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“2019, Año del Caudillo del Sur, Emiliano Zapata”

Seminario Agenda 2030: Perspectivas para México y el mundo

Blog post

Challenges of a "Global Alliance" for the implementation of Agenda 2030

Rocío Arroyo Belmonte¹

The central points of the discussion on the Agenda 2030 are who will be in charge of the implementation (actors), as well as the strategies and resources necessary for its realization ("Global Alliance"). The objective of this research is to analyse the origin, budgets and viability of the "Global Alliance for Sustainable Development" in the current international context. The working hypothesis is that this "Global Alliance" and its associated measures are axiologically appropriate, as they seek to guide development, giving continuity to the work within the United Nations. At the same time, however, these measures are empirically reductionist as they focus essentially on the economic sphere and derive from premises entrenched in the paradigm of political idealism. This assumption is demonstrated through specific examples that methodologically contrast normative assumptions with empirical evidence, which together set under question the viability of the five major general measures of sustainable development in SDG 17.

I shall begin then with the following question: What does the Alliance for Sustainable Development entail? This strategy is embodied within the preamble of the Agenda 2030 and has become the SDG 17 itself. The main points of this alliance speak of: a "revitalization" of old alliances; the spirit of "greater solidarity" required; addressing the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable; the collaboration of all countries, stakeholders and individuals. In other words, the central focus is on "bringing together" governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and others, mobilizing all available resources (UN, 2015).

SDG 17 of Agenda 2030 speaks of "Strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development" (UN, 2015) and includes five general measures and nineteen specific measures. Facing the general measures



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(Finance; Capacity Building; Trade; Technology and Systemic Issues) in contrast with some empirical evidence, we question the feasibility of this objective.

Financially speaking, we currently have problems such as: non-obligatory nature, corruption, weak collection systems, a downward trend due to global crises, dominance of "tied aid" schemes and loans, little transparency in aid amounts, as well as weak regulatory frameworks in this area.

In the area of capacity building, a current international system dominates, with implementation mechanisms that continue to favour the capacities of states over other actors, while maintaining, despite the discourse, a “State-centered” model. Trade is dominated by aspirations that seem utopian in the face of a neo-protectionist context, a crisis of multilateralism, a questioning of neoliberalism structurally interdependent and unequal. Technology as a measure requires a vast improvement in the incipient models of cooperation, in the face of the prevalence of rivalries for copyrights, licenses, patents and conditional transfers. Finally, in the field of systemic issues, the diverse and disconnected mechanisms of global governance must be highlighted, as well as the impossibility of many countries to apply models of data generation, monitoring and accountability.

Source:

Organización de las Naciones Unidas (2015). *Transformar Nuestro Mundo: la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible*. Available at: https://unctad.org/meetings/es/SessionalDocuments/ares70d1_es.pdf

ⁱ Researcher at the School of Political and Social Sciences of the National Autonomous University of Mexico.
Email: rocio_ab@yahoo.com.mx



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