

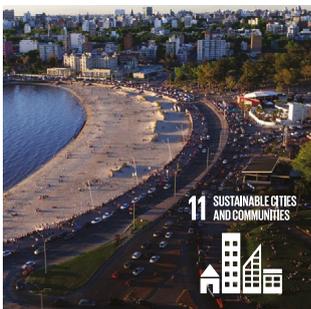
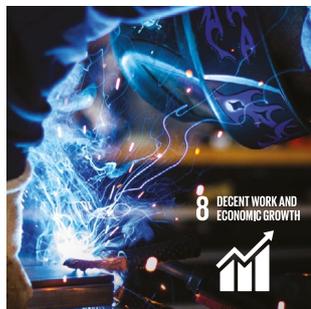


SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SUMMARY

VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW - URUGUAY 2019





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URUGUAY 2019



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Note: The institution intends to use language that does not discriminate between men and women. However, in order to avoid hindering the reading and in those cases in which it is not possible to incorporate gender-inclusive terms, the classic masculine gender is used, on the understanding that all mentions to such gender represent both men and women.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

URUGUAY ADDS VALUE

After the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) that ended in 2015, the United Nations (UN) has set the 2030 Agenda connected to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) undertaken globally, with a comprehensive perspective towards the economic, social, environmental, cultural and political development.

Uruguay undertakes this commitment and proves it in the content of its third Voluntary National Review, which informs about the 17 SDG, and which shows a diagnosis of the situation of the country, which will be a legacy that serves as basis for monitoring and assessing the compliance with the 2030 Agenda.

In this occasion, the six goals to be reviewed this year are introduced, which refer to: quality education; decent work and economic growth; reduction of inequalities; action for the climate; peace, justice and strong institutions; and strengthening of the Global Alliance for the Sustainable Development.

Extreme efforts are being made in order to reach all goals. In this sense, it is worth mentioning that, regarding reduction of inequalities, Uruguay stands as the most equalitarian country in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a Gini coefficient of 0,382 points. Besides, our country has been internationally recognized for its strong bet on decent work, showing uninterrupted economic growth during the past 14 years, and which has multiplied the budget resources in the same period to foster high quality public education at all levels.

On the other hand, Uruguay has just celebrated 10 years of the National System of Response to Climate Change, an organization that strives to prevent and mitigate risks and favor the adaptation.

Uruguay's President, Tabaré Vázquez, pointed out that the policies adopted in that sense have turned the country into an international model with regards to response to climate change.

To sum up, it is then worth mentioning that Uruguay's positioning is internationally recognized in all these themes, and that Uruguay is one of the first countries in Latin America on betting strong on sustainable growth. Such recognition is also connected to the generation of policies in all financial, social and environmental spheres.

Apart from this data, we are aware that not even one of the 17 SDGs is an exclusive responsibility of the Government, but these are a commitment undertaken by the whole country. So, we believe that the pathway that leads to the SDG requires the active participation of the citizens, social organizations, workers, the corporate and industrial sectors, among others. This is why the discussion is promoted in several spaces for exchange.

Having information that contributes to the design of public policies is vital and that is why the participation of the academic sphere –of our researchers- provides us with true and scientific information regarding the advances and achievements of the SDGs.

A relevant benchmark for the incorporation of the SDG into the public policies has been its incorporation into the budget cycle, in the mechanisms of Strategic Planning of the Government, of monitoring and assessment of the results of the National Budget, reporting to the Parliament. Uruguay has developed a new methodology that intends to obtain quantitative approximations of the distribution of the National Budget per SDG.

The territorial approach has been a priority, understanding that it is in the territory, in the local sphere, where all visions on development are connected. Therefore, the strategy for locating the SDGs in the second and third level of government (City Councils and Municipalities) is implemented for such purposes.

The leitmotiv of this High Level Political Forum “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality” is also our slogan.

Uruguay adds value.

Álvaro García
Coordinator of SDG
Director of the Budget and Planning Office
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INTRODUCTION

Uruguay is now starting to prepare its third Voluntary National Review (VNR), understanding that this has been a positive experience for the country as it has allowed to determine the current situation for each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) undertaken by the countries member of the United Nations (UN), while evidencing aspects which still need to be improved. These include the generation of knowledge and information systems, considering that the availability of precise and reliable data on diverse topics is an essential starting point for defining appropriate public policies, addressed at meeting the needs of all the inhabitants.

The country informs, through this review, about its current situation and its main challenges with regard to the SDG undertaken before the United Nations for this year; SDG 4 – “Quality education”; SDG 8 – “Decent work and economic growth”; SDG 10 – “Reduced inequalities”; SDG 13 – “Climate action”; SDG 16 – “Peace, justice and strong institutions” and SDG 17 – “Partnership for the goals”; goals which imply a significant interdependence of national public policies related to each of these as this contributes to guarantee the access to rights, inclusion and equity and in the last years, the country has started to work strongly towards that direction.

The process for the preparation of this review started with a mapping of national public actors related to each of the subjects of the SDG to be considered in the review and meetings with involved organizations, fostering the exchange among them, to define the entity responsible for each theme and the one that would be in charge of writing the corresponding chapter. Those identified as responsible in each of the SDGs are: the Ministry of Culture and Education (MEC for its acronym in Spanish) for SDG 4; Ministry of Work and Social Security (MTSS for its acronym in Spanish) for SDG 8; Ministry of Social Development (MIDES for its acronym in Spanish) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MRREE for its acronym in Spanish) for the SDG 10; Ministry of the Interior (MI), Judicial Power, Office of the Attorney General and Agency for the Development of the Government of Electronic Management and Society of Information and Knowledge (AGESIC, for its Spanish acronym) for SDG 16; and the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) together with the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation (AUCI for its acronym in Spanish), the National Secretary of Science and Technology (SNCT for its acronym in Spanish), the National Institute of Statistics (INE for its acronym in Spanish) and Uruguay XXI for SDG 17.

This summary of the VNR presents an overview of the different chapters that take part in it, starting with the description of the methodology used, which highlights that the direct involvement of the national public institutions responsible for each theme was promoted in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda nationwide. Moreover, these are the ones which have specific knowledge and a defined operating structure, related to the active participation of the actors of the private sector, the academic sphere and civil society. Therefore, this review arises from a collective construction among diverse national entities.

Then, there is a compilation of the main national processes related to the SDGs, identifying the approach of the 2030 Agenda by the Uruguayan Parliament and the progress regarding communication at a national level through the continuous feed of the website about Uruguay and the SDG, the preparation of audiovisual materials, annual photography exhibitions and events that contribute to spreading the theme. In addition to this, it presents the follow-up and availability of the data of the global indicators.

Then, the following topics of key relevance in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda nationwide are developed: the distribution of the National Budget based on the analysis of the strategic planning of the government and the budget execution related to each of the goals of the SDG; the progress in the goal location strategy; the contributions of the Social Economy (SE)¹ sector to the Agenda; the results of the second edition of the survey that reveals the level of knowledge and involvement of the corporate sector regarding the SDG; and the compilation of the existing citizenship participation spaces related to this theme.

Below there appear the infographics and summaries of the *specific chapters for each of the reviewed SDGs*, which detail the relevant regulatory and institutional framework, the main public policies, the status of performance of the aims and the challenges related to each of them.

With regard to SDG 16: “Peace, justice and strong institutions”, it is important to highlight that Uruguay reported the national progress to achieve such aim in the specific chapter that was part of its first VNR, submitted before the High-level Political Forum in 2017. Therefore, now only the main courses of action implemented since then and the current status are presented.

As a closing of all the chapters, there is an appendix with the *main conclusions, learnings and challenges* the country faces to achieve the compliance with the agenda.

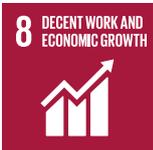
¹ This review uses the generic term of Social Economy (SE), which includes the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) of most frequent use in Latin America. It is worth mentioning that Uruguay is in a process of discussion about the scopes and actors included in such concept.

METHODOLOGY FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE REVIEW

The elaboration of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) led to the involvement of different public sectors, civil society, academic spheres and international organizations. This was possible thanks to the process of inter-institutional coordination in charge of the Budget and Planning Office (OPP for its acronym in Spanish) through its State Assessment and Management Board (AGEV for its acronym in Spanish), together with the contribution of the National Institute of Statistics (INE for its acronym in Spanish) as the entity governing the National Statistics System and the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation (AUCI for its acronym in Spanish). As in previous reviews, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) specially contributed with the review. The guidelines provided by the United Nations on the suggested structure and content for the voluntary review of the countries were considered.

In this opportunity, AGEV-OPP made an initial mapping of the players directly involved in each one of the SDGs to be reviewed and received significant contributions from AUCI. Thereafter, the first awareness and exchange meeting of those players took place, all of them specific for each SDG. Representatives of INE, AUCI and the competent authorities of the UN system in Uruguay attended those meetings. Main principles on the 2030 Agenda were addressed, including the SDG corresponding to the goals and indexes. In said meetings, the idea was to complete the initial mapping of players with the contributions of the participants, so as to achieve the highest possible call for the elaboration process of each chapter, and the appropriation of the 2030 Agenda, at a national level. Likewise, the meetings favored the exchange of ideas among the attendees regarding goals and also the main core for the application of the policies in the country in connection to each theme, as well as the identification of information sources for each indicator, providing an estimate of the availability level in the country. In such meetings, the organization model in the subject matters for each SDG was defined. Such organization is responsible for the coordination of the content of the chapter and counts on input from the other sections that are competent in the area.

Chart 1. Organizations that are identified as responsible for each SDG

SDG	Responsible Organization
 <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	Ministry of Culture and Education – National Board of Education
 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	Ministry of Work and Social Security – National Board of Secretary and Unit of Work Statistics and Social Security
 <p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	Ministry of Social Development – National Board of Assessment and Monitoring and National Board of Socio-cultural Promotion Ministry of Foreign Affairs – National Board of Consular Affairs and Correlation – National Board of Migrations
 <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	Ministry of Housing, Territorial Order and Environment – National System of Response to Climate Change



Ministry of the Interior Judicial Power
 Generals Prosecutor's Office of the Nation
 Agency of Electronic Government and Society of Information and Knowledge



Ministry of Economy and Finance Central Bank of Uruguay
 Uruguay XXI
 Presidency of the Republic - National Secretary of Science and Technology
 OPP/INE/AUCI

Source: AGEV-OPP.

Regarding the work method used, AGEV-OPP provided the index of the chapters that, in order to keep its uniformity, indicated the different sections that are to be included, as well as their approximate extensions, as this may serve as a guide for the responsible organizations regarding the essential contents which are to be reported. Likewise, a proposal of goals grouped in central themes was provided for each SDG, following the methodology adopted in the previous reports. However, in the 2019 version of the review, chapters were not structured by considering the mentioned central themes for most of the SDGs. In this case, regulations and public policies were addressed as a whole as well as the indexes, following the order set in the goals. In this sense, only in the SDG 17, and because of the diversity of themes, the analysis was sub-divided into several axis, adopting the classification in dimensions suggested by the UN, with some adjustments, what leads to grouping the goals and indexes in six central themes.

Chart 2. Central Themes for SDG 17



Central Themes	Associated Goals
1. Finance	17.1, 17.2, 17.3, 17.4 and 17.5
2. Science, technology and innovation	17.6, 17.7 and 17.8
3. International trade	17.10, 17.11 and 17.12
4. Systemic issues	17.13, 17.14 and 17.15
5. Multi-stakeholder partnerships	17.9, 17.16 and 17.17
6. Data, monitoring and accountability	17.18 and 17.19

Source: AGEV-OPP.

After gathering the information acquired as from the issuance of the last review, a new effort was made this year to identify the active participation spheres already existing in the country for each one of the themes suggested in the SDG.

In order to acquire contributions and points of view of all players involved in each theme, in this opportunity a consultation and exchange of information with private agents, other public organizations, academic spheres and representatives of the civil society was carried out, within the scope of participation already existing in each theme. This chapter "National Processes" introduced the summary of some of these scopes, which are identified in depth in the chapters of each SDG.

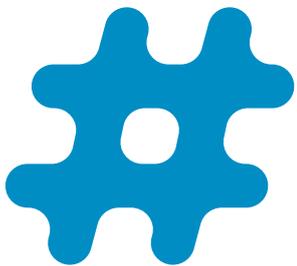
Aiming at supporting the organizations responsible for preparing the information for each SDG, AGEV appointed work teams of two individuals from the Division of Strategic Management and Budget Formulation, who acted as permanent support, both in the inter-institutional coordination with national organizations previously appointed as competent in the matter, and in the definition of the content of each chapter and the suggestions to improve the information to be reported.

It is worth mentioning that Uruguay reported progress in institutional frames and policies to reach SDG 16: “Peace, justice and strong Institutions” thoroughly described in a specific chapter which was part of the first VNR, introduced before the High-level Political Forum 2017. In such opportunity, Uruguay joined other countries in creating a pilot experience of SDG 16 promoted by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in collaboration with the Open Government Partnership (OGP), Community of Democracies (CD) and the financial support of the United States Agency for International Development. This pilot helped identify the situation of the country in the different central themes the goal embraces, as well as to discuss and propose national indexes for the connected goals. Therefore, in this opportunity the main action lines used and the current status regarding such goals are considered.

