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Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Uruguay

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its eighteenth session from 27 January to 7 February 2014. The review of Uruguay was held at the 5th meeting on 29 January 2014. The delegation of Uruguay was headed by H.E. Dr. Homero Guerrero, Secretary of the Presidency (Minister). At its 10th meeting, held on 3 February 2014, the Working Group adopted the report on Uruguay.
2. On 15 January 2014, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Uruguay: Burkina Faso, Chile and France.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Uruguay:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/18/URY/1);
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/18/URY/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/18/URY/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Czech Republic, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland was transmitted to Uruguay through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review (UPR). Summaries of additional questions made by Canada, Finland, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Morocco, Portugal and the United Arab Emirates during the interactive dialogue, are to be found in section I, subsection B, of the present report.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of Uruguay's delegation reiterated Uruguay's commitment to democracy, human rights and to the multilateral system. He noted that Uruguay has ratified all fundamental treaties for the protection of human rights and their optional protocols. It collaborates with human rights mechanisms and keeps an open invitation for rapporteurs, experts or any other Human Rights Council special procedures and those from the Inter-American system, to visit the country.
6. The delegation referred to the context in which Uruguay has been protecting human rights in the last years, which was marked by the most profound economic crisis suffered by Uruguay in 2001 and 2002. Unemployment and degradation of socio-economic conditions generated a serious risk of social and family disintegration, the marginalization of a significant number of Uruguayans and the increase of poverty and indigence, as well as a considerable increase of emigration, particularly among the youth.
7. This situation constituted one of the biggest threats to the enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic and social rights. The consequences of the crisis were tackled as a national emergency, through the National Assistance Plan for Social Emergency

(PANES, in Spanish), to counteract the threats posed by extreme poverty and marginalization. Two years after, the Plan was substituted by the “Equity Plan”. Legislative and institutional instruments to protect economic, social, cultural, as well as civil and political rights were also strengthened.

8. Uruguay also addressed with determination the debt that the society holds with their recent past and with the victims of the serious violations of human rights that were committed during the military dictatorship, by taking measures to allow investigations, trials and convictions of those responsible for these crimes.

9. The delegation referred to eight aspects that are illustrative of the efforts made by Uruguay to improve the quality of its policies, norms and institutions on human rights.

10. First, the strengthening of the normative and institutional human rights framework, including the creation of a Human Rights Secretary at the Presidency of the Republic and a Secretary for the serious violations of human rights under the dictatorship, as well as a National Human Rights Institution created by law and which is in the process of accreditation before the International Coordinating Committee.

11. Second, health, education and housing were areas which received special attention in public policies. Between 2005 and 2008 the public education budget was increased and a General Law on Education was passed. The problems were however the high dropout and repetition rates in secondary education. Uruguay continued to implement a health reform, building an integrated system that will achieve universal coverage.

12. Third, the delegation referred to progress in the implementation of Equality Policies and measures to prevent all forms of discrimination.

14. Fourth, measures to combat racial discrimination. Tools for the interaction of policies that take into consideration racial equity have been developed, adopting in 2013 a law which declares of public interest affirmative actions in public and private spheres, targeted at the afro-descendant population, reserving 8% of public vacant positions for afro-descendants.

15. Fifth, employment policies. The combination of economic policy measures with specific programs aimed at labour insertion, has lowered the unemployment to its historical minimum level. Improvements took place while measures aimed at improving the rights of workers were being implemented, by strengthening laws related to the protection of specific and more vulnerable groups, such as the Law on Domestic Workers and rural workers, in addition to the establishment of Salary Councils and tripartite negotiation.

16. Sixth, the fight against poverty and indigence. Poverty rates went from 30% to 12.4%, and indigence –which reached 5% towards the end of the crisis in 2002- is now below 1%. The objective of the government continued to be the eradication of indigence.

17. Seventh, reforms in the penitentiary system in accordance with recommendations made by the United Nations Special Rapporteurs on Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment who visited the country. The problem of overcrowding was tackled with determination in detention centres, with significant improvements, which allows to announce its complete elimination by the current semester.

18. Eighth, the investigation and trial of crimes committed during the military regime in Uruguay’s recent past. The inaction that characterized the State during the period in which Law 15.846 of 1986, known as the Law on the Expiry of the Punitive Claims of the State, was over. Since 2005 the paradigm of impunity was reverted, when new claims were left out of the Expiry Law, and old administrative acts that declared the complaints included under that Law were revoked. In 2011, the Punitive Pretension of the State was re-established through the Law 18.831, thus re-establishing the competence of justice on these

cases. At the same time, the State took responsibility for the cases of human rights violations due to State terrorism and regional repressive coordination through the Plan Condor.

19. This path towards the reestablishment of truth, the full operation of justice and sanction of crimes, was not free from difficulties. In 2013, the Supreme Court of Justice declared the unconstitutionality of two articles of Law 18.831, which overruled the Expiry Law. These two articles provided that no term whatsoever, would be computed, from the period starting on 22 December 1986 to the entry into force of that law (October 2011), for grave violations of human rights committed during the civic-military dictatorship, and that those crimes constituted crimes against humanity in accordance with international treaties to which Uruguay is a State Party.

20. Even though unconstitutionality was declared for some concrete cases, the Supreme Court considered that the law introducing the crime of enforced disappearance must not be applied retroactively to the cases committed during the military dictatorship, therefore allowing the application of the prescription terms for those crimes. Trials that are currently undergoing in various courts in Uruguay regarding serious human rights violations, many of them for enforced disappearances, have continued, although are now facing different positions regarding the imprescriptibly nature of the crimes of forced disappearance.

21. The Uruguayan Government, for judicial and ethical reasons, has the will to continue the path of truth and justice and reaffirms its position of full fulfilment of its international obligations.

22. The delegation noted that there are still areas where greater improvements are needed, and which require greater resource mobilization and the implementation of new instruments. It highlighted the important role of the civil society.

23. The delegation referred to 44 voluntary pledges made in the national report, which were targeted at strengthening the protection of human rights in the country. It welcomed contributions that may help Uruguay to improve the quality of its policies and the efficiency of their institutions for the protection of human rights.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

24. During the interactive dialogue, 81 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report. All written statements of the delegations, to be checked against delivery on the United Nations Webcast archives,¹ are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council when available.²

25. Bhutan commended Uruguay for having implemented the recommendations from the first review. It noted positive measures undertaken, inter alia, to enhance the rights of women and children through national strategies.

26. Bolivia (Plurinational State of) recognized progress achieved since the first UPR cycle, especially on education, women rights protection and fight against discrimination.

