

UPR 17th SESSION

COUNTRY UNDER REVIEW: URUGUAY

Intervention by Turkey

Thank you Mr President,

We welcome the delegation of Uruguay and thank them for their successful presentation.

Turkey commends Uruguay for the process of implementing the recommendations that were made during the first review. In this respect, Uruguay's accession to the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education and the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are noteworthy.

Moreover, we observe that Uruguay is putting into force comprehensive social policies on the situation of women within society. In this respect, Turkey commends Uruguay's efforts to improve women's participation in decision-making and public policy development.

Turkey also welcomes the improvements in the prison system. Effective implementation of the Act to Humanize and Modernize the Prison System is important.

We **recommend** the Government of Uruguay to continue the reform process to strengthen the institutions of the prison system in order to guarantee respect for the human rights and dignity of persons deprived of liberty.

On the economic side, Turkey gladly observes that sustained economic growth since 2005 has contributed positively to the eradication of poverty. The fact that the percentage of persons living below the poverty line dropped by 20 percentage points between 2008 and 2012 is laudable.

Finally, the progress in Uruguay's fight against Trafficking in Persons is another praiseworthy development. Turkey welcomes the adoption of the Act on Migration, which incorporates the specific punishable offence of trafficking and smuggling of persons.

Thank you Mr President.