

INVESTOR'S **GUIDE**

Entry requirements

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Uruguay

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

INVESTOR'S GUIDE



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The information and data contained herein are based on official sources available at the time of writing and are not in any way professional or commercial advice.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The residency permit is a governmental authorization that allows a foreigner to stay and work legally in Uruguay.

To apply for a residency permit, you must go to the National Migration Directorate according to the type of residency that best suits your specific needs:

1. **TEMPORARY IDENTIFICATION CARD**, which will allow you to work for a maximum period of 180 (one hundred and eighty) days. The Temporary Identification Card may be renewed only once, for an additional period of 180 days.
2. **TEMPORARY LEGAL RESIDENCE**, which is suitable for cases where the individual intends to stay in the country for a period over 180 (one hundred and eighty) days, but under 2 (two) years. If the individual is a foreigner from Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, or Surinam, they may apply for the MERCOSUR Temporary Legal Residence which has the advantage of not having to provide means of livelihood or proof of domicile.
3. **PERMANENT LEGAL RESIDENCE**, suitable in cases where the applicant intends to remain in the country for more than 2 (two) years, or if their temporary residency expires and they wish to become a permanent legal resident.

Additionally, it is possible to obtain a **"Tax Residency"** as provided for by the current legislation. The tax resident status in Uruguay implies that an individual may be considered a Uruguayan taxpayer when such person complies -in the view of the General Tax Directorate (DGI)- with one of the following two circumstances: 1) presence in Uruguay for over 183 (one hundred and eighty-three) days in a calendar year (continuous or intermittent); or 2) establishment in Uruguayan territory of the "main place of business or base of their activities or of their economic or vital interests". Given that Uruguay maintains its general tax regime subject to the principle of the territoriality of the source (i.e., only income earned or produced in the country is taxed, with some specific exceptions), the same rules, criteria and taxes will apply to those who obtain tax residency as to other Uruguayan taxpayers, including possible initial tax benefits, all of which excludes any requirement to be taxed on the principle of universal or global income. This regime is detailed in the tax chapter of this Guide ([link](#)).¹

In this regard, the website [Live in Uruguay](#) provides all the information of relevance to a foreign individual interested in living, working, studying, starting a business, or investing in Uruguay, including the matters previously mentioned². Below, the aforementioned topics will be explained further.

1 <https://www.uruguayxxi.gub.uy/en/invest/investors-guide/>

2 <https://www.liveinuruguay.uy/covid19-entry>

2. TEMPORARY ENTRY: NON-RESIDENTS

Any person that intends to enter Uruguay must have a passport that is valid for at least six months after arrival in the country. In some cases, a visa is also required prior to the date of entry. To understand if a visa is required or not, it depends on the citizenship country of the individual. Information on which countries require a visa is available at the Ministry of the Interior³.

Citizens of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, and Venezuela may enter the country with only their national identity card and are not required to show a passport.

Non-residents may stay in the country for a period of 90 days, extendable for an additional 90 days by applying for a temporary stay extension⁴.

3. VISAS

Uruguay requires some nationalities to obtain a permit (visa) prior to entering the country.

Uruguayan consulates abroad are responsible for receiving visa applications and provide information on the necessary requirements to apply for a visa.

The visa authorization is granted by the National Migration Directorate and usually takes at least 20 working days from the date of application. Once the consulate receives the written authorization, it can issue the visa and stamp it in the holder's passport.

Everyone applying for a visa must provide the contact for a person in Uruguay or a hotel reservation, and telephone number and address.

Decree No. 356/018 differentiates between different types of visas according to the reason for entry:

- » Tourist visa
- » Business visa
- » Work visa
- » Study visa⁵
- » Family reunification visa
- » Humanitarian and emergency visa

³ The information can be found in the following link: <https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-interior/comunicacion/publicaciones/regimen-visas-admision>

⁴ For more information visit: <https://www.gub.uy/tramites/prorroga-permanencia-temporaria>

⁵ For work and study visas, the individual has 30 days from their arrival to apply for a residency, if they wish to do so.

- » Visa for national or international congresses, conventions, and seminars.

