



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## SUMMARY

### VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW - URUGUAY 2018







***SUMMARY***  
*VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW  
URUGUAY 2018*





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To the authorities of the ministries and organizations linked to the SDGs reviewed in this report: Ministry of Housing, Territorial Planning and Environment (*MVOTMA*), Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (*MGAP*), Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining (*MIEM*), Ministry of Transport and Public Works (*MTOP*), Ministry of Education and Culture (*MEC*), Ministry of Tourism (*MINTUR*), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (*MRREE*), National Administration of Power Plants and Electrical Transmissions (*UTE*), National Administration of Fuels, Alcohol and Portland Cement (*ANCAP*), State Sewage and Water Works (*OSE*) and Government of Montevideo (*IM*).

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Additionally, we hereby thank the United Nations system. In particular, we hereby thank the United Nations Development Programme (*UNDP*), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (*FAO*) and the United Nations Environment Programme (*UNEP*).

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: URUGUAY ADDS VALUE**

This is the second country report on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) presented by Uruguay at the global level, goals to which we strongly commit.

This year too, we voluntarily present our national review as we understand our country can continue along this path in Latin America to reach new targets that lead to an increase in the wellbeing of its population.

The 2030 Agenda is a guideline with a comprehensive and integrated outlook on economic, social, environmental, cultural and political development.

The government as a whole, working in collaboration with every ministry and agency, has undertaken the responsibility to direct public policies towards the compliance with SDGs in order to meet them by the year 2030.

Nevertheless, none of these goals can be reached by the government alone. Hence, discussions around SDGs take place in several spheres of exchange.

In order to make the SDGs a reality, we need the private sector, the market, all businessmen and workers. We need all forces of production, since the SDGs are not the sole responsibility of the State but rather the responsibility of the country.

Having information that contributes to the design of public policies is vital. The participation of academia, of our researchers, provides us with reliable information with scientific rigor regarding progress towards meeting the SDGs.

The Parliament takes notice of the SDGs when discussing and approving the national budget, since all 18 programmatic areas of the budget have been linked to the SDGs.

Uruguay is on the path to transparency; the Open Government is one of the relevant State policy lines. The OPP has published a web portal on financial and budget transparency where these aspects are connected to SDGs.

Localizing SDGs has been a priority. The territory, at the local level, is understood as the place where all visions of development meet. Hence, we are conducting work at the second and third levels of government (departmental and municipal governments). In every place, we have been displaying public exhibitions of SDGs, together with workshops with the local government's cabinet and workshops to consult with civil society, aimed at explaining and aligning policies to the SDGs.

This is because the path to sustainable development has a leading character: the citizen. Nothing can be achieved, we cannot even think about the major task ahead of us with SDGs, without civic commitment. Working towards the SDGs is an invitation for us, together as a nation, to think more about the future and about how our present actions have an impact on future generations.

Each of us already carries out, cooperates and engages in actions present in the SDGs; however, it is necessary to visualize and explain the contribution, improvement and commitment of each person. As a result, an advertising campaign called URUGUAY ADDS VALUE is being carried out to create for each person a bond with and a sense of commitment to SDGs.

We must continue to work together in order to build a country that can show the next generations that they were taken into account, and that the country that they inherit is a fairer, more prosperous, and more sustainable one.

*Uruguay suma valor* - Uruguay adds value

Álvaro García  
SDGs Coordinator  
Director of the Office of Planning and Budget  
Presidency of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay



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## INTRODUCTION

Once again, Uruguay reaffirms its commitment to the sustainable development agenda. Once again, Uruguay is undertaking the voluntary national review, as it has been a positive experience for the country, allowing for the establishment of a baseline for several indicators and, at the same time, revealing aspects in which improvement is necessary. The creation of knowledge and information systems is noted among these aspects, as the availability of precise, reliable data on different subjects is a key starting point when defining suitable public policies aimed at meeting the needs of all the population.

In this Voluntary National Review - Uruguay 2018, we analyze the current situation and main challenges faced by Uruguay in relation to the specific SDGs under review this year: SDG 6 "Clean Water and Sanitation", SDG 7 "Affordable and Clean Energy", SDG11 "Sustainable Cities and Communities", SDG 12 "Responsible Consumption and Production", and SDG 15 "Life on Land". All of these goals are highly interdependent, both in terms of the national public policies which underpin them, as well as in terms of the agencies which are responsible for their implementation. All of them entail an environmental approach, in which the country has been strongly working in the last years.

The process started by mapping out and meeting with all national public stakeholders linked to the SDGs under review. Agencies were encouraged to exchange information among themselves and jointly name a leading institution for each of the subjects, responsible for the drafting of the relevant chapter. The leading agencies for each SDG were as follows: Ministry of Housing, Territorial Planning and Environment for SDGs 6, 12 and 15; Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining for SDG 7 and the Office of Planning and Budget, jointly with the Ministry of Housing, Territorial Planning and Environment for SDG 11.

This summary of the Voluntary National Review – Uruguay 2018 starts with a description of the methodology. Implementation of the SDG agenda at the national level was fostered through the direct involvement of the referent national public institutions for each issue as they hold the specific knowledge and a functioning structure linked to the active participation of private sector, academia and civil society actors. Thus, the voluntary national review stems from a collective construction involving several national organizations.

Afterwards, we put forward a compilation of the main *national processes* linked to the SDGs. We examine progress and challenges regarding the linking of government's strategic planning and SDGs' targets, as well as SDGs costing. Moreover, we highlight advances in communicating the 2030 Agenda at the national level, through the creation of a specific website, audiovisual material and an itinerant photographic exhibition. Additionally, we examine the availability of national data for the monitoring of global indicators. Furthermore, we summarize the country's standpoint regarding international cooperation as a main tool to support policies aimed at meeting SDG targets.

Subsequently, three highly relevant matters for the implementation of the agenda on a national level are shortly described. These are discussed in depth in the voluntary national review. The first is focused on identifying existing spaces for civil participation connected to the issues entailed in the SDGs. The second highlights advances in the introduction of a human rights perspective as a cross-cutting issue; and the last one presents the contributions made by the organized private sector to the 2030 Agenda.

We further present infographics and summaries of *specific chapters for each SDG reviewed in the Voluntary National Review – Uruguay 2018*. In the latter we analyze the most relevant regulatory frameworks, the main public policies, as well as the achievements and challenges ahead to reach the goals.

Lastly, we present the main *conclusions, lessons learned and challenges faced by the country regarding the issues under review*. Among these challenges are: achieving access to safe sanitation for the entire population, and improving the quality of discharges in priority basins to maintain the achieved quality of environmental water; meeting all energy requirements at reasonable costs, ensuring energy independence through sustainable policies from an economic and environmental standpoint; broaden the availability of electric energy to all the population, especially to people living in rural areas through the "Uruguay Todos con Luz" program.

Regarding housing and habitat policies, more inclusive, sustainable and resilient lands and cities are sought after. This is to be achieved through the incorporation of the environmental dimension in the planning process, in an attempt to address the consequences of modern societies, such as the spatial segregation of different socioeconomic strata, the destruction of ecosystems and the privatization of public spaces. The strong growth process the country has undergone in recent years, entails great challenges for the achieving of sustainable production, protecting the environment and the conservation of resources used in food production systems. Finally, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is an existing goal especially linked to native forests, wetlands and grasslands, as are the struggle against soil degradation and the implementation of protection strategies beyond protected areas, a challenge to be met in cooperation with the production sector.

## METHODOLOGY FOR THE DRAFTING OF THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW - URUGUAY 2018

The drafting of the voluntary national review entailed the participation of different stakeholders from the state, civil society, private sector, academia and international organizations. This was possible given the inter-agency collaboration process led by the Office of Planning and Budget (OPP) through its Bureau of Management and Evaluation (AGEV), the contributions of the National Statistics Institute (INE), as leader of the National Statistics System, and the Uruguayan Agency of International Cooperation (AUCI). Just as in the previous year, special support was provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The structure and content of this year's VNR were influenced by the United Nations' guidelines.<sup>1</sup>

This time, AGEV-OPP initially mapped out all stakeholders directly involved in each SDG under review. To do so, they received significant support from AUCI. Then, they organized awareness building and exchange meetings for each specific SDG under review with all relevant stakeholders. Moreover, the meetings also involved the participation of representatives from INE, AUCI and other relevant organizations of the United Nations System in Uruguay. The meetings introduced the principles underpinning the 2030 Agenda to all relevant stakeholders. Following the introduction, there was a thorough presentation on each of the SDGs under review along with its targets and indicators.

These meetings sought to complete the initial mapping of stakeholders in order to make the biggest possible call when drafting each chapter and for the appropriation of the 2030 Agenda at a national level. Additionally, the meetings enabled an exchange among participants on the targets and, more generally, around the policies that are being carried out on each subject matter. They moreover involved an exchange on information sources for each indicator, which provided an overview of the level of data availability within the country.

At these meetings participants agreed on selecting a leading agency for each SDG under review. This involved taking responsibility for the drafting of the relevant chapter whilst receiving inputs from all stakeholders on the matter.

The leading agencies identified for each SDG are:

SDG	Responsible agency
 <p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	Ministry of Housing, Territorial Planning and Environment - National Bureau of Waters (DINAGUA)
 <p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining - National Bureau of Energy (DNE)
 <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	Ministry of Housing, Territorial Planning and Environment - National Bureau of Territorial Planning and Presidency of the Republic - Office of Planning and Budget - Bureau of Decentralization and Public Investment (DDIP)

<sup>1</sup> ONU, *Handbook for the preparation of Voluntary National Reviews*, [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17354VNR\\_handbook\\_2018.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17354VNR_handbook_2018.pdf).

	Ministry of Housing, Territorial Planning and Environment - National Bureau of Environment (DINAMA)
	Ministry of Housing, Territorial Planning and Environment - National Bureau of Environment (DINAMA)

AGEV-OPP provided the index for each chapter, which had been validated the previous year. This served the leading agencies as a guideline to structure the main contents that needed to be reported. Additionally, AGEV-OPP proposed to organize each SDG's targets in thematic axes, following the methodology adopted in the previous year VNR. Nevertheless, in this year's VNR, most of the SDGs reported were not structured according to the thematic axes. Instead, the chapters included the regulations and public policies as a whole, and treated indicators separately, following the order established in the targets. The only targets grouped into thematic axes were those of SDG 11, given the great diversity of subjects it entails. There are three thematic axes composing this goal:

SDG	Thematic axes	Associated targets
	Social inclusion and well-being	11.1, 11.2, 11.4, 11.7 and 11.c
	Environmental sustainability and climate change resilience	11.5, 11.6 and 11.b
	Urban governance	11.3 and 11.a

Based on lessons learned when drafting the previous national review, this year efforts were made to identify existing participation channels for each issue/SDG under review.

In order to include contributions and viewpoints of all stakeholders involved in each matter, consultation and exchange with private stakeholders, state agencies, academia and representatives of civil society took place within existing spheres of participation for each thematic issue. In the "National processes" section, we present a summary of these spheres, which are identified more in-depth in the chapters for each SDG.

In order to help leading agencies preparing information for each SDG, AGEV appointed a team of two employees from its Division of Strategic Management and Budget Preparation, to support each of the leading agencies at all times during the drafting process. This involved support with inter-agency coordination, content definition and feedback.

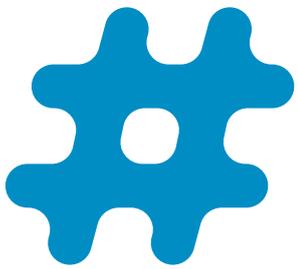
Through the Office of the Resident Coordinator (UNRCO), different agencies, funds and programs of the United Nations in Uruguay offered their support to draft the VNR.

