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# Opportunities and Challenges from the World Economic Situation for Debt Management in LAC: the case of Uruguay

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## **International and Regional Context**

- Gradual increase in interest rates in the U.S. and strengthening of U.S. Dollar (and U.S economy).
- Divergent monetary policies in advanced economies.
- Global volatility and less appetite for emerging markets assets.
- Falling commodity prices and regional deterioration, particularly Brazil.



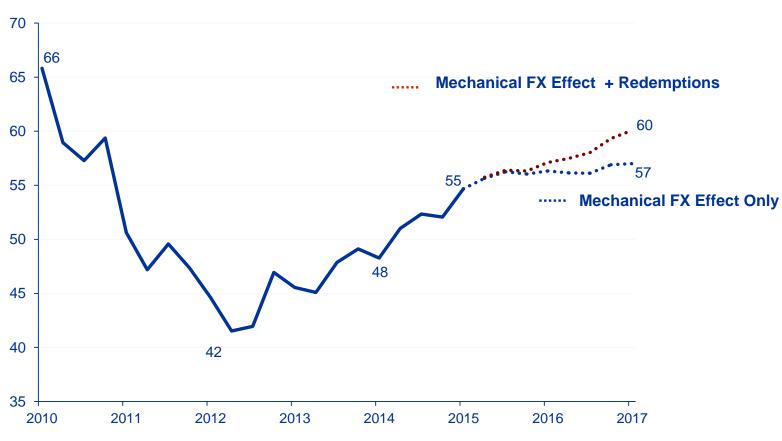
### Main Challenges to Debt Management

- Inertial pressures for "re-dollarization" of public debt.
- Change in investors' preferences: less demand for local currency and duration.
  - -> Limited range of financing options and increased execution risks.
  - → Increasing local interest rate to offset currency depreciation.
- Behavior of non-resident investors in the local market.
- Changes in global bonds market structure and liquidity.

# Mechanical and Inertial pressures for "re-dollarization" of government debt



Share of Central Government Debt in Foreign Currency (in %)
Passive Proyection (no Roll-Over) \*



### Strategies and Opportunities going forward



- Maintain and further reduce the foreign currency exposure in total debt:
  - Intensify use of derivatives (hedge against FX and interest rate risk) and currency conversion of multilateral credits.
  - Diversify the debt portfolio across hard currencies.
- Debt buybacks.
- Further develop the local bond market in coordination with the Central Bank.
- Increasing use of multilateral funding and strengthening of precautionary credit lines.

# Several factors make Euro funding (or exposure) an attractive option:

### 1) Interest Rate Differential:

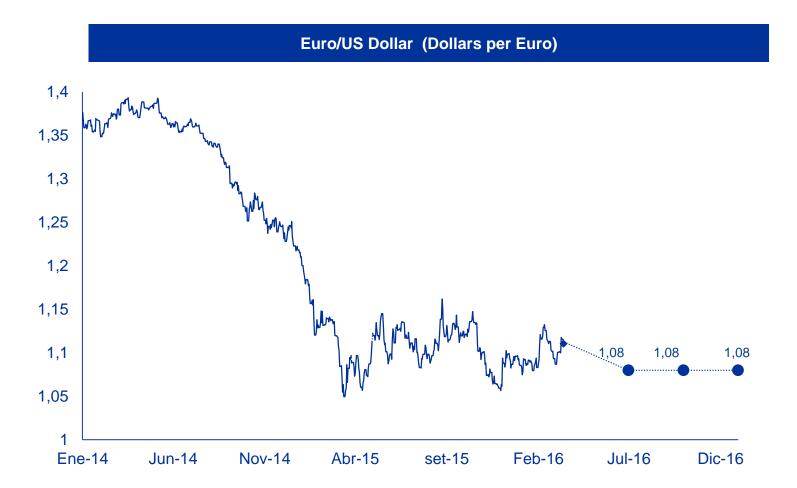
**Low Coupons** → impact in Fiscal Balance



Source: Bloomberg



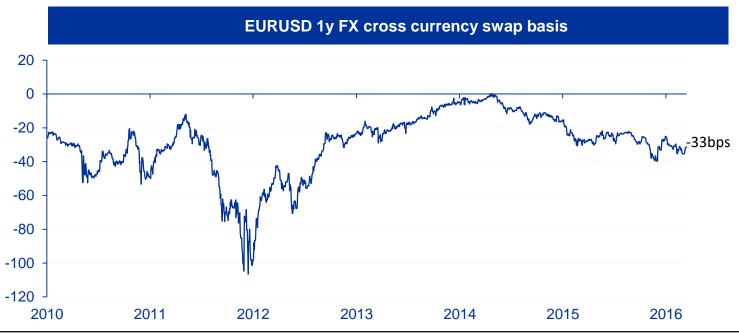
### 2) EURO is expected to continue weakening



Source: Bloomberg

# 3) Basis Widening on Cross-Currency Swaps favors Euro borrowing





#### Transaction from the Point of View of Government of Uruguay:

Long Position in USD / Receives from Bank:

**3m USD Libor** 

Government

Bank

Borrows in **Euros /** Pays to Bank: 3m Euribor – 33bps

Source: Bloomberg 8