¹ United Nations webcast archives. Available from <http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/human-rights-council/universal-periodic-review/18th-upr/watch/uruguay-upr-adoption-18th-session-of-universal-periodic-review/.....>

² Available on the UPR Extranet at <https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/upr/Sessions/18session/Uruguay/Pages/default.aspx>.

27. Botswana commended Uruguay's efforts, particularly regarding children's rights and the juvenile criminal justice system. It commended the record on reporting obligations to treaty bodies.
28. Brazil appreciated steps to promote racial equality and legislation adopted allowing for same-sex marriage. It noted the significant reduction of poverty and extreme poverty rates in the last years.
29. Burkina Faso highlighted progress on the rights of the child and the rights of women and commended measures to improve prison conditions and poverty reduction.
30. Canada requested information on measures to be taken to improve prison conditions. It hoped that the National Human Rights Institution would be adequately funded.
31. Chad referred to progress made, notably the accession to the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education and the OP to ICESCR, as well as efforts towards the ratification of the ILO Convention No. 169.
32. Chile congratulated Uruguay for progress on the implementation of national plans and programs to promote and protect all human rights, and valued Uruguay's commitment with the universal human rights protection mechanisms.
33. China appreciated several measures taken to eliminate poverty, reform the prison system, promote gender equality and the rights of women, promote children's rights and the rights of persons with disabilities.
34. Colombia offered to share their experience with Uruguay in the areas of integrating human rights and gender perspectives in social policies and in the follow-up to UPR recommendations.
35. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed effective measures towards reducing the number of street children, promoting education, supporting families in extreme poverty, combating domestic violence, and inhuman treatment in detention centres.
36. Cuba highlighted the achievements and political will of Uruguay in the fight against poverty. It made a special recognition of education programs and the increase of resources.
37. Cyprus commended efforts to align national legislation with international standards. Despite progress, it referred to reports on difficulties in the response to situations involving violence against women, gender inequalities in the labour market and gender stereotypes.
38. Ecuador highlighted the creation of the National Human Rights Institution and the implementation of the National Action Plan on Children and Adolescents and the Action Plan for the Eradication of Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents.
39. Egypt noted Uruguay's reiteration of its commitment to the UPR, having accepted all the recommendations made in the first review and submitted its midterm report.
40. Estonia noted progress regarding women's rights, the juvenile justice system, human trafficking and poverty reduction, and encouraged further efforts in these areas. It acknowledged anti-corruption efforts and commitment to safeguarding freedom of expression.
41. Finland asked the delegation to elaborate on the treatment of juveniles in the justice system and the implementation of the five programs belonging to the System of Adolescent Criminal Liability mentioned in the national report.
42. France welcomed Uruguay's commitment to protecting human rights, efforts undertaken to implement the accepted recommendations, and the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution.

43. Gabon was pleased with Uruguay's annual contributions to OHCHR. It commended the cooperation with the special procedures mandate holders and the ratification of many human rights conventions.
44. Germany welcomed the appointment of the Board of Directors of the National Human Rights Institution and expressed concern about trafficking in women and girls and deficiencies within the penal system.
45. Ghana commended the progress achieved by Uruguay in the implementation of various recommendations made during the first review cycle.
46. Greece appreciated Uruguay's efforts to implement most of the recommendations of the first cycle. It welcomed positive developments, in particular regarding women's rights, prison conditions and the rights of the child.
47. Guatemala valued Uruguay's human rights record and requested Uruguay to inform later on the results of the consultations to be carried out the National Plan against Racism and on the possibility of ratifying ILO Convention 169.
48. Honduras highlighted important efforts made by Uruguay, including in the development of legislation and its institutional framework and the presentation of a mid-term report since the first review.
49. Hungary expressed concern at detention conditions. It asked for additional information on the comprehensive act and on the National Plan to Combat Trafficking being developed.
50. Indonesia underscored Uruguay's firm commitments to human rights, in particular its efforts to promote economic, social and cultural rights, including combating poverty and social inclusion and promoting the right to education for all.
51. Iran (Islamic Republic of) welcomed the decision to accede to the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education, and the strengthening of social policies on children and adolescents.
52. Ireland appreciated the wide range of voluntary pledges made by Uruguay, including those regarding gender-based violence. It raised concerns about reports of domestic violence and the prevalence of preventative and pre-trial detention.
53. Israel commended Uruguay's efforts to improve the protection of human rights and congratulated it on the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR.
54. Italy asked about further measures to be taken to improve prison conditions, and details on the strategy aimed at prosecuting perpetrators of the crime of human trafficking.
55. Jordan commended Uruguay for its efforts, in particular the ratification of the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education, the ratification of the Optional Protocol to ICESCR and the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution.
56. Kazakhstan acknowledged the measures to enhance the enjoyment of human rights, especially in the areas of children and women's rights, education and combating poverty. It positively noted the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution.
57. Kyrgyzstan noted the establishment of specialized courts and prosecutors to address organized crime and human trafficking, as well as other decisive steps in the judicial reform.
58. Malaysia appreciated the update on significant progress made on the implementation of recommendations from the first review. It was encouraged by the voluntary pledges and commitments outlined in the national report.

59. Maldives took positive note of efforts to address the plight of children and encouraged further improvement regarding domestic violence.
60. Mali noted social and economic development as well as numerous initiatives taken to better implement the accepted recommendations.
61. Mexico welcomed the establishment of the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Preparation of Reports to the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism and the Treaty Bodies and the adoption of maternity legislation.
62. Montenegro asked Uruguay to elaborate on institutional improvements relating to the monitoring of the implementation of recommendations from human rights bodies and the UPR, and on measures for the advancement on the position of LGBT persons.
63. Morocco asked about the content of the National Strategy for Children and Adolescents 2010-2030. It welcomed the initiatives protecting the rights of minors in prisons.
64. Namibia appreciated efforts to lower the level of poverty and to combat sexual exploitation and trafficking of children. It also highlighted the enacting of legislation for the protection of persons with disabilities.
65. The Netherlands praised the adoption of the Equal Marriage Act and underscored the importance that it be followed by awareness-raising programs to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
66. Nicaragua recognized Uruguay's progress in the protection of human rights, including the development of the institutional framework to address social issues, such as child labour, juvenile justice, commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and children living on the streets.
67. Norway welcomed efforts to end impunity and expressed concern, inter alia, on the large number of reported cases of violence against women and the low participation of women in decision-making bodies.
68. Oman commended the measures implemented in education and procedures of combating trafficking in persons. It welcomed the adoption of strategies on public policies for children and adolescents for the period 2010-2030.
69. Pakistan urged Uruguay to take necessary measures in areas of access to justice and eliminating racial discrimination. It shared the concerns of CERD and CEDAW regarding unequal treatment to the people of African descent.
70. Paraguay highlighted Uruguay's commitment with treaty bodies and congratulated it for the fight against sexual commercial exploitation of children and adolescents.
71. Peru acknowledged progress made by Uruguay, in particular the creation of the National Human Rights Institution, the adoption of legislation on reparations regarding discrimination against persons of African descent and on persons with disabilities, as well as poverty reduction.
72. The Philippines acknowledged the voluntary commitments included in the national report of Uruguay. It welcomed positive developments on women's rights, and efforts to combat trafficking in persons.
73. Portugal asked how Uruguay is assessing the impact of measures regarding the rights of the child and measures being taken to improve the public education system in the secondary level, besides the budget allocation.

