



Editorial

Are we all ready for a reset?

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Development is indeed a multi-faced phenomenon. The year 2016 has been a special year: the year of the formal declarations, following the global agreements and goals set in 2015, to go towards the new SDGs goals (**officially known as Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**) and the concrete preparation of the implementation phase.

Governments of all over the world committed their policies to a transformation process through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The challenges were clear since the very beginning: going beyond the standard macroeconomic growth, looking after our natural resources in the long run, implementing policies directed to the strengthening of human rights through an inclusive approach, among the others. The question now is: are we all ready for a reset?

The SDGs are indeed global: the 17 goals involve everyone beyond nationality, income and gender and race. It is legitimate, though to wonder whether a universal program has the same meaning all over the countries, and if the “rich” countries are really for a reset. The SDG’s for the first time are directed in the very same way to every country in the world, where environmental risks, inequalities and poverty must be the focus of everyone political agenda. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will be implementing this plan.

It is precisely with the belief that everyone is involved that we think it is important, as a review, to give our contribution to this unprecedented process. Indeed, we want to do this not really as a single institution (ELACID) from Universidad de San Buenaventura, based in Cartagena, Colombia, but as a Network, namely the Cooperation and Development Network (CDN) of which the ELACID is part since 2003.

Twenty years ago, in 1997, three Italian NGOs – CISP development of peoples, COOPI and VIS - along with the University of Pavia, the International Centre Cooperation for Development (CI-COPS), the Institute of Advanced Studies (IUSS) together with the financial support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of University and Research (MIUR), launched a Master Program in Pavia, the first Master Program in Cooperation and Development in Italy. Since then, the partnership among all the actors involved, new institutions and civil society organizations at local levels has been consolidated leading, through the years, to the establishment of a Cooperation and

Development Network (CDN) which counts nowadays on Master Programs spread in five different continents (Pavia - Italy, Bethlehem - Palestine, Cartagena de Indias - Colombia, Nairobi - Kenya, Kathmandu -Nepal). Development is indeed a multi-dimensional phenomenon and, as such, needs a multifaceted partnership.

The CDN today aims at training new graduated students and professionals, working in NGO's, CSO's, local government, grant making Foundations, donor Governments and/or local Governments, international organizations, on different issues about economics, cooperation and human development. The CDN provides the participants with the opportunity to achieve the highest professional standards in interpreting and managing the complexities and dynamics of the development processes, thus raising a generation of skilled colleagues, linked in a network, which in the near future may have an important role in finding solutions for the social, economic, environmental, institutional challenges we face.

ELACID is thus proud to present this Vol. 3 N. 2 of the Revista Internacional de Cooperación y Desarrollo as a special issue dedicated to the CDN contributions with respect to the global challenges that the new Agenda 2030 is putting forward: environment, security, use of natural resources, economic integrations, role of the government, peace among others. The issue is divided into two sections: the articles (research results, review and reflective articles) and book's reviews.

The research article written by Naira Harutyunyan,¹ talking about *Water Privatization Aftermath in Armenia: Scale, Public Perception and Willingness to Pay*, critically deals with the issue of privatization of water. The paper presents the case of Armenia, a country in transition that passed through intensive privatization process in the water sector. The author, through a household survey instrument, shows that households, overall, are satisfied with water services. The research findings approved the social comparison theory according to which lower public satisfaction with water services can be derived in areas that neighbor other areas with better water supply services. The study also finds that universal water metering impacted household water consumption behavior.

The article *Estructuralismo y desarrollo económico regional* written by Kathy Gómez-Acevedo y Álvaro Andres Escobar gives us an insight on how public policies aiming at promoting economic development strategies worked since 1970s in Latin America analyzing the economic structure and institution of the single economy. The main aim of the Structuralist approach is trying to explain the different restrictions towards development that less developed countries face. A focus on Cartagena de Indias, Colombia shows the important role of the government with respect to the dynamism of local economy.

Among the review articles, professor Gianni Vaggi² declares, in his *Making the Sustainable Development Goals work*, the pivotal role of the last goal *global partnership for sustainable development* in order to achieve the 17 sustainable development goals. The paper suggest that the leading principle for an effective global partnership should be the re-balancing of the negotiating power of the different stakeholders: the analysis shows that developing countries need more policy space especially in their trade and fiscal policies.

