

THE PUBLIC AND COOPERATIVE SOCIAL ECONOMY IN THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION.-

By Ing. Juan Carlos Vera, Buenos Aires 2017

Message:

Participate fully in the great structural and cultural change of the new times. Assume the incorporation of computer science and robotics, based on an economic and institutional readjustment of the countries and regions, which encourages the assumption of new methods at the service of social integration and full employment and that also contributes to the preservation of the environmental stability of the planet earth.-

PUBLIC POLICIES and ECONOMIC-SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT.-

"The Digital and Robotic Era" is replaced by the traditional activity, product of an industrial revolution that had overcome the changes of the steam engine and that achieved the electrical and electronic advances of the last century. Now - from the new century - it has intensified its interaction with new discoveries. In Latin America, many of us long to participate in the new period. Provided that it is accompanied by strengthening of democracy, progress and welfare of all citizens. That seeks and accelerates inclusion against social exclusion. The radical transformations of the original societies had their first manifestations after the revolution of agriculture in the Neolithic period, about 9 thousand years ago, when humanity went from being a nomad, hunter, fisherman and gatherer of wild fruits, to be rooted in the banks of rivers to plant, harvest and raise domestic animals, until the contemporary age where the steam engine is invented, later electricity and electronic energy and communication, then until the mid-twentieth century where technological advances begin to occur that give rise to the revolution of computing and robotics. All these advances have produced profound social and cultural changes. The coal-powered steam engine that revolutionized - for example - the textile industry and the transport system with the invention of the locomotive produced great transformations.

Satellite and audio-visual telecommunications, as well as computer and computer and robotic automation are beginning to offer other major changes to the current era.

These techno-cultural advances produced in the past and presumably will now produce profound social consequences. In principle, they threatened and threatened the most humble sectors and the masses of salaried workers. Then, little by little and thanks to the struggle and the resistance of the victims and to the adequate and consequent foresight

of state policies as well as their orderly plans for the future, the shortcomings were moderated and tend to be moderated, although-of course-without remotely reaching the goals necessary for the well-being of all the inhabitants of the planet. As noted, the computer-robotic advances are already being applied indisputably and conveniently in industries and in many human activities.

It is urgent for citizens to assess whether the systems that regulate our societies are prepared for the inevitable changes that lie ahead. Otherwise, it is time to improve them

As it happens with that other simultaneous great challenge that is to diminish the toxic emanations by the use of fossil fuels in the generations of energy, and thus to avoid global overheating of the planet, it is about analyzing, reaching consensus and deciding the opportune ones necessary structural transformations, before it is too late and that technological innovations - with the application of ultra-capitalist logics, are produced at the expense of unemployment and the consequent poverty with its various consequences

An appropriate use of the alternative generators of energy production can help us to avoid the climatic threat. A proper economic, democratic and solidarity performance of the economy of the countries and regions, will contribute that technological advances contribute to the progress and genuine well-being of humanity.

For example, the water and sanitation services, the distribution of electricity, gas and communications for all, education, health, must meet the reasonable deadlines that have been drawn in the conclaves of Nations. There are no rhetorical excuses to end hunger and universal poverty and assistance for elementary services. Thus understood, welcome are the tools of the robotic-computer revolution that help to conclude with the customary lacras that currently throw the statistics and mark a true quantum-quantitative leap of history.

THE SOCIAL ECONOMY AND CURRENT AND IMMEDIATE CHANGES.

Those of us who adhere to the principles of solidarity but successfully productive of the growth of the Social Economy, we have reasons to be worried.

When we speak of productive and economic successes of the socio-economic sector, it would be enough -to mention the case of one of its important branches, cooperatives and their impact on the economy. This is what Ariel E. GUARCO, president of COOPERAR, the Cooperative Confederation of the Argentine Republic and the newly elected president of the ACI International Cooperative Association, with its headquarters in Avenue Mil Camps 105, BRUSSELS - BÉLGICA.-

In his book "Cooperativismo Argentino-Una esperanzadora mirada al futuro", GUARCO cites categorical data that many, perhaps by dint of over-understanding them, seem to forget. For example, that the cooperative sector associates one billion inhabitants of the planet. One every seven inhabitants. They employ more than 100 million people around the world, that is, 20% more than those provided by all multinational companies together.

