

Text of Uruguayan Constitutional Reform (2004)

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ARTICLE 47.- (*To be added*)

The water is a natural resource essential to life.

The access to drinkable water and the access to sewerage, constitute fundamental human rights.

- 1) The national policy of Waters and Sewerage will be based on:
 - a) the arranging of the territory, conservation and protection of the environment and restoration of nature.
 - b) the sustainable management, *solidary* with future generations, of water resources and preservation of the hydrologic cycle that constitute matters of general interest. The users and the civil society, will take part in all instances of planning, management and control of water resources; *establishing* the hydrographic basins as basic units.
 - c) the establishment of priorities for the use of water *by* regions, basins, or parts of them, being the first priority the supplying of drinkable water to populations.
 - d) the principle by which the providing of the service of drinkable water and sewerage, will have to be done *placing* reasons of social order *before those* of economic order.
Any authorization, concession or permission that anyway *go against* these principles will have to be stopped with no consequences.
- 2) The superficial waters, as well as the underground ones, with exception of rain, integrated in the hydrologic cycle, constitute an unitary resource, subordinated to the general interest, which is part of the state's public domain, as hydraulic public domain.
- 3) The public service of sewerage and the public service of water supplying for the human consumption, will be served exclusively and directly by state legal persons.
- 4) The law, by the three fifth of votes of the total of components of each Chamber, will be able to authorize *supplying water* to another country, when it is deprived of supplies and by reasons of solidarity.

ARTICLE 188.- To be added:

The dispositions of this article will not be applicable to essential services of drinkable water and sewerage.

Transitory and Special dispositions

Add the following one:

Z ") *The compensation that could arise because of the entrance in effect of this reforms, will not generate reparation for future profits, refunding solely the non amortized investments.*

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