

The parliamentary perspective

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The G20 Summit in Argentina gives us an indication of how the member states of this mechanism have resolved to extend its role to matters outside its traditional remit of global finance and economics. The member states have taken on other issues aimed at providing answers to the new problems of global governance.

In that respect, managing the complexity of the politics of power and navigating the changing dynamics of a new world order is increasingly important, and requires strategies to confront these new challenges. Given the present context of global restructuring, collective decision-making and problem-solving have become increasingly difficult but more necessary.

Within the said context, the G20 is no longer seen as a static and unrepresentative forum for deliberations, but on the contrary has started to function as an effective transition mechanism between informal multilateralism and institutional multilateralism. It involves not only governments but civil society and various other stakeholders (NGOs, business, Parliamentarians, scientists, think-tanks, women and young people) and other forums like the P20 and that of the Supreme Courts. This has given the G20 a new prominence, necessary for tackling the challenges of the 21st century.

Proof of that is the message resulting from the deliberations at the Parliamentary Forum (P20). The final document, the fruit of intense debate and exchange of legislative experience of the visiting delegations, declared, not only to the G20 but to society in general, a commitment to solving global problems through the principles of co-operation, unity and consensus-building.

The joint work of the parliamentary delegations was a unique opportunity for the exchange of learning and experience. The work represents our commitment to the multisectoral task incumbent not only upon the political leaders of the G20 but on all like-minded groups.

Currently, with a global governance system which seeks to address the deficiencies of national democratic institutions, parliaments continue to be an irreplaceable institution to respond to the challenges of the globalised world.

The P20 Forum has allowed us to reflect on the role which Parliaments play in each of the countries in the international community and our aspiration to join the

complex world of decision-making of the G20 leaders. We wish to cooperate with other parties involved in the formulation of solutions and who recognise the needs of our societies. This demonstrates a high degree of political maturity, only possible in environments which favour democratic exercise and the search for reconciliation in the event of conflicting interests.

Our work has covered challenges as diverse as the future of work, financing for development, the fight against corruption, empowerment of women and young people and a renewed commitment to multilateralism. All from the perspective of the parliamentarians from G20 members states, elected leaders decisive in designing political efforts to combat poverty and promote fair and sustainable international development.

Our delegations agree that one of the most pressing matters for current and future generations is the future of work. The world is going through a period of rapid technological change which will have a major impact on the global economy and labour market. Although the adoption of new technologies will increase GNP and productivity, it will also lead to job losses and greater inequality between different social groups.

According to the World Bank, robotics will have an explosive impact on production and it estimates in 2019 the world will have 2.6 million robots, mainly in the automotive, electronics, metallurgical, chemistry, rubber and plastics sectors.

Without a doubt, with the advance of technology, we are faced with a "civilisation revolution". Therefore, we must not neglect the values which we want to be maintained or even strengthened in this new era: fraternity and solidarity. My favourite expression is "add ethics to cybernetics".

I am a believer that new technologies must be used for greater integration, to strengthen the concept of family: but this requires the consensus of all players in the labour relationship, to achieve legal "mobile frameworks".

We must find the benefits and quickly reorganise those sectors which are most exposed to the risk of disappearing. And which, sadly, impacts on those who have least.

To paraphrase the message the P20 delivered regarding the future of work; we stress the importance of a social dialogue between workers and employers to make the most of the opportunities formed by new technologies in terms of job creation and human well-being and we firmly

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advocate decent work for all, the rights of workers to negotiate collectively for fair working conditions, and the construction of more robust safety nets to facilitate the transition of displaced workers to new jobs. We also ask for an adequate and updated regulatory framework and special measures to assist young people, older generations and people with disabilities to enter the labour market as entrepreneurs or workers.

In the case of Argentina, the future of work provides our country with countless opportunities and challenges. Our inclusion in global value chains shows promise, given that Argentina is a serious player in international commerce on account of its agribusiness and services exports.

Argentina has adapted rapidly to the new geographical axes of production and innovation. According to recent studies, 37 per cent of private employment in our country could be almost completely automated over the next 15 years.

This accelerated automation is a serious challenge and establishes a new reality for our country's labour market. It offers huge benefits but also creates new problems which will have to be solved in a coordinated manner by those responsible for ensuring the right to work.

For example, governments must ensure that registration of intellectual property for technological processes and the work of our creative professionals is enforced in the countries where they are going to be used most, namely the United States and Europe. Governments must also ensure that royalties also benefit the countries who trained those creative professionals. In Argentina we have many brilliant young people who have developed software processes, but few have

managed to register their patents because of their high cost. They are often sold at low prices to companies which then develop them worldwide.

Similarly, it is necessary to understand that training in digital skills needs to be carried out from an early age. A new focus on education and learning is required to ensure that early-years schooling provides children with the capacity to master digital technologies, adapt to technological change and develop skills for innovation and problem-solving.

I also feel that it is necessary to highlight the importance of quality internships for integrating young people into the labour market. If non-formal mechanisms continue expanding, the role of the State, other agents and the G20 in education should be re-evaluated. And in this respect, I recall a passage from our great leader Domingo Faustino Sarmiento, which he wrote during his exile in Chile in 1845: *“Education must prepare nations en masse for the use of the rights which today no longer belong to such and such a class of society, but simply to the condition of man... The power, wealth and strength of a nation are dependent on the industrial, moral and intellectual capacity of the individuals who make it up. And public education must have no other purpose than to increase these production, action and management strengths, constantly increasing the number of individuals who possess them.”* Similarly, the government, together with universities and businesses, should focus on supporting innovation and encouraging the financing of development for the most dynamic production sectors.

We must also promote the inclusion of women into work, given that a wide gender gap still persists: women participate less in the labour market, their working conditions are worse, they come up against glass walls and ceilings and they are discriminated against by law. Achieving gender equity is not just a moral imperative, it is also key for growth and economic development. The G20 countries have undertaken to reduce the gap in labour participation by 25 per cent by 2025, but progress is limited and, therefore, innovative solutions need to be implemented.

The G20, and its like-minded groups and forums like the P20, have the legitimacy and capacity to provide innovative, evidence-based, cooperative solutions. This, in turn, will allow us to build a new political agenda with the objective of achieving fairer and more inclusive sustainable development allowing the most vulnerable groups in world society to be reached.

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