74. The Republic of Moldova welcomed the National Strategy for Children and Adolescents 2010-2030 and ongoing efforts to combat sexual exploitation of children and child labour.
75. Tunisia commended the ratification of CRPD and CPED, and the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution. It noted legislative progress in combating racial discrimination, and progress in the area of gender equality.
76. The Russian Federation noted various measures, including in combating torture, investigating crimes under the dictatorship, prosecuting war crimes and searching disappeared people.
76. Senegal noted important progress in implementing recommendations, including regarding children's rights and combating domestic violence, and positive actions in realizing economic, social and cultural rights.
77. Serbia suggested Uruguay to scrutinize institutional and judicial backgrounds of the overcrowding in prisons and to take necessary measures and implement appropriate policies to alleviate this situation.
78. Singapore noted progress since Uruguay's last review, in particular regarding the protection of women against domestic violence and combatting trafficking. It also noted efforts to improve the well-being of children and protecting them against exploitation.
79. Slovenia noted that the law passed in 2013 that decriminalizes abortion during the first trimester of pregnancy marked a significant development in protecting women's rights. It remained concerned at the high incidence of domestic violence.
80. Somalia commended Uruguay for progress made since the last review and the presentation of a mid-term progress report.
81. Spain congratulated Uruguay for the recent recognition of homosexual marriage and the advance in the field of gender violence, especially regarding access of victims to specialized justice.
82. Sri Lanka noted the Ceibal Plan, as well as actions in strengthening social policies on children and adolescents, improving access to and quality of education.
83. The State of Palestine commended Uruguay for their commitment with the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and for their efforts to guarantee economic, social and cultural rights. It encouraged Uruguay to continue promoting the harmonization of these rights in their domestic legislation.
84. Sweden noted how the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment took note of Uruguay's efforts to improve the situation in prisons, but noted that profound judicial and institutional reforms are required.
85. Thailand commended Uruguay for the progress made in the implementation of recommendations since its first review, particularly the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution.
86. Togo commended institutional and legal progress. It was pleased that social policies undertaken have led to remarkable reduction of poverty and extreme poverty.
87. Trinidad and Tobago encouraged Uruguay to continue all its efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger and was pleased to note that Uruguay has taken stringent measures towards reduction of domestic violence.
88. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was pleased that since Uruguay's last review, a number of recommendations have been reflected in Uruguay's

legislation and human rights structures. It welcomed the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution.

89. Turkey commended Uruguay for the implementation of recommendations made during the first review, notably the accession to the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education and the ratification of OP-ICESCR.

90. Turkmenistan welcomed the establishment of the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Preparation of Reports to the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism and the Treaty Bodies to follow up on the recommendations.

91. The United Arab Emirates appreciated measures taken to protect children and adolescents. It asked about primary measures to be taken to fight trafficking in and smuggling of children.

92. Romania appreciated the commitments to further promoting the exercise of human rights by citizens, and the continuous co-operation with the UN human rights structures.

93. The United States of America encouraged Uruguay to take additional measures to ensure alleged trafficking offenders are prosecuted and mentioned the lack of a comprehensive national plan to eliminate the worst forms of child labour.

94. Uzbekistan noted various legal and institutional measures taken since the first review, including the ratification of the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education, CRPD and the OP-ICESCR.

95. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) appreciated in particular, efforts made by Uruguay regarding the eradication of poverty, as well as the attention paid to issues regarding children and adolescents living on the streets and child labour.

96. Viet Nam congratulated Uruguay for its achievements in human rights, including the establishment of the National Human Rights Institute.

97. Yemen welcomed progress and achievements, including the ratification of OP-ICESCR and the submission of several reports to treaty bodies.

98. Algeria commended Uruguay's progress since the first review, as well as the participative approach adopted for the elaboration of the national report. It highlighted the different legislative and institutional reforms and the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights.

99. Angola welcomed the efforts regarding children, with the creation of the System for Criminal Liability for Adolescents (SIRPA), and political and legal reforms which have allowed the creation of specialized jurisdictions on domestic and family violence.

100. Argentina highlighted Uruguay's institutional strengthening with the establishment, inter alia, of the National Human Rights Institution, and underscored the incorporation of a human rights approach to social policies.

101. Armenia appreciated Uruguay's policy of tolerance and engagement towards national and religious minorities. It welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution, and efforts and programmes undertaken in the field of education.

102. Australia acknowledged Uruguay's efforts to strengthen its institutional framework for the protection of human rights. It commended Uruguay's legislation which recognises sexual and reproductive health rights of women.

103. Azerbaijan noted the institutional and legal reforms undertaken in the promotion and protection of human rights and noted concerns by UN treaty bodies on inequalities between men and women.

104. Bangladesh noted commendable progress in institutional building, addressing child labour, and health sector. It expressed concern at the persistent incidents of racial discrimination.

105. The delegation responded to questions received in advance and additional comments by grouping responses.

106. Ambassador Dupuy said that Uruguay typified trafficking in persons as a crime, establishing as aggravating circumstances when the victim was a child or teenager or person with disabilities. There is a decree regarding tourism operators. The problem was being addressed through awareness-raising campaigns and training for public officials. Coordination took place at inter-institutional level. The wider social policies aimed at children and teenagers, including those to combat domestic violence, to eliminate poverty and social exclusion, or sexual education, were the framework for the reduction of vulnerability. In terms of domestic labour, the Act in that field included inspection of private residencies, including searches with police involvement through judicial authorization. Inspections were being broadened in respect of child labour throughout the country and the different risks were being assessed.