For further information on the application requirements and countries that require visas, please visit the following [link](#).⁶

4. WORKING IN URUGUAY: RESIDENTS

The legal (or migratory) residence is regulated by Law No. 18,250 ("Migration Law") and its Regulatory Decree No. 394/009.

As opposed to the tax or fiscal residency, which includes taxation issues, the legal (or migratory) residency refers to the place where a given individual has a stable permanence, i.e., the place where he/she lives and carries out his/her main social or economic activities. Legal residency implies the start of an administrative process at the request of a foreigner who is interested in adjusting their migratory situation to reside and carry out activities in Uruguay.

In Uruguay, current legislation differentiates between two immigration categories: (i) non-residents; and (ii) residents. In turn, within the latter, there are sub-categories for "permanent residents" and "temporary residents", depending on the purpose and length of their stay in the country.

Regardless of this classification, any foreigner who is a legal Uruguayan resident acquires the same labor rights as citizens, regarding admission to employment, compensation, working conditions, access to professional training, among others.

Foreigners who have not obtained legal residency are prohibited from engaging in any kind of work or activities for or in companies that are established in the national territory (except in the case of digital nomads). The legislation establishes that no company may proceed with the hiring or inclusion of foreigners in their Company Registry if they do not prove that they are duly authorized to legally work in the country, either on a permanent or temporary basis.⁷

Any foreigner may request legal residency by initiating the required procedure, and this will lead to being given a migratory certificate to obtain a provisional identity sheet before the National Directorate of Civil Identification.

4.1. Provisional identity sheet

The Provisional Identity Sheet is an authorization that enables the foreigner to work for a maximum period of 180 (one hundred and eighty) days. This Provisional Identity Sheet may be renewed only once for another period of 180 (one hundred and eighty) days.

All foreigners processing a temporary residency for a term of less than 6 (six) months must:

⁶ <https://www.gub.uy/tramites/inicio-solicitud-visas>.

⁷ Companies may include in their payroll individuals with an approved or pending residency status. <https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-trabajo-seguridad-social/politicas-y-gestion/contratacion-trabajadores-extranjeros-bajo-regimen-dependencia-laboral>

- » Certify before the National Migration Directorate the activity that gives origin to the request.
- » Specify the termination date of said activity.
- » Attach a notarized certificate attesting to all the data of the institution or company.
- » Attach a copy of the identity card or travel document of the person requesting the residency.
- » Submit a Criminal Record Certificate, duly legalized or apostilled as appropriate and translated, if necessary, from any countries where the applicant has resided in the last 5 (five) years, for a period equal to or greater than 5 (five) months.
- » Proof of health coverage or medical insurance in the country.
- » Show evidence of valid immunizations for the vaccines included in the Vaccination Schedule of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, in accordance with the person's age.
- » Sign an affidavit stating that they have sufficient means to support themselves economically during their stay in the country.

Once the above requirements are duly accredited, a certificate is issued for the purpose of granting a Provisional Identity Sheet by the National Directorate of Civil Identification, to then move forward to register the individual with the Social Security Agencies and with the Ministry of Labor and Social Security.

DIGITAL NOMADS' IDENTITY SHEET

The "Provisional Digital Nomad Identity Sheet" allows the holder to carry out activities remotely from within the national territory for entities and companies located abroad and does not require registration with social security agencies.

Like the regular Identification Sheet, the Digital Nomad Identification Sheet can only be renewed once, for an additional period of 180 (one hundred and eighty) days.

The requirements to obtain the Digital Nomad Identification Sheet are as follows:

- » It must be requested by individuals who are self-employed or work for foreign companies.
- » Complete an online form with personal data and sign a sworn affidavit stating that they have sufficient means to support themselves financially during their stay in the country.

To request the extension of the digital nomad permit for an additional 180 days, it is also required:

- » To submit a Criminal Record Certificate, duly legalized or apostilled as appropriate and translated, if necessary, from any countries where the applicant has resided in the last 5 years, for a period equal to or greater than 5 months.
- » Show evidence of valid immunizations for the vaccines included in the Vaccination Schedule of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, in accordance with the person's age.

