



Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Sixteenth session

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**Consideration of reports submitted by States parties
under article 35 of the Convention**

List of issues in relation to the initial report of Uruguay

Addendum

Replies of Uruguay to the list of issues*,**

[Date received: 2 June 2016]

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

** Annexes can be consulted in the files of the secretariat.

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I. Purpose and general obligations (arts. 1-4)

Replies to the issues raised in paragraph 1 of the list of issues (CRPD/C/URY/Q/1)

Article 1 — Purpose

1. Uruguay is committed to working in coordination with State bodies and representatives of civil society to eliminate derogatory terms referring to persons with disabilities.

2. To that end, meetings were held with the State Regulatory Authority for Communication Services (URSEC). The meetings were attended by the main open access television providers, and a presentation was given to convince the providers to begin to comply with the Uruguayan Sign Language Act, Act No. 17.378, article 4 of which states that: “The State shall ensure the effective exercise of the right to information for deaf or hearing-impaired persons through the participation of Uruguayan Sign Language interpreters in general-interest television programmes such as news bulletins, documentaries, educational programmes and messages to citizens from the national or departmental authorities. On the National Television Network, the use of Uruguayan Sign Language interpretation services shall be compulsory.”

3. Conferences with journalists were also held to develop inclusive language using a social approach. Affirmative actions undertaken include the drafting and introduction of a communication handbook, and of good practices which establish guidelines on disability and communication.

4. In addition, since 2014 a manual of good practice in service provision for persons with disabilities has been distributed to all State and civil society bodies.

5. All training days run by the National Disability Programme of the Ministry of Social Development (PRONADIS) — the governing body for disability policy — include a module on the terminology recommended by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

6. Lastly, the National Plan on Access to Justice and Legal Protection for Persons with Disabilities is being implemented. Strategic action line 2 of the Plan concerns the application of existing legislation and implementation of necessary harmonization of legislation under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This action line provides for the revision of domestic legislation and terminology which may be discriminatory. In addition, item 2.5.4 of strategic action line 2.5, on the creation of support systems under the Convention, encourages the use of the disability certification criteria used by the judiciary (i.e. the development of a single national scale to measure the degree of disability).

Article 4 — General obligations

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 2 of the list of issues

7. In terms of legislation, on 23 December 2011 Uruguay adopted Act No. 18.875 on the use of the green cane by partially sighted persons. In September 2013, Decree No. 297/013 on the use of the green and white cane by visually impaired persons was adopted.

The Decree implemented article 80 of Act No. 18.651 of 19 February 2010 on guide dogs and assistance dogs for persons with disabilities.

8. In addition, Decree No. 214 of 2014 implemented article 25 of Act No. 18.651, which created within the Social Insurance Bank (the State social security body) the Personal Assistants Programme for Persons with Severe Disabilities who cannot care for themselves and who are in receipt of a disability pension. Funds for this programme are allocated by the Executive, and are used to pay beneficiaries a predefined amount to engage the services of a personal assistant. The regulation was modified by a new implementing decree, No. 117-16 of 25 April 2016, which can be found in Annex 1: Personal Assistant Services for the Long-term Care of Severely Dependent Persons.

9. In the area of employment, Decree No. 79/2014 implemented articles 49 and 50 of Act No. 18.651, which established target figures for recruitment of persons with disabilities by the civil service.

10. In 2014, Uruguay ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled. Uruguay is thus the first country in South America to ratify the treaty, which guarantees access to published works for persons who are blind or visually impaired, thereby facilitating reading, information and knowledge.

11. Lastly, it is important to note that the National Disability Programme is coordinating the design of a National Plan for Equal Opportunities and Rights within the framework of the National Social Policy Council, based on a national survey of civil society organizations carried out in 2012. The Plan will be referred to throughout this report.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 3 of the list of issues

12. As previously noted, the National Plan on Access to Justice and Legal Protection for Persons with Disabilities was approved in September 2015. Civil society organizations played an active part in the design of the Plan, and are currently collaborating with the working groups set up to implement strategic action lines 1 (strengthening of public bodies working in the area of access to justice in the widest sense of the term), 2 (harmonization of legislation under the Convention), and 3 (promotion of undergraduate and postgraduate university training on disability).