Also that the 300 largest cooperatives on the planet reached an annual turnover of 1.6 billion dollars in 2008. Figures-updated-slightly higher than the Gross Domestic Product of the tenth largest economy in the world, Canada.

That the global cooperative movement represents an economic power almost similar to the eighth world economy, Italy and that it means a source of income for half the world's population.

Also, in our country, Argentina, this movement with an age of just over a century since its origin in the first cooperative in the town of Pigué, and which has consistently remained faithful to the economic-social and cultural principles of its founders. Rochdale in Manchester England, can display strong data similar to those mentioned above in the world cooperative. In its developments in the various rural and urban activities. There are some 10 million people associated with more than twenty thousand cooperatives that work in all areas of the economy. It is present in the provision of public services such as private, consumer cooperative and rural cooperatives.

For example. More than 11 million people in Argentina receive electric power and other services through cooperative distribution networks. In rural areas, the cooperative confederation CONINAGRO participates decisively in the main source of production of the country, its wealth, the agricultural livestock. And so we could mention other economic activities in which this branch of the Social Economy participates and constitutes a considerable factor.

It would not be fair all this local and global mention if other very important sectors of the Social Economy such as Mutuals, Foundations, were not mentioned. The civil associations of various activities, the trade union associations with their corresponding social works, etc. These entities, with equally strong data, perhaps not so much in the quantitative economic but in the quantitative-qualitative social.

Cooperativism and, all this set of the Social Economy, which currently affects 10% of national production, could -probably- continue to grow until it reaches the production, within a reasonable timeframe, of 33.3% of GDP, as proposed by GUARCO so that, in a proportion of similarity with the other two sectors, the lucrative Market and the Administrative Institutional. This important change would affect the political-social transformation that works in conditions of assimilating the great challenge represented by the irruption of computer science and robotics, as

well as the preservation of the environment through the replacement of renewable energies and thus achieving the welfare and integration of all the inhabitants.

SOME DIFFICULT DATA.

Regarding employment, the "Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean" of the IDB, Inter-American Development Bank, has published a study of the CINVE, Center for Economic Research of Uruguay, called "Robot-Lución" and according to cross-researched data by the University of Oxford with those of the Permanent Household Survey of the Argentine INDEC, with respect to which - in Argentina and Uruguay - There is no sector of the activity in which the proportion of jobs that are likely to be replaced is less than 50% by the force of a machine or a digital intelligence. " These tasks, which are occupied by 70% by young people between 15 and 30 years, could be automated in the next 2 decades. Regarding the Educational Level. 7 out of 10 of these young people - arrived at the primary and secondary level can be replaced. Among graduates in universities could be changed by the theft-computer 4 out of 10 young people. You can infer the worst picture for countries with high rates of poverty and high educational and social dropout.

The automation will affect - above all - the professions and jobs that perform repetitive tasks such as telephone operators, supermarket cashiers, administrative work, transport and logistics.

New jobs can and should arise that have higher demand and quotation, such as Computer Programmers, Study Jobs and productive commercial strategies and increased demand, communication, visual design and digital creativity. This will require improvement of the twelve grades to offer better levels of preparation of the learners, which guarantee better levels of adequate training and creativity for the new times, since the tasks of a personal-repetitive nature will tend to disappear.

The Social Economists are determined to fight also so that, for example, the health sector and the aforementioned education in a comprehensive manner are adequate for and for the new stage.

The sector of Light, water and gas, transport and other essential public services must be available and accessible to everyone. Cities, in the era of robotics, must improve their uncontrolled growth and apply to an indispensable and indispensable spatial planning that is fulfilled for all urban centers and interurban territories, beginning already - and in principle - for a period of the next 30 years. Industrial and truly cultural work must be interconnected with the digital age in Latin America. The sustainable nature we must respect and adapt to it and not the other way around. The fearsome "climate change" must be avoided. Both challenges can be

met strategically from now on. It is about nothing less than our survival and that of the planet and other living beings.