4.2. Temporary residency

This residency is appropriate when the foreigner stays in Uruguay for a period of no less than 180 (one hundred and eighty) days and a maximum of 2 (two) years, term that can be extended according to the cause that gives rise to the temporary admission. The term of stay may be renewed for a period of 2 additional years, with a maximum of 4 (four) years. In case of opting for this residency, the interested party must submit the application to the National Migration Directorate.

Citizens of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, or Surinam may apply for the MERCOSUR Temporary Residency, with special conditions to apply for the temporary residency.

In general, the following must be submitted:

- » Original Identity card or travel document used to enter the country.
- » Passport-size photo of the interested party.
- » Valid health card issued by the authorized health institutions of the Ministry of Public Health.
- » Current vaccination certificate showing valid immunizations for the vaccines included in the Vaccination Schedule of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, in accordance with the person's age.
- » Documentation that proves the activity that gives rise to the admission as a Temporary Resident.
- » Letter on company letterhead indicating the activity carried out and the term of hiring by the employer, detailing the monthly compensation, if applicable, and the means of support. Said letter must be accompanied by a notarized certificate where all the company's information is shown, according to the legal nature of the company or Paid Work History issued by the Social Security agency of Uruguay.
- » For those over 18 (eighteen) years of age, submit a Criminal Record Certificate, duly legalized or apostilled as appropriate and translated to Spanish, if necessary, from any country where the applicant has resided in the past 5 years, for a period equal to or greater than 5 months.
- » Proof of health coverage or medical insurance in the country.

In addition, students must prove their status by means of an official certificate from the educational institution. For private institutions, a notarized certification attesting to the existence of the institute and its comptroller must be provided as well. Additionally, they must prove their means of livelihood, which must be adequate for their own maintenance.

If the foreigner does not have means of livelihood of their own, they may provide the means of livelihood of a relative and must prove the relationship. If the means of livelihood come from abroad, the foreigner must provide a notarized certificate stating the money received from abroad, detailing the amount, the place where the money is received and the relationship of the person making the transfer. This type of residency is granted for up to 1 (one) year, extendable for equal periods, not exceeding 2 (two) years of the total degree.

When the applicant is under 18 (eighteen) years of age, in addition to complying with the above requirements, they must:

- » Attach express authorization from their parents to settle temporarily in Uruguay.
- » Attach the minor's birth certificate.
- » If the minor will not be living with either of his/her parents, it must be established which adult will be responsible for him/her in the country.
- » Proof of student status by means of an official certificate from the educational institution.

If the foreigner wishes to remain in the country for longer than the time foreseen by the temporary residency, for citizens of any country including MERCOSUR countries, then the corresponding procedure for Permanent Residency must be initiated, prior to the expiration of the term of the temporary residency.⁸

4.3. Permanent legal residency

This type of residency is appropriate when the intention of the foreigner is to remain in Uruguay for a period of more than 2 (two) years, or when the temporary residency has expired, and the individual wants to become a permanent legal resident. When opting for this type of residency, the interested party must submit the request before the National Migration Directorate.

If permanent residency is granted, the length of stay is indefinite.

As is the case with temporary residency, citizens of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, or Surinam, and foreign relatives of nationals in the country, have special conditions to apply for residency. In these cases, the procedure may be initiated in the country of origin (at the pertinent Uruguayan embassy or consulate) and will be free of charge.

To apply for Legal Permanent Residency, certain requirements must be complied with, and the following documentation must be submitted:

- » Passport-size photo of the interested party.
- » Original Identity card or travel document used to enter the country.
- » Valid health card issued by the authorized health institutions of the Ministry of Public Health.

⁸ In the case of religious persons belonging to churches, orders or congregations recognized in the country, who come to carry out activities related to their worship, teaching, or religious assistance, they must also submit a certificate issued by the congregation or church to which they belong on appropriate letterhead, stating the activities to be carried out by the petitioners, the duration of their mission and proof of maintenance. A notarized certification of the legal status and other data corresponding to the Civil Association shall be attached.

