



REGIONAL OBSERVATORY UNVEILS MAJOR CHALLENGES FOR URUGUAY'S ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS

**Uruguay shows no progress in its fight against corruption.
On a scale of 0-3, Uruguay does not reach 2 points in compliance with the Lima Agreement**

Uruguay, November 11, 2021. As part of the Citizen Corruption Observatory (CCO), the *Centro de Archivos y Acceso a la Información Pública (ICD)*, the *Centro de Archivos y Acceso a la Información Pública (CAinfo)*, *Colectiva Mujeres*, the *Colectivo Trans del Uruguay (CTU)* and the *Comisión Uruguaya de Lucha contra la Corrupción - Uruguay Transparente (UT)*, presented the results of the Follow-up Report on compliance with the Lima Agreement "**Democratic Governance against Corruption**", signed at the VIII Summit of the Americas in 2018 by the governments of the Americas, which seeks to maintain a head-on fight against corruption in the Americas.

The analysis consisted of identifying the regulatory and practical developments for compliance with the Lima Agreement in 19 countries in the region. It considered issues associated with reinforcement of democratic governance; transparency, access to information, protection of whistleblowers and human rights, including freedom of expression; financing of political organizations and election campaigns; prevention of corruption in public works, public procurement and contracting; and international legal cooperation, the fight against bribery, international bribery, organized crime, and money laundering; and asset recovery.

The findings included in the report on Uruguay positively highlight the open government policies, aimed at promoting transparency and accountability of state institutions. Likewise, there has been progress in policies to strengthen digital citizenship, such as public policies and regulations that have favored the reinforcement of democratic governance in Uruguay. However, effective progress in regulations and policies that guarantee transparency in the operation of political parties, accountability of private actors and the achievement of greater transparency in public procurement, are still pending.

Some of the agreements analyzed show delays and stagnation in the development and implementation of regulations to fulfill the agreements made in Lima. Dissimilar levels of policy development hinder the effectiveness of actions, and the differences between the regulatory development and financing of public anti-corruption policies jeopardize their efficiency and sustainability. The limited independence of the Comptroller' offices is indicative of this.

The report indicates the lack of actions aimed at incorporating the gender perspective, both in the institutional structure of the decision-making bodies of anti-corruption policies, as well as in the approach to the problem established in the regulatory and public policy instruments. There is also no systematized, updated, and relevant information on groups that are vulnerable to corruption crimes, which would allow for the protection of victims and witnesses. Furthermore, there are no guarantees for the safety of whistleblowers. The report finds no proactivity from the relevant actors in the processes of international legal cooperation against corruption.

About the Citizen Corruption Observatory (CCO):

The Citizen Corruption Observatory (CCO) is a coalition of civil society organizations and social actors of the continent, created to follow up on compliance with the commitments adopted by the governments of the hemisphere at the VIII Summit of the Americas held in Lima, Peru. As well as promoting citizen participation in the fight against corruption.

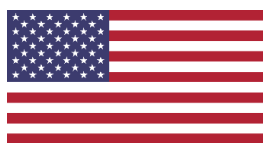


In light of these findings, the organizations participating in the CCO in Uruguay recommend improving the evaluation, monitoring and accountability systems of anti-corruption policies. Also, developing regulations that promote transparency and accountability of the private sector, as well as deepening the measures implemented by the State; and producing relevant information for understanding and addressing the problem. It is essential that, within their authority, the three State branches incorporate an intersectional perspective to address the problem and generate information on and for identifying groups that are vulnerable to these crimes as a means to improve anti-corruption policies and regulations.

After completion of this report, several suspected cases of corruption have been reported and are being investigated by the judiciary or by Parliament. Also, the Judiciary has closed new Magistrates' Courts, limiting government presence in the national territory and, therefore, citizens' access to justice.

The civil society organizations gathered in the CCO demand the creation of spaces for dialogue, oversight, and social control with the participation of state actors, civil society, academia, and private actors, in order to advance in the fight against corruption with the commitment of the whole society.

The CCO is a joint effort between the **Citizen Forum of the Americas (CFA)**, the **Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (REDLAD D, by its Spanish initials)**, **national chapters of Transparency International (TI) in Latin America**, and **more than 150 Civil Society Organizations** in the Americas, to promote citizen participation and monitor the progress of government actions and the challenges they face, as well as to systematically investigate, document and analyze evidence on the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts in the region. It is supported by the U.S. Department of State.



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