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SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE FUTURE

(Meeting held on Tuesday, September 21, 2021)

THE CHAIR (Rodrigo Goñi Reyes).— A quorum being present, the meeting is called to order.

(The time is 12:06)

—We scheduled today's meeting essentially to coordinate the very important event we have next Monday: the Day of the Future. The law provides for an event to commemorate the Day of the Future on the last Monday in September.

To celebrate that day, we have prepared a full-day program. We will give legislators a copy; it is essentially the same one distributed a few days ago. We will also include it at the end of the stenographic transcript of this session.

The program begins at 9:00 with a presentation by the Vice President of the Republic, who will open the event.

There will then be six panels.

At 9:30 we begin with "Uruguay's challenges in the face of globalization, the scientific and technological revolution, and climate change."

At 10:30, "The fourth industrial revolution and the knowledge economy."

At 11:45, "Opportunities and risks for the agro-export industrial chain and the potential for developing a life sciences industry in Uruguay."

At 12:45 we will hold a working meeting of this Committee. I would say that this will be when the Committee properly begins the methodological process it will develop from then on. It will be a two-hour meeting. I will refer to it later; it will be very important, so we need to prepare for it a little.

Then, at 15:00, we have the panel entitled “Tensions and trends in globalization: challenges in sustainability and demographic issues.”

At 16:00 the panel will be “Sociocultural transformations and the challenges for citizens. Uruguay in action to adapt to a world undergoing profound and rapid change.”

At 17:00, “Opportunities and challenges of social and environmental sustainability for Uruguay in a context of climate change.”

As agreed, at the end of the day we will have final reflections and conclusions with representatives of all the parties on this Committee and also the President of the House of Representatives, Representative Alfredo Fratti.

We will therefore begin the day with the Vice President of the Republic and President of the Senate, and end it with the President of the House of Representatives, accompanied by Senators Silvia Nane and Carmen Sanguinetti and Representative Sebastián Cal, representing all parties.

We all decided that the conclusions and final reflections would be given by political figures, namely those I have mentioned. However, there is a possibility that someone highly prestigious and important to this process may join us: Dr. Rafael Radi. We should not include him in the political reflections because we will provide those ourselves, but since he played an important role in the GACH, perhaps he could very briefly share that successful experience. I mean experts’ involvement in the work of the Executive Branch, of government in general, during a situation such as the pandemic. Since we, too, are going to form a group of experts—more diverse, of course, because all disciplines will be represented—his participation could be valuable. We would need to approve or reject this today. Since participation was initially restricted to political figures, today we could consider whether that might be appropriate.

As you will see, the program has undergone very minor adjustments. Since some legislators are attending through Zoom, I will send them this latest program by message. Again, it has only very minor changes. Some panelists may have moved from one panel to another, but they are the same people. We have also added some panelists suggested by Representative Olmos to complete the lineup.

As you can see, the topics are the customary ones on the parliamentary agenda of the Committee for the Future. You will also notice that the panelists represent the various academic fields and areas of expertise in entrepreneurship, innovation,

science and technology. Representation is very diverse at every level—generation, field, age and gender—because we are seeking a balance.

All the moderators are well-known journalists currently taking part in programs of strong contemporary relevance.

The first moderator is Romina Andreoli, who works on the morning program En Perspectiva.

The first panel will feature journalist Carina Novarese, who covers these subjects.

Then there will be Daniel Castro, a news anchor on Canal 4; Malena Gastaldi, a news anchor on Canal 12; Juan Hounie, a radio journalist; Natalia Uval, a journalist at La Diaria; and Marcela Dobal, who covers these subjects for the newspaper El País.

Obviously, we initially invited a larger number of people. We knew we had a limit. We stretched the day as far as possible; as you can see, it is quite long. Many journalists and panelists who said they could not attend this time offered to participate in the next event—they are already on the list—which will not be next year, because we plan to meet every two or three months to focus on the topics we will be addressing.