To ensure comprehensiveness and a cross-cutting approach, it was necessary to identify with all parties the relevant assistance in the collection, systematization and reporting process for each issue/SDG under review. The next table shows the type and source of contributions:

Partner	National agency	SDG	Contribution
UN Environment and FAO	MVOTMA - DINAGUA	6. Clean water and sanitation	National Consultancy FAO Consultancy in regional project
UN Environment	MIEM - DNE	7. Affordable and Clean Energy	Contributions from the country team
UNDP	<i>OPP</i> MVOTMA - DINOT	11. Sustainable Cities and Communities	Contributions from the country team
UNDP - FAO	MVOTMA - DINAMA MGAP - OPYPA	12. Responsible Consumption and Production	Contributions from the country team
UNDP - UN Environment	MVOTMAA - DINAMA MGAP - OPYPA	15. Life on Land	National Consultancy

As ruler of the National Statistics System, *INE*, in consultation with all agencies concerned with SDGs under review, gathered information so as to assess the status of the country in relation to the global indicators for each target and goal (see statistical appendix of the digital version of VNR – Uruguay 2018 available at [www.ods.gub.uy](http://www.ods.gub.uy)). Additionally, the statistical appendix contains supplementary and complementary indicators that the country deems relevant to include.

Particularly this year's VNR and the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in general, were also nurtured by a series of exchanges with other countries aimed at sharing experiences at a global scale. During these exchanges, Uruguay has shared its experience whilst learning from other cases. Some examples of exchanges are noted in the "Summary of contributions from international cooperation to the 2030 Agenda", within the "National processes" section.



# NATIONAL PROCESSES

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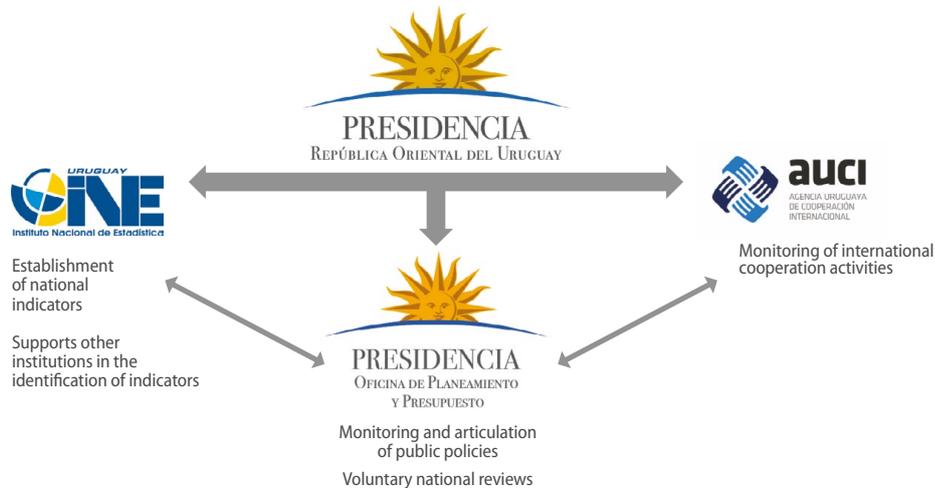
## INTRODUCTION

The 2030 Agenda has required significant efforts of communication, revision and definition of national targets, the creation of periodic reporting processes and the coordination among several stakeholders and sectors.

Just as in the past edition of the voluntary national review, an institutional approach was adopted from the beginning. This enables the integration and sustainability of the 2030 Agenda, since the workflow relies on existing agencies and consultation platforms.<sup>1</sup> Hence, the Office of Planning and Budget (*OPP*), through the Bureau of Management and Evaluation (*AGEV*) is responsible for monitoring and coordinating actions associated to the SDGs. At the same time, the Uruguayan Agency of International Cooperation (*AUCI*) is responsible for the coordination of international cooperation, in support of SDGs, whilst the National Institute of Statistics (*INE*), is responsible for the assessment and monitoring of indicators.

Unlike other countries, Uruguay did not establish new agencies to monitor the 2030 Agenda. The three aforementioned agencies have previous track record and cross-cutting missions, which allow for fruitful coordination. This, in turn, has been backed by the authorities of the Executive Branch in the framework of the Council of Ministers.

**Diagram 1. Institutional scheme for SDGs monitoring**



This chapter reviews the milestones and main progress towards the inclusion of SDGs into public policies in Uruguay. The next section briefly discusses the main national processes regarding SDGs. These, in turn, are thoroughly analyzed in the VNR - Uruguay 2018.

In the first part, we summarize the main efforts conducted by the government to promote the inclusion of SDGs in the national public agenda, as well as for their dissemination and monitoring. We address issues such as budgeting, strategic planning and costing of the SDGs. Moreover, we present some dissemination actions, such as the SDGs national website ([www.ods.gub.uy](http://www.ods.gub.uy)) and the itinerant open exhibition containing the main results presented in the Voluntary National Review - Uruguay 2017. Moreover, we monitor SDGs' targets and indicators, taking into account the availability of data to assess both global indicators and national supplementary and complementary indicators for each SDG under review. Finally, we present a summary of the contributions to the 2030 Agenda supported by international cooperation.

<sup>1</sup> Presidential resolution 988/16 entrusted a set of public agencies to monitor the 2030 Agenda.

Participation of civil society actors has been and shall remain paramount for the creation, execution, monitoring and sustainability of public policies. The second section presents a brief summary of the participation schemes for SDGs and issues presented in this review, such as the *Social Dialogue: Uruguay towards the Future*, the Regional Advisory Boards on Risk, participatory budgets, the *Uruguay Más Cerca* Program, the *Uruguay Integra Program*, the Spaces for Coexistence and the Rural Development Panels.

The third section describes the steps towards the localization of SDGs, which take into account subnational contexts for the accomplishment of the 2030 Agenda.

The fourth section connects SDGs with human rights. The 2030 Agenda is analyzed from a human rights perspective, with a theoretical and methodological framework that enables its implementation and articulation with other processes. This, in turn, gives the agenda more meaning and outreach.

Lastly, since corporate activity plays an important role in consumption, production, and has an impact in the environment and the market, among other aspects of growth and economic development, it is paramount that the corporate sector takes SDGs and the 2030 Agenda into account. Thus, initiatives from the government and the corporate sector –which seek to incorporate SDGs in their agendas and targets– are briefly mentioned. Additionally, we present the main results of a study and a survey of the way in which public and private companies engage with SDGs.

*It is crucial for us to connect what people already do in their lives, in their homes, in their work, how they interact with the environment, tolerance, respect for human rights, their day-to-day actions, to a broader vision – a vision of the world moving towards a more balanced economic and social development. We must aim at this. We must, from the public and private sector, strengthen and highlight those actions that foster this vision.*

*Director of the Office of Planning and Budget, Álvaro García*

## ACTIONS ON BUDGET, DISSEMINATION AND INDICATORS

### BUDGETING FOR RESULTS, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND COSTING THE SDGS

A significant milestone in the inclusion of SDGs in the processes of the Uruguayan State has been their incorporation in the budget cycle and in the planning, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of the National Budget results. Since 2010, the National Budget has been organized in program areas (PAs) which allows a better public expenditure monitoring by applying a management for results logic. For the 2015 Accountability Act, presented before the Legislative Branch in June 2016, the *OPP* made an initial effort to identify the goals and targets of the SDGs in the PA of the National Budget. Today, those connections have been adjusted as seen in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Association between the National Budget program areas and the SDGs

	1 PEOPLE	2 ZERO HUNGER	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	8 ECONOMIC GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT	9 INDUSTRIALIZATION, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	13 CLIMATE ACTION	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	15 LIFE ON LAND	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR GOALS	
1. Administration of justice																		
2. Legislative matters	●				●					●								●
3. Science, technology and innovation									●									●
4. Control and transparency																		●
5. Culture and sports				●							●							
6. National defense																		
7. Productive development		●						●	●			●		●	●			●
8. Education				●														
9. Infrastructure, transport and communications									●		●							
10. Environment and natural resources						●		●			●	●	●	●	●			
11. Protection and social security	●	●			●			●		●								
12. Official records and information																		●
13. Health			●		●													
14. Public security			●		●													●
15. General public services								●		●								●
16. Labor								●										
17. Housing						●					●							
18. Energy							●											

Source: Created by AGEV-OPP.

The effort to connect the PAS to the SDGs is a pillar for the inclusion of the SDGs in the institutional mechanisms of the Uruguayan public sector, as it will enable the estimation of the expenditure associated to each SDG and its targets, and to integrate this outlook into the strategic planning of ministries and agencies in order to measure results of public policies and the progress made in the 2030 Agenda.

Conversely, as part of the Open Government Plan commitments, the OPP launched a Budget Transparency Portal<sup>2</sup> which provides reusable information on the budgets and results obtained by the agencies considered in the National Budget, public companies and non-state agencies, and informs on different state agencies which plan and allocate resources to contribute towards achieving the SDGs.

At the beginning of this year, OPP made progress towards estimating the cost of SDGs. To do so, work is being conducted to reflect, with a global figure, all public "investment" that the country allocates to achieve each SDG. A pilot plan was implemented to estimate public resources invested in SDG 6 "Clean Water and Sanitation" and 7 "Affordable and clean energy". The methodology for this experience consisted, firstly, of identifying every public agency that contributes to achieving each SDG, and to further identify as follows:

- Defined goals in the strategic planning of the government related to the topic.
- Budget programs related to the topic.
- Operation and investment projects that account for concrete actions that contribute to the goal.
- Amount of financial resources destined to the goals (annual implementation).
- Every funding source used.
- Evaluations conducted in those programs/projects (if any), that provide information about how efficiently resources are being used.

This experience allowed for the identification of challenges when costing the SDGs. For example, several agencies cannot separate the resources destined for a SDG from those destined for other issues. That is the case, for example, of the Regulatory Unit of Energy and Water Services (URSEA), which regulates, oversees, and advises on subjects of energy, fuel and water, directly contributing to SDG 6 and 7. On the other hand, interdependence among SDGs lead to complications (in certain agencies) when separating resources destined to one or another SDG, especially for those related to environmental subjects.

Another experience worth mentioning is the cost estimation of SDGs that the Ministry of Public Health (MSP) has been jointly conducting with the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) and the OPP in the development of the National Health Accounts. Those consist of systematic, comprehensive and consistent monitoring the flow of resources invested in the national health system. They are a tool specifically designed to supply information onto health policies, including the process of policy-making, implementation, political dialogue, and monitoring and evaluation of health interventions. Additionally, National Health Accounts offer the possibility to compare health system expenditure between countries.

In this regard, Uruguay has made progress in the estimation of expenditure in health and, consequently, in SDG 3 "Good health and well-being",<sup>3</sup> through the implementation of the 2011 System of Health Accounts (SHA 2011) methodology, developed by the OECD, Eurostat and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Ministry of Public Health created the National Health Accounts in 2006. The publication of the report entitled "2011-2015 National Health Accounts" in January 2018 puts forward a detailed account of the composition of health expenditure in Uruguay for the period under analysis.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Access to the Portal is through the following link: <https://transparenciapresupuestaria.opp.gub.uy/>.

<sup>3</sup> SDG 3 "Good health and well-being" was presented in the Voluntary National Review - Uruguay 2017.

<sup>4</sup> Available at: <http://www.msp.gub.uy/publicaci%C3%B3n/informe-%E2%80%9Ccuencas-de-salud-en-uruguay-2011-2015%E2%80%9D>.

By the end of 2018, a cost estimation for the aforementioned SDGs can be expected as a way to ascertain the investments conducted in the country as a whole - including private investment - progressing on the analysis of the information provided by the National Accounts, and supporting Satellite Accounts such as that of the health sector.

## COMMUNICATION ACTIONS: WEBSITE, AUDIOVISUAL MATERIAL AND TRAVELLING EXHIBITION #URUGUAYSUMAVALOR

The Uruguayan government, through the *OPP*, set forth a series of actions in order to communicate the country's main achievements in relation to the 2030 Agenda and to add up initiatives contributing to SDGs. Actions involved the creation of a website [www.ods.gub.uy](http://www.ods.gub.uy), audiovisual materials for dissemination campaigns and an open itinerant exhibition entitled #Uruguayaddvalue (#Uruguaysumavalor).

The website acts as a platform to make SDGs known to citizens through the dissemination of official documents as well as teaching materials for young people. Additionally, the site invites public, private and civil society organizations to present proposals which can contribute towards the achievement of SDGs.

A series of short films were produced and circulated through social networks to communicate results on the SDGs reviewed last year. All of these audiovisual materials are currently available at the website.

