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AGENCIA URUGUAYA
DE COOPERACIÓN
INTERNACIONAL



CONCEPT NOTE

“Development in Transition: Introducing Uruguay’s International Cooperation Policy to achieve Sustainable Development by 2030”

DATE AND LOCATION

19th March 2019, 4.00 – 5.15 PM – Salón Comedor Grande del Palacio San Martín, Arenales 761, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires (Argentina).

RATIONALE

Development is both a process and an end in itself. Economic growth is critical to climb the development ladder, yet it is not sufficient to advance sustainable development. There is, however, few research on what happens with developing countries which graduate from Official Development Assistance (ODA) in terms of access to external finance and capacity-building for development.

Are countries who graduate from the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee list truly developed and self-reliant in an era of pressing global development challenges and goals? Are GDP per capita thresholds the most accurate indicator of development levels, and furthermore, of countries’ needs and capabilities to achieve the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development? What happens when countries graduate but still have structural gaps and vulnerabilities which hinder sustainable development? Do they no longer belong to the global South? How do we reshape the international cooperation system so that it does not leave anyone behind? How can we rewrite international cooperation policies so that all countries progressively contribute according to their actual capabilities and receive according to their actual development needs?

These and other questions were discussed by Uruguay both domestically and with cooperation partners for the past three years, when the country learned that it was in the path of being graduated if classified as high income country for three consecutive years. After ten years of sound macroeconomic policies and a battery of social policies – some of them supported with technical assistance provided by international cooperation partners- aimed at reducing inequalities in access to services/rights between social groups defined by socio-economic status, race, gender, sexual orientation, disability and age, our country has increased the wellbeing of its population. However, Uruguay still faces structural gaps and vulnerabilities which hinder further progress. Moreover, in the face of major transformations in the global

economy, the country needs to strengthen capabilities to face both new and global challenges to transition to sustainable development.

The result of the national debate on the role of Uruguay in the international cooperation scenario and the role of international cooperation to support Uruguay's efforts was synthesized in the recently approved "Policy for Uruguay's International Cooperation for Sustainable Development by 2030".

MAIN OBJECTIVES

The present side-event aims to introduce Uruguay's International Cooperation Policy in its broader regional and global contexts so that other Southern governments, traditional cooperation partners and other stakeholders understand its underlying rationale and gain firsthand knowledge on the policy process and dilemmas, as well as on its strategic objectives and guidelines to support Uruguay's transition to sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for the next fifteen years.

SPEAKERS

- Mrs Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Mr Mario Pezzini, Director of the OECD Development Centre and Special Advisor to the OECD Secretary-General on Development
- Mrs Andrea Vignolo, Executive Director of the Uruguayan International Cooperation Agency
- Representative from the Uruguayan International Cooperation Agency's Political Council

STRUCTURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting will be structured as a panel discussion followed by an interactive dialogue between the audience and panelists. It will be moderated by Cecilia Alemany (Red Sur Coordinator, Universidad Complutense de Madrid and AUCI consultant).

Agenda	Description	Speaker
4 – 4.10	Welcome and opening remarks	
4.10 – 4.30	Uruguay's international cooperation policy	Andrea Vignolo (AUCI)
4.30 – 4.50	How is this policy relevant in the current regional and global contexts?	Alicia Bárcena (ECLAC) and Mario Pezzini (OECD)
4.50 – 5.00	Political remarks	Representative from AUCI's Political Council
5.00- 5.15	Interactive dialogue	