



Uruguay Position Paper

Ömer Öztok



I. Background Information on Uruguay

The government of Uruguay, on the other hand, considering that it is one of the most politically stable and progressive countries in South America, has a tradition of support for democracy, respect for human rights, and pacific solution to conflicts. It is a nation that has successfully maintained political stability despite all the challenges in its region. Thus, its position on the issues discussed in APQSA focuses on support for diplomatic efforts, promotion of judicial independence, and democratic principles.

With its commitment to the rule of law and its standing for transparency, Uruguay should be a model for judicial independence in the region. In addition, Uruguay has a vested interest in seeing that the South American region remains peaceful and cooperative, following its high reliance on regional trade and regional economic partnerships.

II. Past Achievements and Attempts of Uruguay on the Issues

While it was not directly involved in the internal matters of its neighbors, Uruguay has still taken part in a historical manner in the building of peace and the consolidation of democracy in South America. Neutral, non-aligned, and underlined by all diplomatic engagement, mediation, and peaceful resolution of conflicts are those that characterize Uruguay.

A. Maintaining judicial independence and accountability in Bolivia:

- Uruguay has been outstanding in vocal support for the independence of the judiciary throughout Latin America, and has supported initiatives aimed at the strengthening of judicial institutions in terms of transparency and accountability.
- Uruguay also cooperated with international organizations in providing technical assistance in judicial reform processes, especially in countries that were facing political instability.



- It is of the opinion that the rule of law essentially forms part of democratic governance; as such it emphasizes the need to support Bolivia in improving its judicial system without interfering with Bolivia's sovereignty.

B. Eliminating the possibility of armed conflict between Venezuela and Guyana:

- Even as Uruguay has no direct role to play in the controversy between Venezuela and Guyana regarding their border dispute, it strongly advocates for peaceful negotiations and diplomatic solutions with the intervention of international law.
- Traditionally, Uruguay has supported those resolutions within the OAS that are aimed at encouraging dialogue and the de-escalation of tensions between Member States.
- It supports mediation efforts by regional bodies and the United Nations to prevent the dispute from escalating into armed conflict.

C. Tackling the ELN insurgency in Colombia:

- Uruguay has supported all the peace processes in Colombia, first with the FARC and more recently with the ELN.
- Although it is not directly involved, Uruguay can offer expertise in conflict resolution given its history of overcoming internal strife during the 20th century.
- Uruguay believes that insurgency will happen due to living a poor life and getting fewer social services. So, basically Uruguay supports the socio-economic development of the regional initiatives in the conflict areas.

III. Objectives, Aims and Possible Solutions Proposed by Country/Organization on the Issues

Uruguay's approach towards issues discussed in APQSA, the commitment on the promotion of peace, democracy, and human rights in South America can be seen.

A. Maintaining judicial independence and accountability in Bolivia:

- Uruguay proposes the training of Bolivia's judicial bodies for the development of its capacities, with the possible participation of the Inter-American Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme.



- Uruguay believes that regional forums ought to be created where experiences about the areas of judicial reform and independence could be shared among legal experts from South American countries.
- It encourages the adoption of mechanisms for monitoring judicial accountability by Bolivia, while at the same time ensuring that such an initiative does not amount to interference in its affairs.

B. Eliminating the possibility of armed conflict between Venezuela and Guyana:

- Uruguay favors the role of impartial intermediaries, such as the UN Secretary-General, with a mandate to contribute to the finding of an agreement between Venezuela and Guyana.
- Uruguay proposes measures to build confidence between the two parties, such as demilitarization or economic development projects.
- Calls for a regional agreement within the framework of the OAS in such a way that whatever dispute resolution might occur, it be one that respects international law and sovereignty.

C. Tackling the ELN insurgency in Colombia:

- Uruguay proposes the reinforcement of regional cooperation in combating transnational problems of drug trafficking and arms smuggling, impetuses for insurgencies.
- Supports Colombia's efforts toward a sustainable peace agreement with the ELN through technical assistance and sharing best practices in conflict resolution.
- Advocate increasing investment in socio-economic development in rural areas of Colombia as a way to address the root causes of insurgency, thus contributing to long-term stability.

IV. Bibliography

1. "Uruguay: Political and Economic Developments," The Economist, 2023.
2. "Judicial Independence in Latin America," Journal of Latin American Studies, 2022.
3. Organization of American States (OAS). "Resolutions on Venezuela-Guyana Territorial Dispute," 2023.
4. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). "Judicial Reform Initiatives in Bolivia," 2023.
5. "Colombian Peace Process: Lessons Learned," International Crisis Group, 2022.