- » Current vaccination certificate showing valid immunizations for the vaccines included in the Vaccination Schedule of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, in accordance with the person's age and verified by a Uruguayan vaccination center.
- » Documentation proving the means of livelihood of the interested party, in accordance with the activity they carry out (except if the person is originally from a MERCOSUR member country).
- » Criminal Record Certificate duly legalized or apostilled as appropriate and translated to Spanish, if necessary, from any country where the applicant has resided in the past 5 years, for a period equal to or greater than 5 (five) months. Documents from Brazil do not require translation into Spanish.
- » Birth and/or marriage certificate, if applicable. The birth certificate will be required exclusively when the applicant is under 18 (eighteen) years of age, the certificate must have been issued less than one year before initiating the application, and it must be duly legalized or apostilled and, if required, translated.
- » Police certificate of good conduct
- » Proof of intent to stay in the country in an unequivocal manner.
- » Proof of health coverage or medical insurance in the country.

It is important to mention that there is also permanent residency by Uruguayan relations intended for foreigners who have a bond with a Uruguayan individual (child, spouse, common-law spouse, or sibling).⁹

5. LEGAL CITIZENSHIP

The constitutional and legal regulations in force determine that any foreign person of good conduct, over 18 (eighteen) years of age, who is included in any of the following legal situations, may become a Legal Citizen in Uruguay:

1. Having an established family in Uruguay, who possessing capital in draft or property in the country or practicing science, art or developing industry, with three years of permanent residence in the country.
2. Without an established family in Uruguay, who have some of the qualities of the previous paragraph and five years of permanent residence in the country.
3. Obtain special recognition from the General Assembly for notable services or relevant merits.

⁹ For more information, please see: <https://www.gub.uy/tramites/residencia-legal-permanente-vinculo-uruguayo#contenido-seleccion>.

For the purposes of initiating the application, the interested party shall submit proof of:

- » Authorization to reside in the country.
- » Nationality.
- » Age.
- » Identity.
- » Residency.
- » Established family.
- » Roots.
- » Good conduct.
- » Democratic ideas.

The interested party will be required to appear before the Electoral Court, where all matters related to the requested citizenship will be processed. The application is free of charge, and once approved, it is valid indefinitely.

6. FISCAL RESIDENCY

In order to obtain comprehensive and detailed information on the Uruguayan tax system applicable to tax residents, we refer to the tax chapter of this Guide ([link](#))¹⁰, however, here are a few brief comments on the guidelines of this special regime.

According to the Uruguayan legislation, it will be understood that an individual has tax residence in this country, if any of the following circumstances are applicable:

4. Stay in Uruguay for over 183 (one hundred and eighty-three) days during the calendar year, considering sporadic absences and unless the taxpayer proves tax residence in another country; or
5. Having in Uruguay the main place of business, base for activities or their economics or vital interests.

SCENARIO 1 -STAYING IN THE COUNTRY

To determine the period of stay of the individual in Uruguay, all the days in which the actual presence in the country is recorded (regardless of the time of entry and exit) will be considered,

¹⁰ <https://www.uruguayxxi.gub.uy/en/invest/investors-guide/tax-system/>

not counting the days in which the person remains as a passenger in transit. Likewise, based on the regulations in force, absences in Uruguayan territory would be considered "sporadic" to the extent that they do not exceed a total of 30 (thirty) consecutive days, unless the taxpayer proves to have tax residency in another country, by presenting the certificate of residency issued by the corresponding tax authority. This is accredited by presenting the Certificate of Arrival issued by the National Migration Directorate.

