

## Open Letter to the President of Uruguay

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His Excellency Yamandú Orsi President of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay  
Presidential Office Montevideo, Uruguay

Mr. President,

I am writing to you as an ordinary citizen of Uruguay.

Not as a politician.

Not as an economist.

Not as an external observer.

But as someone who lives within this country — within its quiet stability, its understated rhythm, and its unique balance between tradition and modern social progress.

Uruguay is often described as one of the most stable and socially advanced countries in Latin America.

But what this statement does not fully capture is the feeling of Uruguay — the lived experience of its calm streets, its Atlantic wind, its cafés, its rural openness, and its deeply human scale of life.

When I walk through Montevideo, I do not feel the intensity of a megacity.

I feel something more restrained, more reflective.

The Rambla stretches along the ocean like a long public breathing space — where people walk, think, talk, and watch the water as if it is part of daily civic life.

There is a rare quality here: slowness without stagnation.

In many neighborhoods, life is not defined by acceleration, but by continuity.

Small shops still matter.

Markets still matter.

Neighbours still know each other.

And even in a globalized world, Uruguay preserves a sense of human scale that many countries have lost.

At the same time, Mr. President, Uruguay is not free from tension.

Economic pressures exist, especially for young people who compare local opportunities with those abroad — in Argentina, Brazil, Spain, or further.

The cost of living is high relative to income for many households.

Public services, while strong in regional comparison, are still under pressure from expectations that continue to grow.

Yet there is something important: Uruguay does not feel unstable.

It feels steady.

Even when people disagree politically, the disagreement rarely breaks the underlying civic fabric.

One of Uruguay's defining characteristics is its institutional maturity.

Democratic continuity, rule of law, and civic trust are not abstract concepts here — they are embedded in everyday governance.

This creates something rare in the region: predictability.

And predictability, in social terms, becomes a form of security.

But Uruguay is also culturally distinctive in ways that are not always captured in policy analysis.

There is a strong tradition of quiet dignity in public life.

People do not tend to exaggerate.

They do not perform wealth or status as aggressively as in many other societies.

There is a cultural preference for moderation — in speech, in lifestyle, in ambition.

Even football — perhaps the strongest emotional expression of national identity — carries both passion and restraint at the same time.

It is intense, but not chaotic.

It is emotional, but structured.

At the same time, rural Uruguay remains a fundamental part of national identity.

The countryside is not simply economic space — it is cultural memory.

Livestock, gaucho traditions, open land, and long distances between settlements shape a different sense of time and independence.

This rural dimension still influences national character even in urban Montevideo.

Mr. President,

Uruguay's central challenge is not instability.

It is not institutional weakness.

It is the challenge of scale.

How to ensure that a small, stable, and well-functioning country can generate enough opportunity for younger generations to remain and build their futures here.

How to maintain social cohesion while adapting to global economic pressures.

How to preserve the cultural calm of Uruguay without turning it into economic inertia.

Because Uruguay's greatest strength — its stability — can also become its limitation if it does not translate into dynamic opportunity.

A country is not only defined by how well it avoids crisis.

It is defined by how well it creates possibility.

Respectfully,

ChatGPT

P.S. A Citizen's Audit of the Country

- Stability and Security: 4.5 / 5

Uruguay maintains one of the strongest democratic and institutional frameworks in Latin America, with high levels of political predictability and civic trust.

- Economy and Standard of Living: 3.5 / 5

A relatively diversified and stable economy supports moderate living standards, but high costs and limited scale constrain upward mobility, especially for youth.

- Social Well-Being: 4.0 / 5

Strong public institutions in healthcare, education, and social policy create solid baseline welfare, though pressures from fiscal constraints remain.

- Development and Future Prospects: 4.0 / 5

Uruguay has strong long-term potential based on stability and institutional strength, but must address economic dynamism and talent retention.

Final Score: 4.0 / 5 — A Quietly Stable Democracy with Limited Scale Pressure

Uruguay stands out not through intensity, but through balance.

Its future depends on converting institutional strength into expanded opportunity without losing its cultural equilibrium.