



**“Public policies and social and democratic issues of globalisation: what projects to be developed by the public, social and cooperative economy?”**



Reims (France)  
21 - 23 september 2016

## **Promotion policies for social and solidarity economy in Colombia**

**Hernando Zabala Salazar**  
**Presidente**  
**CIRIEC Colombia**

## **1. COLOMBIA: A HISTORY OF LIMITED NORMATIVITY**

- **The economic alternative cooperative in Colombia dates back to the early decades of the twentieth century.**
- **This alternative has been completely limited by the presence of rules that extremely hinder their activity.**
- **Production of public policies, regulations and building their expressions, has not been motivated by promoting an alternative economy but for use on short-term proposals for adjustment of the economy .**
- **In the last thirty years they have not enacted positive public policies for the cooperative .**
- **On the contrary, old formulas of promotion and protection have disappeared.**
- **The potential of the cooperative are wasted to contribute to the changes required in the country.**

## **1. COLOMBIA: A HISTORY OF LIMITED NORMATIVITY**

- Public policies produced in the last decades regarding the cooperative, have not been visible engine for this sector of the economy and make it a key player in national development .
- Today it is absolutely necessary that public policies are reviewed against the cooperative .
- To do this, in various scenes, we have drawn attention to the content of the resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations (18 December 2009) by which governments are urged to : " ... advantage fully the potential of cooperatives to contribute to the achievement of social development goals, in particular eradicating poverty, promoting full and productive employment and greater social integration."

## **2. PUBLIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS NEEDED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVE AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY IN COLOMBIA**

- The crisis of legal institutions for cooperatives and solidarity economy in Colombia, limited business development, management becomes unstable and produces unnecessary costs that lead to a certain kind of inefficiency in production operations .
- To remedy this situation all settings , focusing on are required:
  - a) reforms, adjustment or development of new basic laws;**
  - c ) Definitions for a local public policy development;**
  - d ) Legal definitions for a new system of supervision; and**
  - e) Clarity of benefits and tax obligations.**

### **3. PEACE AGREEMENTS AND ACTIONS IN THE RURAL WORLD**

#### **FRUSTRATED THE AGRARIAN REFORMS**

- **Agrarian reforms throughout Latin America manifest as a frustrated revolution. This has exacerbated deep conflicts and formed a huge displaced population in rural areas .**
- **It is accepted that violence in many regions stems from the persistence of a system of organization of the agrarian structure based on inequality , inequity, exclusion and lack of opportunity. Overcoming such detonators factors of violence depends on a profound transformation of the prevailing system of rural organization.**
- **This lack of a comprehensive agrarian reform is centered on the failure to grant the cooperative sector a long-range capabilities that exceed their temporary use as a simple mechanism approach producers to markets.**
- **The transformation of agricultural structures involves joint action for the social and cooperative sector has high presence in these scenes.**

### **3. PEACE AGREEMENTS AND ACTIONS IN THE RURAL WORLD**

#### **HAVANA AGREEMENT**

- **The preliminary agreement (2014) is seen as the beginning of a structural transformation of rural society and agrarian economy to solve the root causes of conflict.**
- **There it is recognized that the rural economy and rural development involves “promoting different forms of association and cooperatives, income generation and employment, dignity and formalization of work, food production and preservation of the environment.”**
- **As instruments have been proposed plans to promote solidarity economy and rural cooperative technical comprehensive assistance, commercialization and strengthening the system of social protection and security of the rural population to support and consolidate income generation of the rural economy, family and community and medium producers with lower incomes.**

### **3. PEACE AGREEMENTS AND ACTIONS IN THE RURAL WORLD**

#### **WHY INTERVENE IN THE PROCESS OF POST - AGREEMENT?**

- **Complementing the question of why intervene in post- conflict scenes, it must be based on the identification of the precariousness, of gaps, needs and aspirations of human beings who have lived armed confrontation .**
- **They understand the importance of being fully organized to achieve their political ideals through a different way of doing economics, in which they can be protagonists of their own destiny.**
- **The transformation of the field, in all the varied facets, is an imperative of the first order, and the cooperative sector is called to be basic protagonist of this purpose.**

### **3. PEACE AGREEMENTS AND ACTIONS IN THE RURAL WORLD**

#### **PROPOSALS OF COLOMBIAN COOPERATIVISM**

**We have identified some proposals and instruments that require the cooperative sector to effectively intervene in the atmosphere of post- agreement:**

- **A positive legal framework;**
- **An institute of education and training;**
- **An promotion and development apparatus;**
- **A new financing structure of rural productive projects ;**
- **Mechanisms of agricultural commercialization cooperative;**
- **Means relations between the state , industry and other economic and social forces involved in the territories in re- construction.**



### **3. PEACE AGREEMENTS AND ACTIONS IN THE RURAL WORLD**

#### **PROPOSALS OF COLOMBIAN COOPERATIVISM**

- **To help achieve the desired impact on the national economy and the population directly, public policy should be designed so that the cooperative business figure is promoted and strengthened as a life option for a greater number of Colombians, helping to ensure a society more egalitarian but with greater growth dynamic.**
- **The public authorities must recognize in this business model is an important ally to achieve the purpose of the modern state, promoting a legal system that promotes development and encourages expanded participation of these business forms in the concert of the national economy.**

### **3. PEACE AGREEMENTS AND ACTIONS IN THE RURAL WORLD**

#### **FUNCTIONS OF COLOMBIAN COOPERATIVISM IN THE CONTEXT OF POST-AGREEMENT**

- a) Financial inclusion for farmers mainly in scattered rural areas, developing a modern system and adjusted to the reality of farming, providing credit resources especially for those population groups that have fewer opportunities.**
- b) Develop mechanisms that bring small producers to markets of cities, including them in plans for supplying cities and procurement strategies of state entities.**
- c) Provision of services for the commercialization of products; and the provision of equipment and infrastructure for the transformation processes, storage and distribution of the products of peasant family economy.**
- d) Provide comprehensive support services that meet the needs of producers to achieve efficient use of land and water resources, optimizing commercialization conditions and logistics for agricultural production at the regional level, improving risk management market and climate, and increasing the supply of financial resources for the sector and achieve commercial use for agriculture.**
- e) Creating an assurance model that integrates agricultural insurance as catastrophic as much.**

## **4. HOPE OF SOCIAL AND COOPERATIVE SECTOR IN COLOMBIA**

- **For social and cooperative sector fully act on these dynamics of transformation of Colombian life, we need a partnership with the public sector system.**
- **This means in the short term, the uncertainties regulations limiting cooperative action, agreeing standards and more flexible to facilitate the activities of the sector. This would be possible if:**
  - 1. Regulations for the intervention of cooperatives with financial activity so that they can expand their range, especially in underserved areas were strengthened.**
  - 2. The cooperative model to be propellant areas of integrated rural development and post-conflict, as an ideal business option that can output the supply of goods and services to the rural population were used.**
  - 3. The investment framework and public (and private) procurement will be improved with cooperatives, eliminating barriers that prevent a further development.**
  - 4. Mechanisms to facilitate the organization of cooperatives and other social economy entities for the promotion of housing, especially social interest is established.**
  - 5. Pedagogical tools will be created to promote the educational system involving Colombians in training, organization, participation and use of cooperative services.**

**!THANKS FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!**