



U R U G U A Y

candidature to the HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL • 2027–2029

## URUGUAY'S CANDIDACY TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, 2027–2029

### **Voluntary Pledges and Commitments Submitted Pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 60/251**

Uruguay has presented its candidacy for a seat as a member of the Human Rights Council during the period 2027–2029, a body with which it has been actively associated since its creation. Both during its previous memberships and in its capacity as an observer State, Uruguay has been proactive in its work, promoting institutional strengthening and normative development within its sphere, fostering the raising of standards for the protection and promotion of all human rights. In this regard, the aspiration to become a member of the Council is a natural continuation of the principles of the country's foreign policy.

Consensus-building and seeking of agreements have been constant guiding principles of Uruguay's participation in processes aimed at promoting and protecting human rights. In this regard, this new candidacy to the Human Rights Council seeks to contribute to the strengthening of multilateralism, at a time marked by questions regarding its capacity to respond to the challenges facing humanity.

The universality, interdependence and interrelatedness of human rights, adherence to International Law and respect for the principle of the sovereignty of States, while maintaining at all times the centrality of the dignity of the human person as a subject of rights, are the basic principles upon which Uruguay develops its coherent and active work at the international level.

Uruguay maintains a principled and unwavering position regarding non-regression in the exercise and protection of human rights. This principle has been a cardinal element of the country's foreign policy and has guided its constructive work in previous memberships of the Council and in other bodies of the United Nations system, such as the Third Committee of the General Assembly.

Furthermore, Uruguay maintains that the perspective of the protection of human rights must be present in all matters that make up the international agenda, having been consistent in this regard during its membership of the United Nations Security Council, where it promoted resolution 2286 (2016) on the protection of humanitarian personnel in armed conflicts.

The proactive role in mainstreaming the human rights perspective is also reflected in the work of the Uruguayan State in other United Nations agencies, such as UNESCO, where Uruguay maintains a highly active role.

Likewise, in the Inter-American sphere, Uruguay acts with commitment and determination both in the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and its Rapporteurships, as well as in other related forums, such as the Inter-American Commission of Women, the Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará), and the Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons.

Finally, at the subregional level, Uruguay's commitment to this issue is reflected in its proactive role in the Meeting of High Authorities on Human Rights of MERCOSUR (RAADDHH).

The principles described above have consistently inspired Uruguay's participation in the multilateral system and specifically in the Council and constitute a central element of the country's foreign policy, which aims to advance the international human rights agenda, raise protection standards and improve the effectiveness of monitoring and oversight bodies, while pursuing the search for and construction of consensus.

In accordance with resolution 60/251, Uruguay submits the following voluntary commitments:

### **Promotion and protection of human rights at the international level**

- Continue contributing to the strengthening of the universal system for the promotion and protection of human rights through an approach that favours cooperation among States and the effectiveness of the various mechanisms of the system.
- Be a proactive actor in the inclusion and development of the treatment of new issues such as the use of Artificial Intelligence, Neurotechnologies and so-called frontier technologies and their intersection with the exercise of human rights.
- Be a consensus-building actor in international humanitarian law within the framework of the action developed through the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law.
- Continue supporting the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, promoting that the Organization's human rights pillar be provided with resources in accordance with the purposes established in the Charter in this area, in a highly challenging context for the promotion and protection of human rights at the global level. In this regard, Uruguay will uphold the principle that the Council should carry out its mandated functions and tasks by promoting the allocation of the maximum available resources.
- Support the special procedures and mandates of the Human Rights Council, taking into account that they constitute a fundamental tool for ensuring compliance with international human rights obligations.
- Maintain the standing invitation that Uruguay extended in 2005 to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council and provide all necessary facilities to ensure that such visits are carried out without delay or obstacles.
- Continue fostering dialogue, negotiation and consensus-building as the working methodology of the Human Rights Council. It is necessary to strengthen the cooperative, participatory and non-confrontational approach to the consideration of issues related to human rights, without such an approach implying a weakening of the agreed language that the Council has developed over the years.
- Continue promoting an objective, non-selective and non-discriminatory approach, on the understanding that all human rights, whether civil, political, economic, social, cultural or environmental, including the right to development, are interdependent, interrelated and mutually reinforcing.
- Continue promoting the full participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in the agenda of the Human Rights Council, while promoting the non-application of reprisals against those who cooperate or seek to cooperate with the Council's mechanisms, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, Human Rights Council resolution 59/10 and previous relevant resolutions.
- Continue making efforts to improve the functioning and effectiveness of the Universal Periodic Review, as a fundamental and irreplaceable mechanism of the Council for the fulfilment of its mandate. In this regard, submit the fifth national report and continue actively participating in the reviews of all countries through recommendations aimed at promoting, with objectivity and non-selectivity, the strengthening of human rights in the country concerned. Uruguay will voluntarily submit its mid-term report in 2026.