The exhibition "Uruguay Suma Valor" ("Uruguay Adds Value") was set up between November 7 and December 1st, 2017 in Montevideo, capital of the country, to portrait projects which contributed towards the seven SDGs reviewed in last year's VNR presented before the United Nations General Assembly.

In 2018, the exhibition will be travelling throughout the country hand in hand with the open Councils of Ministers. This aims at promoting debate and further analysis on SDGs and to advance in the design and implementation of policies and actions to foster local development.

## MONITORING AND ANALYZING DATA AVAILABILITY ON SDGS' TARGET INDICATORS

A working group was specifically created to address SDG indicators at the core of the National Statistics System (SEN),<sup>5</sup> whereby *INE* plays a main role. The work carried out by this group has allowed to keep the data and indicators related to the SDG targets up-to-date, to inform on the progress made and to complete the data availability information required by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSTAT).

The chart below presents the status for the 17 SDGs, summarizing the number of indicators according to the tier classification of data availability<sup>6</sup> in Uruguay.

5 This group incorporates leaders from state agencies committed to the SDGs. The goal is to solve methodological aspects and define responsibilities in terms of data and indicator generation connected to these targets.

6 Tier classification of data availability in Uruguay: Tier I corresponds to conceptually clear indicators, established methodology and available standards and produced data regularly by official sources from the country; Tier II corresponds to conceptually clear indicators, established methodology and available standards, but, a) data is not regularly produced (coming from administrative records, surveys or other sources of information), and/or, b) data is produced by an international organization based on data provided by Uruguay but the indicator is not generated by official sources from the country, and/or, c) data from official source is only partially available, not having all required dimensions. Tier III corresponds to indicators for which there is no methodology or established standards or the methodology/standards are being developed/tested in the country or are generated by non-official sources and the data or methodology is not officially validated in the country.

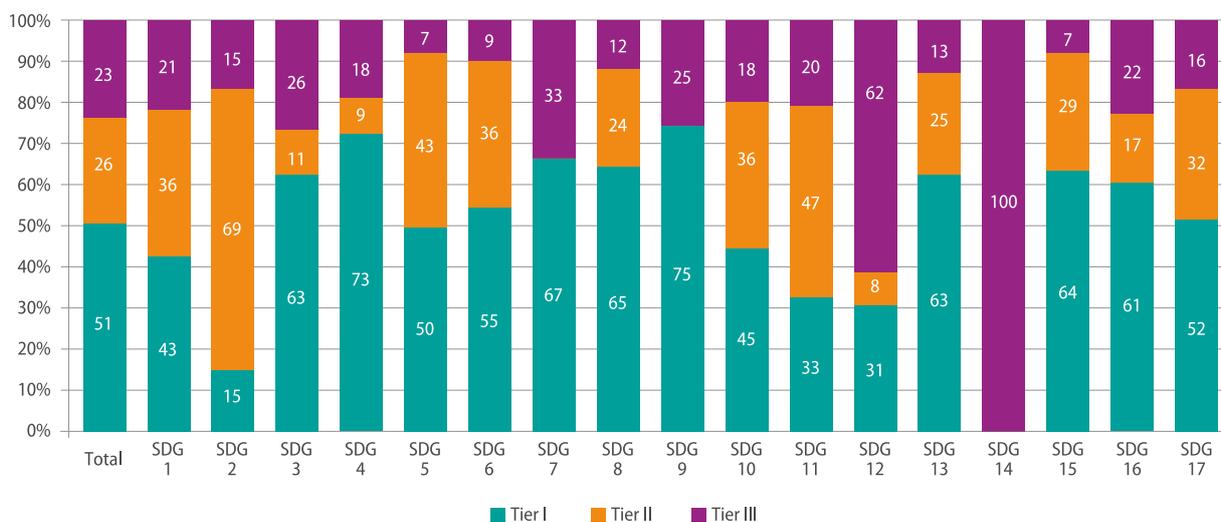
**Table 2.** Number of indicators according to tier classification of data availability in Uruguay, by SDG. Year 2018

	TOTAL	TIER I	TIER II	TIER III
<b>TOTAL</b>	243	123	65	55
<b>SDG 1</b>	14	6	5	3
<b>SDG 2</b>	13	2	9	2
<b>SDG 3</b>	27	17	3	7
<b>SDG 4</b>	11	8	1	2
<b>SDG 5</b>	14	7	6	1
<b>SDG 6</b>	11	6	4	1
<b>SDG 7</b>	6	4	0	2
<b>SDG 8</b>	17	11	4	2
<b>SDG 9</b>	12	9	0	3
<b>SDG 10</b>	11	5	4	2
<b>SDG 11</b>	15	5	7	3
<b>SDG 12</b>	13	4	1	8
<b>SDG 13</b>	8	5	2	1
<b>SDG 14</b>	10	0	0	10
<b>SDG 15</b>	14	9	4	1
<b>SDG 16</b>	23	14	4	5
<b>SDG 17</b>	25	13	8	4

Source: INE.

Note: In the case of SDG 14, 2 out of the 10 global indicators defined for this goal are classified as tier I at the global level.

The chart below graphically shows the percentage of indicators according to tier classification for each SDG.

**Chart 1.** Percentage of indicators according to tier classification of data availability in Uruguay, by SDG. Year 2018

Source: INE.

Note: In the case of SDG 14, 2 out of the 10 global indicators defined for this goal are classified as tier I at the global level.

To better measure the progress in achieving the SDGs, supplementary and complementary indicators have been proposed for the SDG indicators that are conceptually unclear or that have no established methodology, available standards or regular production of data by official national sources (tier II and III). The following tables show the number of supplementary and complementary indicators defined for each SDG presented in last year's voluntary review, on the one hand, and in the current review, on the other.

**Table 3. Status of indicators per SDG**

2017 Voluntary National Review			
	SUPPLEMENTARY TIER II	SUPPLEMENTARY TIER III	COMPLEMENTARY
SDG 1	2	2	1
SDG 2	4	2	0
SDG 3	1	0	4
SDG 5	1	0	3
SDG 9	0	0	0
SDG 14	0	1	0
SDG 16	4	5	3

2018 Voluntary National Review			
	SUPPLEMENTARY TIER II	SUPPLEMENTARY TIER III	COMPLEMENTARY
SDG 6	2	0	1
SDG 7	0	0	7
SDG 11	2	2	6
SDG 12	0	6	0
SDG 15	4	1	4

Source: INE

See Statistical Appendix (digital version in [www.ods.gub.uy](http://www.ods.gub.uy)), where this information is presented in detail.

## SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO THE 2030 AGENDA

From 2018 onwards, Uruguay, just as Chile and Seychelles, is no longer eligible to receive official development assistance (ODA) from the members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The Committee made this decision based on the fact that these countries had surpassed the middle income per capita threshold for three consecutive years.

Although measuring the per capita income is relatively simple, it is not a good indicator of the development level nor the development needs of countries. It implicitly equates development to economic growth, something not aligned with the multi-dimensional conceptualization of development embedded in the 2030 Agenda. Additionally, development is a process and nothing magical happens when an arbitrary income threshold is surpassed.

Although in recent years Uruguay made significant progress in its transition to sustainable development, challenges remain, as it is reflected in this and last year's VNRs. These challenges require, not only economic resources, but also technical capacities and innovative public policies, where international cooperation can play a strategic role.

ODA is also key to help disseminate progress through cooperation initiatives with other developing countries. Among other things, it is also an incentive for protecting global public goods and catalyzing private resources. It also enables the creation of partnerships among several stakeholders for development in order to promote the 2030 Agenda."

Additionally, it contributes to improving the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda. In that sense, apart from the United Nations System's support for the elaboration of the 2018 VNR, Costa Rica is sharing its SDGs monitoring policy with Uruguay through a South-South cooperation project. In the Committee on South-South Cooperation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Uruguay supported the creation of the network to strengthen national capacities to implement and monitor the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (SDG-LAC Network). This network aims to contribute on three strands of work: coordination, indicators and cooperation.

Uruguay, in its dual role in international cooperation, also contributes to sustainable development in the region through South-South and triangular cooperation, thus adding value to one of the dimensions of the SDG 17.

In 2016, 57 South-South cooperation initiatives took place –51 projects and 6 actions–, and Uruguay was a donor in a third of those initiatives, a recipient in 26% of them and had both roles in the rest of the initiatives.<sup>1</sup> This shows that, although Uruguay has progressed in terms of development, it still needs to learn from other countries and partners to improve its policies.

Countries with which Uruguay conducted South-South cooperation activities in 2016 mainly as a donor were: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Paraguay. Just as in 2012 and 2014, the *Health* sector remains the most dynamic sector in south-south cooperation initiatives. As a donor, Uruguay remains prominent in Health, Governance, and in Social Protection, poverty and social cohesion. In bidirectional initiatives, where Uruguay is both a donor and a recipient, the most prominent areas were Health, Agriculture, and Industry and SMES.<sup>2</sup>

1 See AUCI for more information, *Status of International Cooperation in Uruguay 2017*, <http://www.auci.gub.uy/images/pdf/informe-2017.pdf>.

2 Work is being conducted to incorporate the SDGs to the Integrated Cooperation System as to directly analyze the contribution of cooperation of each country, beyond sectors.

On the other hand, twelve triangular cooperation initiatives with Uruguay were implemented in 2016, which implies a significant increase with respect to the five initiatives in 2014. In that context, Uruguay had a dual role: in seven out of twelve initiatives, Uruguay was a donor. In those five initiatives where Uruguay was a donor, it contributed to strengthening the capacities of Paraguay, Dominican Republic and other countries in the region. Another triangular cooperation project is going to be implemented with Mozambique.

In this dual role, Uruguay seeks to converge towards an international cooperation system without exclusions, a system "that leaves no one behind". Such a system allows for cooperation schemes for all developing countries according to their specific situations and needs, taking into account that the emphasis needs to be placed on those countries which face the most difficult challenges and on those which have less capacities to mobilize their own resources. Only an inclusive system is bound to live up to the 2030 Agenda commitments.

## SUMMARY OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Civil society participation has been and shall remain paramount for the creation, execution, monitoring and sustainability of public policies.

In Uruguay, work has mainly been focused on generating spaces for participation in which citizens and organized civil society can have an impact on the process of policy-making. A recent milestone, was the call by the Presidency of the Republic to hold a "Social Dialogue" to discuss and exchange with the Uruguayan society with the purpose of generating inputs to produce a medium- and long-term sustainable development strategy for the country.

This initiative was structured around thematic panels with several sessions for each panel, where both governmental agencies and civil society presented and debated on their projects, plans and perspectives. The topics of the panels were linked to the SDGs as well as other matters of interest.

Other events on SDGs were organized in order to raise awareness and provide information, focusing on the challenges for local development, and including the perspectives of civil society and the private sector.

A first attempt at localizing SDGs was made through the engaging of civil society and local stakeholders. The aim was to identify priorities at the local level under the premise and fundamental principles of the SDGs: comprehensiveness of the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of development, multilevel approach and emphasis on leaving no one behind. Territorial challenges were mapped out, and then identified, prioritized and connected to the SDGs.

Since environmental factors have a high prevalence in the reported SDGs targets, channels to work collectively with civil society contribute to more than one SDG. The clearest case is that of the Advisory Technical Commission of the Environment (*COTAMA*), an advisory board composed by representatives from every ministry, the *OPP*, the Congress of Local Governments, the University of the Republic (*UDELAR*), corporate and worker's chambers, and different stakeholders from environmental NGOs around the country. The Commission works on matters related to four of the SDGs presented in this year's review: SDGs 6, 11, 12 and 15.

In the voluntary national review, the relevant spaces in which civil society participates along with stakeholders from the national government are listed in relation to the SDGs to which they contribute. Additionally, proposals made in the frame of the Social Dialogue are connected to the SDGs presented in this review.

## SUMMARY OF THE TERRITORIAL APPROACH TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN URUGUAY

Local governments play a significant role in the implementation of SDGs at the local level. This process is known as localization of SDGs, since it takes into account local contexts to address the 2030 Agenda. This process sets out a long-term framework for development policies at the local level. It moreover encourages bottom-up action, engaging civil society and citizen participation in the realization of SDGs.

