

Translated from Spanish

Uruguay: information on the topic “Prevention and repression of piracy and armed robbery at sea”

A. With regard to the laws in force in Uruguay, the country is a party to:

1. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, which was ratified by Uruguay pursuant to Act No. 16.287 of 29 July 1992 and whose article 101 defines the crime of piracy but does not establish penalties, as these are to be established by the States parties to the Convention in their respective laws;

2. The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and the 1978 Protocol thereto, ratified by Uruguay pursuant to Decree-Law No. 14.879 of 24 April 1979, and the 1988 Protocol thereto, ratified pursuant to Act No. 17.504 of 18 June 2022;

3. The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and its Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf, both dated 10 March 1988 and ratified pursuant to Act No. 17.341 of 25 May 2001. In addition, it should be noted that there is no case law on this subject; as at the date of preparation of the present report, there have been no reports of cases in our waters or involving ships flying the national flag.

B. Agreements entered into by States under which persons accused of piracy or armed robbery at sea are transferred with a view to prosecution

Uruguay does not have specific laws relating to these crimes, except for the offences established in the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and the Protocols thereto.

C. The role of international, regional and subregional organizations regarding the prevention and repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea

Uruguay has been a member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) since 1968 and has participated in the Operative Network for Regional Cooperation among Maritime Authorities of the Americas since its founding. Within the Network, which is a regional organization, work has also been done to establish a correspondence group. With regard to the subject at hand, at the 11th extraordinary meeting, a correspondence group was set up with a view to establishing and supporting a maritime information fusion centre for the exchange of information on different strategies for monitoring and identifying transnational threats and risks to maritime safety and security, such as

[2 May 2023]

smuggling, drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, maritime incidents, natural disasters, piracy, armed robbery and arms trafficking. In addition, Uruguay has been a party to the Latin American Agreement on Port State Control of Vessels (Viña del Mar Agreement, 1992) since its conclusion and, in accordance with that Agreement, participates in the Operative Network for Regional Cooperation among Maritime Authorities of the Americas. Under the Agreement, technical cooperation activities are coordinated through the Maritime Authority – the National Naval Prefecture – for the effective implementation of the IMO instruments on the safety of maritime transport.