107. Ms. Payssé, National Representative (Member of Parliament), said that historically in Uruguay the age for marriage was 12 years of age for girls and 14 for boys. Through the adoption of Act 19,119 on equal marriages, the age for marriage had been raised to 16 years. Uruguay recognized that international standards set the age at 18 years and had the strong will to align it with international standards.

108. Regarding the reduction of child poverty, Mr. Scagliola, Director of Social Policy in the Ministry of Social Development, indicated that Uruguay was experiencing a sustained reduction in poverty achieved through two major actions. The doubling of social public expenditure between 2005 and 2012, and the redirecting of policies. Government actions included the reform of the comprehensive national health system, a budgetary increase in education, the new family scheme for economic transfers for families in situations of poverty with dependent children, the extension of the Child and Family Support Centre Plan (CAIF). Uruguay would continue working on the Strategy for Children and Adolescents, the objectives of which would extend to 2030 and mentioned by many countries.

109. Addressing issues on juvenile justice, Ms. Payssé, indicated that in accordance with the CRC, a system of criminal liability had been established and provided a socio-educational focus to the system for juvenile offenders based on the paradigm of overall protection which the United Nations promoted. Statistics were encouraging in terms of the proportionality between the numbers of minors deprived of their liberty and those who were in the category of alternative measures. There was political will to develop the system and provide it with a proper institutional framework over time. Amendments had also been made to the Code on Children and Adolescents with regard to a strong approach to the strategy for life and living together including legislative tools, public policies, and also tools which involved intervention at the urban level in areas where living together was quite complex. Uruguay was presenting a code of criminal responsibility for adolescents, the content of which would be analyzed in parliament, and a benefit of which was the fact that it removed the inquiry method, and put in place an accusatory method which would meet international standards. Much remained to be done but progress was being made and Uruguay wished to share it.

110. Regarding a concern raised by Israel about the registration of children and adolescents, Uruguay had a certificate of live birth, which existed by law, and which made it possible, since most births took place in health facilities, for children to leave the facility after birth with such a certificate but also with their identity number - their DNI. One could

not talk about under-registration in Uruguay. Uruguay was well below 2 per cent, which provided all those children with access to the social policies. She wished to clarify, that through programmes implemented under the National Institute for Women it had been possible to reach families which for some reason had not registered their children.

111. Regarding the participation of women in decision-making roles and their political participation, Uruguay would apply for the first time in the 2014 elections, a law that stipulated that the lists must contain two persons of one gender and one of another, both for representatives and alternates. The implementation by political parties is still to be seen.

112. Ambassador Gonzalez Arenas, Director General for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responded to question on the issue of domestic violence. Numerous measures had progressively been taken to counter-act the phenomenon, to develop a legislative framework and institutions that ensured the guarantee of human rights, protection of victims that cared for victims and ensured judgment and responsibility of the perpetrators of those crimes.

113. Ms. Fulco, Adviser, Ministry of the Interior, referred to concerns on the prison system raised by several delegations. The attention that the prison system had during the past two governments recognized the increased interest in the protection of human rights and respect of the dignity of people deprived of liberty, in line with the need to consider the social fabric in state policy. One of the pillars of success was the adoption of cross-cutting intervention strategies, providing a range of responses which required the participation of the Secretary of State and other State bodies. Uruguay made progress towards the goal of reducing overcrowding, which had been announced for the first half of 2014, leading to a surplus of places by 2016. Substantial support had been received from the International Community through projects that had strengthened the prison reform process overall and its institutions. She hoped the actions taken over the past four years were clearly reflected in a report available to all delegations. Uruguay welcomed recommendations made by States and models of good practice which had been shared.

114. As a Parliamentary Commissioner, Dr. Garcé, said he could fully corroborate the existence of significant reform of the prison system in Uruguay, which had been underway for eight years, and the results of which in terms of infrastructure and management reform were already visible. The Parliamentary Commission had been working together with the National Human Rights Institution. Questions had been raised about the regulation of *habeas corpus*, which had existed in the Constitution since 1917. There was a good project that was being considered by the Chamber of Representatives that would create an additional mechanism for the protection of detainees.

115. Ms. Jorge, Executive Coordinator, Secretariat for Human Rights of the Presidency, emphasized the commitment the Executive Branch had to addressing human rights violations which had occurred during the pre-dictatorship and dictatorship periods, from 1968 to 1985. Through efforts, since 2000, the forced disappearance of 178 Uruguayans had been recognized by 2014. Institutional strengthening could be clearly seen in the creation of the Secretariat for Human Rights for cases in the recent past. The Secretariat worked daily on historical and anthropological investigation with university teams which formed part of the Secretariat. Anthropological investigations included exploratory surveys searching for the remains of disappeared persons. At the current time, victims had opened 204 cases of human rights violations in the recent past lodged with the country's judicial headquarters. Uruguay was also collaborating with judicial bodies in Argentina, Chile and Italy. Another responsibility was responding to requests from people who were looking in to where they had come from, people who believed they were children of disappeared persons.

116. Ambassador Perazza, Director of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responded to questions on the implementation of the laws on sexual and reproductive rights and the voluntary termination of pregnancy. The regulation of the law was coordinated by the Ministry of Public Health, and clearly defined the elements relating to conscientious objection. He reminded that in the latest years, with the implementation of the current law there were no cases of maternal death due to unsafe abortions, while before they implied 30 percent of maternal mortality in the country.

117. The National Plan of Human Rights being developed, focused not only on the human rights dimension but also crossed the whole perspective, and the draft would also provide a framework for living together. It would soon be presented to the Council of Ministers there would be a consultation with civil society, so that the Plan would be fully operational by the end of 2014.

118. The National Plan against Racism and Discrimination followed the United Nations model, by which it widened the concept of discrimination. The government hoped to complete it in the second half of the year and present it for civil society consultation; so that it would be fully operational in 2015.

119. Uruguay was implementing numerous programs and policies aimed at combating school dropout.

120. Mr. Scagliola, Director of Social Policy in the Ministry of Social Development, indicated that Uruguay was committed to policies of equality with regard to the rights of persons with disabilities. It was also making progress in the regulation of a comprehensive law. In line with the new National Plan on access to justice and legal protection for persons with disabilities, progress had been made.

121. Regarding the possibility of the consular voting, Dr. Guerrero indicated that there was a working group in the national Parliament that was working on that matter. As that would be an electoral law, it would require 2/3 to be passed.