*Localization of SDGs is an opportunity to redirect priorities and local needs and contribute to a new framework, showing with more clarity and precision how the work of local governments contributes to reducing inequality and meeting the development goals at a national/global scale.<sup>1</sup>*

Undoubtedly the role of subnational governments in the implementation of the SDGs will vary according to the reality of each territory. However, it is of utmost importance that local governments start an inclusive and participatory work process towards the localizing of SDGs, through the engagement of the local government cabinet, civil society and the population as a whole.

In October 2017, *OPP-DDIP* started the first stage of awareness building and dissemination of SDGs at the local level, through three main activities:

- **Open exhibition of SDGs:** dissemination of information about SDGs to citizens in public spaces and relevant events in each local area.
- **Work with local government cabinets:** joint work with UNDP aimed at visualizing how SDGs are mirrored in subnational goals and targets. This allows local governments to assess their level of alignment with SDGs targets.
- **Consultative dialogue with civil society and private sector actors:** through workshops or in-depth interviews to identify local priorities, challenges and potential of each territory for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In the process of localizing SDGs, next steps envisage the definition of a roadmap. Discussions around this roadmap will, in turn, enable the approval and integration of local governments' priorities and commitments within the framework of actions to be conducted at the local level. Additionally, it is important to feed back to all stakeholders who participated in the elaboration of the diagnosis and the identification of priorities, but also to citizens in general, so as to ensure local appropriation of the process.

<sup>1</sup> Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, *Guide for localizing SDGs: Subnational implementation and monitoring*, <http://localizingthesdgs.org/library/55/3/Gua-para-la-localizacin-de-los-ODS-Implementacin-y-Monitoreo-Subnacional.pdf>.

### **Achievements and challenges in the localization process of SDGs in Uruguay**

- By June 2018, the localization process of SDGs started in nine departments: Flores, San José, Lavalleja, Rivera, Cerro Largo, Florida, Canelones, Río Negro and Rocha.
- **Inter-agency coordination for the localization of the 2030 Agenda:** joint work with UNDP Uruguay, which also involved other stakeholders such as CIESU, AUCI, departmental governments, municipalities, and stakeholders from civil society, and the private and education sector.
- **Dissemination and citizen awareness process,** through communication products, videos, songs and public exposure in eight locations of the interior of the country.
- **Work agreement with *Plan Ceibal*** to promote SDGs through different platforms and activities, reaching students and teachers nationwide.
- **Implementation of the Youth Committed to SDGs Contest,** focused on people between the ages of 18 and 29 and aimed at fostering sustainable development nationwide ([www.estamoscomprometidos.uy](http://www.estamoscomprometidos.uy)).

## SUMMARY OF THE APPROACH ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Defining standards regarding SDGs invokes a human rights perspective in as much as conditions for human dignity must be guaranteed for all people. Analyzing the 2030 Agenda within the framework of the human rights approach grants the agenda more meaning and visibility. It moreover entails using a theoretical and methodological framework that fosters its implementation and articulation with other processes.

In that context, Uruguay has started to work towards analyzing SDGs and the right to adequate housing through an agreement between the Ministry of Housing, Territorial Planning and Environment (*MVOTMA*), the Office of Planning and Budget of the Presidency of the Republic (*OPP*) and the Secretariat of Human Rights of the Presidency of the Republic.

The right to housing is set forth in article 45 of the Constitution of the Republic, albeit its definition is generic. The National Housing Plan, defines the concept of adequate housing and its standards (contents and thresholds). Attributes and contents of the right to adequate housing included in these regulations allow for the selection of indicators to assess shortcomings and uneven access to adequate housing by population segments (linking data from the indicators to population and territory variables).

The following chart shows 14 SDGs indicators that can be related to the right to adequate housing.



**Target 1.4 - Indicator 1.4.2.** Ratio of total adult population by sex and type of tenure, with safe rights to land ownership, that have legally recognized documentation for this ownership and that perceive those rights as safe.



**Target 3.9 - Indicator 3.9.1.** Mortality rate attributed to household and open-air pollution.

**Target 3.9 - Indicator 3.9.2.** Mortality rate attributed to water not fit for consumption, to sanitation under risk conditions and to lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene services for everyone [wash]).



**Target 6.1 - Indicator 6.1.1.** Percentage of population using safely managed drinking water services.

**Target 6.2 - Indicator 6.2.1.** Percentage of population using safely managed sanitation services including a hand washing facility with soap and water.

**Target 6.a - Indicator 6.a.1.** Amount of water and sanitation related official development assistance that is part of a government coordinated spending plan.

**7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**


**Target 7.1 - Indicator 7.1.1.** Percentage of the population with access to electricity.

**Target 11.1 - Indicator 11.1.1.** Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing.

**Target 11.2 - Indicator 11.2.1.** Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities.

**Target 11.3 - Indicator 11.3.1.** Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate.

**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**


**Target 11.7 - Indicator 11.7.1.** Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities.

**Target 11a- Indicator 11.a.1.** Proportion of population living in cities that implement urban and regional development plans integrating population projections and resource needs, by size of city.

**Target 11.3 - Indicator 11.3.2.** Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically.

**Target 11c - Indicator 11.c.1.** Proportion of financial support to the least developed countries that is allocated to the construction and retrofitting of sustainable, resilient and resourceefficient buildings utilizing local materials.

Source: Created by the Secretariat of Human Rights (Presidency of the Republic) and the National Bureau of Housing (MVTMA).

The example presented —and developed in depth in the voluntary national review— shows that the human rights approach remains a framework that must be clarified and further developed, It is paramount to deepen the relationship between human rights and SDGs.

The SDGs offer a unique opportunity to promote development strategies that contribute to the protection and compliance with human rights, through policies and national resources, international cooperation and global financial flows.

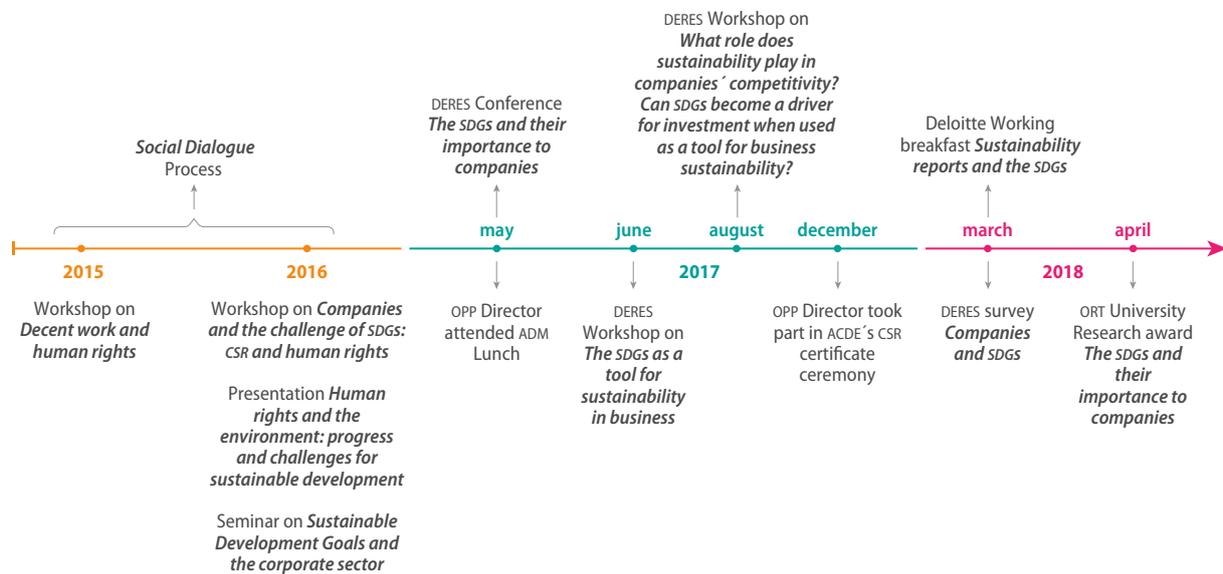
## SUMMARY OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE CORPORATE SECTOR

There is a need to engage the corporate sector in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, given its role on various aspects of growth and economic development.

In that context, the voluntary national review presents, on the one hand, several initiatives promoted by the government and the corporate sector that seek to include the thematic issue of the SDGs to corporate agendas and goals. Among them are, for example, the workshops: "Decent work and human rights", "Companies and the challenge of SDGs: CSR and human rights", "The SDGs as a tool for sustainability in business"; the event "Human rights and environment: progress and challenges for sustainable development", and the conference on "The SDGs and their significance for companies".

On the other hand, results from two surveys showing how companies, both public and private, are dealing with the topic of SDGs are presented. One of them is the second survey by Deloitte, *Reports on sustainability. What are companies saying?*, which reveals corporate trends regarding how they communicate their efforts and performance in social, economic and environmental matters. In this edition, one more level of analysis is incorporated, considering the contents proposed by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standard and its connection to the 17 SDGs. The other study is the DERES survey "Companies and SDGs" that shows the level of commitment and engagement of companies surveyed regarding the SDGs.

### Chronology of initiatives to incorporate the SDGs to corporate agendas and goals



## MAIN RESULTS OF THE STUDY CONDUCTED BY DELOITTE URUGUAY AND OF THE SURVEY CONDUCTED BY DERES (COMPANIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT)

Sustainability reports are the main tools used by companies to communicate and disseminate their impact and performance regarding sustainability. In that sense, many companies in the world communicate their contribution to the SDGs through their reports.

In March 2017, Deloitte Uruguay published the survey *Reports on sustainability: What are companies saying in Uruguay?*, 2017 edition. The report involved analyzing over 600 businesses, 34 of which have a sustainability report available which covers national performance between 2015 and/or 2016.

The alignment of the reports to the SDGs is just emerging. Out of these 34 companies, only 12% explicitly includes the SDGs in their reports. It is worthwhile mentioning that the SDGs were ratified in 2015 and the analyzed reports cover the 2015-2016 period. In the next years, companies may start accounting for their performance in relation to the SDGs in their sustainability reports.

### LEVEL OF INCLUSION OF THE SDGS IN THE SUSTAINABILITY REPORTS OF THE CONSULTED COMPANIES

As seen in the following image, the SDGs more frequently included in Uruguayan reports are 4, 5, 8, 10, 12, 16 and 17, with which over 70% of companies include at least one directly or indirectly related subject. In second place, between 30 to 70% of companies report at least one subject related to goals 1, 6, 7, 9, 11 and 13. The least present SDGs—less than 30% of analyzed companies—are 2, 3, 14 and 15.