WHAT TO DO:

It is obvious that, as has already been reiterated, it is urgent to reach consensus and adopt ironclad and ineluctable State Policies- to face and assimilate positively this challenge.

Local experience and that of many countries, including those of the so-called first world, indicate that certain structural investments do not offer "profitability" or their costs are unaffordable for official budgets. Both, State and Capitalist Companies are then withdrawn from these demands and those endeavors. It is there that the Public Services or Work Cooperatives that meet those needs arise, as happened in our country and in many places in America and the world.

How to do -for example- to supply drinking water and sanitation to a million small villages with 1000 or less inhabitants of the entire planet. The United Nations regrettably failed in its call to the nations with the goals that were proposed for 2015, to reduce this deficit by half. They failed to implement policies to meet that social demand. Perhaps IT or robotics could provide an improvement in construction and operational costs. But not in the hands of the big capitalist companies because -as it was experienced- certain "businesses" do not seem promising.

It is then that these State policy overcoming should be proposed and implemented. Undoubtedly they would enable us to transform ourselves into societies very different from those that Latin Americans "suffer" at present. Some of these, perhaps, transitory and partially successful, and productive, but inveterately postponing the rights of their majorities and a future of well-being for them.

We must end the political and social exclusion and everything that derives from it. In short, for the possible negative effects and channel the undoubted progress of production and economic efficiency that robotics and computing can offer us in the coming decades, without solving and even deepening our current shortcomings.

This alleged "Stalking" about that robotics will overcome men should actually impel us to train young people in new masters that complement the undoubted progress that new equipment will bring to the increase in quality and quantity of the purposes produced . Maybe it would require less work hours. Do not worry, the arrival of the steam engine and the electricity led the industries to spend 14 hours a day of work at 8 hours and weekly rest. The economist Keynes predicted, in the 1930s, that by the year 2030 the working day would be much less than the current one. Otherwise, there would be no consumers that are able to acquire the excess production

"The revolution in Information Technology and Robotics" means putting forward and being carried out by integrated and integrable Democratic, Social and Economic "Welfare Societies" and NOT - in any case - by the exclusive and unpredictable economic markets whose sole purpose is profit. Models of successful social economic welfare societies have been and are, those that have arisen in the countries of Western Europe, especially those of Nordic Europe such as Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland and also those of Belgium, the Great Britain and Ireland and Continental Europe as in France and Germany. Exemplary democratic countries, mixed economy, high GDP per inhabitant but, also, high participation-according to the GINI coefficient- in that GDP / h.

The economic activity can not be oriented or virtually directed by exclusively lucrative and speculative entrepreneurs and by rulers who come or respond slavishly to that sector. An irruption of new technologies would only aggravate this corruption and that complicity. Societies and their workers can not be subjected to these remanidas and fallacies regarding the "spill effect" of the "Successful" economies for a few, at the cost of misery, exclusion, poverty.

The approaching times do not admit sophisms. The only Truth is "the whole truth, only the truth and nothing but the truth". Your results are in sight. NOT those caused by the old known "realities" of abuse of dominant position in the markets and public actions and financial speculation caused by corrupt political measures at the service of maneuvers related to oligopolies and to the detriment of the interests of society as a whole .

The Social and Solidarity Economy can and must give its contribution for the new epoch that we are living. Both practically and on a decisive scale. This could be very important, both in the defense of the critical ecological stability of the planet, which overcomes the threat of climate change caused by an activity that unrestrainedly uses fossil fuels, whose emanations - especially dioxide carbon, have increased and continue, as in the adaptation of robotic and computerized uses to the general interest and NOT to the exclusive service of capitalist profit, for the benefit of a few concentrated interests but to the detriment of majorities.