122. The delegation hoped that its answers had been satisfactory, addressing concerns of States Parties and civil society. It noted that Uruguay had the will to agree in principle to all the recommendations that were in line with international standards.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

123. **The recommendations listed below enjoy the support of Uruguay:**

123.1. Consider ratifying those international instruments to which it is not a party to yet, and which aim to protect the rights of minority groups (Nicaragua);

123.2. Continue incorporating the ratified human rights treaties into national legislation and institutions, with more focus on administration of justice, disparities reduction, employment for the youth and adequate housing and social welfare (Viet Nam)

123.3. Further fulfil the internationally taken obligations as well as joining new human rights international instruments (Kazakhstan);

123.4. Consider the adoption of ILO Convention No. 169, in order to ensure the effective protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous

peoples, contributing to the recognition of their national identity, particularly the one's of the charrúa nation³ (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));

123.5. Consider ratifying the ILO Convention No. 169 within a reasonable timeframe⁴ (Gabon);

123.6. Ratify the ILO Convention No. 169 on indigenous peoples (Uzbekistan);

123.7. Continue making progress in the efforts needed and consider ratifying the ILO Convention No. 169⁵ (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));

123.8. Ratify the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communication procedures (Montenegro);

123.9. Adopt necessary legislative and administrative measures to guarantee the security of LGBT persons and facilitate their access to justice and legal assistance (Norway);

123.10. Continue making progress in the efforts needed to have a National Human Rights Institution in conformity with the Paris Principles (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));

123.11. Ensure that the National Human Rights Institution and Ombudsman's Office is sufficiently resourced to effectively discharge its duties and accords with the Paris Principles (Australia);

123.12. Work to obtain the accreditation of the National Human Rights Institution (Burkina Faso);

123.13. Ensure the compliance of the Paris Principles by the National Human Rights Institution (France);

123.14. Maintain the respect for the independence of Uruguay's National Human Rights Institution and Ombudsman's Office during the reporting process (Ghana);

123.15. Accredite the National Human Rights Institution and Ombudsman's Office before the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions (Mexico);

123.16. Accelerate the establishment of a national mechanism for the prevention of torture (Burkina Faso);

123.17. Further strengthening of the National Preventive Mechanism of the OP-CAT by ensuring its autonomy, allocating necessary resources and developing a plan for its effective implementation (Serbia);

123.18. Proceed with the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism against Torture in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the

³ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: consider the adoption of ILO Convention No. 169, in order to ensure the effective protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples, contributing to the recognition of their national identity, particularly the one's of the charrúa population (Bolivia (Plurinational State of)).

⁴ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: ratify the ILO Convention No. 169 within a reasonable timeframe (Gabon).

⁵ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: continue making progress in the efforts needed to ratify the ILO Convention No. 169 (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)).

Convention against Torture, ensuring their independence, adequate funding and resources, and the development of a detailed plan for its effective implementation (Spain);

123.19. Sustain the broad consultation methodology including continuing the effective participation of civil society organizations in the work of the Inter-Institutional Commission (Ghana);

123.20. Promote the elaboration and adoption of a national human rights plan (Peru);

123.21. Continue strengthening the national legislation for the prevention, prosecution and reparation of racism and other forms of discrimination, in particular through the adoption of the National Plan against Racism and Discrimination, the strengthening of the Honorary Commission against Racism and Xenophobia, as well as the implementation of awareness-raising campaigns that may lead to cultural changes (Colombia);

123.22. Ensure the effective implementation of the National Plan against Racism and Discrimination (Côte d'Ivoire);

123.23. Continue efforts on adopting the national Plan against Racism and Discrimination (Kazakhstan);

123.24. Complete current initiatives for the adoption of the National Plan against racism and discrimination, in consultation with organizations of persons of African descent and organizations of indigenous peoples (Peru);

123.25. Continue working on the full implementation of the National Plan against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));

123.26. Set priorities and adequate resources for the implementation of Uruguay's voluntary pledges and commitments as stated in her Review Report (Viet Nam);

123.27. Continue to strengthen the effective implementation of its legislation on the rights of women (Romania);

123.28. Continue developing policies and programmes to enhance protection and advancement of women's rights (Philippines);

123.29. Strengthen the National Women's Institute through greater prominence and adequate resources (Bangladesh);

123.30. Put in place a monitoring mechanism for the assessment of the situation of the protection of children, and strengthen the capacity of State and private institutions working on children's rights (Morocco);

123.31. Continue implementing programmes aimed at protecting the rights of the child (Nicaragua);

123.32. Continue its policies on improving the rights of the child (Jordan);

123.33. Continue the efforts to implement the National Strategy for Children and Adolescents 2010-2030 (United Arab Emirates);

123.34. Continue the consolidation of social policies within the framework of the National Strategy for Children and Adolescents to claim the rights of children and adolescents who are in a situation of extreme vulnerability (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));

- 123.35. Consider eventual improvements as well as of the family support policies as well as alternative child care options in order to address the issue, *inter alia*, of the so called street children (Serbia);
- 123.36. Further improve human rights records in the country (Azerbaijan);
- 123.37. Expedite process for preparation and adoption of national action plan in areas of health and education for equal access to children of African descent (Pakistan);
- 123.38. Continue paying particular attention to the conditions of vulnerable groups: such persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples, in particular Afro-descendants (Somalia);
- 123.39. Continue social programmes aimed at addressing the basic needs of food, education, housing, health and work for vulnerable groups (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 123.40. Continue adopting measures to strengthen institutions in the field of aging (Argentina);
- 123.41. Encourage racial, ethnic and religious tolerance, especially among young people (Turkmenistan);
- 123.42. Amend its Penal Code to eliminate language that discriminates against women, in particular the section “Title X”, to ensure respect for rights and to address the impact of the violence suffered by victims of these offences (Canada);
- 123.43. Continue with its efforts to remove discriminatory norms against women from its legislation (Cyprus);
- 123.44. Give greater prominence and allocate adequate resources to the implementation of policies that strengthen the State’s institutional gender framework using training courses that promote gender equality (Israel);
- 123.45. Conduct the reforms to the Civil Code to eradicate discrimination against widows or divorced women (Spain);
- 123.46. Strengthen measures on combating discrimination against women and eliminate stereotypes of Afro-descendant and indigenous people through awareness-raising campaigns (Azerbaijan);
- 123.47. Take stronger measures to ensure equal rights and opportunities, regardless of ethnicity and sex (Norway);
- 123.48. Intensify its fight against discrimination of which people of African descent are victims and take appropriate measures to reduce inequalities affecting them in the areas of employment, housing and education (Gabon);
- 123.49. Continue making efforts to incorporate an ethno-racial dimension in all plans and programmes aimed combating discrimination (Guatemala);
- 123.50. Criminalize the dissemination of theories on racial superiority or inferiority and prohibit organizations which promote and incite racial discrimination (Honduras);

