

## INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION AND GOVERNMENTAL AND SOCIAL CO-RESPONSIBILITY

**José R. Castelazo,**  
President of the National Institute  
of Public Administration, Mexico.  
Vice-President of IICA for Latin America

### **Introduction**

In the last decades, poverty has been a vertiginous growth in practically all over the world, in spite of the fact that from the end of the Second World War to the present day (63 years), the developed countries have flowed, that not investment, more than 2,3 trillions of US dollars. Poverty is not only an economic issue, which is solved with flows of international assistance. For instance, the African countries that received more aid in 1990's (about 15% of their revenue) suffered a drop in their level of income rather than rise. Instead, Botswana recorded an annual growth of 6% during four decades, due to its correct public policies, although that country received very little external assistance (Easterly, 2006).

There is a contrast in "the planner", who thinks he knows how give support to poor people truly, and trusts in the external experts, while the "researches" admit they do not know the answer, that poverty is a complicated combination of political, social, historical, institutional and technical factors. Therefore, the research seek the resolution of the problem as an incremental process of discovery, and emphasize solutions based on local knowledge (Easterly, 2006).

There is not enough hard evidence (positive or negative) that verify that a major flow of assistance to the poorest countries helps them to achieve an economic development, neither has been verified that

certain kind of support works better than different ones, or that the aid has better results with better internal policies or that geographical context has influences about it. The foregoing does not necessarily mean that aid can not be beneficial in the future, but it involves re-thinking the system of assistance for understanding and improving the transfer of resources and their effectiveness. (Rajan y Subramanian, 2005).

In the same line of argumentation, Boone (1995) affirms, according to his study of non-military aid to 96 countries, the consumption increased, but this high expenditure did not benefit to the poor people. Likewise, he asserts that foreign aid does not increase the investment and development in a significant way and does not benefit to poor people (according to the measurement of human development indicators) but it increase the dimension of government. Moreover, the impact of the aid does not change if country has democratic or totalitarian governments. In addition, he concluded that in the model of elitist political regimes is possible to predict the better impact of foreign aid.

Furthermore, the concern of the United Nations in relation to poverty has manifested through the Human Development Reports. Since the first report of 1990, UN conceptualized a “new model of development focused on the human person as an ultimate goal...” introducing to the traditional economical evaluations a Human Development Index, which provided three basic elements:

- a) Longevity (life expectancy) as an expression of the health and the nutrition care;
- b) Knowledge, as a result of an adequate education, and
- c) GDP per capita, including the analysis of the distribution of this one in the population.

In this process of expanding the individual opportunities, we have to consider the political freedom, personal security, community participation and guarantee of human rights.

The first Human Development Report concluded, among others considerations:

- The averages of progresses of human development conceal wide disparities in developing countries, between urban and rural areas, between men and women, between rich and poor. Nowadays, we can add to the factual power groups (business or political), that obtain privileged incomes thanks to the great influence over the institutions of the State.
- There is not an automatic link between economic growth and human progress, whether there is a lack of efficient tools for redistributing the income. Subsidies are essential for groups with lower incomes.
- Developing countries can reduce military expenditures, and increase the efficiency of social ones (health, education, housing, urban services) creating political, administrative and budgetary measures.
- In periods of adjustments and reduction of resources, the social expenditures must be the last ones, not the first ones, in diminishing.

### **Evolution of the development aid.**

The globalist vision in the 90's affirmed that sustainable development and poverty reduction would be the results of international dynamics of the globalization: the openness, economic liberalization and integration into the global market would result “natural” contributions to higher growth. When these results were not achieved, it was necessary to look for the reasons in the faults of the internal policies and in the insufficient degree of opening and integration. In the late of 90's that argument was denied by the reality: a great number of the countries that had implemented these measures had lean results in the reduction of the poverty and the inequality, and to the foregoing was adding an increase of the international inequality.

The decline in poverty rates in the past 25 years is attributable to the exceptional performance of China, because the number of poor people has been remained stable in that country (Chen y Ravallion, noted by Sanahuja, 2007).

Donor countries, grouped in the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), reformulated the principles of the Official Development Aid in 1996. They introduced quantitative targets with the corresponding indicators of progress in a period of time –the year 2015- (Comité de Ayuda al Desarrollo, 1996). However in 1997, we noted the lowest data of ODA.

