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Abstracts.

ABSTRACTS

Strategy for Self-Centered Development from the Perspective of an Historical Analysis of Development

Alfredo Pérez Sánchez

After acknowledging the three phases of historical analysis of development, and especially considering the research work done in the last twenty-five years by the Germans Dieter Sengcheus and Ulrich Mezel, the author presents the principle elements of a self-centered development strategy which highlights the following perspectives: dissociation, economic restructuring, and the new forms of an international division of labor among Third World economies.

This document calls into question the underlying operation of the conventional theory of development and its current policy, which call for the increasing integration of the Third World in the world market as a means of going beyond development as it is commonly understood. Though being an integral element in the theory of self-centered development, temporary dissociation from the world market is proposed. The justification for the strategy of dissociation, excepting the recourse to some historical and paradigmatic reflections sketched by Friedrich List, has kept itself, of necessity, to the global and abstract level. This position is nothing, however, but a most direct analytical result deduced from the principle theoretical beginnings and the empirical observations of both the Theory of Dependence and Peripheral Capitalism. Although the review vents its criticism on (and mainly questions the practicality of) the aforesaid conception, a more penetrating understanding of what the wager for such a strategy entails is found. Thus, the notion of self-centered development influences and gives impulse to a most extensive ideologically-marked debate about the alternative conceptions of development.

The Asiatic Crisis and Models of Sub-Development

Francesc Granell

The re-thinking of the Theories of Development and the analysis of the limited results of the traditional focus on cooperation gave rise to a new approach whose aim was for the developing countries to adjust to the global system and to attain macroeconomical balance by way of implementing plans of economic restructuring. Many are still convinced that only in such an economic context can the process of attracting international and domestic investment be generated that would lead to economic and social progress.

The pressure to reduce public spending that has brought on budgetary discipline has, however, led to serious cut backs on social policies and has negatively impacted on the under-privileged sectors of the populations. Today, poverty relief has turned into one of the driving forces for cooperation, unlike years earlier when such relief contained a global-state characteristic and largely failed to evaluate how such relief would affect a society's different sectors.

The high rates of economic growth in the so-called *Asian Tigers* unleashed great expectations regarding the surging, successful model of Asian development, despite both the flagrant democratic deficit in the regimes that upheld the model and the evidence that social progress lagged far behind economic progress. The monetary and financial crisis that whiplashed these countries at the end of 1997 has since led to the questioning of both the solidity of the system and the validity of using, exclusively, macroeconomic statistics as the basic indicators of development. As result of the recent UN summits and conferences, a higher sensitivity towards the interdependencies that globalization imposes on all nations has been reached, and it is to this sensitivity which Cooperation for Development must heed in promoting actions aimed at a generalized enjoyment of Human Rights.

North-South Commerce and Oficial Development Aid: Some Contradictory Evidence

Arcadi Oliveres

That, traditionally, North-South commerce is unfavorably tilted towards the interests of the former is not new: but how is a countries official Aid for Development implicated in the equation? This two-pronged relationship is the subject of the article, which, based on statistics from 1988 to 1995, underlines the importance of the global petroleum trade in the balance between Spain's contribution to Aid for Development and Spanish commercial import-export gains with countries in the South. By using petroleum as a key ingredient in analyzing the overall relationship, the author demonstrates the quantitative deterioration

of Spanish Aid for Development during this period which, in constant prices, reveals that only in 1991 did the Aid for Development show favorable results for the countries of the South vis a vis the commercial relationship.

Technological Levels, Technological Transfer, and Cooperation for Development

Josep Casanovas

Previous to an analysis of those mechanisms of North-South cooperation related to the Transfer of Technology (TT), the article first presents a series of reflections concerning the connection between technology and people both within the individual as well as the collective sphere. The paper then outlines points for debate regarding the inherent characteristics of the technologies themselves that should be kept in consideration in any TT design, whose ultimate aim is utility and sustainability. Next, the author describes the agents and mechanisms that are active in TT from the North. Based on examples of TT programs as implemented by the EU and Spain, it is shown that the processes of TT are in a state of rapid innovation, and that technology is prioritized, subsidized and favored in the rich world by these agents and mechanisms.

Due cause arises, though, to question the content and models of TT from the point of view of the South. This paper underscores the role that Cooperation for Development can play in the TT process by way of describing the actors involved in the South, analyzing the impacts of determined technologies and their constrained accessibility, and sketching the major guidelines that ought to be stressed to favor balanced, sustainable development.