- 123.51. **Adopt a national legislation to combat offences related to racism and to provide redress for victims of racism and other forms of discrimination (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**
- 123.52. **Enact specific legislation to prohibit racism and racial discrimination (Namibia);**
- 123.53. **Strengthen legal and policy frameworks and programmes for the promotion and the protection of the rights of people of African Descent, including through promoting the employment of people of African Descent in public administration and private enterprises, and promoting the integration of women of African descent into the labour market (Namibia);**
- 123.54. **Take necessary measures to prohibit racial discrimination and adopt a comprehensive anti-discriminatory law (Pakistan)**
- 123.55. **Adopt a comprehensive law against discrimination containing provisions that specifically prohibit racism and racial discrimination; qualify as a crime punishable by law, the dissemination of ideas based on racial supremacy or inferiority and; prohibit organizations that promote or incite racial discrimination (Tunisia);**
- 123.56. **Adopt a law on prohibition of racism and racial discrimination as well as relevant/appropriate national action plan in this field (Uzbekistan);**
- 123.57. **Criminalize the dissemination of theories of racial superiority or inferiority and prohibit organizations which promote and incite racial discrimination (Bangladesh);**
- 123.58. **Strengthen measures to combat discrimination against women and ensure that additional special measures are taken to effectively empower women, in particular, women of African descent (Botswana);**
- 123.59. **Strengthen actions on equal opportunities (Burkina Faso);**
- 123.60. **Consolidate a human rights and gender perspective in the social policies practice aiming at gender equality in practice (Colombia);**
- 123.61. **Take all necessary steps in order to promote equality of women and men in the realms of family, economy and policy (Cyprus);**
- 123.62. **Step up efforts to achieve equality and eliminate discrimination against women, afro-descendants and indigenous, and improve their access to education, housing, health and employment (Ecuador);**
- 123.63. **Raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 years for both sexes (Estonia);**
- 123.64. **Continue to protect the rights of its children, by implementing successful programs that ensure 100% access to birth registration, as well as strengthening the legal framework that guarantees the universal right to education and promote emphasis on care, access and opportunities⁶ (Israel);**

⁶ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: continue to protect the rights of its children, by implementing successful programs that ensure 100% access to birth registration, as well as strengthening a legal framework that can guarantee the universal right to education and promote emphasis on care, access and opportunities (Israel).

- 123.65. Continue innovative education programs recognizing sexual diversity and to adopt a health policy that further enhances awareness on and sensitizing of sexual orientation and gender issues amongst health personnel (Netherlands);
- 123.66. Ensure equality of men and women in practice and bring domestic legislation in line with the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Russian Federation);
- 123.67. Take all necessary policies and other measures to prevent and provide protection against all forms of discrimination, violence and harassment related to sexual and gender identity, and, to ensure that perpetration of such violence is vigorously investigated and that perpetrators are held accountable (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 123.68. Take effective measures to ensure de facto equality of all women (Uzbekistan);
- 123.69. Continue to give greater prominence to gender equality and ensure the National Women's Institute is adequately resourced (Australia);
- 123.70. Eliminate child marriages and adopt 18 as a minimum age for marriage for both sexes (Azerbaijan);
- 123.71. Continue the investigation of human rights violations, particularly enforced disappearances (Argentina);
- 123.72. Continue efforts to improve detention conditions, particularly through the fight against prison overcrowding (France);
- 123.73. Continue efforts to further improve prison conditions and share relevant best practices with the Human Rights Council (Greece);
- 123.74. Address overcrowding in prison systems and poor prison conditions, especially to ensure human rights of women prisoners are protected (Maldives);
- 123.75. Consolidate its national strategy for the reform of the penitentiary system in a manner that guarantees the rehabilitation and the prompt reintegration of minors into the society (Morocco);
- 123.76. Continue to take steps to improve the penitentiary system (Portugal);
- 123.77. Take measures to improve the penitentiary system and identify additional resources to solve the problem of prison overcrowding (Russian Federation);
- 123.78. Continue advancing in the improvement of detention conditions and in the mechanisms of social reintegration of prisoners and in the reform of the criminal justice system (Spain);
- 123.79. Continue to reform the prison system and look further into ways of reforming the Penal Code to ensure adequate prison conditions and treatment of prisoners (Sweden);
- 123.80. Continue the reform process to strengthen the institutions of the prison system in order to guarantee respect for the human rights and dignity of persons deprived of liberty (Turkey);

- 123.81. Increase efforts to address prison overcrowding, antiquated facilities and undue delays in prosecution that have prolonged pre-trial detention (United States of America);
- 123.82. Conduct comprehensive reform of the penitentiary system (Uzbekistan);
- 123.83. Address prison overcrowding by reviewing the use of pre-trial detention (Australia);
- 123.84. Develop more plans to support women prisoners (Iran (Islamic Republic of));
- 123.85. Apply the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners, or the Bangkok Rules, as part its efforts to guarantee respect for human rights and dignity of persons deprived of their liberty (Thailand);
- 123.86. Elaborate and apply alternative penalties to prison incarceration and take all necessary measures to decrease the excessive use of pre-trial detention (Hungary);
- 123.87. Promote alternative penalties to prison and draw up public policies to foster the rights of persons in prisons (Iran (Islamic Republic of));
- 123.88. Take steps to reduce the incidence of preventative and pre-trial detention (Ireland);
- 123.89. Strengthen its efforts to address domestic violence through appropriate public awareness campaigns and by ensuring that women are made aware of their rights (Canada);
- 123.90. Provide sufficient protection for victims of domestic violence and ensure proper monitoring of the rehabilitation of persons convicted (Canada);
- 123.91. Continue strengthening the national plan against the scourge of domestic violence, placing emphasis on prevention and awareness-raising of public opinion (Chile);
- 123.92. Take additional measures to protect women from domestic violence (Cyprus);
- 123.93. Take further measures in the fight against domestic violence, human trafficking and poverty, especially concerning women and children (Estonia);
- 123.94. Continue efforts in favour of the rights of women and children and adopt all necessary measures to efficiently combat domestic violence (France);
- 123.95. Continue its efforts to eradicate domestic violence by putting in place mechanisms to survey the proper implementation of the protocols of action by government agencies and apply appropriate sanctions where such implementation is not in line with the prescribed rules (Hungary);
- 123.96. Endeavour, in line with its voluntary pledges, to combat gender-based violence by, inter alia, enforcing existing legislation, conducting public awareness campaigns, ensuring psychosocial support and access to shelters for victims, and monitoring rehabilitation of persons convicted (Ireland);
- 123.97. Promote and protect human rights of women, by strengthening efforts to end domestic violence, and other forms of violence and discrimination

against women by implementation of existing laws and awareness programs. (Maldives);