Within the framework of the joint work with the United National System in Uruguay, the UNPD showed its support through a consultancy in which the gathering, systematization and preparation of input for the revision of the SDG was carried out.

On the other hand, INE, organization governing the National Statistics System and working with the institutions involved in the reviewed SDG, gathered information that enables to detect the situation of the country regarding the global indexes of each goal and objective, which are included in the statistics appendix, available in the digital version of the VNR.¹ Moreover, said appendix includes the supplementary and complementary indexes the country deems appropriate to be introduced.

¹ Available at: http://www.ods.gub.uy/images/Informe_Nacional_Voluntario_Uruguay_2019.pdf



NATIONAL PROCESSES



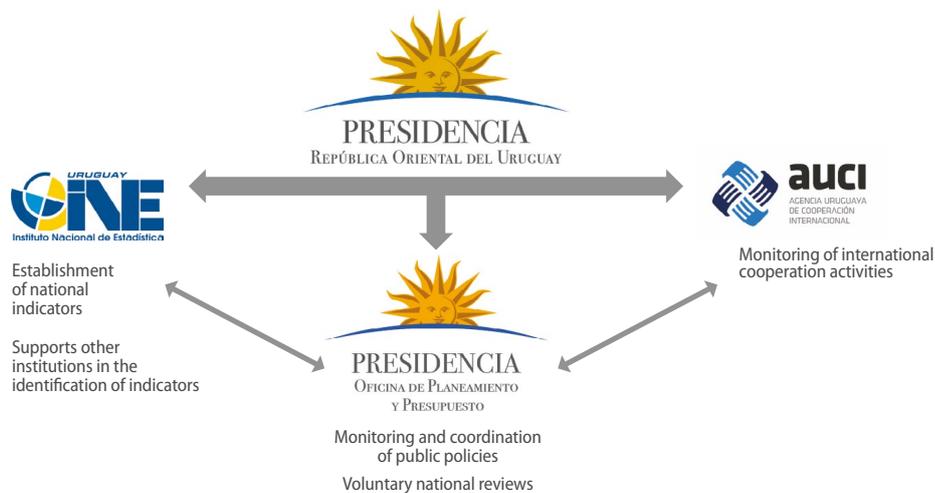
INTRODUCTION

The incorporation of the 2030 Agenda has required a significant effort regarding the review and definition of national aims, the implementation of regular reviewing processes and the coordination between diverse actors and sectors.

In this sense, as in previous editions of the Voluntary National Review, it is worth noting the institutional management scheme, adopted right from the start, which has eased the integration and sustainability of the 2030 Agenda, provided that such scheme is based on existing platforms and organizations.¹ Within such framework, the Budget and Planning Office (OPP for its acronym in Spanish), through the State Assessment and Management Board (AGEV for its acronym in Spanish), is responsible for the monitoring and articulation of the actions associated to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation (AUCI for its acronym in Spanish) shall be in charge of those affairs related to international cooperation and the National Statistics Institute (INE) shall prepare and gather the indicators.

Unlike other countries, in Uruguay no new institution was created for the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda. The three aforementioned institutions have previous experience and transversal mandates, which guarantees a profitable coordination which has been supported by the authorities of the Executive Power within the frame of the Council of Ministries.

Scheme 1. Institutional scheme for SDG follow-up



The summary of this chapter goes over the main milestones and progress related to the incorporation of the SDGs in Uruguay. Therefore, the following sections will present a summary of the main national processes related to the SDGs, developed in greater depth in the “Voluntary National Review – Uruguay 2019”.

This first section refers to the diverse efforts performed by the government to promote the integration of the SDGs into the national public agenda, as well as its communication and follow-up. First of all, it focuses on the role of the Parliament in the appropriation of the 2030 Agenda. Then, some communication actions, as the SDG website (www.ods.gub.uy) and the photography exhibition “*Uruguay Suma Valor*” (Uruguay adds value), among others, stand out. Finally, with regard to the *monitoring of the aims and indicators of the SDG*, the status of each of them is presented, exposing the level of data availability for the calculation thereof, as well as for the national supplementary and complementary indicators.

¹ Presidential resolution 988/16 entrusted the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda to a group of public entities.

A relevant milestone for the integration of the SDG into the processes of the Uruguayan State has been its incorporation into the budget cycle, in the mechanisms for the planning, monitoring and assessment of results of the national budget. In the second section this year it is presented a new methodology that supplements the efforts previously made to obtain quantitative approximations of the distribution of the *National Budget by SDG* and seeks to provide a comprehensive perspective about the bond of the National Budget, from the Government Strategic Planning and the budget execution, with the different SDG and their corresponding aims.

The third section informs about the actions Uruguay is taking to make progress in one the priority axis for the development of the 2030 Agenda; the *localization strategy of the SDG*. It describes the process undertaken by our country in this subject, presenting the diverse components developed within the frame of such strategy. This process has been led by the Public Investment and Decentralization Administration (DDIP for its acronym in Spanish) of the OPP.

The fourth section sets forth the contributions of the *Social Economy (SE) sector*² to the SDG. This in general and the cooperatives in particular,³ as these are organizations based on principles and values, are intrinsically a form of sustainable and democratic company that promote the equitable distribution of wealth, stable job positions, equitable access to goods and services and gender equality. In such section, the contributions of the cooperatives and public policies to the achievement of the SDG are remarked, in particular the contributions to public institutions, Cooperativism National Institute (INACOOOP for its acronym in Spanish) and the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) to the reflection about the SDGs as policies programs and instruments.

Considering the value of the corporate activity regarding the consumption, production, environment, market, among other aspects of economic growth and development, it is relevant to take the subject of the SDG to the *corporate sector*. So, the fifth section contains the results of the second edition of the survey that gathers the level of knowledge and involvement of the companies regarding the 2030 Agenda, as well as the initiatives developed by the companies that contribute to the six SDGs mentioned in this VNR.

Last, on the understanding that the *participation of the civil society* has been and will continue being essential for the preparation, execution, follow-up and sustainability of the public policies, the review presents a brief summary of the participation spaces related to each of the SDGs and to the subjects integrating this review. The results of the process “Social Dialogue: Uruguay towards the future”, for example, are mentioned, as well as the diverse spaces of participation, specific for each theme of the SDG, such as: the committees of the educational sphere, the spaces of tripartite participation of the Uruguayan system of labor relations and the participation process in the preparation of the National Policy on Climate Change.

2 This review uses the generic term of Social Economy (SE), which includes the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) of most frequent use in Latin America. It is worth mentioning that Uruguay is in a process of discussion about the scopes and actors included in such concept.

3 The Resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, in which the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development and the SDG was approved, makes two explicit mentions to the cooperatives in the section about “Implementation Means” paragraph 41 and in the “Goal 17”, paragraph 67.

APPROPRIATION, DIFFUSION AND INDICATORS

NATIONAL APPROPRIATION ACTIONS

With regard to the role of the Uruguayan Parliament in the appropriation of the 2030 Agenda, one of the most remarkable highlights has been the work the Permanent Uruguayan Interparliamentary Group before the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) has been doing on the SDG for several years. For such purposes, the Uruguayan Parliament has taken part, since 2017, in the parliamentary meetings organized by IPU in connection with the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development of United Nations. In such space, the Uruguayan members of the Parliament participate in a session of assessment on the preparation of parliaments for the implementation of the SDGs.

One of the actions of parliamentary appropriation that is worth mentioning is the execution of the first workshop for the members and officers of the Parliament named “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: The role of parliaments in the monitoring of the SDG” organized by the Parliament, OPP (Budget and Planning Office), INE (National Institute of Statistics), AUCI (Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The workshop was aimed at presenting the progress achieved by Uruguay in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and at generating a reflection among legislators about the role of parliaments in its application and monitoring.

This meeting constituted the first step to introduce the 2030 Agenda to the Parliament members and the next meeting shall take place this year, in order to analyze the progress and challenges identified in the “Voluntary National Review-Uruguay 2019”.

COMMUNICATION ACTIONS

The OPP is consistently performing actions of diffusion of the progress of Uruguay with regard to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, through tools as its website about Uruguay and the SDG (www.ods.gub.uy), audiovisual materials, the annual photography exhibition “*Uruguay Suma Valor*” (Uruguay Adds Value) and a series of events and meetings that stimulate knowledge and appropriation of the SDGs by the different actors and institutions, also disseminated by means of social media of the OPP and involved entities (#Uruguaysumavalor).

Website. This website, that provides specific information about Uruguay and its connection with the SDGs, is a dissemination, consulting and exchange space that shows a growing demand of public and private institutions that want to publish their contribution to the 2030 Agenda in the “Projects” section. Having this site also allows to respond to information enquiries made by diverse actors in Uruguayan society.

Audiovisual Material. Each year, a short film on the SDGs reviewed in the VNR is produced and shared on the website, social networks and the OPP channel. Moreover, it is used in events related to this topic. It also implies the production of audiovisual materials about activities involving the SDGs, such as “*Comprometidos*”¹ initiative or others related to the assessment of public policies, improvement tool that contributes to the achievement of the SDGs.

Photography Exhibition “Uruguay Suma Valor”. The photography exhibitions organized by OPP in 2017 and 2018 in Plaza Independencia in Montevideo were related to the 2030 Agenda. These record everyday actions of citizens that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs reviewed every year.

¹ “*Comprometidos*” (engaged) is an initiative that invites the youth in Uruguay and the region to put into practice ideas that may improve reality and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

Events. OPP has organized and supported diverse events and workshops with the participation of public, private and international organizations aimed at informing the status of Uruguay with regard to the achievement of the SDGs. Moreover, there were also educational actions performed by the “Localization Strategy²” and in coordination with Ceibal Plan (Basic Computer Educational Connectivity for Online Learning).

INDICATORS OF SDG TARGETS: FOLLOW-UP AND ANALYSIS OF DATA AVAILABILITY FOR ITS CONSTRUCTION

In the core of the National Statistics System (SEN³ for its acronym in Spanish), space governed by INE, there is a work team exclusively focused on SDG indicators. The outcomes of the group have allowed the permanent update of the status of data and indicators related to the diverse targets of the SDG and, therefore, to review its progress as well as to complete the information required by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSTAT) for data availability.

As a result, a chart with the status of the 17 SDGs is presented, summarizing the number of indicators per level of data availability⁴ in Uruguay.

Chart 1. Number of indicators per level of data availability in Uruguay, per SDG. Year 2019

	TOTAL	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
TOTAL	244	119	70	55
SDG 1	14	6	5	3
SDG 2	13	4	7	2
SDG 3	27	16	6	5
SDG 4	11	5	3	3
SDG 5	14	8	5	1
SDG 6	11	6	4	1
SDG 7	6	4	0	2
SDG 8	17	9	4	4
SDG 9	12	9	0	3
SDG 10	11	5	4	2
SDG 11	15	5	7	3
SDG 12	13	4	3	6
SDG 13	8	5	3	0

2 See the section of the review “SDG: Localization Strategy”.

3 This group integrates representatives of the public entities involved in the SDG. Its aim is to solve methodological aspects and define the responsibilities in terms of generation of data and indicators related to the diverse targets.

4 a) Data availability level in Uruguay: Level 1 corresponds to indicators that are conceptually clear, established methodology and available standards and data consistently produced by official sources in the country; Level 2 corresponds to indicators conceptually clear, established methodology and available standards but: a) data is not produced consistently (provided by 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 the official sources of the country and/or c) there is data from official sources but partially, as it does not include all required dimensions; Level 3 corresponds to the indicators for which there is no established methodology or standards or the methodology/standards that are being developed/tested in the country or is generated by non-official sources and the data or methodology does not have the official validation of the country.

	TOTAL	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
SDG 14	10	0	0	10
SDG 15	14	9	4	1
SDG 16	23	13	3	7
SDG 17	25	10	12	3

Source: INE.

Note: In the case of SDG 14, only two of the 10 global indicators defined are level 1 worldwide.

Below, there is a graphic representation of the percentage of the indicators per level of availability for each of the SDGs.

Graph 2. Percentage of Indicators per level of data availability in Uruguay, per SDG. Year 2019



Source: INE.

Note: In the case of the SDG 14, only two of the 10 global indicators defined are level 1 worldwide.

For those indicators that are not conceptually clear, or do not have an established methodology and available standards and data consistently produced by official sources in the country (levels 2 and 3), supplementary and complementary indicators were proposed for a better measurement of the progress in the achievement of the goals and aims. In the following charts it is possible to observe the number of supplementary and complementary indicators defined for each of the presented SDG in the successive Voluntary National Reviews.

Chart 2. Status of indicators per SDG

Voluntary National Review 2017			
	SUPPLEMENTARY LEVEL 2	SUPPLEMENTARY LEVEL 3	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

Voluntary National Review 2018			
	SUPPLEMENTARY LEVEL 2	SUPPLEMENTARY LEVEL 3	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

Voluntary National Review 2019			
	SUPPLEMENTARY LEVEL 2	SUPPLEMENTARY LEVEL 3	COMPLEMENTARY
SDG 4	3	2	7
SDG 8	6	6	2
SDG 10	1	3	0
SDG 13	0	0	2
SDG 17	6	0	2

Source: INE.

