

## ***IS GLOBALIZATION A ZERO-SUM GAME?***

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*Abstract: The purpose of this paper is to make a brief analysis of the relationship between non-governmental organizations and international intergovernmental organizations in the current context of globalization. Today, the political systems are much more democratic, the civil society (NGO-s with high international credibility) is better organized, both at international and national levels, and the information technology favouris free expression of opinions which are, almost instantaneous, spread all over world. In order to be not losers in the globalization process, both the politicians and the majority of the civil society from the most developed countries have to make an intense and sustained effort of cooperation and solidarity.*

*Therefore, o solution could be, on one hand, the avoiding of restricting of the enormous growth potential and, on the other hand, the convergence of the income of globalization and technological revolution, while it is building a fairer and more solidary world, in which there are no winners and losers.*

**Keywords:** *globalization; equity; civil society; democracy.*

### **1. Globalization, global governance and global actors**

Globalization is the process of functionalization of the global economy which, in the global society, is able to create global decision structures for solving the global problems. The absence of a peace agreement in classical terms establishing the rights and obligations of winners and losers create additional problems for setting the new rules. The evolution of international law coincided with the winners formalizing values and interests .

There are politicians and media representatives presenting globalization in a very optimistic way in which all will benefit and the world will develop in harmony.

It can be appreciated that globalizatio, as today's dominant phenomenon, is the pillar of the new world order that unites us in mutual interdependence. Strengthening the non-state actors while diluting sovereignty of states, changed, significantly, the distribution of power. For instance, in the top 100 world entities more than half are non-state actors. The most important processes that perpetuate the globalization trends are manifested in the production and services (particularly financial) field and the fundamental initiating power is represented by the multinational or transnational companies that are the pillars of globalization.

So, besides nation-states, it could be added functions of new actors such as civil society organizations oriented transnational, global companies, hedge funds, the free movement of financial capital , transnational interest groups , global auditors, etc.

While globalization has led to observing the trend of solidarity among world states in solving problems of global concern (pollution, demographic flows, terrorism ) yet, it has not developed a systematic and institutionalized cooperation between states. This aspect allowed the installation of an international economic order in which labor was replaced with law.

According to some Romanian authors, on medium and long term, globalization will be subject to challenges and global challenges, expressed increasingly by global threats such as: continuing democratic deficit in many areas of the world; gradual removal of the matrix of existence of human civilization and the natural development; increased socio-economic polarization effect in extended stability and inability of governments to cope with globalization fully.

As social practice, globalization has the function to institutionalize global society and the expected solutions for overcoming the consequences of the first modernity was built on cleavages.

The social component generates global identity, of post-national type, and commission local diversity compensatory mechanisms (institutional version of civil society).

From the political point of view, globalization practices global governance as a function supranational and local, marking the consecration of extra state actors with responsibilities and rights.

Colatrella argues that "Global governance is a set of institutions and relations among political actors that transforms the relationship between national states and their territorial citizens, and alters the relations of power between different state agencies... They are (the institutions, n.n.) instead a means of determining the orientation of national states and their policies by limiting the "thinkable" ideological and policy options available to them to those favorable to capital."

After the Cold War, the international system has been in continuous change: from unipolar one, characterized by the supremacy of the United States, to a multipolar one, defined by the existence of several power poles, to strongly globalized one that includes new networks characterized by new forms of interaction, diffusion of power, non-governmental actors multiple global interdependence and complex new challenges. The world integration into an economic system and power relations dominated by US led to financial globalization and accelerated the internationalization of markets and products and activities.

An interesting opinion comes from Thomas Friedman who puts the antithesis "cold war system" with "globalization system" in his recent book "The Lexus and the Olive Tree". According to Friedman, the current era of globalization which has replaced the Cold War is in fact an international system with its own attributes. Friedman defines globalization system by integrating markets, countries and technologies at an unprecedented rhythm. Globalization is driven by free market capitalism. Friedman believes that globalization exerts a dominant and homogenizing, culture, which has its own defining technologies, its own demographic models (rapid movement from villages to cities) and their power structure based on trilateral relations: (1) between states, (2) between states and global markets and (3) between states and individuals.

According to Joseph Nye, the power capability development (conversion capability, strategy, cooperation) of the international actors implies the ability to convert resources into results. Nye shows that there is a power conversion by the concept of smart power (smart) that is defined by the ability of an actor to combine soft and hard power resources in an effective strategy. Therefore, globalization has forced states to rethink the concept of power. Moreover, the information revolution has reduced communication costs

due to increased Internet usage. Consequently, it was open networking organizations and individuals access to the international agenda.

In this regard, it is clear that in a dynamic and complex international system as the international system of the XXI century, the structures and interactions are in constant evolution has power contextual character.

## **2. The globalization of poverty. Qualification of human capital and migration flows - as opportunities of globalization**

Unfortunately, globalization is largely perceived as being to increase the gap between rich and poor even further impoverishing them on those who are already poor, thus before this, the persistence of poverty and inequality appear to be due failure globalization and not vice versa.

It is not an accident that some countries were left aside , nor the result of an unsuccessful integration opportunities presented by the global economy. It seems rather to be due to lack of certain fundamental institutional characteristics: a skilled workforce, a government representative and coherent, a developed civil society , which all are required to make globalization work.

Globalization increases competition between countries to attract foreign capital to grow their economies - in the form of foreign direct investment or portfolio investment in loans and receivables - and to acquire foreign technology facilities and higher human capital, inputs essential for achieving greater development .

Obviously, those countries with consolidated democratic institutions – e.g. political, legal and good and effective legal and recognize and protect private property, economic freedom, security, legal contracts , cohesion and public safety - and those that emphasize economic policies on education and training and open international business tend to acquire more foreign investment, technology and human capital than countries lacking such institutions and democratic politics.

Speaking of competition , the main winners are consumers around the world, because the price of goods , services will tend to decline and will result in increased purchasing power, in fact, their real income.

Education and productivity of workers in developing countries will increase and so will their salaries , their consumption and their exports . Migration flows , increasing from developing countries to developed ones allow immigrants to increase their human capital and their incomes and also to send remittances to their families , by raising the purchasing power and consumption in their home countries .

No doubt that it is universal and beneficial aspect of globalization. Most people in the world, in so far as consumers and the borrower can benefit from lower prices for goods and services , lower levels of interest rates, easier access to education, training and technology and a free option migration .

Consumers in countries where there is a higher coefficient of globalization and a higher level of competition , e.g. in developed countries and many developing countries that are open to competition, will benefit more than consumers in other parts . However , most of the skilled workers in developed countries will benefit from globalization, since it can adapt quickly to new technological revolution and the internationalization of production and

distribution and may specialize in industries or services with input- competitive greater technological sites that allow them to increase their relative productivity and wages .

By contrast, lower - skilled workers in developed countries will have a greater probability of being net losers, because of the difficulties they face in adapting to new technologies and internationalization of production and will be forced to accept lower productivity and jobs lower wages if their labor markets are more flexible.

As we showed, globalization refers to global economic integration of many formerly national economies into one global economy, mainly by free trade and free capital mobility, but also by easy or uncontrolled migration (Daly, 1999).

Historical experience shows that migration is the most powerful tool in reducing income inequality, lower unemployment by developing countries and increasing transfer inflows years of migration.

Finally, the vast majority of workers in developing countries will gain from globalization. Many of them will cease to be unemployed or underemployed their qualifications and who work should receive higher earnings because their working companies will export a larger volume of goods and services in developed countries which will work to increase demand to meet the demands of production.

On the other side, many workers in developing countries will also avoid emigration since they will find jobs locally , as globalization intensifies lifting their contribution to labor content and exported goods and services receiving higher flows capital.

To sum up, globalization consists of reducing barriers to movement of labor and, the increase of migration flows , providing more opportunities for workers in many developing countries to improve their income or their chance of finding a job in other countries.

As the analysis shows that there are more winners than losers from globalization. Most people earn in that it borrows and consumes very few lose as productive workers and capitalists in developed countries in developing countries .

### **3. Political influence in globalization**

Under globalization has worsened an old problem, that the assertion of national identity ( social and cultural ) with its political expression ( rule ). And the current political environment evolves.

Political systems are more democratic, civil society is better organized, both nationally and internationally, in the form of powerful NGOs, and information technology allows them to freely express their opinions and be heard immediately worldwide.

For this reason, it is crucial to avoid becoming losers in globalization increasing ( e.g. the difference between earnings and possible losses as consumers as producers ), or at least potential losers should be helped to overcome problems so that no group of people or countries are not excluded from globalization or suffer its negative consequences instead of enjoying the benefits of globalization.

Both politicians and civil society in most developed countries must make a huge effort of cooperation and solidarity to avoid this happening . They should also , as governments in developing countries to make a huge effort on all fronts, democratic, institutional, social and economic to attract capital and investment required to produce more , to develop their trade flows exterior and be converging in income, developed economies. .

