



SPECIAL COMMISSION ON FUTURES

(Meeting on Tuesday, September 21, 2021)

MR. PRESIDENT (Rodrigo Goñi Reyes). -If there is a quorum, the meeting is open.

(It's 12:06)

— — We had scheduled today's meeting, basically, to coordinate the very important event that we have next Monday: Future Day. The law establishes that on the last Monday of September an event is to be held to commemorate Future Day.

To celebrate this day we have prepared a full-day program. We will provide a copy to the legislators; basically, it is the same one that we distributed a few days ago. We will also include it at the end of the verbatim report of the session.

The program begins at 9 a.m. with a presentation by the Vice President of the Republic, who will inaugurate the event.

Afterwards, there will be six panels.

At 9:30 we started with "Challenges of Uruguay in the face of globalization, the "scientific-technological revolution and climate change."

At 10:30, "The Fourth Industrial Revolution and the Economy of knowledge".

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

At 12:45 we are going to have a working meeting of this Commission. I would say This will be the stage at which the Commission will actually begin the methodological process that it will develop from then on. It will be a two-hour meeting; I will refer to this stage later, which will be very important, so it needs to be worked on a bit.

Then, at 15 o'clock, we have the panel called "Tensions and trends" of globalization: challenges in terms of sustainability and demographic challenges."

At 4pm, the panel will be "Sociocultural transformations and challenges for citizens. Uruguay in action to adapt to a world in profound and rapid change."

At 5pm, "Opportunities and challenges of social and environmental sustainability" for Uruguay in a context of climate change."

As we had agreed, at the end of the day we will have reflections and final conclusions with representatives of all the parties that make up this Commission and also with the President of the House of Representatives, Mr. Alfredo Fratti.

This means that we will begin the day with the presence of the Vice President of the Republic and President of the Senate and we will end it with the presence of the President of the House of Representatives, who will be accompanied by Senators Silvia Nane and Carmen Sanguinetti, and Deputy Sebastián Cal representing all parties.

We had all decided that the conclusions and final reflections
The fact is that the meetings were carried out by political actors, who will be the ones I have named. However, there is the possibility that we will be accompanied by an actor who has been very prestigious and relevant in this process: Dr. Rafael Radi. We would not have to include him in the political reflections because we are going to do them, but given that he was an important protagonist in the GACH, perhaps he can briefly share this successful experience. I am referring to the participation of experts in the action of the Executive Branch, of the government in general, in an instance such as the pandemic. Given that we are also going to create a group of experts - of course, more plural, to the extent that all disciplines will be there - this participation could be good. We would have to approve this or not in today's instance. As in principle the participation had been restricted to political actors, today we could consider whether that may be convenient or not.

As you can see, the program had very small adjustments. Since Some legislators are attending the meeting via Zoom. I will send them this latest program by message, which, I repeat, has very minor adjustments. Perhaps some panelists moved from one panel to another, but they are the same ones. In addition, we incorporated some panelists that Representative Olmos had suggested to us to complete all the tables.

As you can see, the topics are the classics of the parliamentary agenda. of the Futures Commission. You will also notice that the panelists represent the diverse academic and expert areas of entrepreneurship, innovation,

science and technology. Representation is very diverse at all levels - from generations, areas, ages and even gender - because we seek balance.

All moderators are well-known journalists, who are currently participating in very current programs.

The first moderator is Romina Andreoli, who works on the program the morning *In perspective*.

On the first panel will be the journalist Carina Novarese, who is currently topics.

Then there will be: Daniel Castro, Channel 4 news reporter; Malena Gastaldi, Channel 12 news reporter; Juan Hounie, radio journalist; Natalia Uval, journalist from *The Daily*, and Marcela Dobal, a journalist on these topics in the newspaper *The Country*.

Obviously, we first extended invitations to a larger number of people. We knew we had a limit. We stretched the day as long as we could; as you can see, it is quite long. Many of the journalists and panelists who told us they could not be there this time, offered to participate in the next event - they have already signed up - which will not be next year because we are planning to meet every two or three months to focus on the topics we are going to address.

Moving on to midday work - so I finish with the general overview - the What we have been considering is that, given the agreement that Parliament made with UNESCO and that has been supporting us in the dissemination and knowledge of these prospective and anticipatory methodologies, the idea would be for Lydia Garrido - who is an expert and representative of UNESCO in these matters - to make us a proposal in very preliminary and general terms so that we can begin to discuss what the methodological process that we are going to adopt will be.

