

Misión Permanente del Uruguay

ante la Oficina de Naciones Unidas y otras

Organizaciones Internacionales

**SUBMISSION OF URUGUAY**

**A. Procedures for the processing of official communications and requests.**

*1. ‘Allegation letters’ (AL) and ‘urgent appeals’ (UA) on specific alleged specific acts or risks of torture or ill-treatment:*

When the Government, through the Foreign Ministry, receives a letter of allegation or an urgent appeal, the communication is sent to the organizations or institutions involved. For example, if the situation of concern occurs within the framework of the Penitentiary System, the communications will be directed to the Ministry of the Interior, or in case it refers to a situation in a health institution, the queries will be directed to the Ministry of Public Health.

Once the communications are sent to the institutions and organizations involved, the Foreign Ministry realizes a follow-up to obtain their response and subsequently, to send it to the Special Rapporteur.

*2. ‘Other letters’ (OL) relating to current or envisaged legislation, regulation or policy measures:*

In the event that the Special Procedure sends a communication referring to a legislative proposal, the Foreign Ministry sends that communication to the Parliament. The same happens with letters or communications referring to the design, implementation and evaluation of public policy, which are referred to the institutions involved in the execution of said policies: Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Public Health, among others.

Once the communications are sent to the institutions and organizations involved, the Foreign Ministry realizes a follow-up to obtain their response and subsequently, to send it to the Special procedure.

*3. Country visit requests:*

Uruguay maintains an standing (open) invitation to all the United Nations Special Procedures, therefore, once the request for a visit to the country is received, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs begins to coordinate with the secretariat of the special procedure in order to adjust logistical issues that allow an optimal visit to the field by the Mechanism.

**B. Interaction regarding ‘Urgent Appeals’, ‘Allegation Letters’ and ‘Other Letters’**

Uruguay fully cooperates with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur.

**C. Interaction regarding Country Visit Requests**

As previously stated, Uruguay maintains an open invitation to all the United Nations Special Procedures. The last visit to the country made by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was in December 2012, when the mandate holder was Dr. Juan Méndez.

In 2017, the Special Rapporteur, Nils Melzer, requested follow-up information regarding how the recommendations made by Dr. Juan Méndez to Uruguay were being implemented. The Ministry of Foreign Relations proceeded to request information from the competent institutions and in accordance with the recommendations received in 2012. In this framework, information was requested from the Ministry of the Interior, the National Institute of Women, the Attorney General's Office , the Judiciary, the Parliamentary Penitentiary Commissioner, the National Human Rights Institution and the Ombudsman's Office, the National Prevention Mechanism, among others, forwarding all this information to the Special Rapporteur as requested.

In this context, Uruguay considers that it maintains full cooperation with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur.

**D. State recommendations / requests**

In 2016, Uruguay established the National Mechanism for the Preparation of Reports and Follow-up of Recommendations (SIMORE). This Mechanism is composed of 32 State institutions, has an Inter-Institutional Network of Focal Points. Through it, the recommendations that the country receives from the Universal System for the protection of human rights are analyzed and the institutional responsibilities regarding each recommendation are defined to ensure their effective implementation. In addition, the mechanism serves also to communicate with all the pertinent State institutions.

Within the framework of this National Mechanism, was created the “Table of Persons Deprived of Liberty / Institutionalized Persons”, an instance in which are channeled all the recommendations related to torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishmen that Uruguay receives from the Treaty Bodies, the Special Procedures and the Universal Periodic Review.

The National Mechanism is in permanent evolution and we are working continuously to improve its functioning and scope, which makes it possible to further strengthen the country's full cooperation with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur.