

Transparency,

an element of trust in the public sector

Transparencia,

un elemento de confianza en el sector público

Abstract

Interlinking between the economy and society, and between them and politics, has a long doctrinal tradition in the social sciences, and is now a paradigm. Confidence in the public sector is the product of these relationships. Today's world is complex and diverse, in the context of globalization, and therefore can not be analyzed from unilateral unique perspectives and visions, but based on multivariate explanations and plural disciplinary contributions. Without prior and thoughtful analysis of reality; is difficult to cope with the adoption of strategic and appropriate decisions while their outcome, to undertake adequate, effective, transparent and responsible action.

The current model of political system will involve a certain model of State, Government and Public Administration. The introduction of a new element, transparency will have to lead to improve the relationship between the public sector and citizens.

Several have been the causes and effects of the current structural and multiple crisis in which we live today; and a demonstration of what would be the crisis of political and administrative systems. But the failure of development of culture and public values and the inability to govern from the institutions, prevents the confidence in the public institutions can be done.

Keywords: Economy, Society, Politics.

Resumen

La imbricación entre la economía y la sociedad, y entre éstos y la política, tiene una larga tradición doctrinal en las ciencias sociales, y ahora es un paradigma. La confianza en el sector público es el producto de estas relaciones. El mundo de hoy es complejo y diverso, en el contexto de la globalización, por lo tanto no puede ser analizado desde perspectivas y visiones únicas y unilaterales pero si en base a las explicaciones multivariadas y las contribuciones plurales disciplinarias. Sin un análisis previo y reflexivo de la realidad; es difícil hacer frente a la adopción de decisiones estratégicas y apropiadas, para llevar a cabo una acción adecuada, eficaz, transparente y responsable.

El actual modelo de sistema político implicará un cierto modelo de Estado, de Gobierno y Administración Pública. La introducción de un nuevo elemento, la transparencia tendrá que conducir a mejorar la relación entre el sector público y los ciudadanos. Varias han sido las causas y efectos de la actual crisis estructural y múltiple en la que vivimos hoy en día y una demostración de lo que sería la crisis de los sistemas políticos y administrativos. El fracaso del desarrollo de la cultura y los valores públicos y la incapacidad para gobernar desde las instituciones, evita que se pueda tener confianza en las instituciones públicas.

Palabras clave: Economía, Sociedad, Política.

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1. BRIEF INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL APPROACH

The overlap between economy and society, and between them and the policy has a long doctrinal tradition in the social sciences, and is today a paradigm. Today's world is complex and diverse, in the context of globalization, and therefore can not be analyzed from only one-sided perspectives and visions, but based on multivariate explanations and plural disciplinary contributions.

Without prior and reflexive analysis of reality; it is difficult to cope with the adoption of strategic and appropriate decisions, while the result of these, proceed to adequate, effective, transparent and responsible action.

The existing model of political system implies a particular model of State, Government and Public Administration.

Several have been the causes and effects of the current situation of structural and multiple crisis in which we live today; and it would be a manifestation of the crisis of political and administrative systems.

A crisis of lack of democratic legitimacy and response to the challenges and problems, is to respond basically what has been called Governance and Good Governance, compared to the previous "democratic institutionalization" or lack of democratic quality and failure the development of culture and public values and the capacity to govern. Good governance on the other hand, is the antithesis, and the pre-

vention and cure of political and administrative corruption.

It should be noted that good governance, among other principles and values substantially involves the following:

- a) Transparency and openness ("Open Government").
- b) Responsiveness.
- c) Integrity Ethics.
- d) Participation routes within their employees, and citizens abroad.
- e) Accountability.
- f) Effectiveness, efficiency and economy.
- g) Physical accessibility and document their institutions.
- h) Legal and quality of approved laws.
- i) Respect and guarantee human rights.
- j) Management results.
- k) Entrepreneurship and ecology.

Good Governance, also equivalent to the paradigm of governance, and involves also overestimate the dynamic and dialectical relationship between government and civil society; surpassing previous visions and obsolete static contemplation of the government. This in turn, also considered as an essential requirement for economic development.

2. THE PARADIGM OF GOVERNANCE AND ITS MAIN CHARACTERISTICS

The Academy of the Spanish Language, (2000) defined the governance, "Art or way of governing that has as objective the achievement of sustainable economic, social and institutional development, promoting a healthy

balance between the state, society and market economy”. This above definition, I would highlight the following:

- a) Governance is above all and above all a way of governing; it is not the only one, and it follows that is a new way of governing. This mode of governance will therefore have their own distinguishing characteristics, of others.
- b) Governance is an art. Required for a shoot, experimentation, learning. It is not a magic formula or complete theory, to give us the actual response. The character of art does need to develop to achieve satisfactory results.
- c) The art or way of governing, is a means or instrument to an end that it is clear and unambiguous, though generic and programmatic: “the achievement of sustainable economic, social and institutional development”.
- d) That end of development is not unique, but plural and complementary “economic, social and institutional development”; away because of the neoliberal economist and one-dimensional conception of the sixties and seventies, the fruit of the “single thought”; further emphasizing social development face serious social problems today, and institutional result of the contributions of “institutionalism”.
- e) Further development, complementary and integrated its various facets, be not temporary or capricious; but lasting or permanent.
- f) The effect or result of that development, will produce “a healthy balance”, that is fair, adequate, and integrated balance between the state, society and market.

- g) It is worth noting that governance mainly involves overcoming the dichotomy of dualism between state and society, and economy and society, the result of a concept that has its origins in the nineteenth century with the birth of the rule of law. We are in a new relationship and articulate the state, society and market economy. The relationship is three, and not in pairs, and separately.
- h) In the definition of the Royal Academy Society, we must understand as civil society appears. This is the new star in the relationship, you have that will reclaim its role, mainly through citizen participation and involvement of its members. The express mention of the society, which leads to be characterized by implicit, that all governance must be democratic in essence.

A strong correlation exists in turn, between governance and civil society, both of fruit and simultaneous exposure of the reality of each historical and geopolitical context. The concept of civil society in turn, is polysemous, and expressive of the articulation of the various networks, associations and social movements; and when it is most relevant play more role in every political system analyzed.

It should be noted that good governance is a means to the end of the full, authentic, quality or strengthened democracy; and both “happiness” of civil society and citizenship. The quality of democracy is more than voting time, and that representative legitimacy of the parties.

A beginning and an important factor in the manifestation of the Good Government, including several mentioned above, is undoubtedly the citizen participation. It seeks new ways in addition to the classic, which was considered insufficient. Participatory Democracy and Deliberative complement and extend the classical representative democracy.

The capital is a quantitative and qualitative element or factor in turn, that manifests the quality of democracy; and there should be consistency between expressive capital of this society and democracy, determining the extent and intensity of social coordination and public participation.

In a comprehensive socio-political analysis today of a society and a sociopolitical system, they must also be seen in physical capital (mainly land and infrastructure) and human capital or talent (key for the current health knowledge), also the capital.

The political and administrative corruption are not new to mankind, but today also manifest in various ways; and constitute the threat and scourge turn of good governance, and thus the quality of democracy. This in turn produces a progressive disaffection of the citizens towards public institutions that delegitimize, and a critical departure from the political class; and it involves the weakness of public institutions and values in society. Although corruption has always existed, it is now more demand for citizenship not only their greater prevention but especially as accountability.

Now corruption is not only a political and social, but also economic costs, affecting the normal operation of the Treasury of any country, and causes an increase in tax fraud and unnecessary public expenditure occurs.

On the other hand, not enough simply to struggle and repression of corruption in its various facets, but it is essential prevention, mainly through education and democratic civic culture, primarily through public ethics.

No administrative priority sectors in the prevention and fight against corruption, which are basically the following: a) the planning, b) public procurement, c) the financing of political parties and associations of various kinds, d) grants to international cooperation.

As part of the measures taken for Good Governance in some countries they have launched projects of government and public administration network, and "Open Government" ("Open Government"), and in particular may be cited the memorandum of Government Obama January 2009 on Transparency and Open Government, based on three pillars: a) Transparency, b) Collaboration and c) Participation.

However, good governance, as highlighted neoinstitutionalism also requires: a) deep organizational change; b) a change in the political culture; c) adequate leadership to the environment; d) an enhancement of citizen participation, social capital to reality.

At European level, they could be cited as basic documents of interest, as follows:

- a) The White Paper on European Governance, adopted in 2001 by the European Commission; and that is a real policy and program code at a time for all institutions and member countries of the European Union.
- b) The proposal of the Group of Administrative Law, the Council of Europe, which has also developed “Thirty-three principles of good governance”, which is also a genuine Code of Good Governance, which contains a synthesis and heterogeneous mixture of different principles, values and rules of conduct, common to all member countries; and they are also in turn positivised in most legal systems of the member countries.
- c) The “non nato” Constitution of the European Union, also contains a number of principles of good governance.