I repeat that the idea is for the expert to make us a proposal and inform us from what is being done in other parliaments. We will try to understand and ask all the questions we want; we are not tied to any particular methodology, but simply this is one of the most practiced, applied and prestigious in the whole world. Let us begin by listening to this proposal and understanding it.

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

Therefore, we would put forward for consideration that at that time from Monday to At noon they can also participate as experts in the methodology and, perhaps, freely exchange 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 situations in which the committees work with this type of assistance, but the world does it and I believe that we have the possibility of doing so. What these international organizations - which Uruguay is a member of and participates in at different levels - give us is plurality and the guarantees that their methodologies are sufficiently tested in the democratic system of various countries. This does not exclude the possibility that another organization may appear later, but it seems to me that it would be a good way to start with these organizations.

Therefore, I would first consider approving the program of the next Monday and the participation of UNESCO experts, especially Ms. Lydia Garrido, who has a proposal for us, and to add the participation of representatives of the UNDP and the UN office in Uruguay, who have shown interest in participating as they do in other parliamentary bodies around the world.

I leave this introduction here, and I listen to questions, comments, interventions or suggestions.

MRS. SANGUINETTI (Carmen). -I greet all the members and welcome this opportunity. I think we are all very enthusiastic about this Commission.

A specific question. When the deputy refers to the UNDP, does he also mean We are looking at the division that exists with regard to the issue of experimentation, this new area of the UNDP that is looking for disruptive alternatives to the different problems, or not? Could they be included?

MR. PRESIDENT. -So far we have had contact and meetings with their representatives in general, both with the new coordinator of the UN office, Pablo Ruíz, and with the representatives of the UNDP, specifically, with the director and the deputy director. I believe that this representative also recently took up the position in Uruguay; we had a meeting with him via Zoom because he was in Sweden - I believe he is of Swedish origin - and he definitely wanted to have this contact before Monday 27th.

The meeting with UNESCO was with the director Lidia Brito.

As far as I can see, Madam Senator, it is all a win-win situation for us. And since they are pursuing this objective of sustainable development, when we talk about the future we are referring to sustainable development. Parliaments are increasingly working in this area and these organisations are also working.

Naturally, that would not be a very large working instance, with fifteen legislators, the UNESCO expert, the UNDP representative, the representative of the UN office, and perhaps someone else regarding what the senator is proposing.

MR. OLMOS (Gustavo). -The representative is called Stefan Liller.

MR. PRESIDENT. -Exactly! We were talking to Stefan Liller, who in the last few hours reiterated his intention to participate.

Does this schedule we have for the 21st seem correct to you?

MR. HERRERA SILVA (Carlos).-I understand that all this exchange that will take place at noon is to define a working methodology for the Commission. Is that correct?

MR. PRESIDENT. -Correct, that's how it is.

MR. HERRERA (Carlos). -Perfect.

It was one of the doubts I had, that is, looking to the future, how were they going to undertake the work by the Commission.

I was reading the previous minutes and I think that for the last panel there was the intention of inviting a demographer, an expert in demography. I thought it was a very good idea, but I don't see him in the programme.

MR. PRESIDENT. -Yes, that's correct. I think he was invited and he was not in a position to participate in this instance. He is one of the people, the experts, who are registered. He was immediately called; here we had a limit and he asked if there were other instances. Naturally, the demographic issue is central.

As you will see in the program - with the greatest sobriety, but at a level informative I have to say - at the end of the title of one of the panels it says *demographic challenges*. Rodolfo Saldain will have a very brief intervention there - like everyone else - of ten minutes; here we had to make a change because Mr. Calvo was not in a condition to participate in this first instance. Therefore, we rearranged the program.

Yes, it is clear that all the people who left here were invited.
posing.

In a way, it's good that we know that everyone said yes, that they want to participate in the process. Then we will have to see how we can incorporate them into this double line of action - which we will finish defining next Monday - of events that are more external, more public, and internal instances. I take advantage of the question of the honourable member to say that there are entire areas that we are not going to cover. I recognise that some of them are of particular interest to me, for example, bioethics, which is fundamental in future issues. As much as we wanted to make a list of the day - it will be twelve hours - it was impossible.

The other issue that we did commit to address and that I also think is exciting, especially for those of us who are in politics, it is what is known as algorithmic democracy and everything that technological changes are generating today in democracy itself and in systems of representation.

I think that for those two topics we need to do two specific events. They are very incipient, especially the changes in governance, in democracy, and in the crisis of representation. Perhaps that will be the next event.

