

The perverse effects of the “crusade over globalism”¹

Contempt on multilateral institutions and the post-war system is eroding the path towards sustainable development.

“ Obscure nationalism has potential to turn relevant States in collision route with urgent global issues, dear to life on planet”

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Old ideas guised as new ideologies are, once more, manipulated by populist leaders and religious groups, promoting obscurantism and individualism, endangering the prosperity model, cooperation and peace forged for decades. History tells how these impetus and movements emerge, however its consequences in a highly interdependent world are hard to foresee. Global threats – such as climate change, inequality, population growth and hunger – are unlikely getting out of the agenda, with a high stake to be pay off.

We are living a moment of questionings, doubts and frustrations with the way global society is structured. The 2008 economic and moral crisis have been generating effects on people's relations with economy and the political representation system. And has fostered an impatient feeling with democracy. Unemployment and recession, revanchism and polarization, superficiality and lies are fuelling the emergence of nationalist movements and governments. The social-democrat and “globalist” agenda, arose in the post-war and accelerated with the end of Cold War, is being tackled. There is a disregard with the path that brought the system here. There is a denial of “everything that is on”, like institutions, global governance, the multilateralism model, consensus building and the arduous, but long-lasting, route of building up trust.

We are facing the up rising of a conservative and nationalist world vision. The individual and its nation is put “in first place”, above the humanist vision of universal human rights and global public goods. The threat and guilty are in the others. In the jobs being stolen by Asian countries, in the immigration of unpleasant individuals from south, in the loss of productive competitiveness with requirements and burdens, and the risk to sovereignty. These seems

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to be the script of an unlikely film, but has taken to power groups in the United States, United Kingdom, Poland, Italy and Brazil.

The vocalization of dissatisfaction by diverse groups is positive and natural. But throwing the whole trajectory away is to disregard irreversible and inexorable changes. Is it possible to benefit from globalization without promoting global rules of the game? The critique of "globalism" is innocuous when considering the level of integration of productive chains, the circulation of financial capital and the consolidation of large global producers.

Obscurantist nationalism has the potential to put relevant states on a collision route with urgent and dear global issues of life on planet. If civil and social rights are questioned internally, issues such as human rights, global health, environment and climate change are accused of jurisdictional interference or unreasonable alarmism that hamper national progress. The reality is different. The effects on natural capital do not respect the logic of borders or empty rhetoric. The finitude of resources brings challenges of capital reallocation and distribution. Ecosystem services are interdependent. Who will take care of global environmental public goods like the seas, glaciers, atmosphere and space? Who will take care of the "common house" of life on the planet, if we are unable to look beyond our own interests, quick wins, "no matter the rest"?

Climate change must be considered the biggest global challenge of our times. According to a recent scientific report (IPCC 2018), the likelihood of having real impacts caused by them is high. To make it clear: climate change is already occurring and those who do not act to stem their progress will be part of the cause and suffer its consequences. It is not, therefore, a "scientific dogma" as proclaimed by some skeptics. Much less of a global conspiracy or an agenda hijacked by interest groups. It is a real problem, requiring cooperation and global governance to minimize the effects on the less fortunate.

We must doubt easy answers. Populism and protectionism are not the necessary remedies. The defense of international organizations such as the UN (United Nations Organization) or UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) arouses much less interest and yields fewer votes than an attack on the international system, the foreign organizations. However, the international system indicates positive paths to be explored, new opportunities to be developed. The 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development goals, is a guide to be understood and adopted.

The moment of history requires collective action that is enough and effective to address the enormous challenges that humanity faces. Brazilian society and its institutions must be vigilant to contain possible imbalances. There is no room for distractions to sustainable development.