Uruguay deposited the ratification instrument for the Arms Trade Treaty on September 25, 2014, during the High-Level Week of the General Assembly, thus becoming one of the 50 countries that brought the Treaty into force.

To defend International Law

Founding member of the United Nations and respectful of the Rule of Law, Uruguay is a member of the Group of Friends of the Rule of Law within the framework of the United Nations.

In 1921 it was the first country to accept the mandatory jurisdiction of the Permanent Court of International Justice, which became the International Court of Justice in 1945.

Uruguay is part of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and it has been the first country in Latin America to implement it in full by passing legislation on cooperation with the Court, which became a model law around the world.

Uruguay is located in South America, between the Río de la Plata and the Atlantic Ocean. Its 3.25 million inhabitants hold a literacy rate of 98%. Uruguay boasts high levels of security and health indexes as well as access to drinkable water, thus offering one of the highest standards of living in the continent.

Its people have great respect for institutions, freedom and Democracy.

With its Plan Celador, Uruguay achieved the largest digital coverage and promotes equality in information access and internet for everyone.

These principles, the path travelled, and an unwavering attitude to service are the reasons that drive Uruguay to pursue greater responsibilities through its candidacy for a non-permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council for the 2016-2017 period.

Uruguay is a country with a vocation for peace and commitment to humanity.

Why Uruguay?

To maintain and consolidate peace in the world

Throughout history, Uruguay has been among the main troop contributing countries to the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs). Almost 20% of its defense operational forces have been allocated to this effort and it is also the main contributor of troops per capita.

With presence in several PKOs, especially in MINUSTAH and MONUC/MONUSCO, Uruguay has gathered invaluable experience in the implementation of the most complex, multidimensional mandates.

In MONUSCO, Uruguay participates with approximately one thousand troops involving the three forces, the army, navy, and air force.

In MINUSTAH, Uruguay has been involved from the very beginning in peacekeeping and peace consolidation activities.

Besides, Uruguay participates actively in the political follow up on MINUSTAH in New York, through the “Group of Friends of Haiti,” which it has chaired since 2009.

Uruguay was a member of the Peacebuilding Commission between 2009 and 2012 and it has developed several peace building activities, mainly through its multidisciplinary participation in support tasks to host Nations.

To protect the civilian population

Uruguay is highly committed to the protection of civilians and it tangibly contributes to the safeguarding of their lives in situations of conflict where the United Nations deploys PKOs, both at the operational level on the field as well as in the political debates in the UN.

Uruguayan Blue Helmets perform tasks of protection of civilians in imminent danger of physical violence on a regular basis in the East of the Republic of Congo, under the mandate of MONUSCO.

In New York, Uruguay is proactive and constructive actor, working to achieve political consensus and a better understanding among all actors involved in the adoption, planning and implementation of mandates for the protection of civilians.

To protect Human Rights

Uruguay’s commitment to the protection of Human Rights is not only clearly reflected domestically by having it at the center of all public policies implemented by the government, but also in a very important external component evidenced in Uruguay’s active participation in the different fora of the international system devoted to promote and protect human rights.

In view of its long tradition in the defense of these principles, Uruguay has earned an important place in terms of promotion and protection of human rights, especially in the defense of the rights of women and children and in this respect, it is the co-architect of the Rights of the Child of the General Assembly, besides, the country’s great activism in the defense of the rights of disabled people and senior citizens, among others, is also worth mentioning.

Uruguay’s voice is proactive and constructive with regards to the United Nations response to grave violations of human rights such as genocide, ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Uruguay has been part of the United Nations Human Rights Council ever since its inception in 2006 and held its Presidency during the 2011-2012 period.

It has promoted the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and all the special procedures of the system in support of its important work and independence.

Uruguay promotes the strengthening and preservation of the provisions of International Humanitarian Law to ensure the full validity of the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, in order to defend the fast and uninterrupted access of humanitarian staff and ensure adequate conditions of safety for the fulfillment of their tasks.

Towards disarmament and non-proliferation

Uruguay has been a State Party to the First Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in the world (Treaty of Tlatelolco) ever since its inception and this not part of any group of nuclear suppliers.

It supports the strengthening of multilateralism in its action in favor of universal and total disarmament, as well as the strengthening of the scheme of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Uruguay is highly committed to the fight against illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, its destabilizing accumulation and illegal use – this weapons of mass destruction in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean – which threatens civilian populations, mainly women and children.