There are experts. In Spain, a lot of work is being done on the subject - so as not to - change language - and we could analyse it. I think we would do well to dedicate an instance to it, which does not have to be twelve hours. I think we have to move towards half-day events. I think these two issues are very important.

UNESCO offered us the possibility of participating in a virtual event on Thursday or Friday on bioethics and the future. We were invited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs because they saw that we were incorporating these issues. We have a long way to go.

Also by way of sharing information I have to say that in a The activity we had last week accompanying the Vice President of the Republic and the President of the House of Representatives at the meeting of the Presidents of Congress, in every conversation we had and we touched on this issue of the Futures Commission, it became the topic we could not get out of, because all the Parliaments are working in this area and I don't know if when we raised it we gave the impression that we were already full steam ahead; they wanted to know more about what we were doing. This is a clear confirmation that this area is being a priority focus in the Parliaments. Naturally, we are not going to be able to address everything at once.

Would it be a good idea to have an introductory proposal from the expert at noon? Lydia Garrido on behalf of UNESCO and to involve the representative of the UNDP - who will probably be of great help to the Commission later - and the representative of the UN, who has also shown great interest? I think that we are at a totally manageable number and, of course, as Senator Sanguinetti suggested, if they want to bring in some specific expert in these areas that we are working on, we would accept it. Does that seem okay to you?

(Supported!)

MR. OLMOS (Gustavo). -I wanted to ask about invitations to the public, what profile of people is expected and what level of confirmation we have regarding who will be on the other side of the counter.

MRS. SANGUINETTI (Carmen). -I add to that if there will be the possibility that people in general can follow the event remotely.

MR. PRESIDENT. -Unfortunately, for in-person participation we have a very small number, forty people, which I think we can make a little more flexible.

We are going to do it in the event room, which has a very large table and which allows for many panelists to be present without masks. It is a huge table. The room is beautiful. I had not been there, but it is truly wonderful and gives a solemn setting to an important event.

The invitations are being issued by the Presidency of the General Assembly, Basically, with the institutions that participate. The panelists participate in a personal capacity, but from there the institutions that are behind emerge: the universities, the research centers.

We have a challenge, which is the following. Surely the public, for the opening and closing, there may be plenty of people, but even though the panels are all very interesting, it is difficult to find a large number of people who will stay all morning or all afternoon.

Therefore, taking into account health aspects, I believe that the members of this Commission should consider the possibility of inviting certain people who may be interested in specific panels.

I don't know if I'm clear, but I would invite and encourage participation. I think we're going to It is important to note that this is happening in the next few days because, even though the press has not been informed, they are already consulting the panelists about the event. We will probably have some of our friends ask us if they can participate. I think that for the specific panels there is a quota that we could manage and coordinate, but I think that we should keep that door open, because we know better than anyone who are the people that we want to count on later. So, for those people that we will later ask to support us, accompany us and help us, I think that this is a good opportunity, if they ask us or suggest the possibility of participating, to invite them with the corresponding coordination.

In response to Senator Sanguinetti's question, I must answer that yes. will transmit *via streaming*, with very good quality, at the highest technical level, so that possibility of participating through the virtual space will be under the best conditions, through the Parliament channel.

Any other questions? Do I have anyone on Zoom with any questions?

Well then, with all our fingers up, we close this event.

Naturally, it would be very, very, very good if all of us or most of us I will participate in most of the day, because in some way we are also getting involved. I think we are all at a level of beginners in this matter and here we really have a spectacular panel, of the highest level. It is difficult to have a day as intense and with so much knowledge on the table as this one.

So, if possible, it would be good for starters and substitutes to participate. of this entire day.

I don't want to forget - although with this we would have enough to go away peacefully for the houses, as we said - that the representative of the World Bank in Uruguay, Celia Ortega, requested to have an instance with the Commission as soon as possible. In principle we set Thursday 30th. Precisely, the World Bank makes a prospective analysis - I don't remember very well what the technical name is, but basically it is a projection of five years ahead - for Uruguay. It does it for each country in the world, but in this case, naturally, we are interested in Uruguay. They expressed to us their special interest in having an instance prior to its completion and publication, an instance that I would not dare to say was for validation, but in some way they are suggesting that they are interested in our opinion. I repeat that they want to have an instance with us because it is the subject of this Commission.

Logically, it is still a draft, a work that is not finished or published. The idea is to give us a presentation of the main results so that we can learn about the work and make our comments. I don't think many of us will be in a position to do so there, but they will give us some time so that individually or collectively we can make the comments we consider appropriate. I thought it was an act of great consideration towards our Commission, which is just starting and already has an offer and a proposal of this nature.