Turning to the midday work session, to complete the general overview, our thinking has been that, given Parliament's agreement with UNESCO and its support in sharing and learning about these foresight and anticipation methodologies, Lydia Garrido—an expert and UNESCO representative on these matters—would make a very preliminary, general proposal so we can begin discussing the methodological process we will adopt.

I repeat that the idea is for the expert to make a proposal and tell us what is being done in other parliaments. We will try to understand it and ask whatever questions we wish. We are not tied to any particular methodology; this is simply one of the most widely practiced, applied and respected worldwide. Let us begin by hearing and understanding that proposal.

For that work session, which also relates to the global organization that is the UN, UNDP—which is working on these issues and with other parliaments around the world—has raised the possibility of participating through some technical assistance. The UN office in Uruguay, which coordinates these other offices—UNESCO, UNDP and others—has also expressed interest in participating.

We would therefore submit for consideration their participation in Monday's midday session as experts in the methodology, perhaps to exchange views freely on what they are thinking and how they see it. Naturally,

we need this technical assistance. There is no predetermined path in Parliament—I would say there is none—for committees working with this type of assistance, but it is done elsewhere in the world, and I think we can do it. What these international organizations—in which Uruguay is a member and participates at different levels—give us is diversity and assurances that their methodologies have been sufficiently tested in the democratic systems of various countries. This does not rule out another methodology emerging later, but I think beginning with these organizations would be a good approach.

I would therefore first submit for approval next Monday's program and participation by the UNESCO experts, especially Ms. Lydia Garrido, who has a proposal for us, adding representatives of UNDP and the UN office in Uruguay, who have shown interest in participating as they do in other parliamentary settings around the world.

I will end the introduction here and hear questions, comments, contributions or suggestions.

MS. SANGUINETTI (Carmen).— Greetings to all members; this meeting is very welcome. I think we are all very enthusiastic about this Committee.

One specific question: when the Representative refers to UNDP, are we also considering the division dealing with experimentation, this new UNDP area seeking disruptive alternatives to different problems, or not? Could they be included?

THE CHAIR.— So far, we have had contact and meetings with their representatives generally: both the new coordinator of the UN office, Pablo Ruíz, and UNDP representatives, specifically the director and deputy director. I think this representative also recently took up his post in Uruguay. We met through Zoom because he was in Sweden—I think he is Swedish—and he was determined to have this contact before Monday the 27th.

For UNESCO, the meeting was with Director Lidia Brito.

As I see it, Senator, this is entirely a win-win for us. Their objective is sustainable development, and when we speak of the future we mean sustainable development. Parliaments are increasingly working in that area, as are these organizations.

Naturally, it would be a fairly small working session: fifteen legislators, the UNESCO expert, the UNDP representative, the UN office representative, and perhaps someone else in connection with the Senator's suggestion.

MR. OLMOS (Gustavo).— The representative's name is Stefan Liller.

THE CHAIR.— Exactly! We spoke with Stefan Liller, who reiterated his intention to participate in the last few hours.

Does this plan we have for the 21st seem right to you?

MR. HERRERA SILVA (Carlos).— I understood that the entire midday exchange is intended to help establish a working methodology for the Committee. Is that correct?

THE CHAIR.— Correct, that is right.

MR. HERRERA (Carlos).— Perfect.

That was one of my questions: how the Committee's work would be approached going forward.

I was reading the earlier minutes and believe there was an intention to invite a demographer, an expert in demography, to the last panel. I thought it a very good idea, but I do not see one in the program.

THE CHAIR.— Yes, that is correct. I believe he was invited but could not participate on this occasion. He is among the people, the experts, on the list. He was called promptly; we had a limit here, and he asked whether there would be other occasions. Naturally, demography is a central issue.

As you will see in the program—I say this as modestly as possible, but it is information I must give—the end of one panel's title mentions demographic challenges. Rodolfo Saldain will make a very brief contribution there, like everyone, of ten minutes. We had to make a change because Mr. Calvo could not participate in this first event. We therefore reworked the program.