13. Civil society organizations were also involved in the drafting of the National Plan for Equal Opportunities and Rights.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 4 of the list of issues

14. The National Disability Programme has regional focal points in a number of departments in the interior, with the aim of replicating public policy on disability throughout the country. The Uruguay Without Barriers programme under the National Disability Programme visits persons with disabilities and their families throughout the country to provide comprehensive solutions.

II. Specific rights

Article 5 — Equality and non-discrimination

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 5 of the list of issues

15. The National Plan referred to above promotes universal accessibility to all Government and private sector premises under the concept of reasonable accommodation.

Article 11 of Decree No. 79/14 states that bodies must promote the inclusion in the workplace of persons with disabilities through induction courses and alterations to the physical environment. The Employment Department of the National Disability Programme takes the lead in implementing these initiatives.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 6 of the list of issues

16. In Uruguay, the National Human Rights Institution and Ombudsman's Office (INDDHH) is tasked with defending, promoting and protecting to the fullest extent the human rights enshrined in the Constitution and in international law. Their obligations include proposing corrective measures, issuing non-binding recommendations, and acting on complaints of violations of human rights, without intervening in the judicial, executive or legislative functions of the relevant authorities.

17. In addition, the main function of the Honorary Commission against Racism, Xenophobia and All other Forms of Discrimination (CHRXD), presided by the National Education Directorate, is to put forward national policies and practical measures for preventing all forms of discrimination. These include analysing current levels and forms of discrimination in the country; informing public opinion; keeping records of discriminatory behaviour; providing free, comprehensive support to persons or groups of persons who feel discriminated against; presenting an annual award to persons or bodies making an exceptional contribution to the fight against discrimination; and promoting studies, competitions and research associated with their area of competence.

18. These bodies are the most effective complaints mechanisms which currently exist. There are, however, many laws governing the area of prevention of discrimination in general, and in relation to disability in particular. Reference will be made to these throughout this report.

Article 6 — Women with disabilities

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 7 of the list of issues

19. In the area of inclusion of women and girls, the design phase of the National Plan for Equal Opportunities and Rights places emphasis on affirmative action in relation to the image and self-image of women and girls with disabilities, and the promotion of their participation.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 8 of the list of issues

20. The National Women's Institute spearheaded the drafting of the comprehensive bill to guarantee women a life free from gender-based violence, the provisions of which incorporate disability as a cross-cutting theme. The bill also includes a specific article on women with disabilities. The bill is currently at the adoption stage prior to implementation. It is also important to point out that the Gender and Generations Department of the National Disability Programme coordinates activities with the National Women's Institute on a continual basis.

21. As regards dissemination, progress has been made in the mainstreaming of disability in policies to combat gender-based violence. To this end, the National Disability Programme and the National Women's Institute have developed outreach aids on rights and prevention. The documents were printed in Braille and in layouts suitable for persons with limited vision, and accessible audiovisual versions were created to reach women who are unable to access written language and deaf women. The material was distributed and displayed during awareness-raising activities aimed at the general population, the health sector and civil society organizations.

Article 7 — Children with disabilities

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 9 of the list of issues

22. As the required information has not been received at the time of submission of this document, the reply will be provided as soon as possible, or during the oral presentation of the national report.

Article 9 — Accessibility

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 10 of the list of issues

23. Strategic action lines 1 and 3 of the National Plan on Access to Justice and Legal Protection for Persons with Disabilities provide for the provision of universal accessibility to the physical and material environments, technology and education under the concept of reasonable accommodation set forth in the Convention. To this end, a questionnaire is being sent to all State bodies and to the University of the Republic to determine current levels of accessibility on their premises. As noted previously, civil society organizations are active in the design and implementation of the Plan.

24. The National Disability Programme, the National Telecommunications Administration, the Ministry of Tourism and the Agency for the Development of E-Government and the Information and Knowledge Society collaborated to develop a web-based accessibility map and a mobile app called “Rampita UY”. The app displays a map of the country with useful information on accessible locations based on different types of disability.

