

## Uruguay receives funding from the Elsie Initiative Fund to address barriers to uniformed women's deployment to United Nations peace operations

**New York, 8 September 2022** – The [Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations](#) (EIF), hosted by UN-Women, announced today that Uruguay will receive funding to increase the deployment of women military peacekeepers to United Nations peace operations. Uruguay is currently the 17<sup>th</sup> highest troop-contributing country to United Nations peacekeeping and deploys 1061 military personnel, of whom 70 (6.6 per cent) are women. With the EIF-funded project, Uruguay aims to increase the deployment of military women in UN peace operations from 6.6% to 11% by 2024. This project will be officially launched in Montevideo tomorrow, on 9 September, by Uruguay's Ministry of National Defense, Agency of International Cooperation (AUCI), and UN Women, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Uruguay was one of seven countries that piloted the barrier assessment, funded by Canada and Norway, using the [Measuring Opportunities for Women in Peace Operations](#) (MOWIP) methodology developed by DCAF - the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance in 2020. With the EIF grant, Uruguay will be one of the first troop and police contributing countries (T/PCC) to receive project funding to address the barriers identified in the [MOWIP assessment study](#).

Uruguay's project brings an innovative approach to addressing barriers, including piloting the provision of family support for women and men in single-parent households to enable their deployment. Additionally, Uruguay will launch an outreach campaign within the Armed Forces to raise awareness of deployment opportunities to UN peacekeeping and a communication campaign to recruit into and retain women across all categories of Uruguay's Armed Forces.

The Minister of National Defense, Javier García, welcomed this announcement: "The Uruguayan Armed Forces are peace specialists and their members when they participate in UN peace missions, are some of the best ambassadors the country has".

In close partnership with Uruguay's Ministry of Defense, the project will be managed by UN Women Uruguay – a long-standing partner supporting the Uruguayan government in empowering women and advancing gender equality. To ensure successful project implementation and national ownership, Uruguay will establish a Steering Committee comprised of members from the Ministry of Defense, AUCI, and UN Women. The Committee will also ensure project recommendations and outcomes are incorporated into national policies and action plans.

This July, Uruguay launched its first [National Action Plan on WPS: 2021-2024](#) that reaffirmed the country's commitment to gender parity. Maria Noel Vaeza, Regional Director of UN Women for the Americas and the Caribbean, said "Uruguay is once again at the forefront of the implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda. Following the recent adoption of Uruguay's First National Action Plan on Resolution 1325, this funding announcement is tremendous news and will enable the UAF to implement a number of concrete activities to remove barriers to the incorporation of women in Peace Operations, including addressing care systems."

Contributing to United Nations peace operations since 1952, Uruguay is fully committed to advancing gender equality and the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda on national and international levels, including through its newly established Gender Division.

To support this commitment, the Uruguayan Defense College also launched the inaugural Uruguayan Observatory on WPS in March this year, with a mandate to monitor and report on the progress of women in peace and security activities. The Observatory will also serve as a regional forum to exchange knowledge learned and good practices observed, in addressing barriers to, and promoting uniformed women's participation in peace operations.

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***About the Elsie Initiative Fund (EIF)***

*Established by the United Nations, Canada and Member States in 2019, the EIF is an innovative, multilateral fund that aims to accelerate progress towards the United Nation's gender targets in line with Security Council resolutions and the United Nations [Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy 2018-2028](#). Funded by contributions from Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom, the EIF supports the sustainable deployment and meaningful participation of uniformed women peacekeepers by providing financial assistance and incentives. For more information on the EIF, please visit <https://elsiefund.org/> and follow [@ElsieFund](#) on Twitter.*

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