URUGUAY (Country Practice)

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<th>[Uruguay] Focal Point:</th>
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## A. Background

### 1. Which UNCT members have collaborated on this case study?
- ...
- ...
- ...

### 2. Which national partners (governmental and non-governmental) were involved in developing this case study and how?
- ...
- ...
- ...

### 3. Does the case study illustrate one or several phases or levels?
- [ ] Adapting SDG 16
- [ ] Implementing SDG 16
- [ ] Monitoring & Reporting on SDG 16
- [ ] National level
- [ ] Regional level
- [ ] Local level

## B. Case Study

**OPTION 2 (self-structured, covering elements under 4.-7. above)**

Director of the Office of Planning and Budget (OPP) and his technical team in the area of management and evaluation (AGEV), the executive Director of the Uruguayan International Cooperation Agency (AUCI), the Director of the National Institute of Statistics (INE) and the authorities and technical teams of the Ministry of the Interior, the General Fiscally of the nation, the Judiciary Branch and the E-Government Agency and Information Society (AGESIC).

The government of Uruguay as a whole, working transversally at the ministerial level, with autonomous entities and decentralized services, has assumed the responsibility of guiding its public policies regarding the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and to move forward in each of them by the year 2030. The SDGs are cross-cutting and cover economic, social, environmental, cultural and political aspects that transcend periods of government, turning them into national objectives whose achievement requires state policies in the medium and long term.

The 2030 Agenda has required significant efforts of communication, revision and definition of national targets, the creation of periodic reporting processes and the coordination among several stakeholders and sectors. An institutional approach was adopted from the beginning. This enabled the integration and sustainability of the 2030 Agenda, since the workflow relies on existing agencies and consultation platforms. Hence, the Office of Planning and Budget (OPP), through the General Bureau of Government Management and Evaluation (AGEV) is responsible for monitoring and coordinating actions associated to the SDGs. At the same time, the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation (AUCI) is responsible for the coordination of international cooperation in support of SDGs, whilst the National Institute of Statistics (INE) is responsible for the assessment and monitoring of indicators.

Unlike in other countries, Uruguay did not establish new agencies to monitor the 2030 Agenda. The three aforementioned agencies have previous track record and cross-cutting missions, which allow for fruitful coordination. This, in turn, has been backed by the authorities of the Executive Branch in the framework of the Council of Ministers.
Access to justice, citizen security, transparency, good governance and citizen participation are priorities for Uruguay. This diversity of issues, and their institutional scope, makes the SDG16 *Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions* particularly complex and relevant.

Uruguay embarked, together with other countries, on a pilot experience of SDG16 promoted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the Open Government Partnership (OGP), the Community of Democracies (CD) and with financial support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with the objective of advancing in the identification of the country in these matters, discussing and proposing national indicators.

The Project, which took place between November 2016 and May 2017, involved three stages that included the survey of policies and baseline indicators, the consultation of civil society, government and academia actors, and the preparation of the final report of the pilot. The consultation process involved more than 100 representatives from different areas of the national reality. They met in four days of debate around the following dimensions: i) violence and security (Target 16.1; 16.2; 16.4; 16.a); ii) access to justice and rights (Target 16.3; 16.9; 16.b); iii) transparency, governance and access to information (Target 16.5; 16.6; 16.10); iv) participation and international insertion (Target 16.7; 16.8).

Regarding to violence and citizen security, although the country has relatively low rates of homicides and criminality, they represent one of the main concerns of the public debate and the government has committed itself to concrete actions in this regard. Uruguay has subscribed to many international instruments linked to the goals involved in this area and has an extensive national regulatory framework. In recent years is important to highlight, the creation of the National Institute for the Social Inclusion of Adolescents (INISA), which corresponds to the specific criminal responsibility system for adolescents who commit crimes and the creation of the Nacional Institute of Rehabilitation (INR); the Police Organic Law and the new Code of Criminal Procedure.

In order to have information and systematic follow-up on these issues, the National Observatory on Violence and Crime of the Ministry of the Interior (MI) has been strengthened, and a National Survey of Victimization and Perception of Public Safety was conducted for the first time (16.1).
Gender Based Violence (GBV) is currently one of the most serious problems of citizen security in the country. Allegations of domestic violence have increased steadily in recent years and domestic violence is the most important cause of female homicides. The Action Plan to Combat Gender Violence 2016-2019 stands out as the main initiative deployed (16.1).

Regarding access to justice and rights, following its tradition, the country has subscribed to a series of international instruments and promoted a legal framework and policies in this area.

Among them, the reform of the Code of Criminal Procedure (effective from 2017) that becomes accusatory, adversarial, oral and public. In this way, it speeds up the process, limits preventive detention, and at the same time provides greater guarantees for the victims. In addition, this process is accompanied by the development of the Accusatory Criminal Procedure Information System of Uruguay (SIPPAU) (16.3).