25. Since 2012, the Office for Accessibility and Inclusion of Montevideo City Council has adopted and implemented decrees, resolutions and actions on accessibility measures, amid ongoing consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations. These organizations also participate in forums such as the Coordinating Body for the March for Accessibility and Inclusion, the Coordinating Body for Accessible Transport Users, the Coordinating Body for Inclusive Montevideo, and the Montevideo Coordinating Body for Sport and Disability.

26. The Office is working on other themes, such as accessibility (Decree No. 34.651 of the Departmental Board on access to public performances), participation and inclusion, social protection, inclusion in employment, the design of sports and culture programmes (publication of RAMPA magazine, adapted programmes for swimming and other sports), awareness-raising and training.

27. Annex II contains the Montevideo City Council regulations on accessibility.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 11 of the list of issues

28. In the area of urban transport, it should be noted that progress on the introduction of accessible buses for persons with reduced mobility has been slower than expected. Although regulations are in force which require new vehicles acquired by companies to be universally accessible, there is still only a limited number of such vehicles in operation.

29. The Ministry of Transport and Public Works has established the same requirements for all transport routes between departments.

30. It is worthy of note that in the coming months, the National Disability Programme, in collaboration with the National Telecommunications Administration, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Tourism, will present a range of measures including access for

deaf people to the 911 emergency telephone service, a virtual sign-language interpretation centre, and plans for high-technology equipment for persons with disabilities.

Article 11 — Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 12 of the list of issues

31. The National Disability Programme is currently developing a specific intervention protocol which will make it possible to design action lines for prevention and mitigation and to care for persons with disabilities during meteorological emergencies. The Programme is forging links with Integrated Risk Management and the Departmental Emergency Coordinating Centres, and participates in the internal committee (CIRME) of the Ministry of Social Development. Technical officers from the Programme are also currently helping to draft public policy on climate change led by the National Emergency System, investing in partnerships and collaboration with other civil society organizations and bodies.

Article 12 — Equal recognition before the law

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 13 of the list of issues

32. As noted previously, strategic action line 2 of the National Plan on Access to Justice and Legal Protection for Persons with Disabilities promotes the application of existing legislation and the implementation of the necessary harmonization of legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The legislative harmonization group, which is working to this end, will present a draft bill before the end of the year.

Article 13 — Access to justice

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 14 of the list of issues

33. The National Plan is intended to eliminate barriers and obstacles which deny persons with disabilities recognition as subject of law, protection for their rights, and access to justice when their rights are violated.

34. As well as ensuring the application and fulfilment of articles 12 and 13 of the Convention, Uruguay intends to develop a protocol on the implementation of another fundamental legal instrument for the fulfilment of the rights of persons with disabilities: the Brasilia Regulations regarding Access to Justice for Vulnerable People (2008). The application of these Regulations, approved by the Fourteenth Ibero-American Judicial Summit in 2008, has been compulsory for judges in particular, and for the judiciary in general, since the 2009 Judicial Decree.

Article 14 — Liberty and security of the person

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 15 of the list of issues

35. In December 2015, the Ministry of Health submitted for parliamentary approval a bill on mental health, which proposes changes in the care pathway to further the process of deinstitutionalization and the gradual closure of asylums and specialist facilities, subject to the development of alternative structures which meet international standards. In its own explanation of the reasons for the project, the State recognizes that it is common for persons with mental health conditions to suffer violations of their human rights and refusal of their

civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, both in the community and in the international arena.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 16 of the list of issues

36. Please refer to the reply to paragraph 13 of the list of issues.

Article 16 — Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 17 of the list of issues

37. Statistical data are not yet available. The National Plan includes measures to comply with obligations under article 16 of the Convention.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 18 of the list of issues

38. The comprehensive bill to guarantee women a life free from gender-based violence referred to above sets out the guidelines for disability policy. It requires the Honorary National Commission on Disability, the National Disability Programme, all bodies involved in disability policy, and all institutions working with persons with disabilities to:

(a) Provide accessible information for women with disabilities, their families and carers, and the general population to prevent, recognize and denounce gender-based violence against women with disabilities;

(b) Develop actions to strengthen the individual and collective identity of women with disabilities and promote the elimination of gender-based stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices;

