

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS



SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES FROM PREVIOUS UPR CYCLES

- ◆ Appoint a new Ombudsman in view of the expiration of his mandate and ensure that the institution fully complies with the Paris Principles (France, Haiti, Namibia, Israel, Germany, Kazakhstan, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Uruguay).
- ◆ Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR) (Uruguay, France, Ghana, Djibouti, Montenegro and Portugal).

- ◆ Make the declaration provided for in article 14 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (South Africa).

CHALLENGES & IMPACTS

- ◆ In its Mid-Term Report, Paraguay reported that a new Ombudsman was appointed in 2016. However, the mandate of this new office holder expired in July 2018 and has not been replaced (Art. 277 of the Paraguayan Constitution; Art. 4 of Law No. 631/1995 “Organic of the Ombudsman Office”).
- ◆ In March 2019, the Sub-committee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions recommended that the [Office of the Ombudsman of Paraguay be conferred a B status](#) due to the lack of independence and transparency in the process of appointing/removing the office holder, and because the institution does not exercise its mandate in accordance with the Paris Principles.
- ◆ Paraguay has not taken any steps to ratify the OP-ICESCR.
- ◆ It has not recognized competence to receive and review individual communications from the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED).
- ◆ The State has not effectively complied with the reparations provided for in decisions adopted by the Human Rights Committee in the cases of [Blanco Domínguez](#), [Benítez Gamarra](#), [Giménez](#) and [Portillo Cáceres et al.](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◆ Establish, for the selection of the Ombudsman, a procedure that is transparent, participatory and guarantees pluralism, independence and selection based on a track record in the defense of human rights.
- ◆ Ensure that the Ombudsman Office be fully in accordance with the Paris Principles, in compliance with the recommendations of the Sub-committee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.
- ◆ Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR).
- ◆ Make the declaration provided for in Article 14 of International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and in articles 31 and 32 of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
- ◆ Effectively comply with the reparations ordered by means of decisions of the treaty bodies.

CODEHUPY

Coordinadora de Derechos Humanos del Paraguay

The Paraguayan Human Rights Coordinating Committee (CODEHUPY) is a national network of civil society organizations for the defense of human rights in Paraguay. It is made up of 35 networks and member organizations. It was founded in 1999 as a non-profit civil, non-denominational and non-partisan association dedicated to the promotion and defense of human rights.

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