#### Most frequent SDGs

More than 70% of companies report at least one subject directly or indirectly related to the SDG



#### Average frequent SDGs

Between 30% to 70% of companies report at least one subject directly or indirectly related to the SDG



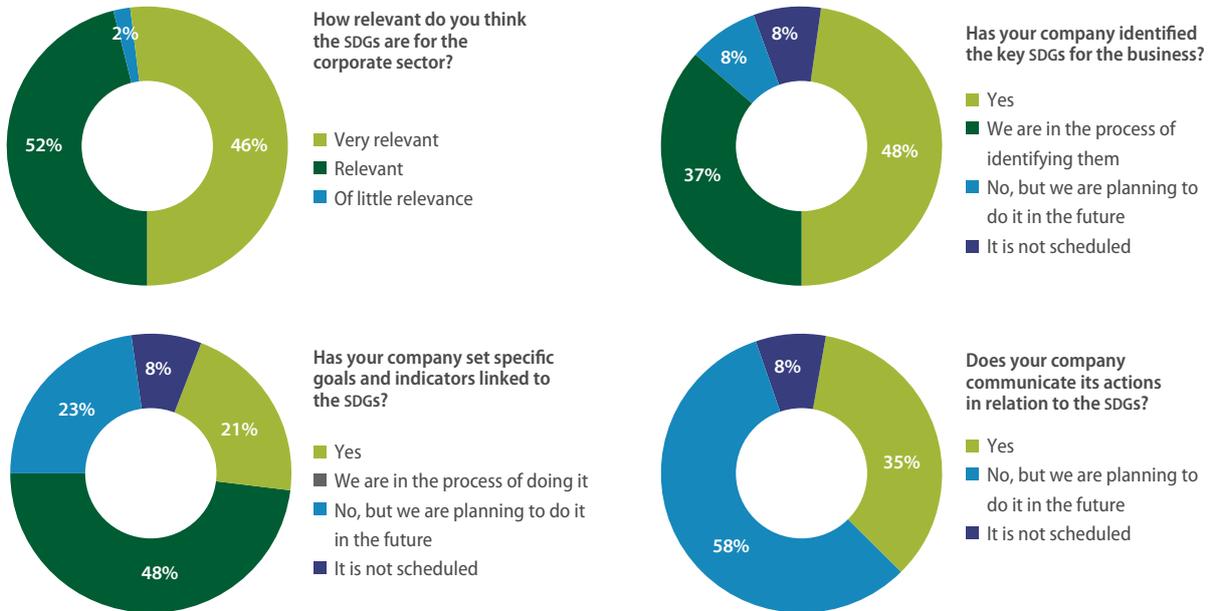
#### Least frequent SDGs

Less than 30% of companies report at least one subject directly or indirectly related to the SDG

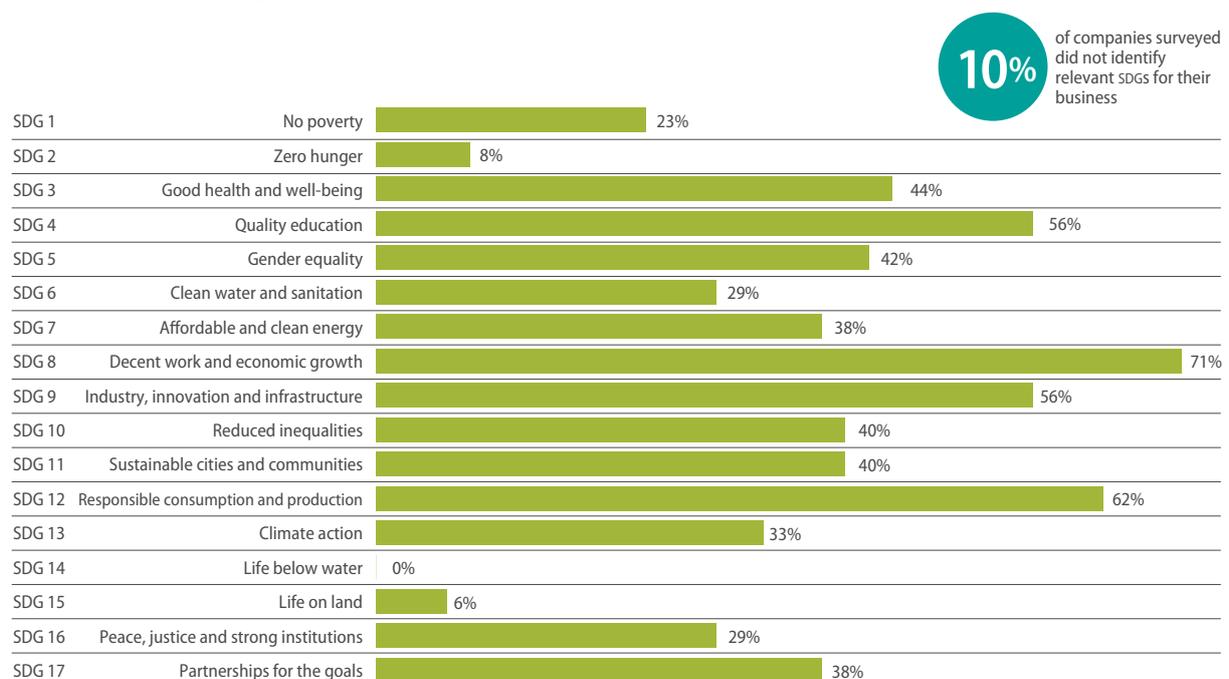


The following charts provide a general idea of the perception that analyzed companies have on SDGs.

### Perception on SDGs

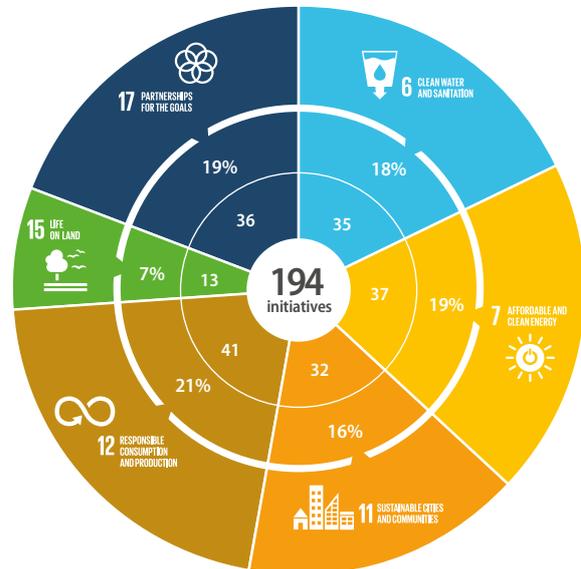


### Key SDGs for the companies



## Distribution of initiatives associated to the SDGs presented in this voluntary national review (VNR)

Surveyed companies declared having 194 initiatives associated to the SDGs (comprised in this year's VNR), distributed as seen in the following chart.



As the DERES report concludes, the SDGs entail great opportunities and challenges for companies. Even if 98% of companies consider the SDGs to be "highly significant" or "significant" for the corporate sector, only 31% worked towards their alignment, 48% identified key SDGs for their business and barely 21% defined specific targets and indicators. This shows the long road ahead.

## CHALLENGES

The private sector is at an initial stage of learning about the SDGs in general, of the role of companies in their achievement and, in particular, of the benefits of working with the SDGs.

In that sense, the possible opportunities and challenges for companies in Uruguay are:

- **Awareness building and dissemination** in companies of the implication that SDGs have for businesses, deepening the understanding, not only of the corporate sector but also of society, in order to show the importance and value of aligning the corporate agenda to the 2030 Agenda on sustainable development.
- **Education and Training** on the specific challenges and opportunities the SDGs pose for their activity, in order to give them the necessary tools to identify key aspects in their business that can potentially contribute to the SDGs.
- **Planning and management.** Work with companies when creating plans aiming to include specific management goals and targets in their activities and processes throughout the value chain, especially in large and medium-sized companies, establishing indicators and impact assessment mechanisms.
- **Communication and reports.** Prepare companies to include the dissemination of contributions to the SDGs in their communication channels, especially in their reporting cycles
- **Alliances and synergies between the corporate sector and public authorities.** Establish continuous dialogue and strengthen joint work in order to generate necessary synergies to comply with the SDGs, through the coordination and implementation of public policies aiming at the corporate sector, and the development of incentive mechanisms that motivate and enable companies to work towards achieving the SDGs.





## Sustainable Development Goal 6:

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

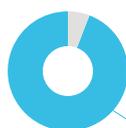
### ACHIEVEMENTS



#### Access to drinking water

**99.4%** of population has access to water through different sources (year 2016).

**95.2%** of population has access to safe water (year 2016).



#### Quality of environmental water

Environmental water quality index - medium to good.

→ **94%** (year 2016)



#### Water management planning

**Water National Plan** approved and enforced (2017).



#### Legal and institutional framework

Sound legal and institutional framework for comprehensive water management, particularly:



**Constitutional Reform**, art. 47 (2004)  
Access to drinking water and sanitation is a fundamental human right.



Act 18,610 of the **National Water Policy** (2009).



#### Participation spaces

**100% of the country** has tripartite **participation spaces** for the integrated management of waters (Advisory Commission on Water and Sanitation, Regional Councils, and Commissions for the Basins and Aquifers) with representation of the three levels of government, users, and organized civil society.

### CHALLENGES



#### Safe sanitation for all

Reach the target of ensuring safe sanitation for **100% of the population** by **2030**, through infrastructure works in order to increase treatment capacity and implement safe management of static systems.



#### Reduction of phosphorus load in water bodies

Reduce phosphorus load in priority basins to improve the quality of specific discharge locations and reduce non-point pollution.



#### Integrated water management

Make progress in the implementation of the integrated water management of national and trans-boundary basins and aquifers, as well as continue implementing plans and programs of the National Water Plan.



#### To strengthen participation spaces

Strengthening participation spaces within the framework of the National Water Plan.

## SUMMARY OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Access to water is a fundamental human right. It is essential for human life and for all species on the planet, it is a key element for all activities carried out on the earth. It is a limited resource and, as a consequence, should be treated in a special way. Therefore, States have unavoidable responsibilities when it comes to water, they should protect its quality, guaranteeing availability and access.

These concepts are included in the 2030 Agenda, Goal 6: “Ensure access to water and sanitation for all.”

Uruguay’s water policy articulates with other national —environmental, territorial planning, climate change— and sectoral policies —productive sector, energy, navigation, special ventures—, it also takes into account the international coordination required by the transboundary nature of water resources.

There is also an instrument to this policy, the National Water Plan (PNA), whose goals are aligned with the SDGs; this plan includes a set of projects and programs with goals for the short, medium and long term.

Uruguayan legislation regarding this SDG is rich and diverse. Since 2004 the Constitution states that “access to clean drinking water and access to sanitation are fundamental human rights.”

The fact that the national authority in water issues is represented by the Executive Branch, through direct involvement of the President, is clear evidence of the importance of water resources, as well as of water services and use. There are also several areas of coordination, planning and participation that provide a cross-cutting approach to the issue.

In 2016, 99.4% of the population had access to drinking water and 95.2% had access to safe water. Even though this percentage is high, the National Water Plan proposes a project to ensure universal access to water for human consumption focusing on dispersed rural population.

Sanitation coverage, including collective non-treated systems and individual installations, reaches 98.8% of the population. Nevertheless, only 45.2% of the population has a safely-managed sanitation service, with sewage networks, effluent treatment and adequate final disposal (2016 data). This is one of the main challenges for the next years, since achieving safe sanitation for the whole population requires investment (treatment networks and plants) and a safe management model for static systems.

The effluent disposal control system has been working effectively for several decades. Nevertheless, one of the main problems of water quality is effluents coming from diffuse sources; decreasing their number requires strategies different from those used for specific sources. To mitigate the impact there are several tools, such as plans for the management and use of soil and water, control of fertilizers, specific plans for the dairy industry and the implementation of buffer zones.

Water quality in priority basins in Uruguay shows a 94% compliance in the quality index. Total phosphorus (Pt) is the one with the lowest compliance level, mainly due to diffuse pollution from farming activity. The PNA has specific plans, programs and projects to reduce the phosphorus load in the water bodies, focused on improving specific discharge quality, especially from the agribusiness, reducing diffuse sources.

Hydric stress is low: below 8.5% in the last seven years. However, to improve resource management, calculations should be made by basin, applying models that consider seasonal availability and extraction. This analysis will enable the definition of extractive capacities by basin, including environmental aspects and storage systems that ensure availability of required amounts taking into account surplus runoff.

Regarding water resource management, Uruguay's efforts constituted a new institutional and regulatory framework to make progress towards integrated management and a set of proposals included in the National Water Plan to achieve the objectives set. A challenge to be faced in the coming years is to make progress in the elaboration and implementation of water management plans of interior and transboundary basins.

Joint efforts to deepen knowledge of transboundary basins and aquifers for an integrated management are to be highlighted among cooperation and coordination efforts with countries in the region. Regarding operational arrangements for cooperation in water issues, there are historic agreements and even an institution that manages the Del Plata basin, as well as an agreement recently approved for the management of the Guaraní aquifer with ongoing projects for its implementation.

Uruguay has full coverage when it comes to citizen participation: three Water Resource Regional Councils, whose jurisdiction matches the three great transboundary basins (Uruguay, Merín lagoon, Río de la Plata and its maritime front). In these participation spaces, there are national and provincial governmental institutions, as well as users and the organized civil society. They cover the 19 departments and all the local governments created to date.

In sum, the National Water Plan that is currently under implementation –and in accordance with other plans for the environment, territorial planning and response to climate change and biodiversity strategies– includes all the aspects required to achieve SDG 6

To fulfill the plans being implemented it is important to reinforce commitment from government institutions and all stakeholders involved in water management, providing needed resources and efforts.

