



**EMBAJADA DEL URUGUAY
MISIÓN PERMANENTE ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS Y
ORGANIZACIONES INTERNACIONALES CON SEDE EN VIENA
AUSTRIA**

Uruguay celebrates the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, that set a milestone in the objective for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

The celebration of a new anniversary is always a good opportunity to make a balance.

Today these objectives keep on being the same and there is still so much to do.

From 1995 till the present, we have seen some improvements on women's rights but we should increase our efforts and consider the risks to go back on what we achieved, especially on crisis times. As you know, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have increased the differences that already exists, increasing the violence against women and girls and deepening this differences, particularly when women are poor, from rural areas, indigenous, afro-descendants, migrants or refugees.

Women's empowerment and their full participation in the spheres of society and government at all levels is fundamental for equality, development and peace and the recognition of the right of all women to control all aspects of their health, in particular their own fertility, is basic to their empowerment.

Uruguay has ratified all international commitments in the area of gender equality and women's rights. At the national level, Uruguay has registered several advances in terms of the legal, programmatic and institutional framework.

In 2005, we created the National Women's Institute as a governing body responsible for the public policies from a gender perspective and established the National Gender Council and the National Strategy for Equality 2030 as efforts to achieve gender mainstreaming in the public policies.

The Integrated National Care System legally incorporates the gender co-responsibility approach in the care they promote with the participation of men and women on equal terms.

The National Integrated Health System plays a central role for the public equality policy of gender, giving priority to the sexual and reproductive health.



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Uruguay has also advance on approving some laws in that direction like:

- Modification of the Penal Code that includes acts of discrimination and Femicide;
- Equitable participation in integration of national, departmental and governing bodies of political parties;
- Promotion of Development with Gender Equity;
- modification for the joint ownership of lands and on homes of cooperatives

Gender equality implies profound cultural and institutional changes, which include the spheres of the economy and politics. But the cultural change has to start on daily life where the system produces and reproduces a system of beliefs, patterns and cultural values strongly rooted in traditional ideas about the family and roles of women and men.

The effects of gender stereotypes resist to change the dominant cultural patterns in a society.

In this sense, the educational system must play a fundamental role.

Today, this anniversary is the best opportunity to renew the commitment made 25 years ago.

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