

"Everything
changes, nothing
perishes."

- Ovidio

Reform Times in Uruguay



Sistema de las Naciones Unidas en Uruguay
UNIDOS EN LA ACCIÓN

A monthly newsletter with news, data, and events on the Delivering as One process in Uruguay

Roundtables on the MDGs

A workshop thinking in the future

On Friday October 17th, the Second Cycle of Roundtables on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Uruguay was launched with a series of presentations and debates.

The roundtables were organized jointly by the National Council of Social Policies and the United Nations System in Uruguay to present an update of the status and advancements toward achieving the MDGs in Uruguay.

The kick-off event – with subsequent roundtables on October 23rd in three other cities of the country: Maldonado, Tacuarembó and Paysandú– was held with the presence of political authorities, legislators, academics, representatives from different Agencies, Funds and Programmes of the UN System and members of the civil society all of which are currently involved in the implementation of social programmes and projects. The diverse presence of key social players generated and encouraged a rich debate with a wide range of proposals.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Health, Mr. Miguel Fernández Galeano, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Development, Ms. Ana Olivera, and the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Uruguay, Mr. Pablo Mandeville, addressed the audience.

Mr. Fernández Galeano stated that the MDGs "represent a constant challenge to improving our social programmes and to generate innovative actions. The MDGs are a valid and necessary agenda to be deepened globally and nationally."



Mr. Miguel Fernández Galeano, Ms. Ana Olivera, Mr. Pablo Mandeville and the audience at the roundtables on the MDGs.

The Undersecretary from the Ministry of Social Development, Ms. Ana Olivera, remarked that Uruguay was still recovering from the effects from the severe social and economic crisis of 2002, and assured that "the fight against poverty and the search of equality for the citizens will continue to be the focus point around which social policies will be developed."

The Resident Coordinator of the UN in Uruguay, Mr. Pablo Mandeville, underlined the importance of having a new juncture to discuss the MDGs with a broad spectrum of participants.

"The problems that we face today are multidimensional; for this reason, it is necessary to develop trans-disciplinary and inter-institutional policies," said Mr. Mandeville. The Resident Coordinator highlighted the active participation that all the UN Agencies, Commissions, Funds and Programmes had in the instrumentation of the roundtables, and -quoting Amartya Sen- he concluded that the essence of human development was "to give people all the possible opportunities and options available so they can enjoy full, healthy and creative lives." ■

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

With the rights in your own hands

The United Nations System distributed 80,000 copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights among public High Schools of all over the country.

On September 9th, at High School Number 10 "Carlos Vaz Ferreira", delegates of every high school of Montevideo and other cities, received copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from the hands of High School education authorities and the Resident Coordinator of the UN in Uruguay, Mr. Pablo Mandeville. In total, 80,000 copies of the Declaration have been distributed to 3rd and 5th year public high school students all over the country that were learning about Human Rights. At the event, the Resident Coordinator mentioned that "the Human Rights Declaration has been and still is a source of inspiration for many countries' Constitutions and for international treaties as well."

The Director for High School Education, Ms. Alex Mazzei, emphasized that the 60-year-old Declaration continues to be relevant in pointing out the multiple deficiencies that are present in the world today in ensuring a decent life for each and every individual. ■

Eleven innovative initiatives on the move

Joint projects, joint efforts

With the presence of national authorities, legislators, Representatives and Directors of the United Nations System in Uruguay, the Joint Projects of the Joint Programme of the “Delivering as One” process were launched at the Presidency’s headquarters.

As one of the eight countries implementing the United Nations Reform process, the event signified an additional and encouraging step.

The Director of the Office of Planning and Budget, Prof. Enrique Rubio; the Minister of Education and Culture, Ms. María Simón; the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain, Ms. Aurora Díaz Rato; and the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Mr. Pablo Mandeville participated in the event.



Prof. Rubio expressed the Government’s strong support to the “Delivering as One” process. “The Joint Programme addresses central questions about the country’s future: having a sustainable economic growth, active social policies, support for stakeholders throughout the country, and state reform” said Mr. Rubio. He also stated that “Delivering as One” process is an innovative and transforming activity. Rubio added that one of the essential characteristics that the UN reform process has in Uruguay is that the Government is being an active partner in the process. “There is a fundamental ownership and leadership by the Government. This has been very useful in generating an internal coherence for our actions and policies within the Government. This is a promising road that can turn Uruguay into a model on the topic.”

The Ambassador of Spain, Ms. Aurora Díaz Rato, whose Government has provided significant support for the One UN Joint Programme, stated that the current Spanish administration places high importance on development cooperation to the fight against poverty: “we are glad to see that the ‘Delivering as One’ process has the same framework and aims of our Government.”

The Minister of Education and Culture, Ms. María Simón, stated that the presentation of the Joint Projects was “an example that shows clearly that cooperation for social development continues to be essential in a world full of inequalities. For that reason, cooperation is helpful for all of us”.

The United Nations Resident Coordinator, Mr. Pablo Mandeville, remarked that one year ago the Joint Programme was signed, initiating a process that has been “demanding and intense, but very enriching for all parties involved.” The key factor that allowed these advances, said Mandeville, “was that the Government and the entire United Nations System in Uruguay made the process their own, creating a real and key strategic ownership.” He emphasized that not only Agencies, Commissions, Funds and Programmes that are part of the Country Team were active in the Joint Programme works, “there has also been substantial interest and support from nine non-resident Agencies. This shows that the country has access to the expertise and experience that the whole System can provide.”

“The United Nations must deliver results for a safer, healthier, and more prosperous world.”

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations

60 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

A colorful commemoration

The United Nations System in Uruguay is organizing a contest for the best mural that pays tribute to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. All over the country, murals will be painted as a way of commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Declaration. The contest is open to participation of a wide range of groups, organizations and institutions that will put colour in different cities and neighbourhoods. Participants must paint their work in open places (walls, classrooms, patios or meeting rooms) before November 24th. The requisite is that the mural must refer to the contents of the Declaration, particularly to the situation on human rights in the location where the mural is done.

A specialized group of artists will select the six most outstanding murals. The winners will be announced at a public concert that will be held on International Human Rights Day–December 10th.



Ms. Alex Mazzei and Mr. Pablo Mandeville handing over the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to a student.

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