(c) Ensure that all services and programmes designed for persons with disabilities have effective oversight to prevent, protect from, punish and provide redress for gender-based violence;

(d) Strengthen reporting and investigation mechanisms and procedures for gender-based violence against women with disabilities, with disability mainstreamed across all programmes, plans, actions and protocols in the relevant institutions;

(e) Develop actions to guarantee respect for the sexual and reproductive rights of women with disabilities and ensure they have access to age-appropriate information, are offered the necessary means of exercising those rights, and that their rights to the exercise of sexuality, gender identity and sexual orientation are respected in the same way as those of other people;

(f) Undertake studies and research into forms of gender-based violence against women of all ages with disabilities;

(g) Ensure the provision of high-quality, accessible and affordable sexual and reproductive health services for women with disabilities and make reasonable adjustments to the necessary physical examinations;

(h) Provide appropriate assistance to women with disabilities in undertaking their child-rearing responsibilities and guarantee that no children or adolescents are separated from their mother on the grounds of disability of the child, the mother, or both.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 19 of the list of issues

39. Responsibility for monitoring institutional facilities lies with the new National Integrated Health-care System, in partnership with the National Disability Programme of

the Ministry of Social Development. The System was implemented in March 2016 and is intended to establish a system for monitoring institutions for persons with disabilities.

40. The National Integrated Health-care System was approved by Act No. 19.353 of 27 November (Annex III). It was designed to improve the lives of dependent persons through integrated care provision, to reconsider the care of dependent persons as being the responsibility of society as a whole, to reconcile employment with having a family, to regulate existing public and private services, to decentralize services and tailor them to the needs of each location through agreements with city and municipal authorities, and to empower and train carers, both paid and unpaid.

41. In relation to mechanisms to monitor institutions run by the Uruguayan Institute for Children and Adolescents, all centres which care for children, adolescents and young people are monitored. The monitoring framework comprises the Code on Children and Adolescents, the General and Specific Regulations on Conventions, information from the Child Data System, and legal, financial and accounting mechanisms.

42. Monitoring activities are managed by a team of nine professional supervisors who oversee projects dealing with children, adolescents and young people with disabilities.

43. Lastly, in compliance with the legislation in force (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Act No. 18561) and institutional guidelines, support and monitoring is provided for activities intended to ensure compliance with the requirements of the relevant legislation so as to guarantee the full exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Article 17 — Protecting the integrity of the person

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 20 of the list of issues

44. Uruguay has no have legislation which provides for the forced sterilization of persons with disabilities.

Article 18 — Liberty of movement and nationality

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 21 of the list of issues

45. As for all the other national legislation which requires revision, please refer to the reply to paragraph 13, of the list of issues.

Article 19 — Living independently and being included in the community

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 22 of the list of issues

46. The National Integrated Health-care System (Act No. 19.353), which entered into force in 2015, seeks to provide personal assistant services to dependent persons with disabilities, with the aim of promoting their autonomy and independence. As previously noted, the Personal Assistants Programme for Persons with Severe Disabilities who cannot care for themselves is now in place, and they are entitled to the services of a personal assistant provided by the State.

47. Presidential Decree 117-16, entitled Personal Assistant Services for the Long-term Care of Severely Dependent Persons, was adopted on 25 April 2016.

48. The service comprises care and personal assistance with daily activities for persons with disabilities, and covers approval, registration, training, supervision and the awarding of a subsidy. Any severely dependent person of any age who is a citizen by birth or by naturalization, or who has been a resident of Uruguay for 10 years, is entitled to the service. The Decree excludes persons who are confined either in residences or homes for older persons, hospitals or in psychiatric facilities. To determine the level of dependence, the Ministry of Social Development's dependency scale will be applied. The regulation defines a personal assistant as a person authorized as such by the Office for Care Services, and the assistance may be provided by natural and/or legal persons.

49. Persons who consider themselves to be severely dependent may apply to the Office for Care Services. Once an application is made, evaluation teams from the Ministry of Social Development assess the level of dependence.

