

# Uruguay joins other nations addressing General Assembly in calling for stronger, more flexible UN

25 September 2017 – In his speech to the General Assembly's annual general debate, Rodolfo Nin Novoa, Foreign Minister of Uruguay, said strengthened international coordination bodies are needed more than ever, urging respect for the principle of sovereignty.

"The United Nations must become stronger," and the General Assembly must gain greater prominence, he said. He noted that Uruguay's foreign policy is based on the pillars of democracy, human rights, the defence of international law, and pursuit of peace. Such principles retained prominence despite the changes of political power in the country, he said, underscoring Uruguay's commitment to making its voice heard on the international stage.

More broadly, he noted that unprecedented violence, arms proliferation, and the increase in terrorism, cyberattacks, hunger and climate change require a strong commitment from the international community. Today, millions are affected by armed conflict, with hundreds of thousands killed and millions displaced. "We should not get used to standing idly by," he stressed.

He urged all countries to increase efforts to combat human trafficking, and ensure development and social growth, citing inequality and the persistence of international forces as drivers of those threats. He expressed support for the [2030 Agenda](#) and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, noting that Uruguay had recently presented its Voluntary National Report to the Economic and Social Council's High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

[\*Full statement \(in Spanish\) available here\*](#)