively support discussions on strengthening the inter-American human rights system.
- Continue working to strengthen the system for monitoring inter-American recommendations (SIMORE-Inter-American Commission on Human Rights) as a regional monitoring instrument.

3. At the national level

- Concentrate efforts on the implementation of the obligations assumed through international human rights instruments and making their mainstreaming visible in the 2030 Agenda.
- Promote the implementation of social and anti-poverty policies in order to provide a better quality of life and level of well-being to all inhabitants, with a particular emphasis on the most vulnerable people.
- Strengthen the process of developing and implementing policies, plans and programmes with a human rights approach.
- Continue working to strengthen the institutional framework and continue with the process of building human rights indicators.
- Continue strengthening the national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up of the system for monitoring international recommendations on human rights and sustainable development, as a tool to enhance the impact of State actions on the ground.
- Strengthen spaces for dialogue and joint work with civil society and non-governmental organizations to promote public policies that guarantee human rights.
- Work in a coordinated and participatory manner with the national preventive mechanism against torture.
- Continue working on preventing and combating human trafficking.
- Continue to promote a culture of active transparency, access to public information, accountability and citizen participation as an effective means of combating corruption.
- Strengthen cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights through its representation in Paraguay.
- Continue working on measures against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in order to protect life, health and all fundamental rights, and continue directing actions and resources to strengthen the response, mitigate the impact of the pandemic on society and the economy and ensure a comprehensive recovery, with a special emphasis on the most vulnerable people.

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