SCENARIO 2 - MAIN PLACE OF BUSINESS OR VITAL OR ECONOMIC INTERESTS

To determine the configuration of "Main place of business, vital or economic interests in the country", the following criteria must be taken into account depending on the case:

TABLE 1
CRITERIA TO DETERMINE FISCAL RESIDENCY ACCORDING TO CAUSE

CAUSE	INTERPRETATIVE CRITERIA
Main place of business, base of activities in Uruguay	Higher volume of income generated in Uruguay compared to other countries. Note: The "existence of a base for activity" will not be considered when the income obtained is purely from capital, even if the totality of assets is in Uruguay.
Vital Interests	Regular (migratory) residence in Uruguay of spouses and children who are minors, provided that the spouse is not legally separated, and the children are subject to parental authority. Note: If there are no children, the presence of the spouse is sufficient.
Economic Interests	Investment in Uruguay in any of these assets and conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Real estate valued at more than USD 2,202,640 (estimated values as of December 2023)¹¹, considering the updated tax cost of each property. » Direct or indirect investments in companies with a value of more than USD 6,607,915 (estimated values as of December 2023)¹², which include activities or projects declared to be of national interest. » Real estate valued at more than USD 513,950 (estimated values as of December 2023)¹³, considering the fiscal cost of each property, if it was made after July 1, 2020, and if the individual is physically in Uruguay for at least 60 (sixty) days during the calendar year. » Directly or indirectly owning an interest in a company for a value over USD 2,202,640 (estimated values as of December 2023)¹⁴, if it was made after July 1, 2020, and generates at least 15 (fifteen) new direct full-time dependent job openings during the calendar year. For such purposes, the investment accumulated from the indicated date and until the end of the corresponding calendar year will be computed. On the other hand, the new job openings will be considered if they are not related to a loss of jobs in related entities.

¹¹ The values are stated in U.S. dollars for better understanding but must always correspond to the amount set in the regulation of 15,000,000 Indexed Units (UI). The daily value of the UI can be found at <https://www.ine.gub.uy/web/guest/valores-anteriores>.

¹² Equivalent to 45.000.000 UI.

¹³ Equivalent to 3.500.000 UI.

¹⁴ Equivalent to 15.000.000 UI.

The **main place of business or base of activities** in Uruguay must be evidenced by means of a notarial or accounting certificate of total income, to which the taxpayer's statement indicating that the applicant has no other income other than those referred to in the certification must be attached.

The establishment of Uruguay as the **center of vital interests** must be accredited through all documentation that is deemed pertinent, such as enrollment of the child or children in an educational institution, proof of medical coverage, proof of membership in sports clubs, etc.

If an individual does not prove or establish any of the aforementioned criteria, he/she would not be considered a tax resident in Uruguay, and would not be included as a taxpayer of the applicable tributes (mainly the Personal Income Tax -IRPF- or the Wealth Tax -IP-), although the taxpayer status for non-residents who obtain income from Uruguayan sources (typically the Non-Resident Income Tax -IRNR-) could be applicable in its entirety.

To prove the tax residency of a legal entity, a notarial certificate must be submitted with the following information:

- » In the case of legal persons or entities incorporated under national laws: proof of registration under national laws, address in the country for the requested period (fiscal and registered), representation of the company, statement that there is no redomiciliation abroad in process.
- » In the case of legal persons or entities not incorporated under national laws: proof of completion of the formal procedures required by the laws and regulations in force to establish their residence in the country, address in the country for the requested period, representation of the company, statement that there is no redomiciliation abroad in process.

Currently, if the tax resident status is recognized by the competent authorities, a Certificate of Tax Residency will be issued in the form of a digitally signed file, which will be sent to the applicant's e-mail address.

7. INCENTIVES FOR FOREIGN IMMIGRATION

Immigration Law establishes, as inalienable rights of all immigrants and their families, the right to migration, family reunification, due process and due access to justice, as well as equal rights with national citizens, without any distinction based on sex, race, color, language, religion or conviction, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, nationality, age, economic situation, net worth, marital status, birth or any other condition.

The incentives for the immigration of foreigners stem from policies that seek to encourage foreign investment in Uruguay, and this also applies to Uruguayan citizens who have resided abroad for the previous two (2) years and who return to the country, bringing capital to invest in activities that serve the economic, social or cultural development.

Immigration Law also provides for the equal treatment of migrants and Uruguayans. The government guarantees the right to equal treatment of nationals and all foreigners who enter and stay in the country, complying with the forms and conditions stipulated in the Law, both in terms of rights and obligations.