- Participate responsibly in the ongoing discussions and negotiations within the international human rights system, including those relating to business and human rights, older persons, the right of children to education, crimes against humanity, the rights of people of African descent, and the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance. In all these processes, Uruguay will continue promoting a constructive approach aimed at consensus-building and the strengthening of the protection and promotion of the human rights of all persons.
- Reaffirm Uruguay's commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of children through active and constructive participation in the initiatives, resolutions, mandates and thematic debates of the Human Rights Council. In this regard, Uruguay will continue to play a leadership and coordination role in the presentation of resolutions on the rights of the child and the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children. It will also continue contributing to raising the visibility of the agenda on children and armed conflict, as well as to strengthening international efforts aimed at their protection and the prevention of grave violations of their rights.
- Continue promoting gender equality and the human rights of women and girls through initiatives aimed at preventing and eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination against them, strengthening their autonomy and empowerment, and ensuring their full, equal and meaningful participation. In line with this, Uruguay will continue promoting the incorporation of a gender perspective, in a cross-cutting and intersectional manner, into the resolutions, mandates and thematic debates of the Human Rights Council, paying particular attention to the different contexts and factors that may aggravate the vulnerability of women and girls in the full enjoyment of their rights.
- Be an actor that promotes dialogue and a constructive spirit in defence of the respect for and unrestricted application of International Humanitarian Law. Uruguay will promote the application of International Humanitarian Law with a view to providing protection to persons, cultural property and civilian infrastructure.

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

- Further advance measures aimed at achieving gender equality, as well as preventing and eradicating gender-based violence, and regulate the comprehensive law on the prevention of and combat against trafficking in persons. Continue strengthening the National Integrated Care System.
- Enhance attention to early childhood, especially in the most disadvantaged contexts, with the objective of reducing child poverty and preventing and eliminating violence against children and adolescents.
- Further advance measures aimed at combating racial discrimination, placing at the centre activities undertaken within the framework of the Second International Decade for People of African Descent.
- Continue promoting public policies throughout the national territory to improve, from a rights-based perspective, the quality of life of persons with disabilities and achieve their full social inclusion.
- Undertake sustained efforts aimed at promoting the full realization of the economic, social and cultural rights of Uruguayan society, particularly with regard to the fight against poverty.
- Strengthen monitoring and compliance mechanisms, as well as access to justice and rights protection remedies for the most vulnerable groups.
- Improve inter-institutional assistance for migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, particularly by providing resources to the National Migration Board and the Refugee Commission for the effective fulfilment of their responsibilities.
- Strengthen the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up of Recommendations in order to make it a central element in the promotion of policies that comply with the highest standards for the promotion and protection of human rights set forth by the universal system.
- Strengthen the System of Dialogue and Consultation with Civil Society, operating within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, adapting it to the new realities of participation and the demands of organizations.

Include the contribution of these organizations in the follow-up of recommendations and observations and in the preparation of reports, so that they reflect the new challenges facing the protection, promotion and guarantee of human rights.

- Continue actions aimed at memory, truth and justice in relation to the search for detained-disappeared persons during the period of the civic-military dictatorship in Uruguay.

In sum, through a new membership in the Human Rights Council, Uruguay wishes to continue contributing to the achievement of these objectives, underscoring the irreplaceable value of negotiation and the promotion of dialogue and consensus as appropriate ways of building a stronger institutional framework for the Council, one that reflects diversity but also the universality of human rights and the common commitment to protect and promote them and prevent them from being undermined or subject to regression.