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Mr Santiago Peña  
President of Paraguay

**Email:** [**correspondencia@presidencia.gov.py**](mailto:correspondencia@presidencia.gov.py)

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Dear President,

**I am deeply concerned by the recently approved bill «that establishes control, transparency and accountability of nonprofit organisations». After all the progress on human rights, the work of defenders and social movements, it is alarming that your government might be associated with such a grave step back.**

Under the international human rights treaties to which Paraguay is a state party, you have the legal obligation to uphold and ensure respect to the right to freedom of association, which is also part of the Paraguayan Constitution. The guarantee of this right includes the possibility of constituting associations, carrying out the statutory activities of an organisation, seeking, receiving, and using human, material, and financial resources, among other points. The State must foster an enabling environment for the free and effective exercise of this right.

This bill contains ambiguous provisions that could lead to arbitrary restrictions to civil society work, while the unjustified increase on control over their operation and imposition of sanctions without due process of law, are completely contrary to the obligation to respect the right to defend rights.

**I call on you to immediately veto this bill and promote an enabling environment for all Paraguayans to fulfil their human rights.**

Yours sincerely,

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**Copie**

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