The National Institution for Human Rights (INDDHH) began to operate in 2012 and in 2016 it was granted level A accreditation. Under its scope, it is the National Prevention Mechanism (article 83), in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the United Nations against Torture.

Another important process is linked to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Supreme Court of Justice (SCJ), which have been carrying out activities since 2016 aimed at achieving common objectives to promote cooperative relations in the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as the defense of freedom of expression, transparency and access to judicial information (16.3 & 16.10).

Regarding the registration of births, since 2007 the Electronic Live Birth Certificate (CNVE) has been implemented, through which the Birth Certificate, the Identity Card and the Public Health registry are processed simultaneously for population statistics, connecting the different agencies involved in these documents (National Directorate of Civil Identification, Civil Registry and Ministry of Public Health). Through the CNVE, the birth of 99% of the children is recorded, corresponding to those born in maternity wards of the health system (16.9).

Civil society organizations have promoted the so-called "new rights agenda" (regulation of marijuana, decriminalization of abortion, equal marriage, democratization of the media), which involved interesting processes of discussion, mobilization and dialogue between various sectors and the State, and resulted in important modifications of extension of rights at the legislative level. Along with this, the processes promoted by civil society under the slogan Truth, Memory and Justice, in relation to victims of human rights violations in dictatorship, sustain demands and concern for State actions consistent in the subject.

Uruguay has shown significant development in terms of transparency, governance and access to information, achieving a position of prominence in the region and the world.

The role of the Agency for e-Government and Information Society (AGESIC) is important as the body responsible for policies related to open government. The National Open Government Action Plan is highlighted within the framework of a participatory process with other state agencies, civil society, academia and the business sector. This includes a set of initiatives that make it possible to strengthen respect for the Rule of Law, in equitable and effective access to justice, as well as the participation of all sectors of society (16.5).

Uruguay has integrated into different international spaces and has signed international cooperation agreements in terms of transparency and access to information. In 2011, joined the Transparency and Access to Information Network, which operates at a Latin American level, as well as the Open Government Partnership, which operates globally. At the national level, the aim is to promote the transparency of the administrative function of any public body, being state or not, and guarantee the fundamental right of people to access public information.
Finally, **participation and international insertion** is a sustained concern of the country's development agenda. Uruguay has a long tradition of participation, enshrined in its main normative instruments, from the Constitution to a profuse legislation related to it.

The growing weight of citizen participation in the provision of public policies is due, among other things, to a transformation of the social protection matrix. In this sense, participation spaces have been developed at the national, departmental and municipal levels (third level of government). Some of these changes imply the decentralization, both political - administrative, and territorial of several ministerial portfolios.

On the other hand, since 2015, the Presidency of the Republic has been implementing the Government Plan for Proximity, which has the task of bringing the government authorities (President of the Republic, ministers, sub-secretaries and hierarchies of entities) closer to the citizens of all the departments. public with national representation). In each of these instances, the highest authorities meet with the local population and the social organizations of the area, attend to their claims and proposals and sometimes discuss possible alternatives to the problems (16.7).

Regarding international participation, it stands out the incorporation of Uruguay into the United Nations Security Council, as well as a series of international governance areas, linked to instruments ratified by the State. Among them, those of South-South Cooperation, international and regional trade spaces and the areas of protection and promotion of human rights (16.8).

As can be seen, there are already a series of mechanisms underway that show Uruguay's commitment to the promotion of the 2030 Agenda. Processes such as the Social Dialogue and the SDG 16 Pilot have yielded a series of important lessons and show the positive response of the actors from different sectors, particularly from civil society, to the invitation to think about strategic issues for the country. At the same time, it identifies general and specific concerns and proposes ways to approach them and follow them up. In turn, others in the process of consolidation, such as the incorporation of the SDGs into the National Budget, constitute an excellent opportunity for the measurement of goals, both at the level of results and in their budgetary expression.


The main results achieved by Uruguay in the infographics of SDG 16 are presented in the annex to this document.
MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES OF SDG 16 IN URUGUAY

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.

Violence and security

Achievements
- Strengthening and enforcement of laws and regulations
- Strengthening of institutional capacity

Challenges
- Lack of coordination among different institutions
- Insufficient resources

Access to justice and rights

Achievements
- Strengthening of the judiciary
- Improvement of the legal framework

Challenges
- Underfunding of the judiciary
- Lack of resources

Transparency, governance and access to information

Achievements
- Strengthening of the oversight mechanisms
- Improvement of the information systems

Challenges
- Insufficient transparency
- Lack of resources

Participation and international cooperation

Achievements
- Strengthening of the participation mechanisms
- Improvement of the international cooperation

Challenges
- Insufficient participation
- Lack of resources