123.98. Intensify prosecution and preventive measures in order to further protect women and to generate greater awareness of gender-based violence (Norway);

123.99. Strengthen public policies regarding violence against women, adopting, among other, affirmative measures to combat women's poverty, linked to the unequal distribution between time spent on paid and unpaid work (Paraguay);

123.100. Adopt a comprehensive law to fight violence against women (Tunisia);

123.101. Continue to combat domestic violence and renew the national action plan in this field (Russian Federation);

123.102. Strengthen the mechanisms to protect victims of gender-based violence (Senegal);

123.103. Continue to enhance the protection of women against violence and to promote greater gender equality (Singapore);

123.104. Step up its efforts to prevent domestic violence, including through enforcing existing legislation, continuing its awareness-raising campaigns, as well as through efficiently implementing, and where necessary, introducing new state programmes to protect the victims of domestic violence and to offer them psychological support and access to shelter (Slovenia);

123.105. Strengthen measures to respond to gender-based violence in every sphere of public and private life (Sri Lanka);

123.106. Continue implementing the project "Uruguay, united in putting an end to violence against women, children and adolescents" 2012-2014 (Algeria);

123.107. Reinforce policies already in place aimed at preventing and effectively responding to domestic violence against women, including the protection by the State of the displaced surviving victims (Brazil);

123.108. Strengthen national policies aimed at protecting children and youth against violence, abuses and sexual exploitation (Côte d'Ivoire);

123.109. Continue efforts regarding the rights of the child and welcomed all initiatives relating to street children (Greece);

123.110. Continue unabated its commitment to tackle the problem of sexual exploitation of children and child labour (Italy);

123.111. Strengthen coordination measures to address child labour (Namibia);

123.112. Continue its efforts to eradicate child labour and ensure access to quality education for all children (Singapore);

123.113. Implement a comprehensive assistance programme for children living on the streets, ensuring that they have access to sanitation, education and social security (State of Palestine);

- 123.114. Continue taking strong measures with a view to fully combating sexual exploitation of children and ensure that the law is strengthened to tackle impunity for these crimes (Sweden);
- 123.115. Draft and adopt a comprehensive national plan of action to address the worst forms of child labour (United States of America);
- 123.116. Continue its efforts to develop an action plan to eliminate child labour and to give priority to inclusive education for all (Yemen);
- 123.117. Continue its efforts in raising awareness about trafficking in persons through comprehensive training programmes for social workers, law enforcement officials and the media (Bhutan);
- 123.118. Step up measures to combat trafficking of persons and protect the rights of victims, in particular women and children (Ecuador);
- 123.119. Continue to implement adequate measures to fight trafficking in women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation, as well as adequate measures to fight violence against women, including providing assistance and redress for victims of both crimes (Germany);
- 123.120. Develop a comprehensive, inclusive and holistic national plan of action against trafficking in persons; and examine the possibility of establishing a central organ to deal with trafficking in persons (Honduras);
- 123.121. Approve a comprehensive law on the fight against human trafficking especially for women (Iran (Islamic Republic of));
- 123.122. Implement a national plan of action to fight against trafficking of women for sexual exploitation (Iran (Islamic Republic of));
- 123.123. Continue taking measures on combating trafficking in persons (Kazakhstan);
- 123.124. Draw up a comprehensive programme to combat trafficking in persons (Kyrgyzstan);
- 123.125. Provide assistance and redress to victims of trafficking in persons (Kyrgyzstan);
- 123.126. Launch campaigns to raise public awareness on trafficking in persons (Kyrgyzstan);
- 123.127. Adopt a national action plan to prevent trafficking in persons and assist the victims of this crime (Mexico);
- 123.128. Increase awareness and training campaigns at national level, to combat the trafficking of women and children, and deepen this topic in school programmes (Morocco);
- 123.129. Consider stepping up measures to address trafficking vulnerabilities of women and children (Philippines);
- 123.130. Strengthen institutional mechanisms to address crimes against children, such as trafficking and sexual exploitation of children and adolescents (Sri Lanka);
- 123.131. Consider the establishment of a central agency to address human trafficking (Trinidad and Tobago);

- 123.132. Increase efforts to identify and prosecute suspected human traffickers and provide comprehensive services to victims of trafficking (United States of America);
- 123.133. Enhance initiatives designed to halt the trafficking and sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the country, particularly through the strengthening of its justice system and the adoption of appropriate legislation on the matter (Brazil);
- 123.134. Strengthen its efforts to reform its penal system, including seeking alternatives to pre-trial detention and ensuring that its system of juvenile detention is in line with its human rights obligations (German);
- 123.135. Strengthen its efforts to reform its criminal procedure law in order to guarantee a fair and timely legal process (Germany);
- 123.136. Continue reforms in the system of the law-enforcement agencies and the judicial system (Turkmenistan);
- 123.137. Further strengthen the justice system, including adopting a specific law to criminalize sexual tourism (Iran (Islamic Republic of));
- 123.138. Continue its efforts aimed at improving the access of vulnerable populations and groups to the justice system (Angola);
- 123.139. Ensure proper implementation of the law on reparation for acts of discrimination against people of African descent (Burkina Faso);
- 123.140. Strengthen plans and programmes for crime prevention and rehabilitation (Chile);
- 123.141. Consider making additional efforts to facilitate equal access to judicial and administrative remedies for people of African descent and of indigenous origin (Egypt);
- 123.142. Include access to justice and remedy, as well as psychological support and occupational training, for victims of trafficking to help them regain their lives and reintegrate back into society (Thailand);
- 123.143. The Executive and Judicial authorities in Uruguay should continue to cooperate to facilitate investigations into serious violations of human rights, including cases of involuntary disappearances that occurred during the era of Operation Condor (Ghana);
- 123.144. Make a priority of passing a revised penal code (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 123.145. Establish mechanisms for witness protection and access to justice for victims, their families and civil society actors who might be assisting them, as recommended by the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons (Botswana);
- 123.146. Continue advancing on the specialization of the juvenile justice system, including the development of an appeals mechanism (Chile);
- 123.147. Continue developing its juvenile justice system, in terms of both legislation and practice. In particular, continue efforts to ensure that there are adequately trained professionals and adequate infrastructure for adolescents in conflict with the law. Deprivation of liberty should only be used as a measure of last resort and for as short periods as possible (Finland);