### **Millenium Declaration and Millenium Development Goals.**

The World Bank (WB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) adopted the aims of the DAC in 2000. On September, 2000, the General Assembly of UN, 189 States and 147 heads of government, adopted the “Millennium Declaration” and was given an unprecedented political support to the 8 “Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; 2. To achieve the universal elementary education; 3. Promote gender equality and empower women; 4. To reduce the infant mortality; 5. To improve the mother health; 6. To attack the VIH/SIDA, the malaria and other diseases; 7. To guarantee the sustainability of the environment; and 8. To foment a world association for the development.” For every aim there are goals and indicators of advance.

The latter objective tries to give an equity dimension to globalization, and contribute to its legitimacy. It is the result of intense negotiations between rich and poor countries. It includes the demands of the poorest countries, in relation to the cancellation of external debt, the reduction of protectionism in rich countries, an increase in economic aid and the address of special needs in the least developed countries. The donors can affect the developing countries in major grade that the aid that they give them with their policies (trade and agricultural policies, foreign investment, immigration or defense),

subsequently the coherence principle acquires an increasing importance in the international documents.

### **Major Conferences after the Millennium Declaration.**

1. **International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey 2002.** Monterrey, Mexico. March, 21 and 22. Corollary of the Millennium Declaration in order to achieve concrete agreements for mobilizing resources for the fulfillment of the MDG, with an alliance among the developed countries and developing ones, to adopt rational policy, to promote a correct public management, to mobilize the internal resources, to attract financial international currents, to foment the international trade, to increase the financial and technical cooperation, to relieve the foreign debt, go on. The aid would be justified by “market failures” rather than the right to development or objectives of equity or social cohesion in the global level. The approved resources would be canalized across the “Account of the Millennium Development”, which was established two years its launching. The countries could use these resources with the condition of reforming their politic institutions: 3 countries had been approved in 2004; 9, in 2005, and 35 en 2007. (Sanahuja, 2007).
2. **Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness for development.** Protagonists, harmonization, convergence, results and mutual responsibility 2005. Paris, France. February 28- March 22. It contains about 50 commitments-based on a mutual responsibility, inspired by lessons learned from the experience - among the partner countries and the “donors” for improving the quality of aid that will be monitored by 12 quantitative indicators. Indicators were established in relation with each aim by 2010. It was destined to reduce the poverty and the inequality, to accelerate the growth to improve the achievement of the ODM. In addition to the 93 countries that have signed the commitment they involved 26 organizations (WB, IDB, IMF, OECD, regional development banks, go on) and 15 Civil organizations.

3. The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (2005). **Global Monitoring Report 2005. Millennium Development Goals: From Consensus to a more dynamic action.** (17 April 2005)

Report realized to a decade of the term for the fulfillment of the MDG's. It reinforced the Monterrey's Consensus of 2002 and realizes a balance of the results to this date. It concludes that if there is not an additional impetus, the world cannot achieve the MDGs. In order to generate this necessary impulse it proposes:

- a) *Basing measures to achieve the MDGs in development strategies driven by the countries themselves.*  
"Donors should use those strategies for coordinating and harmonizing their assistance".
- b) *Improving conditions for stronger economic growth, led by the private sector.*  
Promotion of economic growth and improve their management, improving conditions for private activity, improving public sector management and combating corruption
- c) To extend the services related to the human development. Education and health, VIH/SIDA. To increase sanitary and educational agents, and to contract commitments in that matter.
- d) *To eliminate obstacles to the trade.*  
To fulfill promises of the Round of Doha: to reform agricultural trade in developed countries, combat obstacles to internal trade capacity.
- e) *To increase significantly the level and effectiveness of aid*

4. **2005 World Summit Outcome Document.**

After a harsh debate on amendments tabled by the United States that was intended to reverse the MDGs, deferment commitments were adopted to increase aid, but written up carefully not to make them an obligation

5. **Doha Development Agenda (DDA). World Trade Organization.**

To reverse the increase in international inequality is necessary a decisive improving in the quality of aid, more balanced rules of trade and fair resolution of debt problems. The DDA is the tool to set up negotiations aimed at eliminating obstacles to market access, especially in agricultural products by industrial countries, such: stop dumping through the elimination of agricultural subsidies, reviewing the level of support to agriculture and to reduce its tariff of protection in agricultural markets. The meetings held in June-July 2006, failed and ended without agreement by the unyielding position of the involved countries. The discourse about the expansion of trade and the neo-liberal doctrine finishes where begins the defense of its own interests. (Alonso y Sanahuja, 2007). We hope achieve better results in the next International Monitoring Conference on Financing for Development, held from November 29 to December 2, 2008, in Doha, Qatar.