Republicanism or civic humanism is a current of thought that inspired the history of Rome in which the values of the “res publica” is praised, the “civitas” and civic virtues that seeks to legitimize and strengthen the role of public, its values and institutions of this nature; against hard and frontal attacks against neoliberalism it emerged after the oil crisis in 1973, and then spread throughout the world, which is substantially characterized, as we know, by the notes of: individualism, behaviorism, consumerism and capitalism wild. This neoliberalism, in the current context of globalization, and especially by its uncontrolled nature; they have led to a gradual weakening of all the public.

However, in history there have been many thinkers concerned with good governance. Civic republicanism and its various forms, it would be today as one of the explanatory basic ideologies and legitimizing the so-called Good Governance and Democratic Governance expression is first and foremost an “idea-force”, which also aims to become a living reality.

A manifestation and effect while the Good Government, understood in a broad sense, is good governance, involving a full revitalization and modernization of the same, with strategic vision, and imbued with democratic government securities.

Notwithstanding the fact that many public and private institutions have been selected and proposed indicators to measure transparency and good governance, and that they can be useful and guidance; my personal opinion is that transparency and good governance are basically qualitative, and are basically the result of culture and political idiosyncrasies of each country in each historical moment.

Contemporary government, are called today more than ever, to meet the demands of citizens and civil society, legitimizing their actions always in pursuit of general interest; through public policies suited to these purposes and the practice of public management also inspired by the above values and guiding principles of Good Governance. These in turn, approve and implement various technical measures and instruments to carry out the best and most efficient manner, namely:

- a) Administrative Code of Ethics, b) Service

Charters, and c) Implementation of the philosophy and techniques of strategic planning and evaluation, etc.

However, the current public management without prejudice to public ownership does not exclude the participation in the so-called “third sector” or business; for mutual collaboration. The Consortium Paternariado and appear as new and useful forms of organization of public-private action.

Within Public Administration, an important and strategic aspect to consider is the role in it of public employees, or “civil service”. Professionalism, integrity, and their independence, are certainly a prior and essential requirement for a modern, effective and democratic governance quality.

Note that currently there are sections with different territorial application areas (states, local governments, etc.) many called Good Governance Codes. Among them stand out: The Latin American Corporate Governance Code adopted in Montevideo on 23 June 2006.

These Codes are certainly useful in principle but often pose the problem of lack of coercivity, and may become a dead letter, and therefore are useless for its non-applicability, and the absence of accountability.

Finally, it should also be noted that good governance should be strategic, not short-term, for the achievement of sound public policies for citizenship is neither easy nor is resolved in a few days.

3. EPILOGUE

Achieving the quality of democracy, one of whose manifestations would be good governance it requires a broader conceptual and institutional framework, as it should be seen within the reality of each political-administrative system. In the above sense, they are not sufficient for only the set of measures included in the so called Good Government, but they also must accompany and supplement, through a transformation of the configuration and performance of the main actors and political institutions of a decision and representative.

In particular, I would highlight the, if not unique, essential variable of the importance of internal democracy and the transparency of political parties; and the solution and the meritocratic and orderly training of political elites, that in its administrative political system can effectively achieved good governance.

Besides the above, it is obvious that the conceptual framework and content of the rule of law should be further strengthened and made fully democratic. States are not enough formal and symbolic law, without their being truly in their practice; and in particular is in my opinion in this institutionalization and consolidation of the rule of law, against his weakness, basically prioritize clearly and unequivocally, the following objectives:

- a) A clear separation of state powers.
- b) Pre-eminence of Parliament, as an expression of popular sovereignty, against

the irresponsible and uncontrolled presidentialism.

- c) The adoption and enforcement of legislation regulating political parties.
- d) The effectiveness and the full guarantee of human rights.
- e) A criminal law against corruption offenses.
- f) Administration of Justice; independent, professional and quick.
- g) A legislation regulating lobbyists and pressure groups.
- h) A protective legislation and guarantor of interim staff.
- i) The approval and start brand new ways of democratic participation of citizens and civil society.
- j) A schooling to transmit knowledge and civic values.
- k) The establishment of a “civil service” professional and meritocratic.

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