The most important way to protest is through international NGOs that are the result of creating civil society in developed countries and increasing competition that „participatory democracy” due to the growing use of new communication technologies development, imposes increasingly on " representative democracy . "

While the credibility and legitimacy of elected politicians, decreases slightly increases the NGOs and other civil society organizations and associations. The new IT revolution makes it grow " participatory democracy " NGOs , given that it can freely express their views via the Internet, and no longer need their protests to be approved media owners to be able to express.

The first and main economic disagreement with some NGOs is that many of them consider that globalization is a " zero -sum game " , which is a great error . Every country in the world that participate in international competition development can benefit from it, although the final result will be the same for all . The roots and causes of a better or worse adaptation to change are well known: the quality of political institutions, social and economic factors of production facilities , education levels , human capital and physical capital and macro and microeconomic policies applied in each country .

There are several categories of NGOs protesting at meetings of international organizations. The first category is represented by those who have already earned international credibility because they are a global service company, either by helping to reduce poverty, which is still at unacceptable levels, either by avoiding or denouncing environmental abuses that are increasing or improving consumer awareness on products of poor quality or dangerous to health or eventually just because they try to make a better world for all and less unequal. These NGOs tend to act with a known higher degree of efficiency, transparency and accountability than others.

Many of them are present as participants in the talks with IMF and World Bank also helps to policy making companies, governments and international organizations on aid for economic development , poverty reduction, debt reduction and environmental protection.

A second category, as Guillermo de la Dehesa indicates, is formed of more radical NGOs, oppose almost without discrimination, to all genetically modified food and are thus at odds with companies and governments who see it as a way to increase food production in both developed countries and in the developing and reducing hunger in poor countries situations .

From this category, many of them, totally, oppose even the World Bank and IMF existence because reckon that some of their policies are counterproductive and does not help the less developed.

Another category are small NGOs and small groups of protesters that have no clear objective , apart from the anticapitalist and no clear funding. These small organizations tend to be more aggressive and violent than those mentioned above and the cause of great concern, both for institutions and for the contested respectable NGOs .

The companies now show greater corporate social responsibility towards the environment, governments are trying to increase levels of trade and to assist less developed countries to agree to the reductions in their claims and international organizations are more focused on the battle to reduce poverty and increasing trade.

As such, appear to be necessary to increase, where possible, collaboration with respectable NGOs and try to find practical ways to eradicate poverty relief by providing greater support and assistance to countries or individuals that are more adversely affected by globalization or they could enter into globalization and reap its fruits .

As De la Dehesa concluded, the majority of poor countries are not victims of globalization, but they victim of the lack of globalization. That's why, policymakers must give assurances that globalization expands, absolutely, over all.

The challenge for the XXI century is undoubtedly finding a way to use the extraordinary benefits that globalization and the current technological revolution bring , creating institutions to increase international solidarity and give us the opportunity to overcome the effects of somewhat unpleasant , which still exists present moment on savings and on people. Only by taking such effects into account will be able to avoid such a negative reaction to globalization and the emergence of a period as grim as in the period between 1914 and 1945 by two world wars and a major crisis .

The problem is to avoid restricting the enormous potential for development and income convergence of globalization and technological revolution , while it creates a world that is fairer and exercising a greater degree of solidarity, there is no losers.

Improving attitudes towards work, increasing knowledge and work ethic action, otherwise we will have to accept, according to Vladimir Volkoff , that not all people are the same, not all the people are equal from the point of view of vocation, intelligence, attitude and their practical action to work to overcome difficulties , to take destiny into their own hands and to combat poverty.

### **Instead of conclusions**

As we can see from the above study, the process of globalization has probably as many advocates as opponents and is considered as a factor that stimulates technological, economic and social development, as well as a cause of deepening the social and economic inequalities and degrading of national cultures.

Politics is affected by global economic interdependence but today should have a multiplicity of actors: the state, groups and even individuals, eg, international governmental organizations, NGOs , epistemic communities - scientists , foundations, etc.

Determined are coordination and cooperation between governments and supranational institutions, to minimize the possibility of abuse of power and violation of competition and ensure that the positive aspects that internationalization or globalization undoubtedly their companies are beneficial for all countries.

Because of globalization, rather companies than states will be major players in the global economy, but states will still have regulatory power to make this process a success and to reduce its possible negative effects on competition.

Thus, globalization needs , urgently , international organizations that deal with issues related to international finance, intellectual property, international competition, environment, health, terrorism, arms and drug trafficking and trafficking in women and children.

Globalization is not the cause of all evils in many countries, although it is blamed, but the main problems, are usually, internal order: poor governance, weak institutions and bad economic policies.

The rapid growth in communications, radio and television broadcasts and the Internet makes possible today to increase awareness of those who are excluded from it and poverty consciousness of those who are not affected by it .

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