So, since they didn't have any more time and asked us to come before 27 -before that date we are with this; we did not have much more margin-, it should be on Thursday 30th

Naturally, this instance could be partly in person and partly virtual. I don't know if the World Bank's work for Uruguay is until 2025 or 2030, I don't remember at this moment. The meeting would be on Thursday, September 30 between 10 o'clock and 11:30 o'clock. The reality is that we don't have any more time.

Also, many people are going to appear via Zoom, because they are in the outside. I put it so that those of us who can, can listen to them or receive them. They are asking us, in principle, only that. As a courtesy, it seemed to me that we had to accept.

MRS. NANE (Silvia). -Where will the meeting be held?

MR. PRESIDENT. -If you like, we can do it via Zoom, because there are a lot of people outside.

(Supported!)

— — So, we will hold the meeting via Zoom on Thursday, September 30th at 10:00 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned.

(It is 12:50)

Event program

Future Day

Uruguay brings the future to the present

Program

09.00 to 9.30 - *Opening of the Event.*

The **Mrs. Vice President of the Republic Beatriz Argimón, Deputy Rodrigo Goñi and Bruno Gili** will present the first event organized within the framework of the Commission of the Future with the participation of prominent Uruguayan experts. The work day will allow the Commission of the Future to receive important input from academic representatives and experts from various disciplines and activities, in order to define its work plan and agenda.

Moderator: Romina Andreoli

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

09.30 to 10.30 - *Challenges facing Uruguay in the face of globalization, the scientific-technological revolution and climate change.*

The challenges that Uruguay faces today respond to vectors that move the world, generating problems, opportunities and various challenges to a governance formulated in another era whose objective was to direct global collaboration and competition. Some of these vectors are the digital and biotechnological revolution, the knowledge economy and climate change, as well as their environmental, social and demographic impacts inserted in a globalized world that is in constant change. A change that occurs at a speed that, according to Thomas Friedman, exceeds our capacities for adaptation and development of learning, training and management systems, social protection networks and government regulations that

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

The uncertainty embedded in complex systems is part of everyday reality.

Exhibitors:

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

Nicolas Jodal: Systems Engineer graduated from the University of the Republic (UdelaR). He received the National Engineering Award in 1995, together with Eng. Breogán Gonda, for the GeneXus Project, from the company Artech. Managing partner of GeneXus.

Ricardo Pascale: Accountant graduated from the University of the Republic (UdelaR) and has a PhD in Information and Knowledge Society from the Open University of Catalonia.

Magdalena Cardenas: PhD in Biological Sciences from PEDECIBA-Universidad de la República (UdelaR). She completed her Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Biological Sciences at UdelaR and is currently a researcher at the Human Molecular Genetics Laboratory at the Pasteur Institute in Montevideo.

Moderator : **Carina Novarese**

10.30 to 11.30 – *The fourth industrial revolution and the knowledge economy.*

The digital and biotechnological revolutions are producing a radical change in industries, business models, organizations and the roles of the State, that is, they are factors that impact society in all its aspects, 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 exhibitors will identify the main trends associated with the digital and biotechnological revolutions.

Exhibitors:

Eduardo Mangarelli: Systems Engineer graduated from ORT University. He has been part of this institution as a teacher and tutor for more than 20 years, and is currently Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at ORT University Uruguay.

Sergio Fogel -Graduated in Computer Science and Master's degree from Technion University, he obtained an MBA from Insead. Co-founder of Dlocal.

Carlos Batthyany:Doctor of Medicine from the University of the Republic (UdelaR). He completed a master's degree and a doctorate in biochemistry at the Faculty of Sciences (UdelaR), and worked as a researcher in the Department of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh in the United States. He currently serves as director of the Pasteur Institute.

Mercedes Aramendia: Lawyer and Master in Economic Administrative Law from the University of Montevideo. She also has a PhD in Legal Sciences from the University of Granada, Spain.

Moderator: Daniel Castro

11.30 to 11.45 – Interval

11.45 to 12.45 -Opportunities and risks for the agro-export industrial chain and development potential of a life sciences industry in Uruguay.

The panel of experts will address in particular the desirable, possible and most likely trends and transformations linked to the development of the food industry, production of agro-industrial goods and services and industries related to life sciences under the concept of "One Health". One Health is a comprehensive and collaborative approach to understanding that human health and animal health are dependent on each other, being closely linked to the health of the environment in which they develop. Likewise, the digital and biotechnological revolution, among other aspects, also compels us to understand the ethical dilemmas associated with them, which challenge States, companies and fundamentally ourselves as individuals.