See statistics appendix which presents this information with greater level of detail.⁵

⁵ Available at: http://www.ods.gub.uy/images/Informe_Nacional_Voluntario_Uruguay_2019.pdf

SUMMARY: DISTRIBUTION OF THE NATIONAL BUDGET PER SDG

In order to connect the budget preparation and execution with the SDGs based on the approach of budgeting and management per results which serves as the basis for the preparation of the National Budget since 2010, it is intended to report on the investments of the National Budget aimed at the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, as well as to generate input that allows to continue improving the budget preparation in the future.

Since the year 2010, in the preparation of the National Budget 18 program areas have been identified, representing functions developed by the State and, due to its continuity, transcend the government terms. Those areas currently constitute the first grouper of the public budget.

The program areas contain Budget plans, each defined on the basis of the ultimate aim to be achieved by means of the application of the corresponding resources. The program aim may be shared by several institutions and all organizations that contribution to it are responsible for its achievement. Following this logic, the aims of the program are itemized in institutional aims per subsection and these in aims of executing units. This facilitates the sectorial visualization of problems and opportunities that motivate the government action and focuses on the need of coordinated efforts through aligned and shared responsibilities.

This Budget scheme also includes quantitative indicators that allow the monitoring of the status and achievement of aims in each of those levels of responsibility.

The State Management and Assessment Area (AGEV-OPP for their acronyms in Spanish) started working on a new methodology to obtain quantitative estimates of the National Budget distribution per SDG, and tries to provide a comprehensive outlook of the connection between the National Budget, from the strategic planning of the government and the budget execution contained in the Integrated System of Financial Information (SIF for its acronym in Spanish), with the different SDG and its corresponding aims.

This new methodological definition distributes the execution of the National Budget according to the achievement of the different SDGs based on the analysis of the diverse layers in which the current budget structure may be itemized.

Once the methodology is applied, the national budget distribution per SDG was the following:

Chart 1. National Budget per SDG



Source: AGEV-OPP.

The methodology used has some methodological limitations that are explained in detail throughout the corresponding chapter in the “National Voluntary Review – Uruguay 2019”.

The main challenge of this work is the generation, based on the discussions that may arise within the frame of obtained results, of supplies that foster greater involvement and connection between the SDG and the national processes of budget planning and elaboration that are to be faced in the future.

The effort of distribution of the national budget by SDG constitutes a new step towards such direction, that at the same time opens a rich work agenda towards the future. The incorporation of resources that are not in the Budget into the analysis, as the total amounts of the social security system, of the health national system or the execution of public companies’ resources, constitutes a significant challenge to supplement the performed analysis. Moreover, the exchange with national and international experts shall allow the refinement of the methodology and strengthening of findings.

SUMMARY: SDGs AND THE LOCALIZATION STRATEGY

Since 2005, decentralization has been a cornerstone of the Uruguayan government. A fundamental axis of the management strategy is to focus on territories as integration and development areas, with the aim of reducing the inequalities of the economic growth. As from the Law of Decentralization and Citizen's Participation passed in 2009, the country has today 112 municipalities, which enable to bring the government and the citizens together.

When, in 2018, the second VNR was presented, reference was made to the work of raising awareness and spreading the SDGs throughout the territory that the Budget and Planning Office (OPP for its acronym in Spanish) was doing, through three activities of departmental reach –a) public exhibition about the SDG, b) alignment workshop of the SDGs at a sub-national level, and c) workshop of consultative dialogue on the SDG with the civil society-.

This third review focuses on the role the sub-national governments play in the application of the SDGs in the territory, meaning, the localization of the SDGs, that considers the sub-national contexts in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, grants an action frame for development policies at a local level and launches, at the same time, actions involving the civil society and the participation of citizens for the achievement of the SDGs.

As described in the appendix, the localization work of the SDG in Uruguay implied a process of innovation and trial of methodologies at a territorial level, framed within a general strategy which is being developed. Each work methodology was adapted to the territories' needs, as well as the previous findings on the topic. Therefore, in some departments, the work was inserted in planification processes, whether in course or ended, while in others it was used as an instance for the identification of priorities, raising awareness and providing information of the 2030 Agenda.

The challenges detected are connected to overcoming a yet instrumental vision of the SDGs by the governmental actors. The SDGs are considered as a good tool of communication and organization of actions developed by sub-national governments, but these are not always internalized in the processes of the organization due to deficiencies in the capacities to manage de 2030 Agenda and make it a live process of constant reflection.

The localization of the SDGs at a territorial level requires its appropriation by the municipalities and the private sector. For the localization process to be effective and legitimate, it is important that the SDGs are adapted to the local reality. Therefore, the next steps in terms of localization may be aligned with a greater adaptation of the achievement of goals of the SDGs specific for each territory and connected to their policies and priorities. Secondly, it is key that the 2030 Agenda and the SDG are inserted in the planning, budgeting and design of policies at a departmental level.

To sum up, this first stage of prioritization and awareness of the localization process of the SDGs in Uruguay has shown strengths that enable us to picture a territorial 2030 Agenda; setting grounds to continue incorporating them into the planning processes and in the implementation and financing of projects from a development point of view that combines social, economic and environmental aspects, without leaving anyone behind.

SUMMARY: SDGs AND THE CORPORATE SECTOR

Fulfilling with the 2030 Agenda and reaching the ambitious SDG –which include ending poverty, improving world health, guaranteeing global education and fighting climate change - implies, among other actions, investing more than what governments can contribute with, so the private sector may play an essential role in the implementation of such Agenda, contributing to the sustained economic growth, the social inclusion and the environmental protection.

As mentioned in the last VNR, the private sector has played an important role in the Sustainable Development Agenda in Uruguay, contributing to the sustained economic growth, the social inclusion and the environmental protection of the country.

In this opportunity, the review includes, on the one hand, actions that have been implemented in the country as from such review, actions that have had the corporate sector as protagonist, and on the other hand, the main results of the second edition of the survey implemented by the Development of the Social Corporate Responsibility (DERES for its acronym in Spanish), which gathers information about the level of knowledge and involvement of companies regarding the SDGs and the initiatives developed by these in connection to the six SDGs mentioned in the VNR.

Among the reflections that arise, it is recognized that the private sector in Uruguay continues in its initial phase of knowledge and implementation of the SDGs, even though the number of companies that identify the benefits and business opportunities offered by subscribing the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development is increasing. On the other hand, training is one of the most useful tools to connect the companies with the particular challenges and opportunities of the SDGs in their own activities; as well as fostering communication and reviews as a way of promoting what companies do, and spreading their contributions to the SDGs, both in the communication channels as well as in the cycles of issuance of reviews.

Lastly, another significant challenge refers to strengthening the coordination and teamwork among all actors involved, with the aim of generating the necessary synergies so as to achieve the SDGs.

Coordinating, generating alliances and implementing public policies that foster and guide the corporate activity, which serve as incentive to motivate and facilitate companies' involvement in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. To sum up, these actions strive to assert the importance and trust on a sector that has direct influence on all challenges included in the 2030 Agenda and in the achievement of the SDGs.

SUMMARY: SDGs AND SOCIAL ECONOMY SECTORS

The Social Economy (SE)¹ sector contributes transversally to all the SDGs. As these are organizations based on principles and values, SE in general and the cooperatives in particular, are intrinsically a sustainable and democratic form of corporation. These promote the equitable distribution of wealth, stable job positions, equitable access to goods and services and gender equality. With its actions, these contribute to the expansion, inspiration and spreading of the ethics and solidary rationality that drives this model to the whole society where it is rooted, also catering for environmental matters. These have also proved to be resilient in times of economic and financial crisis.

SE has been present in Uruguay for more than one hundred years, with a scheme that involves (according to international classification criteria and comparative law) cooperatives, rural promotion societies, mutual societies, civil associations which purpose is the promotion, advisory, training, technical or financial assistance, of the diverse organizational forms of SE; companies democratically managed by their workers, in its diverse legal forms; non-formalized association groups (de facto corporation, single taxpayer), of productive areas of services (artisans, family producers); foundations made up by SE organizations; and other legal mechanisms which nature is in accordance with the principles and values of SE.

The General Cooperatives Law 18407 (“LGC” for its acronym in Spanish) recognizes the following cooperative classes: work, agrarian, consumption, saving and credit, housing, insurances and mutual guarantee. Work cooperatives include two sub-classes; social cooperatives and artists and related trade cooperatives. The list in the LGC is by way of illustration and not of limitation and admits new classes of cooperatives, except those expressly mentioned, as long as these comply with the regime prescribed in the general framework.

The LGC mentions SE as subject of study and promotion. Moreover, a framework law for SE that covers the diverse families that are part of the universe and the actions aimed at its promotion and strengthening is under the process of discussion in the parliamentary scope.

In this last decade, the number of cooperatives in Uruguay has tripled, going from 1,117 entities in 2008 to 3,653 in 2018 with approximately 1,000,000 of associates, being the penetration in number of the members the highest in South America. If analyzing the growth by modality, it should be highlighted that the housing cooperatives are the ones which had the greatest growth, around 60% of the total amount. In addition, the associated work cooperatives make up a third. Within these, social cooperatives amount to more than 350 cooperative groups within the work frame protected and promoted by the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES for its acronym in Spanish).

In the year 2015, Law 19.337 is passed, creating the Fund for Development (FONDES for its acronym in Spanish), which not only supports viable and sustainable productive projects but also defines aims deeply connected to the SDG and encourages the promotion and support to the development of different forms of SE, with a focus on cooperativism and self-managed initiatives.

Within the regulatory scheme, the following laws promote and regulate social and labor programs² which integrate the approach of the SE: Comprehensive Management of Packaging and Packaging Waste, Law 17.849, *Programa Uruguay Trabaja* (Uruguay Works Program), Law 18.240; Social Single Taxpayer MIDES, Law 18.874; First Work Experience Program in public entities, Law 19.133; Market reserve for Family Agriculture, Law 19.292.

1 Document prepared by the National Institute of Cooperativism (INACOOP for its acronym in Spanish), the National Board of Social Economy and Labor Integration (DINESIL) of the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) and the Uruguayan Confederation of Cooperatives (CUDECOOP for its acronym in Spanish).

2 Under the scope of MIDES, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MGAP for its acronym in Spanish), Ministry of Housing, Territorial Order and Environment (MVOTMA for its acronym in Spanish).

Institutionality

Based on the regulatory framework, an institutionality system starts to be defined and consolidated for the cooperatives and SE. In the national scope, the following spaces are central:

<p>National Institute of Cooperativism (INACOOP)</p>	<p>INACOOP was created as a non-state public law legal entity by article 186 of the LGC. It is directed by a combined Board made up by three governmental representatives and two representatives of the Uruguayan Confederation of Cooperatives (CUDECOOP). The Law assigns to it missions related to the advisory to the State, the promotion of cooperation principles and values, the preparation and evaluation of cooperative development plans, the development of associative, integrating and participating processes among the cooperatives, the promotion of the teaching of cooperativism in all education levels, as well as the coordination and implementation of investigations, creating a national system of information of public nature about the sector. In the 2015, it is also entrusted with the administration and execution of FONDES.</p>
<p>MIDES – National Board of Social Economy and Labor Integration (DINESIL)</p>	<p>DINESIL is responsible for the design and implementation of programs and projects that strengthen the integration into the world of work of the persons in condition of exclusion and/or social, economic and territorial vulnerability, favoring the framework of social economy and protected work. It coordinates from the National Committee of Social Policies with <i>Transforma Uruguay</i> System (Transform Uruguay System). What these programs have in common is the strategic axis of strengthening social and professional paths, the inter-institutional device of coordination of policies and a set of legal provisions that frame its scope. These are part of a methodology system where social accompaniment, technical assistance, microcredit, formalization, transversal and specific training and the spaces of commercialization are core aspects. Moreover, all program tools incorporate the perspective of human rights in its design and use the tool of affirmative actions as way of processing in such senses the rights of the most vulnerable groups.</p>
<p>CUDECOOP</p>	<p>CUDECOOP is the main representative entity of the Uruguayan cooperative movement. It integrates the second-grade federative entities of the different cooperative classes. It undertakes the values agreed on by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA): mutual assistance, responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, solidarity, honesty, transparency, social responsibility, caring for others. Those values are put into practice through the “cooperative principles”. Now a days, CUDECOOP presides Cooperatives of the Americas and has the Vice-presidency of the ICA.</p>
<p>Institute of Professional Training (INEFOP for its acronym in spanish)</p>	<p>Its Board of Directors incorporates a member proposed by the most representative organizations of the companies of the SE. In 2016, the Program of Cooperative Education (PROCOOP) is subscribed, together with the National Institute of Cooperativism (INACOOP) and with the strategic support of CUDECOOP, which significantly broadens the training possibilities of the ones involved in these organizations.</p>

<p>System of Productive Transformation and Competitiveness (<i>Transforma Uruguay – Transform Uruguay</i>)</p>	<p>It drives an agenda in interconnected topics that have a direct impact on the productive transformation capacity of the country and its competitiveness, while considering workers, businesspersons, initiatives of SE, researchers and educational institutions. To reach the aims, work is guided by a National Plan of Productive Transformation and Competitiveness for the period 2017-2021, which incorporates the Program on the Integration of the Agenda of Social Economy to Transforma Uruguay and its integration in the Business Advisory Board – Commission of Social Economy.</p>
<p>National Board on Gender (CNG for its acronym in spanish)</p>	<p>It is a space for defining the strategic lines of public policies on gender. It is created under the scope of MIDES and it is presided by the National Institute of Women (INMUJERES). This scheme then integrates, INACOOOP, DINESIL-MIDES and CUDECOOP (among other institutions) in the following work instances: Advisory group of the National Strategy of Gender Equality and in Axis 3 Economic Autonomy of Women.</p>

Within the regional and international frame, this institutional architecture is a reference the Uruguayan Government has adopted for the design of public policies that open work spaces beyond borders. At a regional level, it is worth mentioning the participation in the Specialized Meeting of Mercosur Cooperatives (RECM for its acronym in Spanish) and the Specialized Meeting of Family Agriculture (REAF). MIDES acts in the Social Institute of MERCOSUR through the coordination of the Meeting of Ministers and Authorities of Social Development (RMAD for its acronym in Spanish) which governs the actions in the scope of the Social and Professional Technical Commission.