Article 21 — Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 23 of the list of issues

50. As previously indicated, Act No. 17.378 requires the State to ensure the implementation of sign language on general-interest television programmes. Act No. 18.381 on access to public information also guarantees this right. Nevertheless, and in acknowledgement of the difficulties persons with disabilities may face in exercising this right, the National Plan on Access to Justice and Legal Protection for Persons with Disabilities includes provision to ensure that information is accessible to all.

Article 24 — Education

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 24 of the list of issues

51. The most recent data on disability and education were collected in the 2011 census, and clearly showed that support in education facilities varies depending on whether or not people have a disability, and also depending on the type and level of disability. Before the age of 15, there are no significant differences in attendance rates for inclusive education at the pre-primary and primary levels: the attendance rate in education among children and adolescents without disabilities stands at 98 per cent, while for those with disabilities it stands at 96 per cent. The attendance rate also varies depending on the type of disability: the attendance rate for children with severe hearing difficulties in the under-14 age group stands at 78 per cent, while for those with severe walking difficulties, the rate is 57 per cent. These data have been fundamental in demonstrating the importance of universal accessibility for school attendance.

52. Between the ages of 15 and 30, the gap in education attendance for persons with and without disabilities widens (34 per cent and 41 per cent respectively). Among persons with severe disabilities, only 21 per cent attend education. This low attendance rate is detrimental to the personal development of persons with severe disabilities, and also increases the need for care outside the sphere of formal education.

53. In the under-30 age group attending education facilities, persons with learning difficulties make up 3.04 per cent, while persons with hearing difficulties make up just 0.74 per cent.

54. In terms of the highest level of education attained, 64 per cent of persons with severe disabilities complete primary school, while only 3 per cent reach university. By contrast,

among persons without disabilities, the proportions at these levels are 33 per cent and 12 per cent respectively.

Article 25 — Health

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 25 of the list of issues

55. Since 2012, the Gender and Generations Department of the National Disability Programme has been developing a training and awareness-raising campaign on the sexual and reproductive health of women with disabilities through the Removing Barriers project. In partnership with the State Health Services Administration, a handbook of good practice on the care of persons with disabilities will shortly be released, and will be distributed to health workers. Civil society participated in the commission which drafted the handbook, as well as in the drafting of universal accessibility criteria for public administration facilities, including health centres.

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 26 of the list of issues

56. When drafting the bill on mental health, the Ministry of Health, via its Mental Health Programme, worked with State, academic and civil society bodies, and with parties represented in parliament. Strategic action line 2.3 of the National Plan on Access to Justice and Legal Protection for Persons with Disabilities includes the creation of support mechanisms as required by the Convention, in order to ensure the transition from the substitute decision-making model to a supported decision-making model.

Article 27 — Work and employment

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 27 of the list of issues

57. In 2014, the National Office of the Civil Service reported that a total number of 75 persons with disabilities had been appointed to posts in public bodies (42 men and 33 women), representing 1.04 per cent of vacancies advertised (compared to the 4 per cent required by law). No data are available for the private sector.

Article 28 — Adequate standard of living and social protection

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 28 of the list of issues

58. With the exception referred to below, no distinction is made between Uruguayan nationals, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, or members of any other vulnerable group in the provision of social protection to persons with disabilities.

59. The information available, which dates from December 2013, shows that the Social Insurance Bank pays out 52,487 disability pensions, of which 22,959 (43.74 per cent) go to men and 29,528 (56.26 per cent) to women. The total amount paid out at that time was US\$ 26,410,036.

60. The exception is the non-contributory disability pension payment, for persons who cannot meet their own needs and are unable to undertake any form of work. Foreign nationals must have resided continuously in the country for 15 years to become entitled to this benefit. In December 2013, 64,749 pensions were being paid, 32,555 (49.72 per cent) to men and 32,194 (50.28 per cent) to women. Recipients of a disability pension also receive a monthly sum of money under the Food Programme of the National Food Institute.

61. In addition, benefits can be obtained from the State Insurance Bank as disability income, through the transfer of capital which may have been saved in a social security savings fund, if the person is a member of a joint social security scheme.

62. Another form of cover is the temporary allowance for partial disability, which is provided for three years, subject to a medical examination to determine whether the recipient has recovered or is permanently disabled. In December 2013, 4,530 people received this allowance: 1,648 men (36.38 per cent) and 2,882 (63.62 per cent) women. Payments totalled US\$ 1,791,339.