- 123.148. Concerning the deprivation of liberty of minors, develop and prioritize alternative measures allowing the reintegration of the child into the society and only deprive minors of their liberty as a last resort (France);
- 123.149. Take necessary measures, so as not to allow the lowering of the minimum age of criminal responsibility (Paraguay);
- 123.150. Strengthen its specialized juvenile justice system and promote alternative measures to deprivation of liberty, with a view to the full reintegration of the child into the society (Republic of Moldova);
- 123.151. Continue its efforts to give effect to the vote of Uruguayans living abroad (Burkina Faso);
- 123.152. Continue its efforts to ensure an equal opportunity to participate in political process for all of its citizens (Indonesia);
- 123.153. Continue consultations with a view to allowing the Uruguayan diaspora to exercise their right to vote (Senegal);
- 123.154. Strengthen efforts to ensure better participation of women at all spheres of public life and especially at political level (Greece);
- 123.155. Adopt measures to increase gender parity in political and public spheres and improve the participation of women in decision-making and public policy development (Netherlands);
- 123.156. Make permanent the “pilot” requirement to include persons of both sexes in each list of candidates as it will apply to the national and departmental elections of 2014-2015 (Slovenia);
- 123.157. Ensure gender equality at the workplace (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 123.158. Take additional measures to promote equality of access to employment (Egypt);
- 123.159. Continue its efforts in providing equal treatment for men and women in employment (Jordan);
- 123.160. Continue promoting the right of women, especially rural women and guarantee their equality in employment opportunities (Armenia);
- 123.161. Continue strengthening on-going measures aimed at improving the living conditions of the whole population of the country (Mali);
- 123.162. Continue implementing its poverty reduction strategy and protect the rights of vulnerable groups so as to achieve a sustainable socio-economic development (China);
- 123.163. Continue to take measures to ensure the elimination of poverty (Cuba);
- 123.164. Continue its efforts on initiatives aimed at enhancing economic growth and improving the living standards in the country (Oman);
- 123.165. Take further steps to reduce poverty and extreme poverty (Portugal);
- 123.166. Continue strengthening its economic and social development (Somalia);

- 123.167. Continue implementing current projects and socio-economic development programmes for the promotion and protection of human rights (Somalia);
- 123.168. Implement a system to measure progress indicators on economic, social and cultural rights (State of Palestine);
- 123.169. Step up efforts to reduce poverty by allocating additional resources to individuals and groups of vulnerable populations (Togo);
- 123.170. Increase its political and financial commitment aimed at ensuring the full development of children and their families (Togo);
- 123.171. Continue to implement the necessary socio-economic policies to reduce poverty especially among women and children (Trinidad and Tobago);
- 123.172. Continue implementing comprehensive social assistance programmes, aiming at reducing poverty and inequalities in the distribution of income (Algeria);
- 123.173. Continue its efforts to reduce poverty and improve living conditions, particularly among vulnerable groups (Australia);
- 123.174. Provide access to adequate housing, with a focus on assistance to low-income families (Egypt);
- 123.175. Continue providing access to adequate housing, particularly by assisting low-income families and other disadvantaged individuals and groups (Malaysia);
- 123.176. Strengthen its efforts in promoting the right to health, including access to a comprehensive health care (Indonesia);
- 123.177. Step up efforts to improve the quality of education and allocate adequate resources, and address the issue of highschool dropouts (Malaysia);
- 123.178. Continue the efforts of the Government to ensure the improvement of its educational and health systems, as well as progress on other socio-economic and cultural rights (Cuba);
- 123.179. Take further structural measures in order to reduce the school dropout rate (Estonia);
- 123.180. Strengthen measures to reduce repetition and dropout rates and evaluate the outcome of such measures, as well as to continue to fight child poverty and address issues such as street children, child labour and child trafficking and smuggling (Portugal);
- 123.181. Introduce necessary reforms in the education system for reducing school dropout rates, particularly in secondary education (Republic of Moldova #02);
- 123.182. Strengthen efforts to implement 2008 law on education and the reduction of school dropout rates of children of African descent and indigenous origin (Bangladesh);
- 123.183. Increase efforts aimed at countering the root causes of the early school leaving and the lack of continuity in education (Italy);
- 123.184. Continue its efforts towards enhancing the access to secondary education, particularly for the students from rural areas (Armenia);

123.185. Continue to develop programmes to increase physical accessibility for persons with disabilities and foster their labour inclusion, and in this framework make a specific effort regarding childhood (Spain);

123.186. Consider strengthening the capacity of the ministries responsible for developing a sustainable mining strategy (Egypt).

124. The recommendation below did not enjoy the support of Uruguay:

124.1. Ensure the protection of and right to family life on the premise that family is the natural and fundamental group of society based upon the stable relationship between a man and a woman (Bangladesh).

125. Uruguay rejects the recommendation made by the delegation of Bangladesh. Uruguay effectively protects the family institution, including through laws embodied in the National Constitution on a wide and non-discriminatory basis, rejecting to limit the concept of family on grounds of gender identity, sexual orientation or any other reason, in accordance to our national legislation and the highest international standards on human rights protection.

126. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

III. Voluntary pledges and commitments

127. Reference is made to voluntary pledges and commitments made in section III of the national report of Uruguay (A/HRC/WG.6/18/URY/1).

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Uruguay was headed by Doctor Homero Guerrero, Secretario de Presidencia (Ministro) y Jefe de Delegación and composed of the following members:

- Señora Laura Dupuy Lasserre, Embajadora y Representante Permanente del Uruguay ante la Oficina de Naciones Unidas y Organismos Especializados;
 - Embajador Ricardo González Arenas, Director General para Asuntos Políticos del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores;
 - Embajador Federico Perazza, Director de Derechos Humanos y Derecho Humanitario del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores;
 - Licenciada Graciela Jorge, Coordinadora Ejecutiva de la Secretaría de Derechos Humanos de la Presidencia de la República;
 - Psicóloga Gabriela Fulco, Asesora del Ministerio del Interior;
 - Politólogo Andrés Scagliola, Director de Políticas Sociales del Ministerio de Desarrollo Social (MIDES);
 - Señora Daniela Payssé, Representante Nacional (Diputada);
 - Doctor Alvaro Garcé, Comisionado Parlamentario para el Sistema Carcelario;
 - Señora Dianela Pi, Ministro Consejero;
 - Señora Cristina González, Ministro Consejero;
 - Señor Patricio Silva, Secretario de Segunda.
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