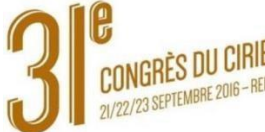
	<p><i>“Public policies and social and democratic issues of globalisation: what projects to be developed by the public, social and cooperative economy?”</i></p>	
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Promotion policies for social and solidarity economy in Colombia

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Social and cooperative economy is built from its endogenous nature, being based on scenarios in acting identified social groups or territorially defined to improve their living conditions based on practical self-help, mutual aid, cooperation and self-management communities. Hence the best alternative for the production of satisfactions to human needs is the organization born from the local community, especially conceived from the experience of the social and cooperative economy: sector that has historically contributed to the formation of associations of all kinds, they provide solutions in various fields (finance, commercialization, responsible consumption, access to social services, etc.). Unfortunately, the possibility of extending the social and cooperative action with integral development purposes has been limited and why we still live in a world rife with inequities and conflicts. This experience has not been properly adapted to many local, regional or national processes, as a result of improper configuration own social movement that should bring it to a successful conclusion and the presence (or absence) of public policies that do not understand the role of this movement . This is the case of the vast majority of Colombian regions.

1. COLOMBIA: A HISTORY OF LIMITED NORMATIVITY

Despite the long history of this economic alternative in Colombia (dating from the early twentieth century), today is completely limited by the presence of rules that extremely hinder their activity. Although there have been produced public policies, normative and promotion expressions, their motivation has not been the promotion of an alternative economy but its use to insert it into short-term proposals for adjustment of the economy. For almost thirty years in Colombia no national laws that directly contribute to form positive public policies for cooperative occur, wasting their potential to contribute to the changes required in the country; on the contrary, they have disappeared ancient formulas of promotion and protection.

In an environment that needs greater state intervention and progressive forces in civil society to break the structures of poverty that keep Colombia in a condition of radical social conflict a new framework of relations required for the social economy and cooperative fully participate in the necessary solutions. We are sure that in this task the cooperative, if it finds an ally in the State can not only solve internal problems but also contribute purposes of socio-economic transformation of the Colombian reality.

The truth is that public policies regarding cooperatives, produced in Colombia during the past two decades and expressed as development of a constitutional directive have not been enough to give visibility to this sector of the economy and make it a key player in national development. Today it is necessary that cooperative public policies are reviewed. To do this, in various scenarios, 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: "... fully seize 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. "

On the other hand, in Colombia we are in a situation which suggests that companies of social and solidarity economy are presented as frontline actors to produce changes. The route was expressed in the national development plan 2010-2014 which states:

... we are in a special time in our history that can not be missed. We are faced with the opportunity to overcome common and recent adversities, lift us above inertia, and propose and railroad the country towards democratic prosperity. A circumstance that allows us to dream that big leap to give us the entrance, in the not too distant future, the select club of developed countries.

The dream of a peaceful and safe country with low rates of poverty and an educated and working population. The dream of a country with vibrant, socially and environmentally responsible companies, to conquer international markets with goods and services with high added value and innovation. A country integrated into the world economy with an infrastructure and a competitive environment that transforms ideas into business, business employment, employment in more income, and therefore, in less poverty and greater well-being and social progress.

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

We are at a historic opportunity in Colombia. The first reference of relations between the state and the cooperative is almost exclusively defined around rules limiting cooperative activity, enabling noted that against the phenomenon of cooperatives do not exist positive public policies. Public policies in these areas should be diverse, based on the formation of instruments to promote by granting tax incentives, demanding products from the cooperatives or contributing to their better integration into the economic dynamics and addressing the needs of citizens.

In Colombia, we have gone through a crisis of legal institutions for cooperatives and solidarity economy, limiting its business development companies, their management becomes unstable and produces unnecessary costs that lead to a certain kind of inefficiency in production operations. To remedy this state all adjustments, centered 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 to the cooperative.

3. PEACE AGREEMENTS AND ACTIONS IN THE RURAL WORLD

Agrarian reforms throughout Latin America manifest as a frustrated revolution, a condition that has worsened deep conflicts and the formation of 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 capability that exceed their temporary use as a simple mechanism approach producers to markets. It keeps being recurrent the principle that the transformation of agricultural structures involves joint action for the social and cooperative sector has high presence in these scenes.

In this regard, today Colombia has a great opportunity to end the frustration, taking advantage of the framework of peace accords with a former guerrilla force. In this case, 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, recognizing and focusing on that peasant economy and development field involve *"promoting different forms of association and cooperatives, income generation and employment, dignity and formalization of work, food production and preservation of the environment"* (National Center of Historical Memory). As instruments there have been proposed plans to promote solidary 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.

