



High-level Political Forum 2017

Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges.

Statement re. VNR Uruguay HLPF 2017 – Lucía Berro Pizzarossa

Mr./ Ms. President, thank you for giving me the floor.

I would like to thank the government of Uruguay for opening up this space and for the extensive report that was submitted for our review.

My name is Lucía Berro Pizzarossa, I work with MYSU (Mujer y Salud en Uruguay), I am a Women Deliver Young Leader and I am here with the Women's Major Group.

The Development Agenda pledged that **nobody will be left behind**. This commitment is not merely an aspiration but through the principles of non-discrimination and equality, it is a legally binding obligation. As a young woman from Uruguay and from the Global South I say we need to involve historically marginalized groups, especially those experiencing multiple discriminations like youth, women, the LGBTQI community, people of African descent and people with disabilities. Leaving no-one behind means

- fostering meaningful engagement from young people, making us an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes that Uruguay plans to use to achieve the SDGs. We don't want to be an afterthought, our engagement should be at the centre and it's essential for the achievement of the goals.

Leaving no-one behind also means

- adopting an intersectional approach. The data presented in the report is not disaggregated, effectively erasing the experiences of the most disadvantaged groups. Good data drives good policies and it's important that Uruguay realizes the disproportional impact of societal challenges. Poverty, lack of access to healthcare, housing and much more are gendered and racialized experiences.

Furthermore, **we want Uruguay to walk the talk**. This means transforming the great laws and policies adopted by Uruguay into lived reality for its citizens. The report stresses that achievements are highly connected with the adoption of legal frameworks, but this is far from enough. To achieve this

- we need implementation at the national and subnational level, we need to localize the SDGs
- Uruguay must design a tailored approach designed to meet the needs of specific groups. The big numbers look good, but the disaggregated data shows that structural inequalities remain unchanged. The data related to sexual and reproductive rights sheds light on this issue. Yes, we have reduced the rates of teenage pregnancy but we still have alarming rates in the rural areas and among women of colour. And yes, we have passed a wonderful framework on SRHR but after almost 10 years of the passing of the law, 1 in 3 teenagers still don't have access to information they need to make healthy decisions, or get the health services to effectuate their choices.

Today, we are here to celebrate what we have achieved. But we are also here to make sure we are in the right track to realize the SDGs by 2030. Although laudable progress is made, we cannot be complacent. If we continue to lead the regional rankings on gender based violence, if we continue to decouple economic growth and sustainability, if sexual and reproductive rights continue to be an "annex", and if gender is still not a transversal concern in the development agenda only very scant progress is possible. Acknowledging the challenges is not enough;

we need to imagine and implement a holistic, comprehensive and intersectional plan to address them. I commend Uruguay for its efforts and I invite the government and ourselves to take the challenge to do more and to do it better!

In this line, I would like to ask my government the following questions.

DATA, GENDER & PARTNERSHIPS

- i) In the spirit of leaving no one behind, we notice that most of the disaggregated data presented in the report--and in particular the one in relation to SRHR--is gathered and processed by civil society organizations. Can the country explain how it is currently supporting these organisations that take upon this task?
- ii) And, given that SGD 5 is a cross cutting goal and that gender mainstreaming is fundamental to the achievement of the development agenda, how is the country's making the concerns of women an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres, so that women and men benefit equally?

PARTICIPATION OF KEY POPULATIONS

- i) Can the country elaborate on how it plans to encourage and meaningfully engage civil society and, in particular, young people in the reporting process?

AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND SDGs

- i) What we are witnessing lately in the country is an increase in the industrialization of agriculture which is actually undermining Goal 2 as there is less land available for peasant farming and land grabbing for industrial activities such as monoculture plantations like GM soy. For the

Uruguayan government, what exactly is meant by 'sustainable agriculture' and how can incentives to expand industrial activity at the expense of people's livelihoods and rights can be avoided?

- ii) How is the government channeling efforts for achieving Goal 2? And how are you ensuring people benefit equally from your actions towards Goal 2?