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.


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
- 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](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/LACRegion/Pages/PYIndex.aspx).

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