What is clear is that everyone suggested here was invited.

It is good for us to know that everyone said yes, that they want to participate in the process. We will then need to see how to involve them in these two lines of action—which we will finish defining next Monday—of more outward-facing, public events and internal sessions. I take the Representative's question as an opportunity to say that entire fields are being left out. I acknowledge that some particularly interest me, such as bioethics, which is fundamental to future-related issues. However much we tried to stretch the day like chewing gum—it will last twelve hours—it was impossible.

The other subject we did commit to addressing, which I also find fascinating, especially for those of us in politics, is what is known as algorithmic democracy and everything technological changes are currently generating within democracy itself and systems of representation.

I think we need two specific events for those two subjects. They are at a very early stage, particularly changes in governance, democracy and the crisis of representation. Perhaps that will be the next event.

There are experts. Much work is being done on this in Spain—to stay with the same language—and we could examine it. I think we would do very well to devote a session to it, which need not last twelve hours. I think we should move toward half-day events. Those two subjects seem very important to me.

UNESCO raised the possibility of participating in a virtual session on Thursday or Friday about bioethics and the future. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs invited us because they saw we were incorporating these issues. We have an enormous path ahead.

Also, to share information, I should say that last week, at an activity accompanying the Vice President of the Republic and the President of the House of Representatives to the meeting of congressional presidents, every time we discussed this Committee for the Future it became the topic we could not move away from. All parliaments are working in this area, and I do not know whether we gave the impression that we were already moving full steam ahead, but they wanted to know more about what we were doing. This clearly shows that parliaments are treating this area as a priority. Naturally, we will not be able to address everything at once.

Would you agree to an introductory proposal at midday from expert Lydia Garrido on behalf of UNESCO, with participation by the UNDP representative—who will probably be a great help to the Committee later—and the UN representative, who has also shown great interest? I think the number is entirely manageable and, of course, as Senator Sanguinetti suggested, if they wish to bring a specific expert in these areas we are working on, we would accept. Does that seem right?

(Supported!)

MR. OLMOS (Gustavo).— I wanted to ask about invitations to the public: what profile of attendees is envisaged, and what level of confirmations do we have from those who will be on the other side of the table?

MS. SANGUINETTI (Carmen).— I would add the question of whether the general public will be able to follow the event remotely.

THE CHAIR.— Unfortunately, the number for in-person attendance is very small: forty people, which I think we can relax a little.

We will hold it in the events room, which has a very large table allowing many panelists to sit without face masks. It is an enormous table. The room is beautiful. I did not know it, but it really is wonderful and provides a suitably formal setting for an important event.

The Presidency of the General Assembly is issuing the invitations, essentially through the participating institutions. Panelists participate in a personal capacity, but from there the institutions behind them emerge: universities and research centers.

We face the following challenge. The audience will probably be large for the opening and closing, but although all the panels are very interesting, we are unlikely to find a large number of people who stay all morning or all afternoon.

Therefore, while taking care of health precautions, I think members of this Committee should keep in mind the possibility of inviting particular people who may be interested in specific panels.

I do not know whether I am being clear, but I would invite people and encourage participation. I think this will happen over the coming days because, although the event has not been announced to the press, journalists are already asking panelists about it. Some people we know will probably ask whether they can attend. I think there is an allocation for specific panels that we could manage and coordinate, but we should keep that door open because we know better than anyone whom we want to involve later. For those people we will later ask to support, accompany and help us, this seems a good occasion to invite them, with the proper coordination, if they ask or raise the possibility of participating.

In response to Senator Sanguinetti's question, yes, it will be streamed in very high quality, at the highest technical standard. The opportunity to participate virtually will therefore be provided under the best conditions through Parliament's channel.

Any other questions? Does anyone on Zoom have a question?

Good. With thumbs up, then, we consider the arrangements for this event settled.

Naturally, it would be very, very, very good for all or most of us to attend most of the day, because that also helps us become involved. I think we are all at an introductory stage in this field, and we really have an outstanding, first-rate panel here. It would be difficult to have another day this intensive, with so much knowledge on the table.