In the international framework, it takes part in the International Cooperative Alliance and the intercontinental pilot group of countries for SE (GPIESS for its acronym in Spanish), currently led by the Republic of France.

Contributions of the cooperatives to the SDG

The general aim of the 4th National Meeting of Cooperatives “Miguel Cardozo” was to “contribute to the recognition of the cooperative system as a pillar for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals towards 2030” and its specific aims where the following ones: (a) Identify the opportunities for growth and development of the national cooperative system with a long-term horizon; (b) Recognize how Uruguayan cooperativism is connected to the sustainable development goals of the United Nations (UN); and (c) Increase the public visibility and the political-institutional acknowledgement of organized national cooperativism through the Confederation. It was structured in three main axis related to the strategic thinking process of the Cooperatives of the Americas and the group of the ICA, (1) Long-term social and economic changes and new opportunities for the cooperation; (2) UN’s SDG and how cooperatives contribute to sustainable development of Uruguay with regard to SDG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 16 and 17; and (3) Towards a State policy for SE. Exchanges performed resulted in references to the contribution and public policies.

This is supplemented with the contributions of public institutions integrated in the social economy promotion and comptroller public sector, which has several instruments and support programs in connection to the SDG, regarding training, technical assistance and financing, contributing to the diverse sectors and with specificity and jurisdiction in the SDG 1, 2, 5, 8 and 11, and in particular in the SDG 17 as promoter, builder and driver for sustainable development alliance from the design and construction of public policies.

SUMMARY: SDGs AND THE CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION

The participation of the civil society has been and will continue to be essential for the elaboration, execution, follow up and sustainability of public policies. In this sense, Uruguay has been making huge efforts to generate participative spaces through which the organized civil society may have an influence on the cycle of public policies.

As in the previous edition (2018), in the corresponding Appendix within the chapter of National Processes, a brief summary of the participation of the civil society in the SDG and in the themes part of the VNR is introduced.

Apart from the participation space already existent in the public policies connected to the SDGs, the processes of consultation made within the framework of this VNR for the SDG 4 and 13 stands out.

With reference to SDG 4, an agenda of meetings with diverse committees of the educational sphere was developed, where the academy, civil society and the Government and workers of education took part. Such meeting aimed at detailing the characteristics of the review, and at the same time, receiving contributions for its elaboration by the committees; perhaps this is the most eloquent proof when talking about participation spaces in education.

Regarding SDG 13, the process of elaboration of the chapter led to gather a committee of Education and Climate integrated by delegates of the National Administration of Public Education (ANEP for its acronym in Spanish), the University of the Republic (UDELAR for its acronym in Spanish) and the Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC for its acronym in Spanish), as strategy to connect the different advances, strengths, priorities, needs and challenges of the formal and non-formal education for climate change, reduction of its effects and the early alert in Uruguay. Therefore, an interinstitutional space of articulation was created, which enabled the exchange and collective construction from an integral and interdisciplinary point of view. Besides, a workshop of consultation was carried out, in which 60 people coming from organizations of the civil society, private sector, academy, agencies of the UN, international cooperation and actors of the public sphere, both at a national and sub-national level took part. The draft of the review for the SDG 13 was spread through a virtual space. Between both actions, important contributions were received connected to the advances, challenges and actions the civil society develops, as well as information for the complementary indicators.

As it is already known, the goal of the Social Dialogue was to generate an ample and participative meeting of the Uruguayan society in order to think about Uruguay's future. Such process intended to generate inputs –in diverse areas and themes – to contribute with the elaboration of a sustainable development strategy of the country, in the middle and long term. The debate process was organized in three big theme blocks: Development and International Insertion, Social Protection and Transversal Policies. Thematic meetings were carried out in which government and civil society institutions introduced and discussed their projects, plans and perspectives. The content of such meetings included all themes of the SDGs, as well as other themes.

The document “Social Dialogue: Uruguay towards the Sustainable Development Growth” elaborated by the Budget and Planning Office (OPP for its acronym in Spanish) and the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES for its acronym in Spanish), compiles all the proposals that arouse from the Social Dialogue in connection to the elaboration of public policies aiming at progressing, at taking care of the environment, and at solving deep problems that cause inequalities already existing in Uruguay, classifying them by SDG. Because of the transversal nature of the SDGs, some proposal were connected to more than one.

The Appendix show the charts that reflect the correspondence of the proposals that arouse in the Social Dialogue with the Goals of the SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17, as reference to the current review.





Sustainable Development Goal 4:

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

ACHIEVEMENTS

Literacy



Attendance to Education



Legal and institutional framework



Creation of **General Law of Education** (GLE), which establishes a National Educational System which objective is that all inhabitants achieve quality learning throughout their lives and throughout the territory.

- Access to education in all its levels.
- Improve learning quality.
- Strengthen the possibilities of completing education cycles.

Existence of a **National Educational Reference Frame** for the whole ANEP as well as a common **Educational Frame from 0 to 6 year olds**.

Level of literacy and math's competence.



Uruguay stands in the 3rd position among 15 countries of Latin America.

Performance of students of 6th grade of Primary School % of competent students (TERCE/UNESCO 2013):



Maths



Reading



CHALLENGES

Universalization of completion of high-school.



Focus on children aged 16 and 17 and improve the extra-age levels.

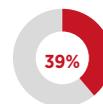
Continue the actions for all children to be able to experience a full development regardless of their socio-economic level or area of residence.

Attendance, educational service and equality indexes among people in vulnerable situations.



1. Socio-economic and regional inequalities (most evidenced inequalities in older ages).
2. Disabled population.
3. Inmates.

Improve competence levels of students in basic secondary school.



Reading



Maths

39% of 15 year old student show basic competence in Reading and 52,4% in Maths (performance PISA 2015).

ACHIEVEMENTS

Increase of attendance in education

Ages	2006	2017
Total	72,6	75,1
3 to 5	73,0	88,2
6 to 11	99,6	99,5
12 to 14	94,7	97,1
15 to 17	75,2	86,0
18 to 25	37,2	41,6

Source: ECH-INE.

Teacher's Training



100% of Public and Private Primary School **teachers** has a **diploma**.

Facilities of Educational Centers



100% of **educational centers** of primary and secondary school have **access to electricity, internet and computers** with educational goals (2017).

Development of territorial policies to have access to universities



- Creation of the Technological University (UTEC).
- Development of regional educational centers of the University of the Republic (UDELAR).

CHALLENGES

Completion of cycles



Consolidate inter-institutional actions to provide protection of educational trajectories that enable to **increase graduations in high school**.



Increase efforts of Teacher's professionalization.

- Increase the percentage of graduations of Teachers' Training Courses of High-School education.
- Foster student's access to teachers' Training Courses.
- Establish the University education of teachers.

Equity and inclusion of technologies.



Continue the **expansion and deepening** of the work lines that foster **equity and inclusion of technologies** with educational purposes sustainably and by considering its universalization.

Consolidate access to tertiary education for population sectors that have historically been suffered from low access to the educational system.



Rural, Afro-descendant population, disabled people and people within the lowest levels of incomes.

SUMMARY OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 4 QUALITY EDUCATION

The Educational System in Uruguay is governed by the following basic principles: it is compulsory, it is lay, and it is free-of-charge. This defines education as a right for all inhabitants throughout their whole lives and in the whole national territory.

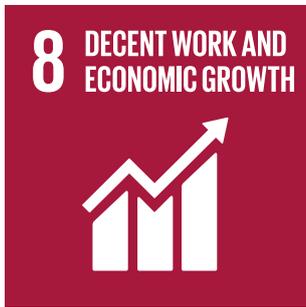
In this framework, a central concern of educational policies is the prioritization of the constant improvement of the education quality that leads to greater equality and then allows to reach a sustainable social and economic development, fair and inclusive at a local, national and regional level. The vision of the SDG 4 then shares the goals that we have set as a society, where promotion of lifelong learning opportunities is one of the main necessary conditions to reach a development that is sustained throughout time. Simultaneously, it is one of the means to reach higher equality levels and reduction of inequalities.

The consultation and elaboration processes of the reviews regarding the achievement of the SDGs have generated an intense debate on the achievements and challenges Uruguay faces in connection to the goals set by the UN for Education. Since 2016, when the Social Dialogue Events in Uruguay took place, which introduced this matter in the national agenda, there has been an intense activity of seminars, conferences, consultations and interinstitutional group works which have been debating on the necessary agreements and actions to achieve quality education.

In the last decade, the educational offer has been expanded in its compulsory terms, resulting in new offers in early education and in university and non-university higher education, new forms and devices of completion of cycles. At the same time, syllabus policies have generated greater coherence and articulation among the syllabuses of compulsory education and have enabled the design of new instruments, such as the test of Accreditation of Basic Core secondary education, and more coherence between the formative assessments and learning expectations.

These advances require the visibility, coordination and promotion of efforts that have been made by the National System of Public Education (SNEP for its acronym in Spanish), such as the protection to the educational paths, an initiative that is transversal to the whole educational system that allows to boost and coordinate institutional effort for the completion of educational cycles, consolidate access and improve the graduation level as well as the quality of learnings and its social appropriateness at all levels, but especially in high school as it is a current challenge to effectively “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”.





Sustainable Development Goal 8:

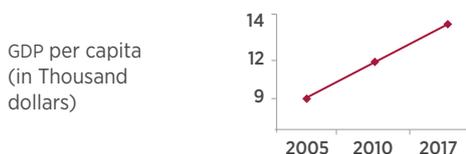
Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all



Economic, sustained and inclusive

ACHIEVEMENTS

14 years of uninterrupted economic growth for the first time in the country's history.



Sustained increase of **real salary**, it **increased 51,2% between 2005 and 2017**.



CHALLENGES



Sustain the economic growth process and creation of decent work.

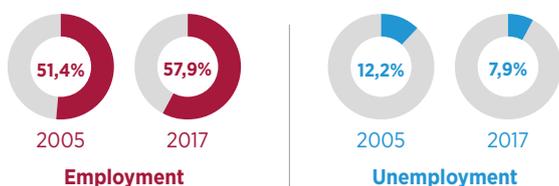
Move forward in the process of **reducing the gap of salary by gender**.



Employment Creation

ACHIEVEMENTS

Employment increases and unemployment decreases.



Creation of more than 500.000 formal work positions between 2005 and 2017.

CHALLENGES

Move forward in **reducing the gap of gender** in the labor market.



Significantly reduce **youth unemployment**.



Decent work

ACHIEVEMENTS



Reduction of work informality:

Work positions registered in the Social Welfare Bank (BPS) in 2005 were 992.091 and in 2017 1.458.494



Salary Boards have been working uninterruptedly since their restoration in 2005, widening their coverage to all formal workers.



The inclusion of **domestic and rural work** stands out, which never before had a collective negotiation.



- Domestic work Law 18.065 (year 2006).
- Uruguay is the first country in ratifying the Agreement 189 of International Labor Organization on domestic labor (year 2012).



- Law 18.441 regulation of workday and days off of the rural worker (year 2008).
- Collective negotiation laws: 18.566 and 18.508 (year 2009).



Levels of **agreements between employers and employees** have gone beyond 84% in total of rounds of Salary Councils.

CHALLENGES

Keep the pace of reduction of informalities.



Informal private salaries of workers



Tackle the impact of **technological changes** in work and employment during collective negotiations.

SUMMARY OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Over the last fifteen years, Uruguay has had an unprecedented economic growth, at rates which exceed the historical average in the last 50 years of the 20th Century. Unlike other periods of economic growth in the history of the country, this last one entailed greater social inclusion and decent work, which can be observed in the significant reduction of unemployment, the improvement of real salaries, a remarkable reduction of poverty and of income inequality, among many other social and labor indicators. One of the main tools of the Uruguayan strategy for the productive development and the creation of employment is the investment promotion policy that, given its continuity and adaptability to the different phases, has been very significant. Moreover, the institutional soundness and the articulation of policies on the subject implemented in the country stand out, consolidating in the year 2017 a new stage in the development and institutional structure strategy through the configuration of the National System of Productive Transformation and Competitiveness (SNTPC for its acronym in Spanish) (Law 19.472).

Within the frame of the vast set of implemented structural reforms, substantial progress is made in the legal system and in the set of labor policies, as well as a strong process of re-design and deepening of the social protection system, which has enabled the work, employment and labor relations policy to move from the marginal place -focused exclusively on catering for the needs of those who had difficulty in accessing the job market- to a privileged position in the reform agenda.¹

These transformations then contribute to establishing a model that guarantees the right to work in the country. Some of the most remarkable normative advances, laws and regulatory decrees are those about collective bargaining, freedom to form and join unions, work accidents and occupational disease, halftime break, weekly and annual leave, working day, indemnity for dismissal and unemployment insurance, health insurance, salary and other benefits, maternity and paternity leave.