Exhibitors:

Martin Secco:He has a degree in Business Administration and is former CEO of Marfrig Global Foods.

Pablo Caputi:He holds a PhD in Economics from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. He currently works as Knowledge Manager at the National Meat Institute of Uruguay (INAC). He is Honorary Director of ANII and Professor of Agribusiness at ORT University.

Isabelle Chaquiriand:She holds a PhD 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 Certified Public Accountant from the University of the Republic (UdelaR).

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

Moderator: Malena Castaldi

12.45 to 15.00 – *Intermediate*

During this interval the Future Commission will hold a working meeting.

Part 2 (Panels from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

15.00 to 16.00 – *Tensions and trends of globalization: challenges in terms of sustainability and demographic challenges.*

The digital and biotechnological revolution, demographic and behavioural changes and the knowledge economy also imply profound changes in the models of competition between companies, in the organisation of markets and in global governance. This new paradigm is characterised by a new form of global integration, the rise of the network economy, new business models based on product, service and audiovisual content platforms, greater competition between industries, an increase in trade in goods and a strong global integration of services. These changes promote great opportunities in terms of advances in knowledge and the well-being of the population, although they also entail new challenges in terms of social and environmental sustainability, equity, competition, efficiency and global governance.

Exhibitors:

Sebastian Fleitas: Professor at the Department of Economics at the University of Leuven, Belgium. He holds a PhD and Master's degree in Economics from the University of Arizona and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of the Republic. He is a visiting professor of the Master's Degrees in Economics at the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Administration and the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of the Republic.

Amparo Mercader: She is a tax partner at the consulting firm PwC in Washington DC, where she serves as a leader in the area of transfer pricing, advising multinationals in global value chains. She studied Economics at the Universidad de la República and has an MBA in finance and international relations from Georgetown University.

Sebastian Torres: Development Coordination Officer at the United Nations in Uruguay. Graduate in Economics (UDELAR), Master's in Economic Development (Institute of Social Studies, Holland), PhD in Economics (University of Leicester, England), Post-doctorate in Economics (Economic and Social Research Council of the United Kingdom)

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

Moderator: Juan Hounie

16.00 to 17.00 –*Socio-cultural transformations and 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 are causing changes in the dynamics of our societies. In the search for a freer and more just society, three areas are of particular relevance in understanding its situation, its dynamics of change and the objectives to be achieved as a society. Firstly, the characteristics and challenges facing the construction of a Welfare State in the 21st century; secondly, the education and training of our children, youth and adults, as well as the protection of human rights; and finally, the work and employment of our citizens.

Exhibitors:

Gonzalo Frasca: Designer, PhD in video games. Director at the Norwegian educational studio DragonBox. Co-creator of DragonBox School, a mathematics learning system used in schools in Finland, Norway and France (awarded Best Digital Learning Solution in Finland in 2019).

Rodrigo Arim:He holds a degree in Economics from the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Administration of the Udelar. He completed postgraduate studies at the Torcuato di Tella University in Buenos Aires, at the University of Chile and at the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico. He currently serves as rector of the University of the Republic in Uruguay.

Renato Operti:He holds a degree in Sociology from the University of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay. He holds a Master's degree in Educational Research from IDRC (Canada). He currently serves as Dean of the Graduate School at the Catholic University of Uruguay.

Ana Ines Balsa:Graduate in Economics from the University of the Republic, Uruguay, and PhD 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 are at the heart of the dilemmas and decisions that countries will have to face. Assessing the impacts of global warming on Uruguay's ecosystem, as well as adapting to the very likely new global rules of the game for environmental sustainability will be a challenge. Demographic changes, such as aging or migratory movements, added to the need to achieve greater levels of global equity and within each country.

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

Exhibitors:

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

Marcelo Caffera:Graduate in Economics from the University of the Republic, Uruguay and PhD in Natural Resources Economics from the University of Massachusetts - Amherst.

Maria Jose 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 Environment.

Virginia Suarez: Certified Public Accountant from the Faculty of Economics (Udelar), she obtained an MBA from Cema (Argentina). Former General Manager of HSBC, and President of Sistema B.

Moderator : Marcela Dobal

18.00 – 19.00 -*Final reflections and conclusions.*

Exhibitors:

President of the Chamber of Deputies Alfredo Fratti

Deputy Rodrigo Goñi

Senator Silvia Nane

Senator Carmen Sanguinetti

Deputy Sebastian Cal

Prof. Dr. Rafael Radi (Former GACH Coordinator)

Montevideo, Uruguay. Legislative Branch.