The Multilateral Financial Institutions of Development

Jaume Munich

The aim of this paper is to analyse the role of Multilateral Development Institutions (MDIs) in promoting economic and social progress in Less Developed Countries (LDC). After examining the activities of the main MDIs (International Monetary Fund, World Bank Group, Interamerican Development Bank, African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development) we have come to some conclusions. First, MDIs loans play a catalytic effect in channeling flows of additional public or private resources to LDC. Second, MDIs emphasize both the role of the private sector and an efficient public sector to achieve its objectives (to

promote economic growth, reduce poverty, etc.). Third, MDIs provide direct financing for private sector activities, restructuring and privatisation to encourage the development of market economies as well as funding for the infrastructure that supports these activities. Fourth, over the last few years the MDIs have increased their conditionalities on the borrowers, especially in environment and governance areas. Fifth, the resources provided by the MDIs are not enough to cope with the financial needs of LDC; furthermore, a low percentage of total loans are on concessional terms. Sixth, most of the MDIs resources go to the benefit of medium-income countries (South Korea, Mexico, Brazil, etc.) and only a small amount of credits go to the poorest countries; what's more, in the last few last years MDIs are increasing their financial support of countries in the East. Seventh, MDIs have integrated social sector and environment as a first-order priority in their reports, but the lending reality is far from incorporating such an aim: one thing is theory, the other is practice. Eighth, MDIs' institutional structures and decision-making processes are similar, as in most of them the principle of one dollar one vote holds. As a result, the MDIs are dominated by the developed countries, which use such institutions as tools to implement their foreign interests. Ninth, regional development banks work closely with many other international organisations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which have assumed the role of world development organizations without need of formal constitutional amendments: rather merely through introducing new institutional practices are changes effected. And tenth, since the economic growth and development model encouraged by MDIs in developing member countries is very unfair, the model has a negative social and environmental impact: transnational corporations end up the big winners.

The Relationship between Humanitarian Assistance and Aid for Development in the United Nations

Helena Torroja Mateu

The present study deals with the close relationship between humanitarian assistance operations and aid for development and their incidence in the guidelines and activities of the United Nations. The starting point of the analysis of the current standards of assistance and aid is the special vulnerability of developing countries to humanitarian crises brought on by natural disasters, industrial and technological accidents, internal disturbances, genocides, and internal or international armed conflicts. Today, facing a humanitarian crisis the UN acts (in exercise of its function to bring about international humanitarian cooperation) through operations carried out by subsidiary organs, whose mandates cover this sphere of activity.

Now, though, when a humanitarian crisis arises in a developing country, temporary humanitarian assistance is not enough. Rather programs should adapt themselves in an agreed-upon and integrated manner in sync with the actions of humanitarian assistance operations. The aid should, in this way, stress the importance of prevention and preparation before the likelihood of any humanitarian catastrophe. In turn, the operations of humanitarian assistance, like those of aid for development, should guarantee that the proper steps can be taken to go from immediate emergency assistance to the posterior stages of rehabilitation, reconstruction, and development.

The Future of the Relations between the European Union and the ACP Countries: the *Green Book* of the European Commission

Josep Baiges

Twenty-five years after the Lome Agreement, the negotiations for its renewal in the year 2000 supply the occasion for the European Union to reformulate the whole of its relations with the ACP countries in light of more experience and in consonance with the changes that have occurred in the greater international context. Also important for the negotiations to consider are the changes now taking place in the evolutionary process of European integration plus the increasing heterogeneity of European members.

In 1997, the European Union issued the *Green Book*, which analyzes and lays the groundwork for a dialogue centered around five major themes: the political dimension of association; the framework for Cooperation and its geographical extent; the spheres and priorities of action; the subject of commerce and investments; and the need for financial and technical cooperation. The text brings together the three major areas of EU foreign action —the common commercial policy, Cooperation for Development, and the CFSP— by establishing a series of priorities framed within a global perspective. The *Green Book*'s aim is to integrate ACP countries in the global economy at the same time action is taken to foment integration of their populations in Europe. While it points to some objectives, it leaves options open: it also establishes a work program in which the communities institutions and those of the member States as well as those from the ACP countries have, by way of consultation and conferences, identifies the points of conflict about which the negotiations will turn.