*For more information see the Voluntary National Review - Uruguay 2018*







## Sustainable Development Goal 7:

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

### ACHIEVEMENTS



#### Uruguay is one of the countries in Latin America with the highest level of electrification

- **99.7%** of the population has access to electricity (year 2016).
- **98.4%** of the population has access to clean energy technologies (year 2016).
- In 2015 Uruguay ranked first in Latin America with full coverage of electricity in schools.

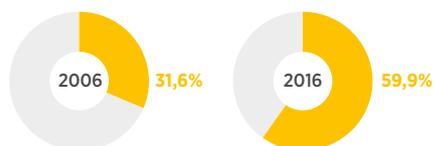


#### Inclusion of renewable energies in the electric energy generation mix

- Electric energy mix composed of **97% of renewable sources** and 3% of fossil fuels (year 2016).
- The **installed power of wind sources** increased from 0% of total power in 2008 to **30% in 2017**.

#### Increased participation of renewable sources in final energy consumption

- Between 2006 and 2016 **participation of renewable sources almost doubled** in final energy consumption, increasing from 31.6% to 59.9%.



#### Energy efficiency in different energy sectors and sources



**Saved energy**, resulting from the implementation of energy-efficiency measures, was of 62.3ktep, representing **1.3% of the national energy demand** (year 2016).

### CHALLENGES

#### Make progress in facilitating regular and safe access to electrical energy in the most vulnerable households



- **Expand electric coverage to structurally vulnerable households**, mainly in distant rural areas.
- Improve infrastructure in the urban context, **eliminate irregular connections** and the risk they represent.

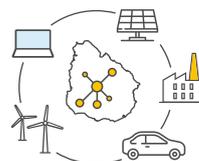
#### Expand the use of electric energy



Promote a greater use of electric energy in uses not fully developed in the country, such as public transport and private vehicles.

#### More and better use of already-developed infrastructure

- Expand the electrical grid, adapting it to a less geographically concentrated generation.



- Consolidate a Smart Grid.

#### Promotion of energy efficiency



Improve and develop efficiency-promotion instruments to **achieve a 5% reduction of total energy consumption by 2024** (National Energy Efficiency Plan target).

## SUMMARY OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

The targets of Sustainable Development Goal 7 are: to promote universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services; substantially increase the percentage of renewable energy in the mix of energy sources; duplicate the global rate of energy efficiency; increase international cooperation to improve access to research and to new clean technologies, and promote investment and the expansion of infrastructure.

Uruguay has tread a successful road in terms of energy that has positioned the country at the forefront of the utilization of renewable energy in the world. The key lies in a long-term Governmental policy and in a solid institutional and legal framework. The Energy Policy in force since 2008 presents an integrated approach towards ensuring the energy supply without neglecting economic, environmental and social aspects.

During the first 10 years of implementation of the Energy Policy, significant consequences can be identified and quantified.

Regarding accessibility, Uruguay is one of the most electrified countries in Latin America, with an electrification rate of 99.7% and with 98.4% of the population having access to clean technologies and fuels. In order to achieve universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services, the challenge is reaching those households that are structurally vulnerable (socioeconomically and/or geographically). In the urban environment, the main problem that socioeconomically vulnerable households face is the sustainability or permanence of regularization. Conversely, the access problem mainly occurs in the rural areas. To solve this, programs such as the Rural Electrification Agreement and the Utility Basket are being conducted.

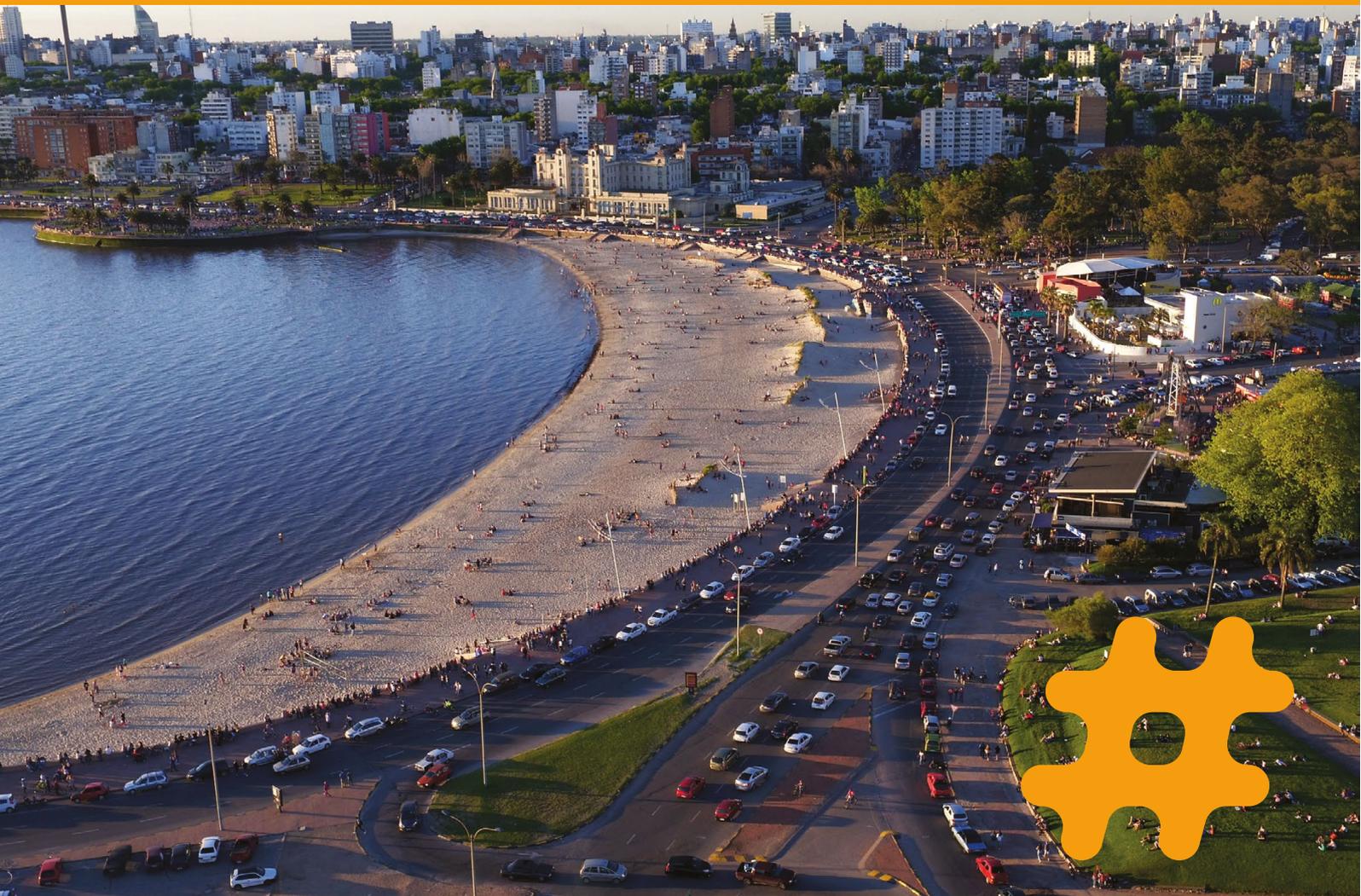
Additionally, Uruguay has significantly progressed in the incorporation of renewable energy in the global energy mix, mainly in the electric generation mix, thus achieving less dependence on climate factors and a more robust mix. In 2016, the electric generation mix was made up of 97% of renewable sources and only of 3% of fossil sources. In particular, the contribution of wind energy places Uruguay as a global leader. Since 2008 and to this date, the installed capacity from wind power rose from 0% of the total capacity of the system to 30%.

It is harder to achieve a higher penetration of renewable sources in the axis of demand, since certain uses are restricted to fossil fuels. However, there has been sustained growth in the contribution of renewable sources to the final power consumption. Between 2006 and 2016, the contribution of renewable sources practically doubled in the final consumption, rising from 31.6% to 59.9%.

In light of this, it is necessary to promote greater utilization of electric energy in activities for which the source is not widely used along the country, such as passenger transport, and achieving a higher penetration of electric sources in uses such as heating to substitute petroleum products.

Lastly, another challenge Uruguay faces is improving the instruments to promote energetic efficiency in different sectors and energy sources. In 2016, savings in energy consumption due to the implementation of energetic efficiency measures was of 62.3 ktep, which represents 1.3% of the national demand for power, and the target is to reduce the total power consumption by 5% by 2024.

*For more information see the Voluntary National Review - Uruguay 2018*





## Sustainable Development Goal 11:

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



### Social inclusion and well-being

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

##### Reduction the number of precarious housing



**Reduction in the number of precarious housing:** The percentage of population in precarious housing decreased from **5.9%** to **4.6%** between 2011 and 2017.

##### Public housing system



**84,549 housing projects** were completed between 2005 and 2017:

- **33,530 new homes** (40% of all housing projects),
- 31,556 actions on *stock* (37%),
- **19,463 rent contracts** signed through the **Rent Guarantee Fund** (23%).

**National Strategy of Access to Urban Soil (ENASU)** to improve results of the housing and habitat policy at a national level and in most departments (similar to provinces).



Departments implementing the ENASU

##### Inclusive public transport



- Almost every city with more than 30,000 inhabitants have access to the public transport system.
- **98% of the population in Montevideo** has access to this service.

#### CHALLENGES



Develop new housing programs to respond the new needs and to **ensure access, safe ownership and permanence**, including rental policies of public housing.



Deepen the coordination between **investment in social housing and urban infrastructure** and urban planning.



Develop capacities for the **management of national and departmental property portfolios**, and to improve knowledge on real land availability and real estate properties and on the mechanisms for their appropriate use.



Generate and implement plans and policies related to **sustainable urban mobility** throughout the national territory.

## Sustainability and climate change

### ACHIEVEMENTS



Approval of the **Climate Change National Policy** and start of implementation process.



Development and implementation of the **National Water Plan**, highlighting progress on:

- elaboration of sanitation and urban drainage projects related to urban plans.
- early warning systems for floods.
- risk maps.



Creation of the **National Emergency System** and set up of Departmental Emergency Committees at a local level.

### CHALLENGES



Include **adaptation to climate change** in territorial and urban **planning instruments**.



Complete **risk maps elaboration** for all high and medium-risk cities, and their gradual incorporation to the cities' local plans.



Approve and implement the **Law on Comprehensive Waste Management**.

## Urban governance

### ACHIEVEMENTS

**Territorial Planning and Sustainable Development Law**, passed on 2008.



- **92% of urban localities** in the country are included in the context of a territorial planning instrument.
- By 2017, **33 local plans, 15 departmental guidelines, 2 regional strategies** were approved and the Territorial Planning National Guidelines were enforced.

**Public hearing mechanisms** defined by the **Law for Political Decentralization and Citizen Participation**, through which the population of a locality is informed of its government's performance.



- **112 local governments**

### CHALLENGES



Incorporate **better decision-making and citizen participation tools** to urban and service and infrastructure planning.



Reinforce links within city systems and improve service and infrastructure planning to ensure the exercise of **rights to health, education and access to services**.

## SUMMARY OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 11

# MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

Uruguay presents a high level of urbanization: 95% of the population lives in cities. The main migratory movements are urban-urban. The slight expansion towards the periphery is a dual dynamic between population growth and the internal populations movement within the city. Almost half of the population lives in the metropolitan area of Montevideo meanwhile the rest live in considerably smaller cities, out of which only a few have more than 100,000 inhabitants.

In this context, the National Report<sup>1</sup> presented in the Habitat III Conference indicates one of the political priorities of the periods aligned with SDG 11: "Move towards more inclusive, sustainable and resilient lands and cities". This necessarily implies a coordination among several institutions and government levels, both national as well as departmental and municipal, as is evidenced in policies and indicators included in this chapter.

The priority identified in the National Report for Habitat III has also manifested its progress when creating regulations that provide context for the work conducted, such as the Territorial Planning and Sustainable Development Law (*LOTDS*) (2008) and the Territorial Planning Guidelines (2017), the Law on National Policies on Waters (2009), the National Plan on Waters (2017), the Law for the Creation of the National Emergency System (*SINAE*) (2009), the creation of the Response System for Climate Change and Variability (2009) and the Law for Political Decentralization and Citizen Participation (2009). A bill for the Law on Comprehensive Waste Management is being prepared, and the bills for the Law on Empty, Disused or Degraded Property and for the Law on Guidelines for Coastal Space Planning are being discussed by the Parliament. In 2004, the amendment of Article 47 of the Constitution established the access to safe water and to sanitation as fundamental human rights.