Collective bargaining constitutes, doubtlessly, one the main pillars of the Uruguayan democracy and of the referred development process with social inclusion throughout the last 15 years. This essential tool has been implemented again since 2005, including now the rural sector and domestic workers, which had never taken part of the Salary Council (CCSS for its acronym in Spanish) before. The number of sub-groups that take part in the CCSS progressively increased in the last decade. In the successive rounds, the vast majority resulted in agreements between workers and employers, including bipartite and tripartite agreements, exceeding always the 85% of the cases. Without a doubt, in Uruguay there is a high level of agreement or understanding between the parties, even when the collective bargaining law allows the agreement obtained by majority under any combination. Another pillar of the labor world in Uruguay is the national policy on health and safety at work. The General Inspection of Work and Social Security (IGTSS for its acronym in Spanish) preside the National Board of Health and Safety at Work (CONASSAT for its acronym in Spanish), created by Decree 83/96 of March 7th, 1996, which scope includes the design and implementation of the national policy on health and safety at work. Moreover, the IGTSS manages the Tripartite Commissions of Health and Safety at Work. Among the main actions in the last years included in the national policy on health and safety at work, it is worth mentioning the great number of regulations generated on a tripartite basis in the different activities of the industry, commerce and rural activity. A third pillar that is necessary to present here is the national policy on social security. Since 2005, in Uruguay there has been a significant improvement on the matter and one of its main aspects have been the sustained progress regarding coverage; permanent growth in the purchasing power of retirement plans and pensions, particularly of the most submerged ones; greater protection over maternity and paternity, with extension of leaves, including that of parental care; greater inclusion in social security of freelance workers (group most affected by informality); development in diverse stages of social dialogue regarding social security, with significant agreements, among other actions. The fourth pillar of the work world in Uruguay are the active

1 International Labor Organization (ILO), *Efficient Solutions, Active Labor Market Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean*, Geneva, 2016.

policies on employment and professional education, which include the creation of appropriate institutional framework and of a set of instruments aimed at improving employability and the skills of Uruguayan workers.

It is then intended to provide a complete outlook of this pillar of Uruguayan's labor system given its significance in the achievement of the SDG 8. The directions are highlighted in the strategic guideline of the Ministry of Work and Social Security (MTSS for its acronym in Spanish) 2015-2020 "Culture of Work towards Development", which implies the continuity and deepening of the progress made regarding the process for decent work, with a focus on the improvement of the quality of work, through the improvement of skills, competence and abilities of workers, with more education, training and permanent learning. The first policy developed is the Policy of Career Counseling, within the frame of the National System of Public Services of Employment (SNSPE for its acronym in Spanish). This takes the employment and training policy to the diverse territories, with information and articulation of services, career counseling and mediation, as well as actions that ease the job search, labor market integration and employability. In second place, employment policies include subsidies and hiring incentives, focused on groups which have difficulty in integrating into the job market on a formal way. Such is the case of the youth employment law, the law for disabled persons, the law for Afro descendants, the law for transgender persons, as well as some specific programs addressed at persons in a situation of poverty and social vulnerability. In third place, there is an essential active employment policy: Professional Training Policy.

In that regard, it is necessary to highlight certain milestones that evidence the governmental strategy of bringing the employment and the education worlds closer, which constitutes the institutional context for the implementation of these actions. The first of them refers to the creation -by law (Law 18.406)- of the National Institute of Employment and Professional Training (INEFOP for its acronym in Spanish) in the year 2008. This institute of tripartite integration aims at executing policies on professional training and strengthening of employability of workers as well as groups which are vulnerable regarding access to the job market, with the financing of the Labor Reconversion Fund. With regard to gender equality at work and in employment, there has also been significant regulatory progress, such as Law 18.104 of 2007 on "Equal rights and opportunities between men and women in the Republic". It is worth mentioning that Uruguay has been pioneer in subjects as the regulation of domestic workers (Law 18.065 of 2006). On March 7th, 1997, the Tripartite Commission for the Equality of Opportunities and Treatment at Work was created. Since then, the Commission has worked under the Ministry of Work and Social Security (MTSS) as advisory instance specialized in gender matters.

In this sense, it is relevant to mention the National Integrated Care System (SNIC for its acronym in Spanish), policy aimed at guaranteeing the rights of those in dependence situation to receive care within the frame of a model of co-responsibility among families, State, market and community, as well as between men and women.

In connection to the rights of children and adolescents regarding education and work, Uruguay stands out in the region for its legislative progress and generation of sustained policies on eradication of child labor and promotion of decent jobs for youth. In this respect, we must state that our country has ratified International Labor Conventions 138 and 182. The significant evolution in social and economic terms in our country, resulting in the reduction of poverty and indigence, the increase of employment and of the real salary and greater health and education coverage, has contributed to the reduction of child labor; reflecting as well the sustained effort made by the government, workers, employers and non-governmental organizations, within the frame of the National Committee for the Eradication of Child Labor (CETI for its acronym in Spanish), promoting policies and implementing specific actions throughout the whole country (CETI was created by Decree 637 of 2000).

The citizen participation and the involvement of social actors have constituted a historical model in Uruguay. There are several recent experiences that deepen such model, both in the design, implementation and assessment of the public policy, as well as in the spaces for social dialogue and tripartism within the frame

of work relations (where CCSS under the MTSS stand out). Under this assumption, several spaces for enquiry, coordination and structuring of the public agenda with the participation of civil society have been generated and fostered. One of the most recent main landmarks has been the process named “Social dialogue: Uruguay towards the future”, launched in November 2015 by the Presidency of the Republic. The aim was to generate a broad and participative encounter of Uruguayan society to think about the Uruguay of the future, placing once more the dialogue and participation in the center of public policies.

Although in the last fifteen years in Uruguay there has been a significant decrease of unemployment, there are still some gaps regarding the access to quality employment and professional training. Gender, age, disability and ethno-racial ancestry remain as structural cores of inequality and imply a challenge that may affect the achievements obtained in terms of social welfare. Such inequality is also a key obstacle to face future challenges that require sustainable development: productive transformation, demographic change, environmental sustainability, technological convergence and social equity, among others.

Another challenge is the trend that is affecting the job markets in the region and the country -and shall continue doing so with even greater force in the future- which refers to the technological transformations of the so-called Fourth Industrial Revolution and its effects on the future of work, through the creation, destruction and modification of employment. Last, based on the progression of public policies in the last 15 years in Uruguay it is possible to appreciate the need to keep on making progress on a greater articulation and integration of the policies.





URUGUAY
ADDSVALUE

Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reduce Inequalities in and Among Countries

ACHIEVEMENTS



Creation of Institutionalism and regulations.

- Law against **Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination** (2004).
- Law of integral protection for **disabled people** (2010).
- Law of affirmative actions for **afro-descendants** (2013).
- Law of **same sex marriage** (2013).
- Creation of **National Care Integrated System** (2015).
- Integral Law for **Transsexual persons** (2018).
- Law on **violence towards women based on gender** (2017).



Reduction of inequalities in terms of dimensions of social wellbeing (Health, Education, Incomes, Labor Market, Housing).

Evolution of gaps in social inclusion of 20% of population of lower incomes (quintile 1) and 20% of higher incomes (quintile 5).

	2006		2017	
	Q1	Q5	Q1	Q5
Percentage of people that declare being deprived of their rights (Health)	7,5%	88,6%	27,1%	92,6%
People between 18 and 65 years old that completed high-school education.	16,5%	79,2%	20,2%	84,4%
Unemployment rate	22,3%	4,5%	18,2%	3,0%
Percentage of people without registration in social welfare bank	70,8%	13,9%	60,1%	7,7%
Percentage of homes in emergency situation	7,7%	0,2%	2,6%	0,0%



Reduction of inequalities in terms of incomes.

During the last decade, **the poorest 40%** of the population **had its income increased** in greater extent than the whole of it.

From 2006 to 2017 proportion of people living below 50% of median income has **decreased from 20% to 14,5%**.



Strengthening of the institutional capacity in governing international migrations.

Creation of the National Board of Migration (JNM, for its acronym in Spanish).

CHALLENGES



National Care Integrated System.

Increase coverage in children from 0 to 3 years old and dependent persons.



Inequality based on the existent social stratification.

Need of **diminishing the existent social fragmentation and territorial segregation**.



Situations of poverty are concentrated in ranges of people of lower ages.

27% of children under 18 years old still live with **incomes below 50%** of the median income.



Current migratory dynamics.

Continue developing good practices that contribute to achieve a **secure and regular migration**.

SUMMARY OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

In the last years, Uruguay has introduced a series of reforms in different fields in order to improve the reduction of inequalities.

After the early implementation, on the first half of the 20th Century, of an institutionalized system of social policies characterized by an active participation of the State in the provision of welfare, in the 1960s it emerged a new model in favor of the market, which reached its peak in the 90s.

By the end of the 20th century and start of the 21st century, Uruguay went through one of the greatest socio-economic crises of its history, with a tremendous increase in the levels of poverty and indigence (40% and 5% in persons respectively in the year 2004). At the same time, the dispersion of social allowances as a consequence of the modifications introduced in the previous decade became more evident, as well as the difficulties to coordinate the diverse public interventions and the weaknesses in the state regulatory capacity.¹

In 2005, it started a process of review of policies progress, as well as the implementation of a new pattern of social protection oriented towards recovering the state role as guarantor of the rights of all the population. This implied the growing expansion of the State regarding its regulation and welfare provision capacities, leaving behind a protection model built almost exclusively upon the connection of the homes with the formal labor market, which scope excluded growing sectors of the population.

The observed progress, both in the income and its distribution and in the other dimensions of social welfare, is the result of a set of policies and changes in the regulations that have taken place since 2005 to this day which are presented in the National Voluntary Review in the country.

First of all, these were consolidated in a significant series of institutional innovations, including the creation of the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES for its acronym in Spanish), which mission, among other things, is to execute and coordinate social policies, integrating under its scope a set of interventions oriented towards working with the most disadvantaged sectors of society, together with initiatives associated to different social groups previously distributed in diverse institutes (childhood, youth, gender, old age, disability).

Since 2007, and in a more favorable context, the country resolves to make the necessary structural changes to intervene in the reduction of inequalities and the generation of poverty. For such purpose, the social protection matrix was revised through a set of sectorial reforms in coordination with transversal policies and focalized programs. These initiatives implied planning on the set of social policies and a universal perspective, concerting actions of a broad group of public organizations.

The Equity Plan, implemented in 2007, defined the framework to work on taxation, health, employment, education and housing matters. Moreover, it describes de National Care System as necessary milestone for the implementation of the remaining policies.

The data presented for Uruguay evidence that, in the last decade, the 40% of the poorest population had their income increased in greater extent than the total of the population, and that from 2006 to 2017 the percentage of persons living under the 50% of the median income was reduced of almost 20% to 14.5%.

¹ Midaglia, C. "Los procesos de reforma social y sus impactos político-institucionales". In: *Regulación social y regímenes de bienestar en América Latina*. Madrid. 2015.

As well as the indicators established in connection with the SDGs, the voluntary review presents progress indicators regarding social inequalities in health, education, labor market and housing from a perspective of gender, ethno-racial and economic inequality. There has been progress in Uruguay in all previously mentioned areas but, however, there are still gaps to the detriment of women, afro-descendants and those who live in homes with lower income.

On the other hand, in response to the current migratory dynamics, the institutional capacity in the governance of international migrations has been strengthened with the creation of a coordinator and adviser organization as the National Board of Migration (JNM for its acronym in Spanish), which promotes an integrated approach and coordinated governance strategies that include the assembly of the different government levels (national, departmental and municipal).

One of the most remarkable actions has been the creation of new instruments aimed at providing safe, organized and regular means of international mobility and stay or residence in the territory, facilitating the access to the documentation for transnational mobility and the legal residence in the country of migrant persons, as well as for their regularization.





Sustainable Development Goal 13:

Adopt urgent measures to fight climate change and its effects



Institutional Organization of Actions for Climate

ACHIEVEMENTS

Development of interinstitutional articulation spaces connected to climate change:



- National System of Response to Climate Change (2009).
- Environmental National System (2016).
- National Environmental Cabinet (2016).

CHALLENGES



Consolidate the development and strength of the **institutional spheres of organization**.



Broaden the participation of the institutions connected to climate action, in particular those of the **private sphere, the academy and the organized civil society**.



Public Policies to Fight Climate Change

ACHIEVEMENTS



Preparation and adoption of the **National Policy of Climate Change**, aiming at 2050, created within a framework of participation of private and public spheres, civil society and academy.



Introduction of the First Determined Contribution at National Level that includes quantitative goals of mitigation, measures of mitigation and adaptation and contains the First Communication of Adaptation.

Development of a **robust frame of sectorial policies that incorporate climate change**:



- National Energetic Policy.
- Strategic guidelines towards an agro-intelligent Uruguay.
- Water National Policies.
- National Environmental Plan for Sustainable Development.
- National Policy of Management of Disaster Risk.
- National Strategy for Equality of Genre.