So, if possible, it would be good for full members and alternates to participate throughout the day.

I do not want to forget—although, as we were saying, this would already be enough for us to go home reassured—that the World Bank representative in Uruguay, Celia Ortega, asked to meet with the Committee as soon as possible. We provisionally set Thursday the 30th. The World Bank is carrying out a foresight analysis for Uruguay—I do not remember the exact technical name, but it is essentially a projection five years ahead. It does this for every country in the world, but naturally Uruguay's interests us in this case. They expressed particular interest in a meeting before its completion and publication. I would not venture to call it a validation session, but they are indicating that our opinion interests them. Again, they want to meet with us because this is the Committee's subject.

Naturally, it is still a draft, a work that is neither finished nor published. The idea is to present its main findings so that we can become familiar with the work and comment. I do not think many of us will be in a position to do so there and then, but they will also give us time to make whatever comments we consider appropriate individually or collectively. It seemed a very considerate gesture toward our Committee, which is just beginning and already has an offer and proposal of this kind.

So, since they had no more time and asked for it to be before the 27th—and before that date we are occupied with this; we had little more room—it would have to be Thursday the 30th.

Naturally, that session could be partly in person and partly virtual. I do not know whether the World Bank's work for Uruguay runs to 2025 or 2030; I do not remember at the moment. The meeting would be on Thursday, September 30, between 10:00 and 11:30. The fact is that we have no more time.

Many people will also appear through Zoom because they are abroad. I raise this so that those of us who can may listen to or receive them. In principle, that is all they are asking. As a courtesy, I thought we should accept.

MS. NANE (Silvia).— Where will the meeting take place?

THE CHAIR.— If you agree, we will hold it through Zoom, because many people are abroad.

(Supported!)

—We will therefore meet through Zoom on Thursday, September 30, at 10:00.

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned.

(The time is 12:50)

Event program

Day of the Future

Uruguay Brings the Future into the Present

Program

09:00 to 9:30 – Opening of the Event.

Vice President of the Republic Beatriz Argimón, Representative Rodrigo Goñi and Bruno Gili will introduce the first event organized within the framework of the Committee for the Future, with the participation of leading Uruguayan experts. The day's work will allow the Committee for the Future to receive important input from academic leaders and experts in various disciplines and activities to define its work plan and agenda.

Moderator: Romina Andreoli

Part 1 (Panels from 09:30 to 12:45)

09:30 to 10:30 – Uruguay's challenges in the face of globalization, the scientific and technological revolution, and climate change.

The challenges Uruguay currently faces reflect forces moving the world, generating problems, opportunities and various challenges for a system of governance devised in another era to guide global cooperation and competition. These forces include the digital and biotechnological revolution, the knowledge economy and climate change, along with their environmental, social and demographic impacts within a globalized world undergoing constant change. Change is occurring at a speed that, as Thomas Friedman puts it, exceeds our ability to adapt and develop learning, training and management systems, social safety nets and government regulations that

enable citizens to make the most of these accelerations and cushion their worst effects.

Uncertainty within complex systems is part of everyday reality.

Speakers:

Fernando Filgueira: Holds a degree in Sociology from the University of the Republic (UdelaR), and a master's degree and doctorate from Northwestern University, United States. United Nations Population Fund.

Nicolas Jodal: Systems Engineer, graduate of the University of the Republic (UdelaR). He received the National Engineering Award in 1995, jointly with engineer Breogán Gonda, for the GeneXus Project at Artech. Managing partner of GeneXus.

Ricardo Pascale: Accountant, graduate of the University of the Republic (UdelaR), with a doctorate in the Information and Knowledge Society from the Open University of Catalonia.

Magdalena Cárdenas: Holds a doctorate in Biological Sciences from PEDECIBA–University of the Republic (UdelaR). She completed her master's and undergraduate degrees in Biological Sciences at UdelaR and is currently a researcher at the Human Molecular Genetics Laboratory of the Institut Pasteur de Montevideo.