¹ Cooperation and Development master student from pavia (2006-2007 edition).

² CDN director.

Mercantilism or Liberalism? Economic Autonomy and State-Building in Palestine is the review article written by Fadi Kattan³ and Rosa Alonso that analyses the issue of economic integration between one rich and relatively powerful country and one poor and relatively powerless partner in the context of security tensions. This article evaluates the economic reality that resulted from peace treaties designed between Israel and Palestine with integration and inter-dependence intentions, but that has resulted in a de facto situation of de-development and higher degree of economic dependence. The case of Palestine does not show any step forward in terms of economic development and institution-building as a result of the process of economic integration between two free well established states at peace with each other.

The issue of children's rights protection is tackled in the article *Niños, niñas y adolescentes desvinculados de grupos armados: papel de la comunidad internacional en la protección Integral de derechos* written by Mariana Tezón⁴ & Amaranto Daniels. It argues that one of the challenges that the end of the armed conflict in Colombia presents is the lack of regulations (either from national and international organizations) on processes of child protection for all those children that don't belong to any armed group anymore. In this context, the active participation of International Cooperation is considered to be of utmost importance in order to establish some best practices during the peace process.

We then move to Africa and, in particular to Kenya talking again about conflicts and their relation with the economy itself. Doctor Perez Onono⁵ in her article *Economic Effects of Inter-community Conflicts In Kenya: Evidence of the importance of Peace in the Realization of Sustainable Development* clarifies the linkage and the interdependence of the peace agenda and realization of most of the SDG's. Kenya, which is a party to the resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations has in its history experienced episodes of inter-community conflicts arising from competition for control of scarce natural resources among pastoralist communities, election related violence and clashes arising from land boundary disputes. On the basis of the experiences of ethnic conflicts during election periods and literature review, this paper discusses the economic effects of inter-community conflicts in Kenya and points out how such effects make peace building and conflict resolution critical to the achievement of other SDG's.

Talking about conflicts, our attention moves back to Colombia reading the article *Importancia de la construcción de paz en un contexto de guerra: caso colombiano en el periodo 2000-2016* written by Cristian Tesillo⁶. It presents the main challenges the country will face in this post conflict era. The author underlines the opportunity of looking at other countries that already passed through this process towards peace, facing a post conflict era trying to avoid mistakes while identifying the way to proceed for all those who had a leading role in the conflict (victims and/or killers) after the peace agreement between the Government and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia.

³ Dean of the Shucri Ibrahim Dabdoub Faculty of Business Administration from Bethlehem University.

⁴ International Cooperation for Development Master student from Cartagena (2015 edition).

⁵ Chairman of the Department of Applied Economics in Kenyatta University.

⁶ International Cooperation for Development Master student from Cartagena (2015 edition).

In this issue two books has been reviewed: *Lo que el dinero no puede comprar. Los limites morales al Mercado* (Book author: Michael J. Sandel; Review's author: Juan Gabriel Acosta Castro). The book encourages the reader understand up to which point we are willing to let economic principles determine the way in which personal relationships must be developed, and if we are willing to assign a price to everything, such as life, friendship or honor. This review aims at showing how the author explains this idea, using situations that may seem absurd or unacceptable, but increasingly frequent in societies that are reluctant to rely on the market and want to distinguish between what can be considered a good that can be sold or bought and what cannot be considered a market good.

The second reviewed book is *Agenda internacional 2030: perspectivas de la cooperación para el desarrollo* (Book's editor: Ibelis Blanco Rangel. Review's author: Mary Carmen Nieto). The book takes us through a prologue and six chapters that seek to integrate within its issues some of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To this purpose, a number of academic experts in the field of international cooperation are involved presenting, through case studies, reports, statistical data and other resources, the situation in Latin America, particularly in Colombia, regarding health, education and economy. This multi author publication offers different points of view on different realities and, at the same time, suggests some recommendations in the framework of an international agenda on sustainable development, with particular reference to Latin America and its international relations at a global level.