CHALLENGES



Go deep in the participative **implementation, monitoring and assessment** of the **National Policy of Climate Change**.



Increase the **access to international instruments to finance climate change** (donations, loans and guarantees) to set actions that suppose the additional and specific provision of implementation means as prescribed in the Agreement of Paris.



Continue the **progressive integration** of climate change in sectorial public policies.



Mitigation in Emission of Greenhouse Effect Gases

ACHIEVEMENTS



98% of electricity generated by sources of **renewable energy**.



Protection of native woods and development of forestry.



Capture of emissions of methane in landfills.



Reduction of **27%** of the **intensity of methane emissions**, by unit of product in the production of bovine meat (in 2014 regarding 1990).



Initial addition of electric mobility.



Obligatory nature of introduction of Plans and Responsible Use and Handling of Soil.

CHALLENGES

By **2025** reduce the intensity of emission of greenhouse effect in connection to the evolution of the economy (regarding 1990):



- **24%** of reduction of intensity of emissions of carbon dioxide per unit of GNI.
- **57%** of reduction of intensity of emissions of methane per unit of GNI.
- **48%** of reduction of intensity of emissions of nitrous oxide per unit of GNI.



Go deep in the reduction of the intensity of emissions per unit of product in the production of bovine meat.



Maintenance of the carbon stock of biomass in forestry lands (native mounts and fields) and **avoided emissions** of organic carbon dioxide of soil in pastures, peatlands and plantations.



Reduction of emissions by deepening of introduction of **electric mobility** and by broadening of **technologies of reduction of emissions in the systems of treatment of waste**.



Increase of Resilience and Adaptation

ACHIEVEMENTS

Development of national plans of sectorial adaptation, in elaboration process:



- Agrarian sector.
- Coastal Area.
- Cities and Infrastructure.

Design of a National Policy of Integral Risk Management:



- Creation of a National System of Emergencies.
- Strengthening of capacities in departmental governments and regional integration for planning.
- Advances in the development of a mechanism for the quantification of damages and losses.

CHALLENGES

- Implementation of three national plans of sectorial adaptation.
- Elaboration and implementation of a National Plan of Energy Adaptation and in Health.
- Consolidation of an Integral System of Early alert.



Education and Awareness

ACHIEVEMENTS



Learn from an integral and contextualized view to tackle climate change.

Development of interinstitutional spaces to foster and stimulate to raise awareness and sensitivity.



- Creation of the **National Network of Environmental Education for the Sustainable Human Development** to consolidate alliances and collective work (2005).
- Creation of the Committee of Education and Climate to coordinate educational policies on climate change (2009).

CHALLENGES



Agree on educational policies to go deep in the integration of climate change throughout the completely educational path.



Increase people's **sensitivity** on challenges of climate change.



Transparency

ACHIEVEMENTS



Development of a transparent and public system of programming, measure, report and verification of National Policy of Climate Change and the First Determined Contribution at a National Level to the Agreement of Paris.



Leaders in the early submission of reports to the Convention on Climate Change:

- **4** national communications (in 1997, 2004, 2010 and 2016).
- **2** biennial update reports (in 2015 and 2017)
- **9** national inventories of greenhouse effect emissions.

CHALLENGES



Broaden and systematization of statistics data and methodologies, and definition of procedures to report data to the **System of Programming, Measure, Report and Verification** of the National Policy of Climate Change.

Go deep in the analysis of contents of reports to the Convention on Climate Change.



SUMMARY OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 13 ACTION ON CLIMATE

The Voluntary National Review of the country regarding the SDG 13 about “adopt urgent measures to fight climate change and its effects”, informs the progress of Uruguay actions towards the goals of the 2030 Agenda, including information about the indicators proposed for goals of the SDG 13, as well as about the political priority, institutional and regulatory development, the cycle of public policies and the interinstitutional participation processes that have made it possible to progressively advance towards the achievement of the goals.

Uruguay has granted political priority to the action on climate, given its high vulnerability to climate change adverse effects, as its economy is strongly based on the agricultural production and on the services and with a touristic industry mainly focused on the coastal area. Actions aimed at reducing such vulnerability, through the management of risks and adaptation, haven been prioritized as well as those actions for the mitigation of greenhouse gases (GHGs).

The interinstitutional scheme has grown strong to tackle climate change with a transversal approach, where the creation of the National System of Response to Climate Change and variability (NSRCC) in 2009 stands out. This has enabled the progressive integration of climate change into public policies, making sure these are aligned with a strategy of sustainable, resilient and low-carbon development, with an approach based on human rights, gender equality and intra and intergenerational equity. Such search is specified in the aim of the National Policy on Climate Change (Policy) approved in the year 2017 through Decree of the Executive Power, essential benchmark in the integration of climate change into national policies, plans and strategies.

The review includes the description of the consulting process performed in order to enrich its content, while emphasizing the key ideas presented during an on-site workshop on the analysis of the draft of the review and contributions made through a web platform.

The regulatory framework which serves as the basis for the process towards the achievement of the goals of the SDG 13 in Uruguay is very broad. It is made up by several laws of approval of legal instruments of international nature; of laws and decrees on the creation of institutions or interinstitutional scopes; of national law and several regulatory instruments in sectorial terms, including the consideration of climate change or that contribute to the increase of resilience or to the mitigation of GHG emissions.

Public policies associated to the SDG 13 are very meaningful and varied, either because they integrate the dimension of climate change or due to their direct contribution to climate change. There are also observatories and systems of climate information that constitute essential tools for the planning and decision-making.

Spaces for citizen participation in the construction and implementation of policies related to SDG 13 have been promoted. A relevant example is the participative process for the preparation and implementation of the Policy and of the First Determined Contribution at a National Level (NDC), for which it is also expected the participation in its monitoring and assessment.

Several initiatives related to SDG 13 are being developed in the civil society, academic circles and the private sector, aiming at accompanying, supplementing or strengthening the processes and actions arising from the public scope.

The relevance of the international cooperation for the implementation of a series of initiatives that have made it possible to advance in specific actions of mitigation and adaptation to climate change is recognized. The integration of experiences and skills in networks of exchange among peers has been another relevant aspect for deepening knowledge, strengthening skills and implementing actions.

With regard to the aims and indicators set out for this SDG 13, Uruguay has information and progress in each of the goals.

Regarding the goal 13.1 on the strengthening of resilience and adaptation capacity to the risks related to climate and natural disasters, progress has been made since the creation and operation of the National Emergency System (*SINAE*), with the strengthening of departmental governments for the response to emergencies caused by weather-related hazards, especially in case of tornados and floods. Moreover, regional coordination for the joint planning among departments has been favored. Furthermore, there has been progress in the quality of the records and in the design of an information system to generate, integrate and process information related to the comprehensive risk management, including information about the indicators proposed by the United Nations, as well as other supplementary indicators.

Regarding the goal 13.2 on incorporating measures related to climate change into national policies, strategies and plans, Uruguay has moved forward progressively, including the dimension of climate change in these policy's instruments. Uruguay has successfully informed these advances to the international community and general public through a review on four National Communications, two Biennial Update reports and First NDC.

With respect to goal 13.3 which aims at improving education, awareness and human and institutional capacity in connection to the mitigation and adaptation to climate change, the reduction of its effects and the early alert, there have been advances by including conceptual contents and by applying educational processes, both in the formal sphere of education and in non-formal spheres. The review includes the incorporation of educational contents regarding climate change in the different educational levels and the creation of capacities, emphasizing on the existence of the National Plan of Environmental Education, which represents an opportunity of integrating local events related to climate change as a starting point to reflect on its impacts and the importance of developing prevention strategies.

Uruguay has managed to move forward regarding the actions taken to mitigate climate change, adaptation and assessment of vulnerability when facing adverse effects. However, there are challenges to be addressed, mainly in connection with the systematization of data as planning tools and for the monitoring and assessment of the policies and the progressive integration of climate change into them.

Another milestone challenge is improving education and raising awareness of the citizens, as well as broadening the participation of the private sector, the academic sphere and the organized civil society, both in the implementation and in the monitoring and assessment of the Policy.

Regarding specific mitigation challenges, one of the outstanding actions is the reduction on the intensity of GHG mentioned in the first NDC, the maintenance of the stock of carbon in the native forest and in cultivated fields, the reduction of emissions caused by the deepening of the electric mobility and the expansion of technologies of reduction of emissions of systems of waste management. The greatest challenges for the adaptation are the implementation of the sectorial adaptation plans that are being created, the creation of adaptation plans in other vulnerable sectors and the consolidation of a Comprehensive System of Early Alert (*SIAT*).

Also, through this voluntary review, Uruguay has decided to report the political position regarding goal 13.a on the fulfillment of the commitment of developed countries which are part of the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC) to achieve, by 2020, the goal of raising collectively 100,000 million dollars annually coming from all sources with the aim of catering for the needs of the developing countries¹

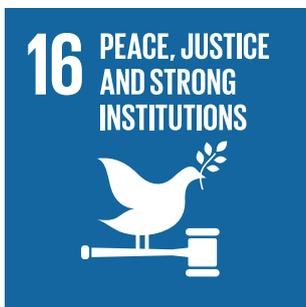
¹ Decision of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC) 9/CP.23 paragraph 7.



regarding the adoption of specific measures of mitigation and the transparency of their application, and of running the Green Fund for Climate, thus generating a strong first capitalization. Another aim is to reassert and secure the access of all instruments for all developing countries¹, simplify the certification process of national bodies and promoting their permanent strengthening.

The implementation of the Agreement of Paris, adopted in 2015 is a priority for the country and it represents an irreversible commitment to tackle the urgent challenge of climate change, as well as the need of gaining access to instruments of international climate financing (donations, loans, guarantees) in order to settle on actions that imply the additional and specific provision of implementation means. In this sense, it is extremely relevant to increase the ambition in the first recapitalization of the Green Fund for Climate during 2019.





Sustainable Development Goal 16:

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, facilitate access to justice for all and create effective, responsible and inclusive institutions at all levels

GENERAL CHALLENGES

- **Greater visibility** of the situation of **vulnerable groups** –children and adolescents, women, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, people in confinement, migrants, disabled, etc.– in the issues addressed in the SDG.
- **Greater coordination** between **civil society organizations and the government**.
- **Better information systems** and improvement of the quality and frequency of data.
- **Greater use of administrative** records of public bodies and Non-governmental organization and **interoperability** between them.

Violence and security

ACHIEVEMENTS

Uruguay has one of the **lowest homicide rates in the region**.

Innovations in the fight against crime:



- **Preventive:** community policing oriented to problems (POP).
- **Deterrent - repressive:** High operational dedication programme (PADO).

Fight against gender-based violence:



- Amendment to the penal code, creating the **figure of femicide**.
- Creation of **police substation for Specialized Units of Domestic and Gender Violence** (VDG).

Action Plan 2016-2019 "for a country free of gender violence with a generational perspective".

Early Childhood, Children and Adolescents National Plan 2016-2020.



- 3rd. strategic guideline: prevent, detect and respond to different types of violence.

CHALLENGES

Homicides in Uruguay:



- **Settling scores and organized crime:** cause **37%** of all homicides.



- **Fire weapons:** are used in **60%** of homicides.

- Gender violence is the main cause of homicide of women:



- **every 15 days a woman is killed** by gender violence.



- **4 out of 10 women** had previously filed a **gender violence report**.

Enactment of the comprehensive Law to guarantee women a life free of gender based violence:



- **every 17 minutes a woman claims to be a gender violence victim.**

Eradicate abuse and violence against children:



- **1 out of 2** children between 2 and 14 years old **suffer discipline with violence**.



- The number of children and adolescents assisted by the Uruguayan Institute of Children and Adolescents for **negligence, abuse and sexual abuse incidents** **have increased 50%** in the last 2 years.

Human trafficking:



- Uruguay: **country of origin of trafficking (before)** → **country of origin, transit and destination** of human trafficking (now).
- **Lack of statistical information.**
- Need of concretion of the **integral Law for the Prevention and Combat human**.

Access to justice and rights

ACHIEVEMENTS



Reform of the **Code of Criminal Procedure** (CPP: inquisitive (before)→ **accusatory, adversarial, oral and public** (as of 2017).



Creation of the **Victims and Witnesses Unit** of the Public Prosecutor's Office.

Creation of the **National Institute of Human Rights** (2012).



Progress in the fight against discrimination with the creation of:

- Honorary commission against racism, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination.
- Honorary National Commission of the Disabled.

CHALLENGES

Adults in conflict with the criminal law:



- **Imprisonment rate: increased by 40%** in the period 2005-2016, being currently **one of the highest in the region**.
- Little consideration of **alternative penalties** to the deprivation of liberty.
- **Rights violation: 55%** of people deprived of their liberty **do not have a final judgement**.
- **Lack of information** about **physical and sexual violence in confinement situations**.

Adolescents in conflict with the criminal law:



- Need to **improve the conditions** of deprivation of liberty for adolescents.
- **Move towards the transition** to a system based on **noncustodial measures**.

There are still barriers to **access to justice for family members of victims** of crimes that occurred during the **military dictatorship**.

Transparency, governance and access to information

ACHIEVEMENTS

Uruguay:



- **1st** in Latin America in **technological development and e-government**.
- **1st** in Transparency in Latin America and **21st** in the world.



Start-up of the **Access to Public Information Unit** (2009).



