

REGIONALISM AND MULTILATERALISM: A NECESSARY CONVERGENCE

ABSTRACT

The paper analizes the evolution of regionalism in Latin America, stressing the change from the models of cooperation and integration that are protectionist and defensive, towards those who emphasize integration to world economy, trade liberalization and the promotion of competitiveness. Also, the paper highlights the gradual convergence between latinamerican regionalism and hemispheric regionalism that has permitted the countries of the region to pursue multiple participation policies in the different economic agrupations configurated in the continent. The author stresses the open character shown by regionalism in Latin America. This liberalization is revealed by the existence of superimposing options of regional insertion, the uncertain character of the projects, the acceptation of new members and the strive for compatibility between the profundization of regional schemes and world trade liberalization.