**Present situation of the Official Development Aid**

In the presence of the questioning: how they have been benefited and which are the results to mitigate the wounding effects of the poverty in the nations that have received international assistance? The most immediate response probably is that does not appreciate any good effect, since in spite of the technological advances and the economic flow that the financial supranational organisations destined to the help, the expansion of the economic and social gaps continues, with the consequent suffering for the humanity.

There has been a visible deterioration in the global distribution of wealth. According to the World Bank there are 2700 million people living in poverty conditions, and 1100 million are in extreme poverty.

While global ODA reached historical high of 106,800 million dollars in 2005, this only represents 0.33% GNP of donor, which is also the average in the period 1969-1998. If we disaggregate this ODA of

2005, we have that 64% was used on poverty programs, 24% debt relief, 8% emergency aid, and 4% for administrative expenses of donors (San ahuja, 2007).

In Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4 are transcribed data that reveal the extremes of inequality in the current international society.

**TABLE 1. SELECTED STATISTICAL DATA**

**GDP PER CÁPITA, YEAR 2005** (Page 232)

Least developed countries	US\$ 1,499.00
Developing countries	5,282.00
High income countries	33,082.00

**LIFE EXPECTANCY BIRTH** (page 232)

Least developed countries	54.5 años
Developing countries	66.1 años
Promedio Países de Ingresos Altos	79.4 años

**URBAN POPULATION (% del total)** (Page 246)

Least developed countries	26.7%
Developing countries	42.7%
High income countries	76.8%

**SANITATION, WATER (2004)** (Page 254)

	Population using	Population using an
	Improved sanitation	improved water source
	% population	% population
Least developed countries	37	59
Developing countries	49	79
High income countries	100	100

**POPULATION UNDERNOURISHED (% of the total population)** (Page 254)

Least developed countries	35%
Developing countries	17%
High income countries	....

**INFANT MORTALITY RATE (IMR)** (Page. 264)

(Per 1000 life births)

	IMR		IMR	
	1970	2005	1970	2005
Least developed countries	152	97	245	153
Developing countries	109	57	167	183
High Human development countries	43	13	59	15

**ADULT LITERACY RATE, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ENROLMENT** (Pág. 272)

	Adult literacy rate (% age 15 and older)	Net enrolment rate	
	15 años o más	PRIMARY	SECONDARY
Least developed countries	53.4	77	27
Developing countries	77.1	85	53
High Human development			
OECD	99.1	96	92

UNDP. (2007), Human Development Report 2007/2008. Fighting climate change: Human solidarity in a divided world, New York, PNUD. In:  
<http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2007-2008/chapters/spanish/> 30-april-2008

**TABLE 2. OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA)**

**NET OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA) 2005** (Page. 289)

Donors: High human development Countries	
ADO Total	US\$ 106.777 millones
AOD As % of GNI	0.33%
AOD per capita donor countries	US\$ 122.00
AOD to least developed countries	24% (del total)

**FLOW OF AID** (Page 293)

	Official Development Assistance (ODA) Total Mill.US\$	Per capita US\$	% GNI
Least developed countries	25,979	33.9	9.3
Developing countries	86.043	16.5	0.9
High Human development countries	2,633	1.6	0.0

UNDP. (2007), Human Development Report 2007/2008. Fighting climate change: Human solidarity in a divided world, New York, PNUD. In:  
<http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2007-2008/chapters/spanish/> 30-april-2008

**TABLA 3. FACTS ON CHILD HEALTH**

- Nearly 10 million children under the age of five die every year - more than 1000 every hour. Almost all of these children could survive and thrive with access to simple, affordable interventions. The loss of one child is a tragedy.
- Malnutrition contributes to more than half of all child deaths.
- Pneumonia is the largest single cause of death in children under five years of age. Out of 154 million cases each year, nearly three-quarters occur in just 15 countries.
- An estimated 2.3 million children under 15 years of age are living with HIV, and every day more than 1400 are newly infected. Without intervention, more than half of all HIV-infected children die before their second birthday.
- Child survival rates differ significantly around the world - three-quarters of child deaths occur in Africa and South-East Asia.
- About two-thirds of child deaths are preventable through access to practical, low-cost interventions, and effective primary care up to five years of age.