As a result of the process of peace talks that has been underway in Havana (Cuba) between the National Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, many social, economic, cultural and political actors of the country, are ready to contribute to building one longed period of greatest harmony in Colombia, and are prepared to project into the so-called post-agreement process.

The Colombian cooperative can not be outside of this positive atmosphere that we live at least since the end of 2014. For this purpose we are starting off the premise that cooperative, regardless of the final peace agreements, has a historical debt to the sectors rural country. We all know that the scenario of confrontation occurs precisely in the rural world and exactly in those territories with low public and private institutions, and very little presence of the cooperative and supportive organization.

This is a propitious time for the ideological and organizational background of cooperatives reunited with the way of intervening the economy and rural society.

From this point of view, we established the principle that conflicts occur when human associativity loses ground, when the stage acting in conjunction disappears in a fight for no collective interests, putting the individualistic and utilitarian desires above all things. We believe that the intervention of the cooperative sector in an environment of post-agreement has the initial mission of empowering the associativity in the territories of major difficulties, contributing to the presence of different forms of business organization cooperation and solidarity, to refund the project of human association.

Complementing the question of why intervene in scenarios of post-conflict, one must be based on the identification of the precariousness, of gaps, needs and aspirations of human beings who have lived armed confrontation and understand with them the importance of being fully organized to achieve their political ideals through a different way of doing economy, where 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 the basic protagonist of this purpose.

In principle, we have identified some proposals and instruments that require the cooperative sector to effectively intervene in the atmosphere of post-agreement. At the moment we consider that the intervention of the cooperative requires the following instruments: a) A positive legal framework; b) An institute of education and training; c) An promotion and development apparatus; d) A new financing structure of rural productive projects; e) Mechanisms for cooperative agricultural commercialization; f) A means of relationship between the state, industry and other economic and social forces involved in the territories in re-construction.

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. This means that 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.

The national development plan 2014-2018, "*All for a new country*", occurs in a hopeful situation that promises a less uncertain future, looking to build a dreamed stable and lasting peace. We are aware that this plan is given the opportunity to return to rural basic functions and new that modern development assigned: production of raw materials for changing production and consumption, food assurance for the domestic market, environmental services and conservation of ozone and water, the development of alternative tourism landscape and habitat. These new features of the Colombian rurality require adequate social and economic environment, and externalities that allow the farmer to participate in the economy in better condition.

Great strategies that the Government intends to achieve insertion of the field producer relate to: create mechanisms for state intervention, timely and relevant; developing production and trade capacities; facilitating access to finance and markets. On the other

hand, it is clear that within the framework of the peace accords has recognized the need to think of strategies aimed at a comprehensive rural development to provide better living conditions and development opportunities. In keeping with these situations, the basis for the National Development Plan 2014-2018 states that:

Increased productivity and rural profitability requires the provision of goods and services sector as well as integrated interventions in the territories, to optimize production conditions, strengthen domestic markets and take advantage of access to new markets. To this end the following actions will be developed which are part of the strategy “*Transformation the Field*”:

1. Advance the suitability of land through the construction of infrastructure to improve the sustainable management of rural land and water;
2. Implement a comprehensive technical assistance, to be coordinated with the National Agricultural Innovation System and has as its starting point the needs of producers and market conditions;
3. Develop an efficient model of commercialization of agricultural products for production chains to help promote business alliances and adding value;
4. Strengthen the supply of financial instruments and services to improve access of small producers, especially in dispersed rural areas;
5. Strengthen partnership arrangements that improve productive capacities and implement routes for entrepreneurship and enterprise development;
6. Improve the management of market risks and climate through the adoption of new instruments and hedging programs to fluctuations in prices and exchange rates; and
7. Adopt a plan for the use of trade agreements to help identify market opportunities and meet the necessary standards to ensure the admissibility of national agricultural products to other countries.

There is no doubt about the ability that can have social and cooperative economy to participate and contribute to the fulfillment of all these actions. In the same text, the role of this economic sector can be granted in topics as:

- 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 bodies
- 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. The government intends to develop a plan for the actual access of agricultural products to markets.
- 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. HOPES OF SOCIAL AND COOPERATIVE SECTOR IN COLOMBIA

For the 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.

In order to facilitate the cooperative greater efficiency in the post-agreement and the goals of the national development plan 2015-2018, mainly should be eliminated a certain amount of legal barriers that have, through various legislative adjustments, by which is granted to cooperative sector functions such as irrigation resources professional credit, technical assistance for agricultural development, social services and commercialization products and strengthening the association of producers. A legal framework favorable not restrictive and to remove regulatory barriers in force today, it is indispensable that the cooperative can fulfill this role and to mobilize in terms of contributing to the purpose of modernization.