The challenge of the robotic and computer technological changes, their successful resolution, the replacement of polluting energies by renewable energies, the care of nature, full employment, social integration, can be achieved if the Latin American countries do not become " Passive object "of profit, greed, improvisation and deceitful trap towards economic ends. We must learn from our past mistakes so as not to commit them again.

Undoubtedly we live in a time of change. Some call it the 4th industrial revolution, the negative experiences that were experienced in the three previous revolutions, as we mentioned, those of the steam engine, electricity and the rise of electronics as a contrast between the advances and the increase in social marginalization, we

must not only remember them but assume them so that they do not repeat themselves and produce a crack between the fourth revolution of robotics, computer science and the lack of full employment. Between the advance of productive civilization and social regression, marginalization, unemployment, poverty and other scourges that will undoubtedly arise, as well as the blunder, improvisation, the lack of public policies. The idea is that these are partially defined and ironically fulfilled, as well as guaranteed by a democratic and republican state.

Again we must warn against puns such as the one that postulates that "to reduce the state is to enlarge the nation". It is precisely the opposite - "Enlarge the nation with democratically agreed measures, in defense of democratic and economic regional and social interests, is to reduce the state", without it ceasing to be efficient, participatory, proactive and in service of the whole society including the reasonable profit of the investors, not of the speculators and the decisive growth of the Social Economy.

How to foresee -for example- if it is that - as it is said - in our country, Argentina, there would not be any sector of activity that is less than 50% the probability of being replaced by a machine or by artificial intelligence. Nor that there would be an inverse correlation between the possibility of suffering unemployment due to automation and the age of the people. Young workers, who continue to be inserted mostly in occupations with replacement risk. This also applies to companies like those of the other Latin American countries.

The optimistic version of the inferential inference of a transparent democratic state in its economic-strategic policies, is the creation of a system that stimulates innovation either directly, with subsidies and with a proportion of public resources that facilitate education and changes adequate in infrastructure and legal frameworks. First, we should emulate the countries of mixed economy, which-as we mentioned earlier-possessed an important participation of the social economy, not exclusively statist or capitalist and of course not populist falsely social, or authoritarian, sectarian, extremist and undemocratic of any kind. sign. Examples exist and can be verified, we reiterate, especially between Nordic Welfare States and some of continental Europe. There are no gaps between people or between companies. We try to avoid the retrograde conception of accepting the economic concentration that ends in irrational and disproportionate inequalities. On the contrary, it is strategically and democratically planned and acted on and complementarity is sought before replacing or distributing jobs. Training is encouraged - both educators and learners, to update and adapt productive activities to the emergence of new specialties that also contribute, not only to efficiency and quality of production, but also to the increase in demand for the goods on offer, based on a greater purchasing power of the populations.

Transforming a nation or a society into a state of participatory innovation is the appropriate change to make the inevitable transition from a socially and economically stable Welfare State to a state of computer and robotic innovation without exclusions or contradictions.

This great challenge, not only Latin American but universal, accompanies the other great challenge that -as we stated- for these times the planet is threatened by an irrational production with respect to the energy means that are used to perform and whose gas emissions, especially that of the Carbon dioxide, cause serious climate change, whose consequences are beginning to appreciate.

Apparently, the recent treaty in Paris where most of the countries of the globe were committed to mitigate their toxic emanations and that brought a perspective of the intention of change, has been boycotted by the new ruler of the United States of America.

However, there is a universal reaction against this irresponsible disclaimer, even within the states of the United States.

On the date, the news reports give an account of the international meeting in Bonn-Germany, of the UN, where account of the almost 200 countries gathered there will continue intensifying the measures and commitments to mitigate and avoid the increase of the feared 2 degrees of average temperature of the planet that would cause irreversible damage to its environment.

Given the inescapable priority of these unavoidable big problems, which occur locally and globally. The SOCIAL ECONOMY can and must actively and favorably influence the challenge

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- Full employment.
- Social integration.
- Renewal of Education.
- Welfare Societies
- Polluting energies and renewable energies.
- Oligopolistic economic concentrations.
- States of innovation.

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