World Health Organization (WHO). 10 facts on child health. En:  
[http://www.who.int/features/factfiles/child\\_health2/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/features/factfiles/child_health2/en/index.html) 30-april-2008

**TABLA 4. DATA OF HIGH IMPACT AND ASPECTS OF THE OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE**

“Every hour more than 1200 children die ... The causes of death will vary, but the overwhelming majority can be traced to a single pathology: poverty ... that pathology is preventable.”  
 “... 10.7 million children every year do not live to see their fifth birthday, and more than 1 billion people survive in abject poverty on less than \$1 a day”  
 “Massive poverty and obscene inequality are such terrible scourges [...] that they have to rank alongside slavery and apartheid...” (Nelson Mandela, 2005)  
 “The world’s richest 500 individuals have a combined income greater than that of the poorest 416 million. ... 2.5 billions people living on less than \$2 a day -40% of the world’s population- account for 5% of global income.”  
 “International aids one of the most effective weapons in the war against poverty. Today, that weapon is underused and in need of repair” ....  
 “Aid is sometimes thought of in rich countries as a one-way act of charity. ..In a world interconnected threats and opportunities aid is an investment as well as a moral imperative.”  
 “While rich countries publicly acknowledge the importance of aid, their actions so far have not matched their words.”

Since 1990 “In rich countries ... per capita income has increased by \$6070, while per capita aid has fallen by \$1.”

“Tied aid remains one of the most egregious abuses of poverty-focused development assistance.”

The \$7 billion needed annually over the next decade to provide 2.6 billion people with access to clean water is less than Europeans spend on perfume and less than Americans spend on elective corrective surgery ... an investment that would save an estimated 4000 lives each day”

UNDP. Human Development Report 2005. International cooperation at a crossroads: Aid, trade and security in an unequal world. New York, UNDP. In:  
<http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2005/> 30-april-2008

**The problem of the institutional coordination**

Our vision concerning the international aid reveals a dispersion of efforts; the financial agencies duplicate, and still they triple, the programs in the same countries, whereas others remain isolated of these actions. By all appearances, don't exist criteria to establish priorities, not even instruments of follow-up to the resources once delivered to the recipients.

In the United Nations the financial international organizations are grouped around five “intimately related” institutions, of which only two offer help to mitigate the poverty and to improve the quality of life: the International Bank of Reconstruction and Promotion (BIRF) and the International Development Association (IDA), “every institution plays a role differently in the mission to fight against the poverty”. Nevertheless it does not appreciate evidences of organizational link.

When realizing a revision of the ODA, Sanahuja (2007) finds the following main “faults”, among others:

- Security and antiterrorism. Iraq has been the first receiver of world-wide aid in 2005 and Afghanistan the quarter. Other 7 countries receive major attention for defense of the security. This concept of aid is not in the priorities established in the MDG. Of the 34 considered countries of average rent, in which it is Latin

America, 24 of them register a reduction of the aid received in period 2001-2005; Colombia, has been relocated like high-priority in this matter by some donors.

- Although the moral obligation is accepted or political to grant aid, this one continues being voluntary and discretionary, the receiving country does not have any ownership with respect to those resources. The consequences are: volatileness of the aid; problems appellants of coordination between donors; conditional aid to all type of interests of the donor; high costs of transaction.
- Proliferation of donors and fragmentation of the aid. In 50'S years as soon as there were 6 countries donors, today they are more than 50, and is necessary to add 230 international organisms. The number average of official donors in the receiving countries has increased from 12 in 1960, to 33 in 2004 and has more than 30 countries with more than 40 active donors. Each of them have its own mandates, objectives and their own agendas of interests.
- Vagueness than must be considered like ODA, because the concept has been extended, and it includes the scholarships for students of developing countries to study in the country donor, the attendance to refugees, the debt forgiving, the participation flood of the Armed Forces in emergency aid, activities related to the security. On the other hand, the increasing deprived flows of NGO and foundations are not entered like ODA. The political impulse to create these bottoms comes from the Conference of Monterrey. Of 20.000 activities of aid registered by the DAC in 1997, it increased to 60.000 in 2004. The distrust of the donors has made canalize the aid through projects isolated with its own units of management, increasing the administrative costs and of transaction, and making difficult the coherence of the national programs of development.