Some Reflections on the European Commission's *Green Book*

Democratic Conditionality and Participation of Civil Society
in View of the Re-negotiation of the Lome Agreement

Rafael Grasa

The democratic conditionality is not a new theme in the world of Cooperation for Development. Even so, it has never been a subject of explicitly central interest, especially in EU-ACP relations, nor will it likely become important in the new negotiations of the Lome Agreement, as shown by its scant presence and definition in the *Green Book*.

To speak of conditionality implies the deliberate usage of cooperation by the donor countries for determined ends: these ends, in turn, should be defined with precision and be provided with the instruments for implementation. In the case of the term democratic, though the traits of a new political conditionality conjugate good government with a plurality of actors, which tends to stimulate local pluralistic structures, the *Green Book* insists too much on the role of the public sector and too little on the role of society. The relation between the policy of cooperation and the promotion of democracy presents the problem of autonomy of the former with other policies. In the *Green Book*, centered basically on Africa, there is, underlying, in the first place, the negative balance of this relation, which blames the ACP countries while mostly sparing the EU from any self-criticism. In the second place, there is the neoliberal focus, which is reflected in the treatment given conditionality and in the assignment of resources. A review of the use made of the few instruments created before the *Green Book* leads to the impression of there being great heterogeneity, little efficiency, and a lack of clear reference criteria. In light of what appears in the *Green Book*, it seems that the link between the CFSP, the interests of the member States, and the policy of Cooperation will nevertheless continue to paralyze the application of democratic conditionality.

A Comparative Approach to the Areas of Coordination in the Policies of Bilateral Cooperation

Anna Ayuso

In the sphere of Cooperation for Development, the term coordination is closely linked to the notion of efficiency, which is understood as the need to obtain the optimum results possible from the limited funds that are available. Two main problems thus emerge for each developing country to solve: one, how to answer which is pre-eminent —the economic or the political interests and, two, how to cope with its lack of efficiency in managing the whole of contributions received from different sources by way of Cooperation for Development.

Although the task of coordinating and determining priorities and designing a particular strategy for development belong to the receptor state, there are three areas of activity in

which the donor state shoulders great responsibility: the internal coordination within each donor country, the bilateral coordination between the donor and receptor nation, and the coordination among donor countries. With respect to the first, common problems exist for which each country tries to find a solution by way of providing answers in line with its priorities and idiosyncrasies, which can then be classified in three thematic blocks: planning, administrative management, and operative management. According the author, it is also possible to identify evolutionary patterns among the donors that indicate tendencies which can be contrasted with the principles worked out in the heart of the Committee for Aid for Development in the OCDE.

Governability in Contemporary Mexico

Leonardo Curzio Gutiérrez

Given the difficulties to establish a concept of governability and the frequent ideological usage of the term, it is much more operative to turn to the principle of governability, in the broad sense, which supports itself on five pillars: the political legitimacy of the government, the governmental efficiency to attend to the demands of society, the existence of shared social project, the agreement with the principle special interest groups, and international viability. The analysis of the structure and relevance of these five points during the long period of political transition that Mexico underwent between 1988 and 1997 shows how it was possible for this country to play off certain factors against each other in order to secure governability and safeguard against the consequences of any resultant imbalances.

Between 1998-1993, the government of Salinas de Gotari based itself on the viability of a neoliberal project within an international context, and on this project's attention to domestic demands as well as on the government's pact with elites. Institutional integration and legitimacy made up, then, for a process of discreet liberalization and the lack of democratic electoral commitment, which culminated in the PRI's 1994 elections victory. The assassination of Colosia, though, and the appearance of the EZLN and the subsequent crisis surrounding the peso's devaluation that accompanied Ernesto Zedillo's rise to power soon led to the collapse of those pillars of support. Crowning the process of the silent transition were the elections of 1997, which makes it possible to say that in Mexico today there are now smooth elections, but that reform of the State is still unresolved—a subject that includes the reduction of the president's competence.

Seen in the short term, the most direct threats to Mexico's governability will come as a result of the lack of attention to those demands of society's underprivileged and the ill-mannered distribution of income. The State's capacity to negotiate with the favored class is fundamental for the effective application of the policies of social integration. In foreign affairs aspects, the asymmetrical integration with the EE.UU. turns this northern neighbor into a kind of special interest group which, in its totality of influence, limits the range of possibilities for Mexico's development.