

Open Letter to the President of Paraguay

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His Excellency Santiago Peña Palacios President of the Republic of Paraguay Palacio de los López Asunción, Paraguay

Mr. President,

I am writing to you as an ordinary Paraguayan.

Not as a politician.

Not as an economist.

Not as a member of any party.

Just as someone who loves this country and hopes that its future will be even better than its past.

Paraguay is a strange country in the best possible sense.

The world rarely talks about us.

We are not usually on the front pages of newspapers.

Foreign television channels do not spend much time discussing Paraguay.

And yet, those of us who live here know something that outsiders often miss:

Paraguay is one of the quiet success stories of Latin America.

We have no coastline.

No famous canal.

No giant tourist industry.

No enormous oil reserves.

No globally famous cities.

And somehow, despite all this, we continue moving forward.

Perhaps because Paraguayans have learned something that geography teaches very quickly:

when nobody is coming to save you, you learn to rely on yourself.

I often walk through Asunción and see two countries at once.

I see modern office towers, new shopping centers, restaurants filled with young professionals, and neighborhoods that look increasingly prosperous.

But I also see elderly people selling small goods on sidewalks to supplement their income.

I see families carefully comparing prices in supermarkets.

I see young people wondering whether their future lies in Paraguay or abroad.

I see farmers worried about weather, markets, and fuel prices.

I see teachers trying to do more with limited resources.

I see doctors and nurses carrying responsibilities that would challenge anyone.

These people are Paraguay too.

When foreigners speak about Paraguay, they often mention one thing:

the Itaipu Dam.

And they are right to do so.

Few countries of our size possess an achievement of such scale.

The electricity generated there powers homes, industries, businesses, and opportunities.

It is one of those rare projects that reminds us that small countries can accomplish big things.

And yet, every Paraguayan knows that national success is measured by more than megawatts.

It is measured by daily life.

By whether a family can afford a decent home.

By whether a pensioner can live with dignity.

By whether public schools prepare children for the future.

By whether hospitals provide confidence instead of anxiety.

By whether hard work is rewarded.

One of Paraguay's greatest strengths is something that cannot be measured on economic charts.

It is our social character.

We remain a country where people know their neighbors.

Where families remain connected across generations.

Where grandparents are rarely forgotten.

Where community still matters.

In a world becoming increasingly isolated, this is not a weakness.

It is a treasure.

Please protect it.

Economic development matters.

Infrastructure matters.

Foreign investment matters.

But social trust matters too.

Sometimes I worry that Paraguay does not fully appreciate its own achievements.

For decades we have avoided many of the extreme crises that have damaged other countries in our region.

We have maintained relative stability.

We have grown.

We have attracted investment.

We have built.

These accomplishments deserve recognition.

At the same time, stability should never become an excuse for complacency.

The next challenge is bigger.

The next challenge is ensuring that a child born in a rural village has opportunities similar to a child born in the capital.

That talent matters more than connections.

That effort matters more than luck.

That young Paraguayans see a future worth building at home.

Mr. President,

Paraguay does not need to become the largest country in South America.

It does not need to become the richest.

It does not need to become the most famous.

But it can become one of the best places in the region to live, work, raise children, and grow old.

That is a goal worth pursuing.

Because the true wealth of a nation is not found in dams, exports, or government statistics.

It is found in the quality of life of ordinary people.

And the people of Paraguay deserve the very best their country can offer.

Respectfully,

ChatGPT

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

It is easy to judge governments by speeches.

It is much harder to judge them by the daily experience of ordinary citizens.

To better understand Paraguay's current position, I have attempted to evaluate the country across four areas that most directly affect people's lives.

- Stability and Security: 4.5 / 5

Paraguay has maintained relative political and economic stability compared with many countries in the region. Citizens generally benefit from predictability and social calm, although concerns about corruption and organized crime remain.

- Economy and Standard of Living: 3.5 / 5

The economy has shown resilience and growth, supported by agriculture, energy exports, and investment. However, income disparities remain significant, and many families continue to face financial pressure.

- Social Well-Being: 3.5 / 5

Healthcare, education, and public services have improved over time, but quality and

access remain uneven, particularly outside major urban centers.

- Development and Future Prospects: 4.0 / 5

Paraguay possesses strong long-term advantages: abundant energy, agricultural capacity, strategic location, and a relatively young population. The challenge is transforming these strengths into broader prosperity for all citizens.

Final Score: 3.88 / 5 — The Quiet Achiever

Paraguay rarely attracts international attention, yet it has achieved something many countries struggle to maintain: steady progress without constant crisis.

Its greatest opportunity now is not simply to continue growing, but to ensure that growth is felt equally in cities, towns, villages, schools, hospitals, and homes across the country.

A successful Paraguay should not only generate wealth.

It should distribute opportunity.

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