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**12th Session of the Human Rights Council
Item 6: Universal Periodic Review (Uruguay) – Statement by the Federation for
Women and Family Planning (Speaker: Malgorzata Dziewanowska)**

Thank you, Mr. President,

We have the honour of making this statement in conjunction with Uruguayan partner organizations, including **Grupo EA and the Public Policy Centre of Human Rights in the Mercosur¹**.

In relation to recommendation No. 22, we commend the Uruguayan Parliament for having passed, in December 2008, Law 18.426, the Comprehensive Law to Defend Sexual and Reproductive Rights, which unfortunately was later restricted by presidential veto. We demand information on how the Uruguayan State plans to implement this law.

We also strongly urge the government to prioritize public policies aimed at youth and the inclusion of sexual and reproductive rights in these policies. Active participation of young people is essential for the adequate design of these policies and plans, both in the carrying out, following up and evaluation stages. We welcome the commitments to increase investment to guarantee rights to freedom in terms of sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as the design and implementation of a National Plan to Combat All Forms of Discrimination, mentioned in the national report. We would like to call attention to the weak institutional framework to combat discrimination due to the lack of State policies in the area.

With respect to recommendations 19, 29 and 33, in Uruguay, violence against women is still a concern. Apart from the cases that result in women being murdered, there are many other situations where women, girls and female adolescents are victims of violence. Many women complain about the lack of an adequate judicial procedure to face their situation. The procedures for reporting cases of violence against children- including sexual violence- are extremely long and lack comprehensive measures to respond and provide care to those affected. Furthermore, it is necessary to stress the importance of establishing training programs for personnel who assist and receive formal complaints and queries from women victims of violence. This is an indispensable step to overcome the obstacles faced by these women at the time of reporting a violence related incident. It is also urgent to open shelters for women who suffer domestic violence because in severe cases, these are the only places where they can go. Thus, we urge the Uruguayan government to put into practice, as soon as possible, the recommendations received and to take effective measures on this issue.

¹ Observatorio Políticas Públicas de Derechos Humanos en el Mercosur (*Public Policy Centre of Human Rights in the Mercosur*) - Madres y Familiares de Uruguayos Detenidos Desaparecidos (*Uruguayan Mothers and Relatives of Disappeared Detainees*) - SERPAJ Uruguay - Grupo EA