Moderator: Carina Novarese

10:30 to 11:30 – The fourth Industrial revolution and the knowledge economy.

The digital revolution and the biotechnological revolution are bringing radical change to industries, business models, organizations and the State's roles. They therefore affect society in every aspect, at different speeds and with often unpredictable effects. Complex systems and uncertainty characterize the context in which organizations and citizens must decide and act. In this panel, the speakers will identify the main trends associated with the digital and biotechnological revolution.

Speakers:

Eduardo Mangarelli: Systems Engineer, graduate of Universidad ORT. He has been part of that institution for more than 20 years as a lecturer and tutor, and is currently Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at Universidad ORT Uruguay.

Sergio Fogel: Holds a degree in Computer Science and a master's degree from Technion University, and an MBA from Insead. Cofounder of Dlocal.

Carlos Batthyany: Medical doctor, graduate of the University of the Republic (UdelaR). He completed a master's degree and doctorate in Biochemistry at the Faculty of Sciences (UdelaR) and worked as a researcher in the Department of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine in the United States. He currently serves as Director of the Institut Pasteur.

Mercedes Aramendia: Lawyer with a master's degree in Economic Administrative Law from the University of Montevideo. She also holds a doctorate in Legal Sciences from the University of Granada, Spain.

Moderator: Daniel Castro

11:30 to 11:45 – Break

11:45 to 12:45 – Opportunities and Risks for the agro-export industrial chain and the potential for developing a life sciences industry in Uruguay.

The panel of experts will focus particularly on desirable, possible and most likely trends and transformations related to the development of the food industry, production of agro-industrial goods and services, and industries related to the life sciences under the concept of "One Health." One Health is a comprehensive, collaborative approach to understanding that human health and animal health depend on one another and are closely linked to the health of their environment. The digital and biotechnological revolution also compels us, among other things, to understand the associated ethical dilemmas, which challenge States, businesses and, above all, ourselves as individuals.

Speakers:

Martín Secco: Holds a degree in Business Administration and is a former CEO of Marfrig Global Foods.

Pablo Caputi: Holds a doctorate in Economics from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. He currently serves as Knowledge Manager at Uruguay's National Meat Institute (INAC). He is an honorary director of ANII and Professor of Agribusiness at Universidad ORT.

Isabelle Chaquiriand: Holds a doctorate in Business Administration from Grenoble Ecole de Management, France. She has a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Montevideo and is a Public Accountant, graduate of the University of the Republic (UdelaR).

Pilar Moreno: Holds a doctorate in Biological Sciences from the University of the Republic, where she also completed her master's and undergraduate degrees. She is currently an adjunct professor in the Molecular Virology Laboratory at the Faculty of Sciences (UdelaR) and a researcher at the Institut Pasteur de Montevideo.

Moderator: Malena Castaldi

12:45 to 15:00 – Intermission

During this break, the Committee for the Future will hold a working meeting.

Part 2 (Panels from 15:00 to 18:00)

15:00 to 16:00 – Tensions and trends in globalization: challenges in sustainability and demographic issues.

The digital and biotechnological revolution, demographic and behavioral changes, and the knowledge economy also entail profound changes in business competition models, market organization and global governance. This new paradigm is characterized by a new form of global integration, the rise of the network economy, new business models based on platforms for products, services and audiovisual content, greater competition between industries, increased trade in goods and strong global integration of services. These changes create major opportunities for advances in knowledge and people's well-being, while also presenting new challenges for social and environmental sustainability, equity, competition, efficiency and global governance.

Speakers:

Sebastián Fleitas: Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Louvain, Belgium. Holds a doctorate and master's degree in Economics from the University of Arizona and a degree in Economics from the University of the Republic. Visiting professor in the Economics master's programs of the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Administration and the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of the Republic.

