

(Non-official summary)

**Statement of Uruguay at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2020, by
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- Uruguay joins the expressions of thanks to the ECOSOC for convening this important Forum, which is still essential even in the current context generated by the pandemic of COVID-19 that has changed the axis of immediate emergencies and left less time for long-term planning.
- Uruguay joins the intervention made by the Group of Friends of Children and the SDGs, and by the LGBTI Core Group, as well as the Voluntary Commitment to support the participation of civil society and groups interested in this Forum, aware that the 17 SDGs are the shared responsibility of states and their citizens.
- Since 2015, has worked to achieve the 2030 Agenda and in terms of reducing inequalities, Uruguay continues its long tradition of being the most egalitarian country in Latin America and the Caribbean, and its commitment to decent work, supported by investment and growth, and public education at all levels, trying to overcome the very low rate of graduation from secondary education and the low proportion of students graduating from tertiary level.
- Uruguay celebrates more than 10 years of a National System of Response to Climate Change, whose objective is the prevention of risks, their mitigation and adaptation.
- Understanding that it is at the levels of the local community where the best information on needs is available, Uruguay implements a territorial approach as a strategy to locate the SDGs and highlight deficiencies in the second and third levels of government.
- It is a government strategy to substantially improve the evaluation of results of the main National Budget programs and the public policies implemented and to be

implemented. Certain programs and policies will be monitored on a frequent basis as a relevant milestone in the incorporation of the SDGs into public policies.

- Despite the fact that Uruguay is a “graduated” country in terms of income - it has crossed the upper threshold of middle income and is considered high-income - it still has to face significant gaps and persistent structural socioeconomic vulnerabilities, including challenges in areas such as marginalization of the apparatus formal production of a relevant portion of its workforce that involves economic inequalities; a significant part of the population that, although it is not recognized as poor in terms of income, its level is just above the poverty line and any regional or global problem or instability makes it fall within it; the digital economy, the productivity gap, the aging of the population, adaptation and mitigation of climate change, as well as the development of policies that truly and permanently reduce economic, territorial and gender inequalities are daily challenges for the that shortcuts do not work, but work and rationality when making decisions.
- Despite its significant growth between 2003 and 2014, Uruguay has suffered a stagnation from that year which was aggravated by the concertation and prioritization of its exports in few basic products or commodities.
- The current socioeconomic crisis facing the country due to the pandemic, shows that the measurement of indicators merely by monetary income is not enough to understand the situation of the population. More complex indices such as the HDI, that of unsatisfied basic needs or the "poverty gap" should always be present in the evaluation. It is necessary to understand the multidimensionality of development and study the reality of each country to effectively "leave no one behind."
- In the face of the pandemic, the Government has implemented various strategies, plans and programs in order to sustain the most vulnerable sectors and preserve the productive apparatus and companies with the aim of achieving a rapid recovery of the economy when the situation tends to normalize. The available figures show a smaller reduction in economic activity than in other realities and a good targeting

of applied resources. Notwithstanding this, the fall in the level of activity with the reduction of income and the increase in poverty have their impacts.

- As an emergency measure, the "Solidarity Fund COVID-19" was created by law. This Fund has several sources of financing, among which stand out loans received from multilateral organizations, the application of profits from state-owned companies and a special tax between 5 and 20% of the highest remuneration of public officials and liabilities, as well as 20% of the remuneration of political positions.
- The COVID-19 Solidarity Fund is applied to attend to all state activities designed to protect the population against the national health and food emergency, as well as to supplement the income of the most vulnerable groups, especially those who work in informal sector. Likewise, the Fund guarantees the payment of health insurance and unemployment insurance benefits provided by the Social Security Institute.
- In the context of the current pandemic generated by COVID19, Uruguay highlights the important challenges that each and every one of the developing countries must face, and in this sense, the essentiality that all of them be included in the response and recovery plans before the crisis.
- Finally, Uruguay reiterates its commitment for an international trade free as a fundamental tool for sustainable development, and emphasizes that emergency measures designed to address the negative impacts of COVID-19, should not create barriers to trade or generate disruption of global supply chains.
- Honoring its history, Uruguay is ready to collaborate in the design of programs and policies to overcome the current crisis, attending to the specific needs and characteristics of each country.