63. A monthly allowance is also paid to families which include a person with disabilities, unless they receive another benefit for the same reason. The amount of the allowance varies depending on the family's income, but is twice the amount paid to families without a child with a disability.

64. Lastly, with respect to monetary benefits, persons with disabilities can receive additional assistance if they attend standard or specialized research or rehabilitation centres.

65. With respect to non-monetary benefits, family allowance recipients with congenital malformations or perinatal disorders are entitled to special assistance provided by the Department of Medical and Surgical Specialties. Treatment must begin before the age of 14 and continue for life. In addition, doctors' visits and medicines, as well as the necessary equipment and prostheses (glasses, hearing aids, wheelchairs, etc.) are free of charge. When a patient has to travel from the interior for treatment, transport, food and accommodation are free of charge for both the patient and the person accompanying him or her. In December 2013, 871 persons received the family disability allowance.

Article 29 — Participation in political and public life

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 29 of the list of issues

66. Under the framework of the National Social Policy Council, the National Plan for Equal Opportunities and Rights for Persons with Disabilities contains a strategic action line on the participation of persons with disabilities, which provides for actions to eliminate existing restrictions on the exercise of civil and political rights by persons with disabilities.

III. Special obligations

Article 31 — Statistics and data collection

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 30 of the list of issues

67. Although there is some history of collection of data on persons with disabilities in Uruguay, such as the Continuous Household Survey 2001-2003, the 2011 census continues to be the document with the furthest reach in that regard. Nevertheless, the collection and analysis of statistical data form part of the National Plan for Equal Opportunities and Rights, with the aim of expanding public policies on disability.

Article 32 — International cooperation

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 31 of the list of issues

68. In Uruguay, the national implementation process is being coordinated by the Planning and Budget Office of the Office of the President.

69. Within this framework, and mindful of the social dialogue recently convened by the Office of the President, the Government of Uruguay has decided to link this process with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, due to their shared long-term vision for development. As such, it is hoped that the proposals put forward under this framework will focus on the Uruguay of the future and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

70. The social dialogue is a wide-ranging, participatory exercise across Uruguayan society as whole, with the aim of visualizing the Uruguay of the future. Its objective is to generate input on a range of areas and issues to contribute to the formulation of a development strategy for the country which is sustainable in the medium and long term. The aim is for civil society organizations and/or the public sector to formulate and present long-term proposals on issues which are of relevance to the country.

71. As such, proposals presented as part of the social dialogue should focus on the future of Uruguay and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Once the window for the presentation of proposals by pre-registered bodies has closed, those which conform to the stipulated rules will be forwarded to the relevant thematic discussion forum.

72. The Planning and Budget Office has also set up the Planning Directorate, which will work on planning for the year 2030, the same time frame being used for the social dialogue.

73. In addition, the finishing touches are being put to the mechanism for monitoring achievement of the targets and indicators set by the Sustainable Development Goals. This task has been assigned to the Planning and Budget Office. Those bodies with the strongest links to the implementation of public policy and the relevant technical capacity will work in partnership to this end.

74. Uruguay will thus ensure that the implementation process will enjoy wide-ranging participation, and guarantee that all stakeholders can take part and present proposals. The country is making great efforts to adapt its public policies on development to meet its international obligations.

75. In addition, the creation in 2014 of the Dialogue and Consultation System of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has opened a permanent channel for dialogue on and participation in foreign policy, which institutionalizes and widens the broad participation of citizens in the workings of the State.

76. Lastly, in the preparation of these replies, as in the preparation of the national report, civil society organizations active in the area of disability were kept informed of the drafting process. While it is understood that there are parallel channels for the State and civil society organizations to submit their views to the Committee, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the coordinating body for national reports to the human rights treaty bodies, has in each case set up at least one accountability mechanism for the drafting of reports.

Article 33 — National implementation and monitoring

Reply to the issues raised in paragraph 32 of the list of issues

77. At State level, the body responsible for the implementation of the Convention is the National Disability Programme of the Ministry of Social Development. The implementation of the Convention is overseen by the Honorary National Commission on Disability, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.