Amparo Mercader: Partner in the tax practice at PwC in Washington, DC, where she leads the transfer pricing area, advising multinationals on global value chains. She studied Economics at the University of the Republic and holds an MBA in Finance and International Relations from Georgetown University.

Sebastián Torres: Development Coordination Officer at United Nations Uruguay. Holds a degree in Economics (UDELAR), a master's in Economic Development (Institute of Social Studies, Netherlands), a PhD in Economics (University of Leicester, England), and postdoctoral training in Economics (UK Economic and Social Research Council).

Rodolfo Saldain: Lawyer, graduate of the University of the Republic (UdelaR), and one of Uruguay's leading experts in Labor and Social Security Law. He is a former President of the Social Security Bank (BPS) and has worked as a lecturer.

Moderator: Juan Hounie

16:00 to 17:00 – Sociocultural transformations and the challenges for citizens. Uruguay in action to adapt to a world undergoing profound and rapid change.

The technological, economic and social trends described in the previous panels bring changes to the dynamics of our societies. In seeking a freer and fairer society, it is particularly important to understand three areas: their current situation, dynamics of change and the objectives to achieve as a society. First, the characteristics and challenges of building a welfare state in the twenty-first century; second, education and training for our children, young people and adults, together with the protection of human rights; and finally, work and employment for our citizens.

Speakers:

Gonzalo Frasca: Designer with a PhD in video games. Executive at the Norwegian educational studio DragonBox. Cocreator of DragonBox School, a mathematics learning system used in schools in Finland, Norway and France, awarded Finland's Best Digital Learning Solution in 2019.

Rodrigo Arim: Holds a degree in Economics from the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Administration at Udelar. He pursued postgraduate studies at Universidad Torcuato di Tella in Buenos Aires, the University of Chile, and the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México. He currently serves as Rector of the University of the Republic in Uruguay.

Renato Opertti: Holds a degree in Sociology from the University of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay. He has a master's degree in Educational Research, IDRC (Canada). He currently serves as Dean of the Graduate School at Universidad Católica del Uruguay.

Ana Inés Balsa: Holds a degree in Economics from the University of the Republic, Uruguay, and a doctorate in Economics from Boston University, Massachusetts.

Moderator: Natalia Uval

17:00 to 18:00 – Opportunities and challenges of social and environmental sustainability for Uruguay in a context of climate change.

The world's efforts to achieve growth with social and environmental sustainability lie at the heart of the dilemmas and decisions countries will face. Assessing the impacts of global warming on Uruguay's ecosystem, as well as adapting to the very likely new global rules for environmental sustainability, will be a challenge. Demographic changes, such as aging or migration, together with the need to achieve greater equity globally and within each country.

Identifying potential opportunities related to technologies and regulatory challenges for protecting humanity's common goods in a context of economic development, renewable energy, efficient resource use and equitable access to resources, sustainable tourism, among others, will be the challenges addressed in this panel.

Speakers:

Eduardo Blasina: Agricultural Engineer, graduate of (institution missing). He has worked as a lecturer at the University of the Republic and at ORT, and is currently an adviser to the Minister of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries.

Marcelo Caffera: Holds a degree in Economics from the University of the Republic, Uruguay, and a doctorate in Natural Resource Economics from the University of Massachusetts–Amherst.

María José Gonzalez: Civil Engineer from the Faculty of Engineering (Udelar), specializing in the environment, circular economy, cleaner production, waste management and recycling. Ministry of Industry and the Environment.

Virginia Suarez: Public Accountant from the Faculty of Economic Sciences (Udelar), with an MBA from Cema (Argentina). Former General Manager of HSBC and President of Sistema B.

Moderator: Marcela Dobal

18:00 to 19:00 – Final reflections and conclusions.

Speakers:

President of the Chamber of Deputies Alfredo Fratti

Representative Rodrigo Goñi

Senator Silvia Nane

Senator Carmen Sanguinetti

Representative Sebastián Cal

Prof. Dr. Rafael Radi (Former Coordinator of the GACH)

Montevideo, Uruguay. Legislature.