

# Paraguay

Paraguay is a Member State of the Organization of American States (OAS) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

## Regional: Inter-American System



As a Member of the OAS, Paraguay is held to the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The Commission may decide [complaints](#) against the State and may also hold [hearings](#) or issue [reports](#) on the human rights situation there. Paraguay has accepted the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which may issue binding [judgments](#) concerning alleged abuses.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Paraguay to the [Inter-American human rights system](#). For example, in *Víctor Hugo Maciel v. Paraguay* the Commission found Paraguay responsible for violating the rights to liberty, humane treatment, and fair trial, among others, after a 15-year-old boy died in the course of compulsory military service. See IACHR, Report No. 85/09, Case - 11.607, [Víctor Hugo Maciel v. Paraguay](#) (Paraguay), August 6, 2009. The Court found multiple violations related to Paraguay's taking of the Xákmok Kásek community's ancestral property, and ordered the State to return the land. See I/A Court H.R., [Xákmok Kásek Indigenous Community v. Paraguay](#). Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of August 24, 2010. Series C No. 214.

Additionally, the Commission and Court have issued [precautionary measures](#) and [provisional measures](#) to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Paraguay.

Paraguay has ratified the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- American Convention on Human Rights
- Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ("Protocol of San Salvador")
- Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities
- Inter-American Convention on the Forced Disappearance of Persons
- Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women ("Convention of Belem do Pará")
- Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture

## United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Paraguay is subject to the oversight of various [UN human rights bodies](#), including the [Human Rights Council](#) and its [Universal Periodic Review](#) and thematic [special procedures](#). As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Paraguay's policies and practices are monitored by UN [treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of five treaty bodies.

Paraguay has ratified the following **UN human rights treaties**:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW)

Paraguay has also ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aimed at abolishing the death penalty, and optional protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Paraguay has a duty to submit **State reports** to each UN treaty body associated with the relevant treaty Paraguay has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Paraguay has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Paraguay has ratified [optional protocols](#) and made appropriate declarations allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the ICCPR, CEDAW, CAT, CRC, and CRPD. Additionally, certain UN treaties include **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Paraguay has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT, CED, CEDAW, and CRPD.

On March 28, 2003, Paraguay extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means they are welcome to conduct visits in Paraguay. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the right to education went on a mission to Paraguay in April 2009 and published a [report](#) in March 2010.

For more information on Paraguay's engagement with [UN human rights bodies](#), visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/LACRegion/Pages/PYIndex.aspx>.

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