In a regional partnership with **UNESCO**, 191 **judicial operators** joined capacity building activities on Freedom of Expression, Access to Information, Transparency and Safety of Journalists.

Transparency:



- Creation of the **Transparency and Public Ethics Committee**.
- **National Action Plan of Open Government**.

CHALLENGES



Move forward in the provision of **public services online**: in 2013, **35%** of Uruguayans declared to be satisfied with these services.

Bribery and corruption:



Need for a **National Action Plan**.

Participation and international insertion

ACHIEVEMENTS



- Creation of **institutionalized participation spaces**.
- **Proximity Government Plan**.

CHALLENGES

Elaboration of the **Map of Citizen Participation in Uruguay** and of the **First National Catalog of citizen participation online**.

SUMMARY OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

In 2017, Uruguay introduced before the High-level Political Forum its first Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In said occasion, the country reported the progress in institutional policies and frames to reach the Sustainable Development Goals 16: "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions". Access to justice, citizen's security, transparency, good governance and the citizen's participation are priorities for Uruguay. These diverse topics, and their scope in institutional terms, turn the SDG 16 into a particularly complex and relevant goal.

Uruguay, together with other countries, got involved in a pilot experience of the SDG 16 promoted by United Nations Development Program (PNUD, for its Spanish acronym) in collaboration with the Open Government Partnership (OGP), the Community of Democracy (CD) and with the financial support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This pilot, which took place between November 2016 and May 2017, implied three stages that involved the assessment of policies and base lines of the indicators, the consultation to representatives of civil society, government and academic spheres, and the elaboration of a final review of the SDG 16.

A process of consultation that involved more than 100 representatives of different spheres of the national reality was carried out. They discussed during four days of debates about the defined subject matters: i) violence and security, ii) access to justice and rights, iii) transparency, governance and access to information, iv) international participation and insertion.

Chart 1. Main topics and goals of the SDG 16

Main Topics	Goals
Violence and Security	16.1. Significantly reduce all forms of violence and the corresponding mortality rates worldwide.
	16.2. End the abuse, exploitation and human trafficking and all forms of violence and torture of children.
	16.4. From now to 2030, significantly reduce the financial illegal weapons flow, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen files and fight against all types of organized crime.
	16.a. Strengthen all involved National Entities, even through international cooperation, in order to create, at all levels, especially in developing countries, the capacity of preventing violence and fighting terrorism and crime.
Access to Justice and Rights	16.3. Promoting the Rule of Law, nationally and internationally, and guaranteeing equal access to justice.
	16.9. From now to 2030, promote access to a legal identity for everyone, particularly through birth registration.
	16.b. Promote and apply non-discriminatory laws and policies in favor of sustainable development.
Transparency, Governance and Access to Information	16.5. Considerably reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.
	16.6. Create efficient and transparent financial institutions that are accountable.
	16.10. Guarantee the public access to information and protect the fundamental freedoms, as per the national laws and international agreements.
International Participation and Insertion	16.7. Guarantee the adoption, at all levels, of inclusive, participative and representative decisions that cater for the needs.
	16.8. Broaden and strengthen the participation of all developing countries in the institutions of world governance.

A Pilot work enabled advances in the identification of the current situation of the country in different subject matters embraced by the goal, as well as the discussion and proposal of national indicators for the goals set. This information was introduced in detail in a specific chapter which was part of the Voluntary National Review 2017.¹

Consequently, in this opportunity we went through the main courses of action introduced and the current situation regarding this goal.

Violence and safety of citizens represents one of the main concerns of the public debate and the Government has committed to take specific actions in this sense. Uruguay has subscribed an important number of international instruments connected to the goals set regarding the subject matter and has a broad National regulatory frame. Some of the most remarkable events over the past years is the creation of the National Institute of Adolescent Inclusion (INISA for its Spanish acronym), which corresponds to the system of criminal responsibility for adolescents who commit crimes, and also the creation of the National Rehabilitation Institute (INR, for its Spanish acronym); the Organic Law of Police Department and the New Code of Criminal Procedure.

With the aim of having information and a systematic follow-up on these subjects, the National Observatory of Violence and Crime of the Ministry of the Interior (MI) has been reinforced. Moreover, for the first time a National Enquiry on Victimization and Perception on Public Security was carried out.²

Violence based on Gender (VBG) is currently one of the most serious problems regarding citizen security in the country. Reports on domestic violence had abruptly increased over the past few years and it is one of the main causes of death of women. As main initiative in trying to solve this problem, the Plan of Action of Fight Against Gender-based Violence 2016-2019 was created.³

Regarding access to justice and rights, and following its traditions, the country has subscribed a series of international instruments and promoted a legal frame of policies with such regard.

The amendment of the Code of Criminal Procedure, in force since the year 2017, that it now accusatory, adversarial, oral and public, is one of the main steps taken. The criminal process is then accelerated, the terms of preventive detention are shorter, and, at the same time, more guarantees are granted to victims. This was processed was developed together with the Accusatory Criminal Procedure Information System of Uruguay (SIPPAU for its Spanish acronym).

Within this framework, the Unit of Victims and Witnesses of the Office of the Prosecutor General was created, which aims at assisting and protecting the victims and witnesses within the frame of a criminal process, acknowledging a series of rights the new Code grants them. One of the mentioned rights includes the right to meet the prosecutor's team in charge of the investigation, as well as to be provided with assistance and support from the very first moment. Therefore, the Unit aims at working together with the prosecutor teams and the police in the creation of a support network so that the victims and witnesses may exercise the right they have in the criminal procedure.

1 Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15781Uruguay2.pdf>
http://www.ods.gub.uy/images/OPP_informe_completo_digitalUV.pdf

2 Available at: <http://www.ine.gub.uy/victimizacion>

3 Available at: http://www.siteal.iipe.unesco.org/sites/default/files/sit_accion_files/uy_3201.pdf

In 2012, the National Institute of Human Rights (INDDHH, for its Spanish acronym) started its operations, and in 2016 it was granted the A level certificate. In this sphere, there is the National Mechanism of Prevention (article 83), as per the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT).

Another important process relates the United Nations Organization for Education, Sciences and Culture (UNESCO) and the Supreme Court of Justice (SCJ), which from 2016 are carrying out activities aimed at promoting cooperation bonds between the promotion and protection of human rights, defense of freedom of expression, transparency and access to judicial information.

Regarding births, the Electronic Certificate of Born Alive (CNVE, for its Spanish acronym) was created in 2017, which simultaneously processes the Birth Certificate, the Identity card and the Registry of Public Health, connecting the diverse entities involved in the issuance of these documents (National Bureau of Civil Identification, Civil Registry and Ministry of Public Health). Through the CNVE, the birth of 99% of the children is registered, which correspond to those who are born in institutions of the health system.

The organizations of the civil society have promoted the so called “new agenda of rights” (regulation of marijuana, decriminalization of abortion, same-sex marriage, democratization of media), generating processes of discussion, demonstrations and dialogue between diverse actors and the State, which derived in important amendments in the legal sphere.

Uruguay has proven a significant development in terms of **transparency, governance and access to information**, acquiring a great position in the region and worldwide.

The role played by the Agency for the Development of the Government of Electronic Management and Society of Information and Knowledge (AGESIC, for its Spanish acronym) is important as it is the organization responsible for the policies related to the open government. The National Plan of Action of Open Government stands out within the framework of a participative process with other estate organizations, civil society, the academic sphere and the corporate sector. This organization embraces initiatives that enable to foster the respect to the Rule of Law, within the equal and effective access to justice, as well as the participation of all spheres of the society.

Uruguay has been integrating diverse international spheres and has entered into international cooperation agreements in terms of transparency and access to information. In 2011, Uruguay joined the Transparency Network and Access to Information, which operates in Latin America, as well as the Alliance for an Open Government, which operates globally. At a national level, the goal is to promote transparency of the administrative operation of the whole public organism, whether state or not, and to guarantee the fundamental right of people to have access to public information.

Lastly, the international **participation and insertion** constitutes a permanent concern of the development agenda of the country. Uruguay has a long tradition of participation, established in its main regulatory instruments, from its Constitution to the profuse legislation connected to it.

The growing importance of the citizen’s participation in the provision of public policies, is due to, among other things, a transformation in the matrix of social protection.

At the same time, areas of participation at a national, departmental and municipal (third level of the government) level have been developed. Some of these changes imply decentralization, both political and administrative, as well as territorial of several Ministries.

Since 2015, the Presidency of the Republic is carrying out a Plan of Close Government, which aims at bringing government authorities (President of the Republic, Ministries, sub-secretaries and other officers of public entities with national representation) closer with the citizens of all departments. In each instance, the top authorities are interviewed with the local people and the social organizations of the area, they hear their claims and problems and discuss about the possible options to solve the problems.

Some of the most outstanding aspects regarding international participation, is Uruguay's incorporation to the United Nations Security Council, apart from a series of spheres of international governance, connected to the instruments ratified by the Government. The Cooperation South-South, international and regional commerce areas and the spheres of protection and promotion of human rights are among them.

As evidenced, there is a series of mechanisms set in motion which demonstrate Uruguay's commitment towards the 2030 agenda. Processes such as "Social Dialogue" and Pilot SDG 16 and consultation workshops on SDG have generated a series of important lessons and show the positive response of the diverse actors of the sector, particularly of the civil society, and the initiative to think of strategic themes for the country; at the same time, it identifies general and specific concerns and proposes different ways of tackling them and making a follow-up.







Sustainable Development Goal 17:

Revitalize the World Alliance for a Sustainable Development

ACHIEVEMENTS

International Cooperation:



- Consolidation of the **institutionality** with the **creation of the Uruguayan Agency of International Cooperation** (AUCI for its acronym in Spanish) and **strengthening of the National System of International Cooperation**.
- Consolidation of the **dual role of the country**: Strengthening of the South-to-South and Triangular Programme.
- Approved document of **Policy of International Cooperation of Uruguay for Sustainable Development by 2030**.

CHALLENGES

World Alliance:



Keep positioning in the Global Agenda the need for the international cooperation to support all countries **in each stage of transition to development**, according to their needs and capacities.

Express the priorities of the policies of international cooperation in successive **national plans**.

\$ Financing

ACHIEVEMENTS



Implementation of policies of **financial inclusion**.

Adequate handling of debt, improvement in profile and deadlines.

Improvement in government's revenues with a **decrease in the tax evasion**.

Application of **policies to attract investors**.

CHALLENGES



Continue improving the **quality of public expenditure**.

Involve the private sector in financing the SDG, for instance: tool, Public-Private-participation (PPP).

Continue with policies to foster and stimulate the attraction of **direct foreign investments** (IED for its acronym in Spanish).

🤝 International Trade

ACHIEVEMENTS



Great diversification of the export basket: in goods and services, and in markets.

CHALLENGES



- Promote commercial agreements seeking to obtain better fee conditions.
- More diversification of export markets.
- Promote actions to diminish the non-tariff measures.
- Continue promoting the country as entrance door of the logistics services of MERCOSUR.



Science, technology and innovation

ACHIEVEMENTS



Changes at an institutional level

Strategic Plans:

- First Strategic National Plan of Sciences, Technology and Innovation (PENCTI for its acronym in Spanish).
- Decentralization of the University of the Republic (UDELAR for its acronym in Spanish).
- Interinstitutional campus inland.

Programmes:

- National System of Researchers.
- National System of Productive Transformation and Competitiveness.

Creation of new Institutions:

- National Agency of Research and Innovation (ANII for its acronym in Spanish).
- National Sciences Academy.
- Technological University (UTEC for its acronym in Spanish), second public University inland.
- Scientific-technological parks.
- National Secretary of Science and Technology (SNCYT for its acronym in Spanish) within the Presidency's framework.

Development of Human Capital:



- Formation of **highly qualified** resources.
- **Broaden the offer** of academic training.
- **Interdisciplinary** training.
- Creation of **National System of Scholarships**.

Investigation and Research

Implementation of **research center of world level focused on applied investigation** (connection with the productive sector):



- Pasteur Institute of Montevideo.
- Uruguayan Center of Molecular Imaging (CUDIM for its acronym in Spanish).
- Scientific and Technological Park in Pando.

CHALLENGES

Consolidate the institutionality through a **systemic approach**:



- Creation of a **new PENCTI**.
- **Strengthen the SNCYT**.
- Incorporate the non-academic actors.
- Implement a National System of Technological Transference.

Retention and Strengthening:



- Insertion in non-academic areas.
- Systemic update of training.
- Creation of **interdisciplinary centers of advanced studies**.

Increase the investment in research, development and Innovation (I+D+i)



Promote the **increase in private investment**.

Creation of **new scientific-technological parks**, both **sectorial and interinstitutional**, with mixed financing (public and private).

Attraction of global leaders in I+D+i to develop **joint projects**.

SUMMARY OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17 **ALLIANCE TO ACHIEVE GOALS**

The 2030 Global Agenda Uruguay, adopted by Uruguay since its start, emphasizes, especially through SDG 17, the advantages and potentiality of alliance, both at a national and international level. As public funds alone are not enough to reach the goals established in the SDGs, in order to achieve them it is necessary to involve diverse actors and move all kind of resources; knowledge, technology, skills and financial resources, whether internal or external, public or private.