In terms of working in the country, foreigners and nationals shall receive equal treatment regarding labor rights in all aspects, such as admission to employment, compensation or salary, working conditions, access to professional training, claims for labor matters, etc. Under certain conditions, the entry of tools, machines, devices, and instruments necessary for the exercise of their profession, art or trade is exempt from duties, as well as goods for personal use, household goods and appliances.

8. FAST TRACK FOR COMPANIES - TEMPORARY RESIDENCY

Companies that want to add people (investors, workers, technicians, managers, middle managers) to their work team may access the service of Uruguay XXI, an agency specialized in promoting investments and country exports, to facilitate the visa and/or temporary residency process. Any foreign individual hired by local or international companies may apply for visa and/or temporary residency facilitation, whether they are in Uruguay or abroad. The requirements will depend on their country of origin.

Through this Fast-Track mechanism, visas and/or temporary residencies will be authorized by the National Migration Directorate or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as appropriate, within 10 (ten) working days from the date of submission of all necessary requirements.

Further information on all requirements for entry¹⁵ to Uruguay can be found at [Live in Uruguay](https://es.liveinuruguay.uy)¹⁶. This is a website that systematizes all the information for foreigners interested in living, working, studying, starting a business, or investing in Uruguay, available in both Spanish and English.

¹⁵ <https://es.liveinuruguay.uy/entryprocedures>

¹⁶ www.liveinuruguay.uy

9. SPECIAL BORDER DOCUMENT

The Special Border Document consists of a type of residency granted under the Agreement signed between the Governments of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay and the Federative Republic of Brazil, so that Uruguayan and Brazilian border nationals from the following locations may reside, study and/or work in the following cities:

- » Chuy, 18 de Julio, La Coronilla and Barra del Chuy (Uruguay) to Chuí, Santa Vitória do Palmar/ seaside area of Hermenegildo and Barra Do Chuí (Brazil).
- » Río Branco (Uruguay) to Jaguarao (Brazil).
- » Aceguá (Uruguay) to Aceguá (Brazil).
- » Rivera (Uruguay) to Santana Do Livramento (Brazil).
- » Artigas (Uruguay) to Quaraí (Brazil).
- » Bella Unión (Uruguay) to Barra do Quaraí (Brazil).

This residency may initially be granted for a term of 5 (five) years, extendable for 5 (five) more years. Once this period is over, it may be granted for an indefinite period and will be valid under any circumstances, exclusively within the limits of the locality for which it was granted.

Requirements for obtaining the Special Border Document:

- » Passport/other valid document providing identity as accepted by the Parties.
- » Proof of domicile in one of the localities referred to in the Agreement.
- » Document concerning criminal proceedings and criminal records in the localities in which they have resided in the last 5 years.
- » Certificate of valid Uruguayan Vaccination Schedule.
- » For minors, the application shall be formalized by means of representation or assistance.



Uruguay XXI
 INVESTMENT, EXPORT AND COUNTRY
 BRAND PROMOTION AGENCY

WHO WE ARE

We are the agency responsible for the promotion of exports, investment, and country brand. We work to enhance the export capacity and competitiveness of Uruguayan companies, promote the country as an attractive destination for productive investments, and promote the country brand Uruguay in the world.

Together with other institutions, we work to promote the productive and innovative economic development of the country, with sustainability, social equity, and environmental and territorial balance.



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OUR SERVICES FOR INVESTORS

Macro and sectorial information. Periodically, Uruguay XXI prepares reports on Uruguay and the various sectors of the economy.

Tailor-made information. We prepare personalized information to answer your specific inquiries, such as macroeconomic data, labor market information, tax and legal aspects, investment incentive programs, location, and costs.

Contact with the main actors. We generate contacts with government entities, industrial actors, financial institutions, R&D centers, and potential partners, among others.

Promotion. We promote investment opportunities in strategic events, missions, and business rounds.

Facilitation of visits to the country of foreign investors, including organization of agenda of meetings with, for example, public authorities, suppliers, potential partners, and business chambers.

Support in establishment and expansion. We facilitate your establishment in the country and support you to achieve the growth of your business in Uruguay.

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Uruguay XXI

INVESTMENT, EXPORT AND COUNTRY
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