Therefore, it's an imperative look for an effective coordination of the organizations engaged to this mission. With what there would be avoided problems of duplicity of supports to certain nations or the marginalization of others. A managing well coordinated of the aid, focalized to precise goals and a solid structure, would have a positive impact in the weak nations.

### **The relation supplier - recipient**

Along their history, the supranational organizations maintain their philanthropic role towards the poorest nations, creating an asymmetric and distrust relation.

It has been said that the poverty demonstrates the faults of a government, and that in many nations, which receive international aid to relieve it, often they see turned aside or blurred the financial funds. For which, this source of resources, compromises governments and societies and puts in risk its viability.

The distrust has driven to imposition of requirements to the needy nations, for the adoption of certain type of policies, as programs of economic adjustment and other conditions that assume against the risk of loose funds or financial subsidies. So as to receive the help, these countries accept these requirements, without thinking that they imply the implantation of administrative and fiscal rigorous systems, with a major sacrifice to the citizen. In this context they lower the levels of credibility in the governments, while the potential conflict increases.

Before it there becomes necessary an institutional design in which they participate in a jointly responsible way the financial organizations in their suppliers' quality, the governments like intermediaries and guarantors and the groups benefited to make the transparency possible in the assignment, distribution and application of the funds, and an effective accountability.

The few results of the ODA until now have been explained by the fragility of the internal institutions of the poor countries. Nevertheless, also the international institutions require to be fortified and their programs reformed, before the dynamics of the globalization, to assure one governance representative, legitimate and effective. Before the participation of nongovernmental actors (social movements and NGO), the increase of the economic and political importance of organizations of emergent countries, such as those of the BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China), the accumulation of currency reserves of

underdeveloped countries (like China, Venezuela), with increasing importance like donors and credits, diverse theoreticians of the international relations debate the necessity to respond to a demand of governance in the global level, and denote the deficiency of a democratic proposal of governance world-wide.

Of international rank adds itself to previous the sprouting of new “public goods”, some of which cannot be managed without an international cooperation, such as the national security, the monetary stability, the preservation of the scope or ozone layer, like peace, security against contagious diseases, environmental sustainability, the persecution of the crime, the correction of the international inequality, among others.

### **The importance of a State with solid institutions**

To assure the development of a country it is needed an administrative apparatus state without which no nation can get it. To rely on this structure is one of the essential conditions in order that the offered help could flow across the governmental agencies. The ODM must become national objectives, be integrated in the government programs and be considered like own. The support of the central organs of the government and its coordination it is fundamental to evaluate the performance of the dependencies and organizations of the public sector.

The previous thing is only possible, when a democratic political system exists, with wide social participation, and that tends to assume the institutions of gobernanza. The promotion of the human rights, the respect of the values of the freedom, solidarity and the tolerance are the base necessary to reinforce the democratic institutions. Also, the effective operation of the executive authorities, Legislative and Judicial Powers allows to reach agreements to formulate concrete solutions to eradicate the poverty, to improve the services of health, education and of public security.

It's paradoxical that some nations, for their political, historical, geographical condition and even cultural, are the neediest, but they do not fulfil the requirements demanded by the international agencies, which discredits them to receive the economic aid. With these considerations, the proposal is to reinforce the states so that they could establish solid and efficient institutions that guarantee the effective exercise of the resources, their investment in programs that help to increase the human and social capital, and the physical infrastructure for the generation and distribution of wealth within the frameworks of transparency, efficiency and co-responsibility.

A State prepared institutionally not only cooperates to an efficient administration of the aid, but it optimizes to the maximum the scanty resources, a State that is capable of giving itself political and administrative institutions, can understand with major clarity the dimension of its social problems.

In this order of ideas it suits to mention that the design of public policies removed from the reality, they tend to focalize erroneously the multiple problems of poverty and reproduce schemes of assistance, that only are palliative, but they do not help to improve the quality of life of the population and far from relieving the economic load for the State make it heavier. This form of assistance from the State is harmful because it induces in the subjects receptive attitudes more than proactive, and it disables the human potential to satisfy their personal needs and to look for their own fulfillment.

The strengthening of the institutions of the State and the public administration cannot be realized under the dictation of the will, supposedly technical, of the donors. The development is a process of acquisition of increasing grades of capacity and autonomy in the people.

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