In the country, institutionality related to international cooperation has recently consolidated and the triangular and South-South cooperation Program has been strengthened. Within the context of the graduation of Uruguay from the Official Development Assistance and of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the Policy on International Cooperation for Sustainable Development towards 2030 has been approved in 2018, intending to contribute to sustainable development from a dual role, with a focus on rights and with flexible and innovative strategies for a changing context. This policy will land on successive five-year national plans of international cooperation.

The economic growth sustained throughout the last 16 years, together with the implementation of public policies towards equality, have enabled the country to reduce the levels of poverty and improve the distribution of income. Within this frame, significant reforms have been implemented in diverse spheres, both from the regulatory and institutional perspective, which have allowed to consolidate significant progress in the transformation of the productive matrix, the construction of financial strengths, a tax reform that defines a more efficient taxing structure, that fosters production and reduces evasion, as well as the application of policies for the attraction of investments and a more adequate management of public debt.

With regard to the financing of the Agenda, there are still several challenges to be overcome, some of them affecting the internal resources, such as a deeper improvement of the quality of public expenditure, reduction of tax evasion and the incentive for the increase of private investment, particularly through the tool of Public-Private Participation (PPP) and others connected to the external resources, which are aimed at making progress in the development of South-South and triangular cooperation activities, as well as promoting the attraction of foreign direct investment (FDI).

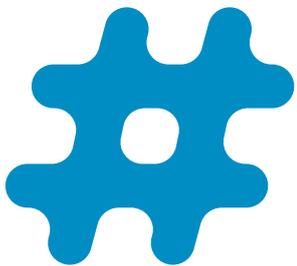
On the other hand, international cooperation has been key for the scientific and technological development of Uruguay, especially regarding the institutional construction, including significant improvements in the infrastructure and equipment of the School of Sciences (of the University of the Republic, UDELAR for its acronym in Spanish) and of the Institute of Biological Research Clemente Estable (IIBCE for its acronym in Spanish, under the Ministry of Culture and Education), as well as in the creation of several institutions: Technological Pole in Pando of the School of Chemistry (of UDELAR), Scientific and Technological Park on Pando (PCTP for its acronym in Spanish) and Center for Software Test (CES for its acronym in Spanish). These funds also contributed to the creation of the National Agency for Investigation and Innovation (ANII for its acronym in Spanish) and Pasteur Institute of Montevideo.

The science, technology and innovation system (CTI) of the country is still being transformed, and one of the milestones of this path was the creation of the National Secretary of Science and Technology (SNCYT for its acronym in Spanish) in 2015, under the scope of the Presidency of the Republic. The main aim of it is to propose to the Executive Power goals, policies and strategies for the promotion of research and innovation in all areas of knowledge and, moreover, acting as coordinator of CTI system, it provides the environment with a structure and generates actions to promote science and technology as key tools to contribute to a sustainable social development, preserve the environment, improve competitiveness and better the life quality of inhabitants.

Human capital has recently had significant progress, resulting in the rise in the education of highly qualified human resources, the diversification and extension of the offer of graduate and postgraduate courses and the increase in the implementation of interdisciplinary education programs at a University level, generating professionals with a comprehensive vision, aligned with the current approach towards research. Besides, the launching of research centers of worldwide excellence with a focus on applied research has enabled to bring the academic sphere and the productive sector together, thus creating an appropriate environment for the improvement of technology transfer processes that contribute to the economic and social development of the country.

As well as the advances recorded throughout the consolidation process with regard to the CTI, it is deemed essential to continue improving the institutionality, especially through the reinforcement of the SNCYT and the main actors related to such matter. One of the main challenges to be addressed is the creation of a new National Strategic Plan of the CTI (PENCTI for its acronym in Spanish) based on the progress that has already taken place in the country. The international experience indicates a strong association between the development in countries and the construction of solid skills related to the CTI. In Uruguay it is desirable that the State guarantees the continuity of this process of improvement, considering of vital importance the retention and strengthening of human capital. The challenge then for the programs that were already initiated is to add new actions, such as the attraction of global leaders in CTI for the development of joint projects, defined in accordance with the country strategy, which would provide the conditions for the creation of new scientific and technological parks. All that would contribute to greater investment on investigation, development and innovation (I+D+i), whether with national or foreign sources, both public and private.

Finally, regarding the international commerce of the country during the last years, there has been a great diversification of the exporting portfolio of goods and services, simultaneously with the access to a larger number of purchasing countries, although in many cases the tariffs for its import are generally very high because these are highly rigorous markets. This makes it necessary to negotiate new commercial agreements, that allow broadening even more the export destinations, enabling the improvement of the tariffs conditions. It is also deemed convenient to keep on doing all possible actions in order to reduce non-tariff measures that alter competitiveness of the diverse productive chains. Furthermore, the future agenda includes to continue promoting the country as an entry door of the logistics services of MERCOSUR.



CONCLUSIONS AND CHALLENGES



CONCLUSIONS AND CHALLENGES OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA

Since 2017, Uruguay has undertaken the commitment of submitting the Voluntary National Review (VNR) before the High Level Political Forum regarding the Sustainable Development Goals. This regular mechanism of follow-up of the 2030 Agenda is also considered, in the different countries, as a moment to share experiences, challenges and lessons learnt during its implementation.

The first review evidenced the importance of connecting the national budgeting process with the 2030 Agenda for being one of the most important mechanisms of public financing available for its implementation.

With the aim of providing a comprehensive perspective to the connection of the National Budget, from the Strategic Planning of the Government and the budgeting execution with the different SDGs and its respective goals, a methodology of distribution of the National Budget by SDG was developed. This effort of distribution constitutes a new step towards a rich work agenda for the future.

Uruguay has undertaken the commitment of taking the 2030 Agenda to all its territory. This frame implied the implementation of innovative experiences which show that the SDG and the other goals that comprise the 2030 Agenda are a useful instrument to guide the work of public actors at a territorial level, prioritizing actions and activities, favoring the report of accounts in the management of the subnational governments within the frame of a transversal strategy of development.

The process of *locating the SDG in Uruguay* has shown strengths that allow to conceive the 2030 Agenda in territorial terms; setting the grounds to continue to add them in the planning processes and in the implementation and financing of projects from a development point of view that combines the social, economic and environmental aspects, without leaving anything behind.

The *sector of the Social Economy (SE)*¹ and the cooperatives² in particular, are intrinsically a sustainable and democratic company format that promotes the fair distribution of wealth, stable work positions, equitable access to goods and services and gender equality. The contributions of the cooperatives and public policies stand out within the achievements of the SDGs, and in particular, the contributions of the public institutions, National Institute of Cooperatives (INACOOP for its acronym in Spanish) and the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES for its acronym in Spanish) to the reflection on the SDGs regarding instruments and policies' programs.

Regarding the *corporate sector*, it relevant to approach the matters in the SDG considering the value of such activity regarding consumption, production, environment, market, among other aspects of growth and economic development. In this sense, companies are getting increasingly involved in the 2030 Agenda, and there has also been progress in the gathering of the initiatives developed by the companies which contribute to the six SDGs contained in the VNR.

Uruguay continues working hard on the generation of participation spheres which enable organized civil society to have an influence on the cycle of public policies. In this sense, a brief summary of the citizen's participation in the SDGs is submitted, as well as in the themes which are part of the review. Apart from the participation spheres already existing in the public policies connected to the SDG, the consultation processes executed within the framework of the VNR for SDG 4 and 13 stand out.

1 In this review, the generic term of Social Economy, includes the one of Social and Solidary Economy of most frequent use in Latin America. It is worth mentioning that Uruguay is in a process of discussion on the scopes and actors that are included in such concept.

2 In the Resolution of the General Meeting of the UN Organization, in which the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs was approved explicitly mentions the cooperatives in the appendix on "Implementation Methods" paragraph 41 and in "Goal 17", paragraph 67.

As from the elaboration of each review, national and official supplementary and complementary indicators have been identified, thus resulting in a progressive construction of the *national matrix of indicators for the monitoring of the SDG*. However, there are still challenges in the generation of information in all the SDG included in this review. Therefore, as mentioned in the previous VNR, it is necessary to promote the consolidation of the statistic basis and administrative registries, as well as the systematization of data and consensus of methodologies to be able to generate the indicators of the country that are not being currently measured.

The chapters of the SDG submitted in this “Summary of the Voluntary National Review-Uruguay 2019” highlight a series of advances and challenges of the country in the topics of quality education; decent work and economic growth; reduction of inequalities; actions for climate; peace, justice and strong institutions, and strengthening of a Global Alliance for the Sustainable Development.

Uruguay is a model country for its *sustained economic growth with reduction of poverty and inequality and its advances in social protection and decent work*. Together with the considerable economic growth registered in the past 15 and a series of important innovations in the political sphere, the country has proven a significant improvement in its level of development, mainly connected to the advances in the work sphere and social inclusion. Such achievements are due to a series of actions related to a strategy of productive transformation and improvement of the country’s competitiveness, as well as to an in-depth matrix of social protection. Diversification policies of export markets, policies of attraction of productive investments from new origins, but also the tax reform, the health reform, the reinstatement of the collective negotiation, and the advances regarding social and working rights in historically forgotten sectors constitute part of the explanation of the achieved success. A clear example of that are the advances generated regarding domestic and rural work, for which regulations which set fundamental rights were approved, which go from the limiting of the working day and the generation of spaces for collective negotiation, to the determination of rights and obligations in health and social security matters.

Although in the last fifteen years Uruguay has had a significant decrease of unemployment, there are still gaps regarding access to quality jobs and professional training. Gender, generations, disability and ethno-racial ancestry remain as structural axis of inequality and imply a challenge that may affect the achievements obtained on social welfare matters. These inequalities are also a critical obstacle when facing future challenges required for a sustainable development: productive transformation, demographic change, environmental sustainability, technological convergence and social equity, among others.

Therefore, it is necessary to make progress in the active integration of parties involved for the construction of strategies that cover and address the complexity of the subjects of our policies, with their corresponding diversity: African descendants, transgender persons, disabled persons, young people, women, immigrants, among others. This also implies a challenge regarding the scope of the traditional subjects of the labor world and its problems and conflicts. Despite the fact that the incorporation of these inequality dimensions when designing the public policy is an obligation for the State, it also involves the actors themselves.

With regard to *quality education*, it is worth mentioning the results achieved in the levels of child development, learning tests in primary education and the skills developed in Communications and Information Technology by adolescents, which grades are over 70% regarding the aim. The high level of attendance in mandatory ages in pre-primary, the alphabetization levels of the population and the infrastructure of the educational centers regarding communications and information technology stand out, as such aims were completely achieved (100%).

However, in connection with the 2030 Agenda, there is a long way to go regarding the levels of reading and Math levels when completing middle school, attendance to educational centers by adolescents between 15 and 24, or in the universalization of graduate teachers of middle and higher education.

With regard to the *action for climate*, Uruguay has been one of the countries that has granted political priority to this matter, from a transversal perspective, expressed with the creation of National System of Response to Climate Change and Variability (SNRCC) in 2009, resulting in a progressive integration of climate change into the public policies, which include the sustainable development, resilient and low in carbon strategy, with a focus on human rights, gender equality and intra and intergenerational equity. Those priorities and political actions have been aimed at reducing the vulnerability -through risk management and adaptation- and mitigation actions of greenhouse gases emissions. Moreover, it is important to highlight some challenges to be addressed such as the systematization of data as a tool for planning, monitoring and assessing policies, broadening the education and awareness of citizenship, as well as extending the participation of the private sector, the academic sphere and organized civil society.

With regard to the goal *Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels*, several steps have been taken, favored by a strong institutionalization and a set of new proposals and initiatives aligned with it. One of the most significant steps has been the implementation, in 2017, of a new Code of Criminal Procedure that brings along multiple changes regarding access to justice and the institutionalization involved, both at the level of the Judicial Power and of the Attorney General of the Nation and also the processes, platform and devices associated to it. These measures, together with others, are essential in the strategies aimed at the prevention, reduction and registration of situations of violence, that present specific challenges in the case of boys, girls and women, as well as of people in confinement.

Uruguay continues driving actions aiming at the technological development at the service of the good governance and modernization of the management, transparency and closeness of the government in terms of territories, persons and their problems.

As it was previously mentioned, during the last years, big reforms have taken place in the country, both on the regulatory and institutional frameworks; tax reform, strengthening the financial system, changes in the administration of public debt, stock market, and recently, amendment to the financial system operating rules, aimed at improving the conditions of access to those kind of services by the whole population.

It is necessary to continue working on the positive results achieved by these processes, to contribute to the necessary mobilization of resources to finance the achievement of the SDGs, specifically, through improvements in the quality of public expenditure, reduction of tax evasion, promotion of private investment through the tool of public-private participation (PPP), while in terms of external resources, we have continued promoting the attraction of foreign direct investment (FDI) to the country, while deepening the activities of South-South and triangular cooperation.

Regarding cooperation, Uruguay has consolidated its institutionalization and has strengthened its South-South and triangular Cooperation Program, having today a dual role in the international cooperation, contributing to sustainable development to the best of its ability. An International cooperation Policy for the sustainable development with a 2030 horizon has been prepared on a participative basis and with a prospective approach and it would be necessary to implement it in a national plan.

Uruguay shall continue adding value to achievement of SDG within the frame of the 2030 Agenda, actively promoting the development of policies and practices, the consolidation of institutional capacities and those of the citizens to guarantee the aim of *empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*.



SUMMARY
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