In order to report the progress that Uruguay has made within SDG 11, we classified a set of policies and strategies into thematic areas.

**Social inclusion and well-being.** At this area we identified policies focused on reversing and overcoming precarious housing and improving access to urban housing by means of, among others, the National Strategy of Access to Urban Soil (*ENASU*); on improving urban mobility and public transport, prioritizing a sustainable transport strategy; on safeguarding cultural heritage; on redefining public spaces, and on strengthening capacities through international cooperation.

**Environmental sustainability and climate change resilience.** Among the policies associate to this axis are the National Policy on Climate Change, that includes in its strategies the proper incorporation of mitigation and adaptation to urban planning; the advances in the National Plan on Waters regarding sanitation, floods, risk maps, etc; the initiatives to transform waste, and the control of emissions and air quality.

**Urban governance.** Policies and strategies associated to this axis cover territorial planning and citizen participation, the emerging development of the *city system* tool, and the initiatives from local governments (DGS) on these issues.

1 National Report from Uruguay, Habitat III, <http://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/National-Report-LAC-Uruguay-Spanish.pdf> [access 14/06/2018].

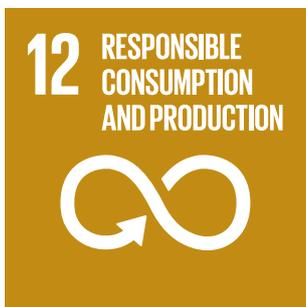


Throughout the chapter, some of the indicators collected at the national, and sometimes subnational, level on the compliance of the targets for the SDG 11 are detailed, among which those related to housing, transport, public spaces and the number of people affected by disasters are noted.

The main conclusions of the report refer to placing the issue of sustainable cities and communities in the agenda, both in the context of the New Urban Agenda, and in specific initiatives related to *smart cities*, *resilient cities*, etc, and to the proposal of new topics, such as sustainable mobility, territorial planning taking into account climate change and the engagement of the community in the management of cities, increase the citizen's involvement at urban and community planning, among others.

*For more information see the Voluntary National Review – Uruguay 2018*





## Sustainable Development Goal 12:

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

### GENERAL CHALLENGE

Approval and implementation of the National Environmental Plan for Sustainable Development

### GENERAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AND INSTITUTIONAL SETTING

- General Law of Environmental Protection
- Environmental Cabinet and National Environmental System
- Environmental Advisory Technical Committee (COTAMA)
- Creation of the **National Environment, Water and Climate Change Secretariat**
- Creation of the **National System and Secretariat for Productive Transformation and Competitiveness**



## Cross-cutting policies and plans

### ACHIEVEMENTS



**National Action Plan for Sustainable Production and Consumption 2010–2015.**



**Energy Policy 2005–2030** has resulted in the diversification of the energy matrix in favor of renewable energies.



**National Water Plan 2009.**

### CHALLENGES



Implementation of the **National Plan on Waters.**



Approval of regulatory framework for the development of the **Sustainable Public Procurement Policy.**



## Solid Waste

### ACHIEVEMENTS



Presentation to Parliament of the **Comprehensive Management of Solid Waste Bill.**



**Bill of Sustainable Use of Plastic Bags** under consideration in the Senate.

### CHALLENGES



Passing, regulation and implementation of both laws.



Increase geographical coverage and **collection and recovery rates of recyclable waste.**

- **Only 2% of home solid waste** generated in the country **is managed through the Packaging Management Plan** (within the context of the Packaging Law).<sup>1</sup>

## Initiatives

- **Circular Economy:** Launch of the Circular Opportunities Program in **five activity sectors.**
- Project **PAGE Uruguay 2017–2021** (Partnership for Action on Green Economy Program).
- Inter-institutional Working Group on **Inclusive and green economy.**

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary estimate by DINAMA with 2015 data.



## Food loss and waste

### ACHIEVEMENTS



Creation of the National Committee to address the reduction of Food Loss and Waste (FLW).



Preliminary FLW estimate:

- **11% of food supply** available for human consumption.<sup>2</sup>
- **1 million tons** per year.
- **600 million dollars.**
- **9.18 kg/person/year** in households.

### CHALLENGES



Expand the base of surveyed households to **obtain representative estimates for the country.**



Design and **implement a loss measurement system** at the different stages of the chain.



## Chemicals and dangerous waste

### ACHIEVEMENTS



**6 multilateral environmental agreements ratified** – regarding chemicals and waste.



Decree regulating the **management of industrial solid waste.**



Decree regulating **waste management** from the use of chemical or biological products in **livestock, farming and forestry activities.**

### CHALLENGES



Process and validate information to **obtain indicators of waste generation:**

- **17 kg/person/year** dangerous waste generation per capita.<sup>3</sup>



## Planning and studies

### ACHIEVEMENTS

Construction of **Uruguay 2050 Prospective** scenarios.



**National Plan for Sustainable Tourism 2009–2020** with 5 key strategies.

Pilot phase of SEEA's **environmental accounts for water and agricultural and livestock industry.**

Strategic Public Procurement Plan 2015–2020 includes **sustainable public procurement** component.

### CHALLENGES



Implementation of the **Uruguay 2050 National Development Strategy.**

Institutionalization of the **System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA).**

**Sustainability Reports:**

- **34 companies** present **sustainability reports - out of 600 surveyed.**

**Make progress in the measurement of indicators of each** of the SDG 12 targets.

<sup>2</sup> FAO, *Estimación de pérdidas y desperdicio de alimentos en el Uruguay: alcance y causas. Informe final* Estimate using 2011 – 2016 data for 8 agricultural and livestock areas representing 90% of the gross value of farming production in the country. [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/FAO-countries/Uruguay/docs/INFORME\\_FINAL\\_-\\_Estimacion\\_de\\_p%C3%A9rdidas\\_y\\_desperdicio\\_de\\_alimentos\\_en\\_Uruguay.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/FAO-countries/Uruguay/docs/INFORME_FINAL_-_Estimacion_de_p%C3%A9rdidas_y_desperdicio_de_alimentos_en_Uruguay.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Partial estimate according to sworn statements issued before DINAMA based on the industrial solid waste decree n° 182/013.

## SUMMARY OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 12 ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

In the last decade, substantial progress has been made to incorporate the environmental dimension to development processes and, in particular, to processes linked to production, as is reflected in the regulations and policies implemented in the country.

As cross-cutting axes to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, structural changes in the areas of energy (implementation of the 2005-2030 Energetic Policy), water (approval of the National Waters Policy in 2009 and the first National Plan on Waters in 2017), conservation (2016-2020 National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Uruguay) and waste (Comprehensive Management of Solid Waste Bill presented before the Parliament in June, 2018) have been fostered.

Regarding specific plans of the production sector, there is the first National Plan of Productive Transformation and Competitiveness (2017-2021), the 2009-2020 National Plan for Sustainable Tourism, the Regional Plague Control Program, directed at decreasing the use of agrochemicals, the Plans of Soil Use and Management, the Sustainable Dairy Farming Plan, and the on-going process to elaborate the National Agro-ecology Plan.

Also highlighted within the legal framework of the country more directly related to SDG 12 are the General Law of Environmental Protection, the Law of Environmental Impact Evaluation, the Law of Investments – which allows the granting of fiscal benefits to projects that have cleaner production components –, the Law of Use of Non-Reusable Containers, and a series of regulations for different kinds of special waste (batteries, health care waste, containers for agrochemicals, solid industrial waste and scrap tires). Additionally, the Law of Sustainable Use of Plastic Bags is currently under consideration to be passed by the Parliament, and the legal framework enabling the implementation of the Sustainable Government Purchases Policy is being discussed for approval by the Council of Ministers.

In 2010, the National Action Plan of Environmentally Sustainable Production and Consumption was drafted for the 2010-2015 period, which led to the first survey on national initiatives on the matter and to the identification of strategic action lines to strengthen, mainly directed at the production sector.

Since 2012, Uruguay has been implementing a series of green, inclusive economy projects that had led to the creation and consolidation of the Inter-Agency Work Group on Green, Inclusive Economy, with individual projects for each agency and a group project to "turn public policies green". This process made Uruguay be nominated for the Partnership for Action on Green Economy initiative (PAGE) in December 2016, when the country was selected to be part of the program with a four-year horizon (2017-2020).

In turn, the Bio-value project, which aims at waste recovery, is boosting the development of circular economy as a key aspect to adopting sustainable consumption and production patterns, and is currently launching the Circular Opportunities program for several business sectors significant for the country.

Among other initiatives contributing to achieving SDG 12 we can also note the establishment of *guides for good practices* created for different productive activity sectors, the project for the management of mercury containing waste, and the project for the handling of pesticides. Also, with regard to environmental control activities, different plans have been boosted and carried out in the last 20 years aiming at decreasing the pollution load of discharges on the environment from industrial sectors with a focus on sustainable production.

In 2017, and in order to strengthen national actions towards sustainable development, the formulation of the National Environmental Plan for Sustainable Development began, a proposal which is currently being revised and adjusted through a participatory process.

Uruguay has spaces at a hierarchical level for coordination (Environmental Cabinet and National Environmental System) and for participation (COTAMA for its Spanish acronym), as well as an institutional network including research, training and exchange centers on sustainable production and consumption, and credit lines specific to having a cleaner production.

Although for some of the targets of this SDG there still is no fully measured data for the country, and although in some cases the indicators lack a methodological sheet to define how to measure them, action is being taken to move towards compliance and to improve measurements.

Especially noted are: the approval of the National Action Plan of Environmentally Sustainable Production and Consumption, associated to target 12.1; the creation of the Uruguay 2050 National Development Strategy (*OPP*) and the implementation of a pilot plan for water and agricultural accounts of the Environmental and Economic Accounting System, significant precedent when creating material flow accounts for target 12.2; the creation of a National Committee to decrease food loss and waste and the conduction of the "Survey on the estimation of food loss and waste in Uruguay" (target 12.3).

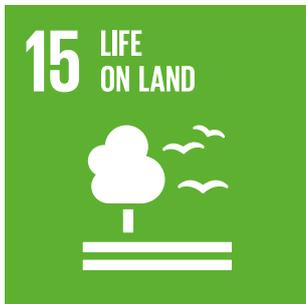
Regarding waste (targets 12.4 and 12.5), the document details international multilateral environmental agreements related to hazardous waste and to other chemical products –agreements ratified by Uruguay–, and indicates the approval of the decree regulating the management of solid industrial waste and the presentation of the preliminary draft of the Waste Law before the Parliament.

Regarding target 12.6, the main results of "*Reportes de sostenibilidad: ¿Qué están comunicando las empresas en Uruguay?* (*Sustainability Reports: What are companies saying in Uruguay?*)" are summarized. Also, the development process for the Sustainable Government Purchases National Policy, related to the compliance with target 12.7 is briefly described.

The document mentions the creation of the National Network of Environmental Education for Sustainable Development in 2005, linked to target 12.8, and the existence of several assistance programs for research and development, mostly within the axes of sustainable production, which contribute to target 12.a. Regarding tourism, nine programs associated to target 12.b are listed, indicating the efforts towards achieving environmental sustainability in the sector, among which are the National Plan for Sustainable Tourism and the Tourism Green Seal. Lastly, regarding target 12.c, the inclusion within the National Environmental Plan for Sustainable Development of a target related to economic instruments for environmental protection is mentioned, which includes considerations to identify and remove environmentally harmful subsidies.

*For more information see the Voluntary National Review - Uruguay 2018*





## Sustainable Development Goal 15:

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

### ACHIEVEMENTS

**Strengthening of instruments for the conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity**



- Approval and implementation of the **National Biodiversity Strategy** 2016 - 2020.
- Publication of the **National Strategy for Native Forests**.
- Progress on **wetlands conservation policy**.

### CHALLENGES



#### Regulatory framework

Generate new regulatory frameworks for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity explicitly including the ecosystem service approach and the importance of biodiversity for human well-being.



## Conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems and natural habitats

### ACHIEVEMENTS

**Sustained increase of national protected land through an increase in:**

- number of protected areas (currently **15**),
- RAMSAR Sites (currently **3**),
- Biosphere reserves (currently **2**).

### CHALLENGES



- Halt the loss and degradation of **grasslands**.
- Strengthen **ecosystem restoration** strategies.



## Sustainable forest management

### ACHIEVEMENTS



- Increase in the **surface and record of native forest**.
- High percentage of commercial plantations under **sustainable management certification**.

### CHALLENGES



Make progress in **native forest management plans** to reduce degradation.


 Soil

## ACHIEVEMENTS



- Implementation of **use and management soil plans**.
- Regulation of the Law of Territorial Planning and Sustainable Development.

## CHALLENGES



Increase coordinated actions to **avoid land degradation**.


 Genetic resources

## ACHIEVEMENTS



- Ratification of the **Nagoya Protocol** and progress in the development of policies for its implementation at a national level.
- Approval of a provisional regime on access to genetic resources.

## CHALLENGES



Generate a national **regulatory framework of Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing (ABS)**.

Develop biodiversity projects contributing to the valorization of genetic resources associated with the biological diversity of Uruguay.


 Poaching and trafficking in species

## ACHIEVEMENTS



Adaptation of the institutional framework and proposals for the updating of the regulatory framework (Wildlife Law).

## CHALLENGES



Strengthen the actions to **control the poaching and the illegal trafficking in species**.


 Invasive exotic species

## ACHIEVEMENTS



5 pilot experiences for the **control of invasive exotic species** prioritized by the risks that enclose their proliferation.

## CHALLENGES



**Reduce degradation levels** of natural ecosystems caused by biological invasions.

## SUMMARY OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 15 LIFE ON LAND

Located in an area of transition of diverse ecosystems, Uruguay is highly important in terms of biodiversity. It is located in the Southern hemisphere, with coasts on the Atlantic Ocean and the Río de la Plata. The climate is temperate, with heavy rains on average, albeit lengthy periods of drought often occur. It presents a wide variety of soil types and features, as well as a wide river network.

Production in the country is mostly based on farming. The last 15 years have evidenced a continuous economic growth process and an intensification of production, while, at the same time, great transformations in soil use have taken place. All this has generated loss and/or fragmentation of native forests and natural grasslands and wetlands, among other environmental problems.

As a response to these hardships, attempts have been made to strengthen the environmental management capacities of the country, incorporating planning tools such as those of territorial planning, intensification of the environmental impact evaluation processes and advancement of environmentally sustainable practices. In that sense, the proposal for the National Environmental Plan for Sustainable Development created by the Ministry of Housing, Territorial Planning and Environment is under both an inter-agency and a civil society consultation process, and is conceived to reinforce achievements and further the cause of a more sustainable, equitable development.

When considering regulations managing environmental issues, it is worth mentioning the active participation of the country in international commitments, as a State Party to the main multilateral agreements, which have been later ratified through national laws. Among those agreements are: the Rio Conventions (Biological Diversity, Desertification, and Climate Change); the Ramsar Convention on wetlands of international importance and the conventions related to fauna management: The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles. Additionally, Uruguay has participated in specific instances related to forests, particularly participating in the Montréal Process Working Group, and in instances related to the conservation of genetic resources among which the Nagoya Protocol, where access and division of benefits derived from their use is dealt with, must be noted.

The targets that have shown the greatest progress are, on the one hand, linked to conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems, where the steady increase of surface incorporated to the National System of Protected Areas and the appointment of three sites as internationally important wetlands (Ramsar sites) are noted. On the other hand, those related to sustainable forest management, with an increase in the registering of native forests, for which the implementation of management plans and other sustainable actions must be intensified. The main policies contributing to these goals are designed and in place, or close to being implemented. Among them, we find the 2016-2020 National Biodiversity Strategy, the Strategic Plan of the National System of Protected Areas and the National Strategy of Native Forests.

The targets that show intermediate progress are those related to natural habitats and endangered species —progress is noted in the case of birds, amphibians and reptiles, albeit knowledge must be gained for management and decision making—, those related to poaching and trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna, as well as the target referred to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol as a starting point of actions directed towards the conservation of, access to and division of benefits derived of genetic resources.

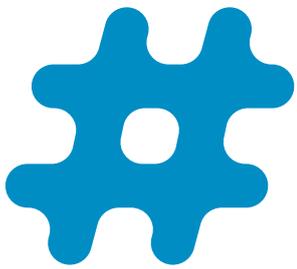


Lastly, the targets in which less relative progress has been made are those related to combating desertification and soil degradation —to this effect, specific policies are being implemented and participation in the construction and review of international targets is actively made—, and to the study and prevention of the introduction of invasive exotic species, which shows progress in the areas of identification and instrumentation of control plans.

In recent years, environmental issues have become more relevant in the public agenda. This has allowed for progress in the study, design and implementation of specific measures to face the main issues reviewed. At the same time, the generation of several participation spaces is noted, since it has led to the engagement of representatives from civil society in multiple spheres. Nevertheless, challenges remain to make production activities carried out in the country compatible to environmental protection, and to engage the entire population in environmental protection to ensure sustainability for future generations.

*For more information see the Voluntary National Review – Uruguay 2018*





# CONCLUSIONS AND CHALLENGES

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## CONCLUSIONS AND CHALLENGES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA

The Voluntary National Review – Uruguay 2018 sheds light into a series of advances in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as follows:

The inclusion of the human rights perspective, the outlook of the business sector and the localization of SDGs in local spheres constitute progress in the implementation of the agenda in Uruguay. It is necessary to move forward by widening the participation of the corporate sector, both public and private, and through the integration of the 2030 Agenda into the local planning of local governments.

Efforts mentioned in the first VNR are being doubled: to further link SDGs into strategic planning of governmental agencies, to further link the National Evaluation Registry with SDGs, and to strengthen public agencies' capacities for the monitoring and evaluation of SDGs.

As part of the dissemination strategy, a website<sup>1</sup> was created to engage with citizens, and to showcase all initiatives linked to SDGs carried out by civil society organizations, state agencies and businesses. Additionally, the Budget Transparency Portal<sup>2</sup> links the national budget and the SDGs.

Whilst drafting each VNR, national and official supplementary and complementary indicators were identified. This, in turn, has led to the progressive establishment of a national matrix of indicators to monitor SDGs. Nevertheless, there are remaining challenges when it comes to generating data for all SDGs reported in this review. Thus, as was mentioned in the previous review, it is necessary to promote the consolidation of statistical bases and administrative records, as well as the systematization of data and the consensus on methodologies to generate indicators which are not currently being measured in the country.

In turn, the Ceibal Center joined the Office of Planning and Budget to build awareness and enhance visibility of the SDGs. This is also aimed at promoting knowledge exchange between organizations and, especially, the dissemination and realization of SDGs.

Based on the two voluntary national reports, the next steps identified by Uruguay are: to broaden and enhance the involvement of key stakeholders – Parliament, political parties, trade unions, corporate sector, academia, civil society organizations – in the process of revision and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Especially, this will allow for the prioritizing of the SDGs targets and the definition of national targets. Additionally, it is necessary to further the alignment of the 2030 Agenda with Uruguay's 2050 Development Plan that is being currently drafted.

The summaries of the chapters for each SDG included in this report highlight a series of advances and challenges for the country in its "transformation into a sustainable and resilient society".

Access to clean water and sanitation (SDG 6) are fundamental human rights established in the country's constitution. Currently, 99.4% of the population has access to water and 95.2% has access to safe water. Uruguay has a water policy and a national water plan that seeks to tackle all aspects covered in the SDGs regarding this subject. Uruguay's achievements are mainly linked to the integrated, sustainable and collaborative management of waters and the delivery of water and sanitation services.

1 *Uruguay Suma Valor*, <http://www.ods.gub.uy/>.

2 Portal de Transparencia Presupuestaria, *Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible*, <https://transparenciapresupuestaria.opp.gub.uy/inicio/objetivos-de-desarrollo-sostenible>

Challenges for this goal lie in obtaining the necessary investments for the sector, instrumentation to improve access to safe water for scattered rural population, and the comprehensive management of national and transboundary basins, and of transboundary underground waters.

Uruguay has made great progress in terms of energy (SDG 7) that has positioned the country at the forefront of the utilization of renewable energy in the world. The key lies in a long-term Governmental policy and in a solid institutional and legal framework. Uruguay is one of the most electrified countries in Latin America, with an electrification rate of 99.7%.

Universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services (target 7.1) has been achieved, with a remarkable increase in the renewable component. Moreover social inclusion has been guaranteed with programs such as Rural Electrification and Utility Basket. Additionally, Uruguay has made significant progress in the incorporation of renewable energy in the global energy mix (target 7.2), mainly in the electric generation mix. This has led to less dependence on climate factors and a more robust mix. In 2016, the electric generation mix was made up 3% of fossil sources and 97% of renewable sources.

At the same time, it is necessary to promote electric energy usage in cases when it is not so widely used in the country, such as passenger transportation. Moreover, it is important to have a higher penetration of electric sources for heating purposes in order to substitute fossil/oil products. In turn, there is a need to have a higher and better utilization of existing infrastructure; and to consolidate a smart electric network (Smart Grid).

Working towards sustainable, resilient and safe cities and communities (SDG 11) necessarily implies planning and managing urban development in a comprehensive way, taking into account social, economic and environmental aspects.

To this effect, a set of policies and programs have been implemented. They have improved habitability and facilitated access to affordable housing to address diverse situations and needs as foreseen in the five-year housing plan.

Almost every city with a population over 30,000 has public transport. One of the main concerns has been the increase in the vehicle fleet, which stresses the need to promote sustainable mobility and to manage mobility within cities.

Additionally, in order to ensure sustainability and resilience of cities and communities to climate change, significant progress has been made with the passing of the National Policy on Climate Change, the creation of the National Plan for the Adaptation of Cities and Infrastructures, and the National Policy for Comprehensive Risk Management, the identification of those affected by climate events and the elaboration of flood risk maps. It is paramount to continue developing early alert systems to mitigate natural disasters, as well as to enhance risk analysis and the development of prevention and management tools.

In what concerns to urban governance, the enactment of the Territorial Planning and Sustainable Development Act has led to the approval of 75 territorial planning and sustainable development instruments which cover 98% of the entire urban population. Making territorial planning effectively include the criteria of adaptation to climate change is a challenge both for the central and local governments.

Regarding Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12), Uruguay has both a legal framework and public policies that foster sustainable management of water resources, the responsible and sustainable use of land and surface waters, the use of clean technologies, the decrease of waste generation and the use of reusable

packing, among others. An improvement in the environmental performance of production sectors is being fostered through different plans and programs such as the Environmental Impact Evaluation regime. In line with this, the National System for Productive Transformation and Competitiveness seeks to promote economic and innovative development with sustainability, social equity and environmental and territorial balance.

Although Uruguay has taken big steps towards including the environmental dimension into development processes, it is necessary to intensify efforts to guarantee sustainable production and consumption patterns.

The development and implementation of policies and related management instruments have allowed Uruguay to progress towards the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems (SDG 15). The development and implementation of the 2016-2020 National Strategy for Biodiversity, the Strategic Planning for the National System of Protected Areas and the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol are some of the steps in the right direction. Currently, a National Strategy for Native Forests is being developed to control the degradation caused by the invasion of exotic species.

Nevertheless, the degree of progress for this goal is uneven. The areas that show the most progress are those related to the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems and sustainable forest management. Those related to natural habitats and endangered species, to poaching and wildlife trafficking, and to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol are partially advanced. Lastly, the struggle against desertification, the control of invasive exotic species and the integration of biodiversity into the planning process has advanced more slowly.

Given the significant increase in production taking place in the country in recent years, especially in the farming sector, efforts to coordinate and integrate the production sector and the conservation of biodiversity needs to be doubled.

Uruguay will continue to add value to the achievement of the SDGs within the framework of the 2030 Agenda. This is to be done by actively promoting the development of sustainable production and consumption practices. Moreover, it will be achieved through the inclusion of the environmental dimension to socioeconomic activities and through the strengthening of institutional and civil capacities to protect the ecosystems in order to build more inclusive and resilient cities.





***SUMMARY***  
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