THE GLOBALIZATION, INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT – THE PILLARS OF A LASTING WORLD

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1. General considerations

The end of the XX century and the beginning of the XXI century have been and still is marked by two very complex and dynamic processes – globalization and integration. Both these processes represent the interdependence and interaction that characterize the development of human society. This double tendency becomes more evident in the politic and economic domains, than in other sectors of activity because they allow many actors to take part in them and the effects are easier to be noticed… They attract the attention because they are part of our everyday life.

The interdependence is important because of its strong connections with national and world economies. For example, an economic crisis in USA or the decisions taken by the countries that export oil connected with the price of oil have consequences all over the world, influencing on a smaller or a greater scale all the states. We assist, lately, at the free circulation of the capitals and of work force. Investments are made where it is estimated that the profits are safe and guaranteed, and work force goes to the countries where there are the best earnings. Thus, people get the acute conscience of belonging to the human community. Form the viewpoint we can talk about integration. In every day language, we say that "distance doesn't matter" and that "traveling connects people". In other words, the whole world tends to unity, and all the countries take part to a smaller or a greater extend to these processes. They will lead, in the end, to the building to an everlasting global society.

In its turn, the effects of both globalization and integration influence Romania. The best answer to these challenges is to acknowledge the natural development of humankind and to follow it. Romania relatively succeeded in following the patterns of world development and its start was a good one. Here we can mention the fact that Romania is now a member of NATO and is about to become a member of the European Union.

2. Globalization – a complex process

Globalization is a word often used, a fact that demonstrates that it is an up to date term. It is used by the social and human sciences, it is used in management scientific papers, and it is used by the politicians in their speeches as well as by the mass media. That is why the word globalization has different meanings, from author to author. Some say: "Globalization is the ensemble of phenomena which result from the fact that more economies open themselves to foreign merchandize and capitals. It is founded on the ever-growing international economic relationships. Their growth was on the average 7%/year, compared to the growth of production which was only 2.3%/year"[1]. The multinational companies from the industrialized countries developed these economic changes.

Globalization means both the migration of people in search of better wages as well as an acceleration of the transactions on the change markets – everyday there are transactions in amount of 1,400 billion dollars – these facts can produce a destabilization of some national economies, especially of those belonging to underdeveloped countries.

Another definition is offered by sociology. Giddens says:

"Globalization supports the development of social and economic relationships, which extend all over the world… A key aspect of a study on globalization is the birth of a world system, which means that we must look at the world as having only one social order"[2].

Following this definition, we can appreciate

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that the phenomenon of globalization represents a future stage of the social, politic, economic and cultural development process. First and most, globalization is a geo-economics process, as well as a geo-politic and geo-cultural process. This process is characterized by the fact that it has as a result a qualitative change of national economies. They become open sub-systems that integrate themselves in the world economy system. Foremost, even the idea of "national economy" has changed. There is the tendency that the roles of main economic institution to be played by the trans-national corporation, which places its factories and sells its products in the most suited places, without taking into account the national borders. Thus, the process of the international division of labor deepens and, hence, the possibility of the development of flourishing economic regions in each country appears on one hand, and on the other hand, there are regions that provide raw material and are very good markets for the products of trans-national corporations.

As a result, we can say that globalization has an enormous potential to generate growth, but, at the same time, to reduce the competences of the state nation in the economic, financial and political fields. Unfortunately, it offers no other alternative to this situation. Given the situation above, a state can refuse the changes brought by the future, or, it can adopt those political and economic measures that facilitate its integration in world economic structures, in order to obtain the best benefit for its development.

As a conclusion, we can affirm that globalization is a complex phenomenon that influences all the fields of human activity. Some authors consider that globalization can bring well being and happiness to the whole world, while other authors consider that globalization is a prejudicial phenomenon, which generates negative effects.

3. Integration – a multi-dimensional, optional and selective process

Integration is another word as widespread as the word globalization. In general, integration represents the adjustment of an individual, of a group or of a state to an aggregate; integration is a multi-dimensional concept. It has psychosocial, political, consensual, economic, ethnological and social dimensions.

Psychosocial integration reflects the inward process that allows the integrated part – individual, group or state- to assimilate, to adopt and to act according to the regulations and values of the medium in which it integrates itself. That is why two stages were necessary for Romania to integrate itself in the Euro-Atlantic structures: first, the specific norms for NATO's activities were assimilated, and the Romanian troops were prepared, and then, in the second stage, Romania has become a full member of NATO. This new statute gives our country an important role in the zonal security, as well as at planetary level.

Political integration is the process that supervises an individual, a group and a state while they adopt a way of taking action, of feeling and of seeing everything form the perspective of the environment in which they want to integrate themselves. For example, now, Romania makes sustained efforts to meet all the criteria of integration imposed by UE. Meeting all these criteria means for Romania to be accepted as a state member of the European Union in January 2007. The political integration means more than meeting these criteria, as well as the norms and values promoted by the Union; Romania has to give up some of its mentalities, traditions and customs and to adopt a new behavioral pattern.

Consensual integration defines the mechanism by which the integrator environment adopts common decisions. In fact, the one, who wants to integrate him, is forced to accept this way of decision-making, namely the adoption of similar attitudes as those of the other members of the human community, confronted with different problems. To be integrated means to adopt the behavioral patterns of the integrator.

Economic integration has two aspects. First, integration means the assimilation and the application of a set of norms, principles and regulations belonging to the integrator environment in the economic field. The economic integration is also a result, because we are dealing with the effects of assimilation and of application of norms, principles and regulations characteristic for the activities that take place in the integrator economic institution. Through this type of integration, the national economies become components of the world economic system. This kind of integration has its peaks and its downfalls.

Ethnological integration represents the process by which the culture of the integrator environment

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unifies and organizes the behaviors of its members according to the values they protect and promote. The national cultural values are accepted if they concur with the objective set by the integrator.

Social integration is another dimension of the general process of integration. It reflects the change in the behavior of the members according to the adjustment to the integrator structure. If we speak about the integration of a state in a political- military structure or in a political-economic structure, we have to mention the fact that the citizens must assimilate the social norms and values unanimously accepted and to adopt a behavioral pattern accepted by the integrator.

Integration can be also an optional and selective process. This process is optional because the individual, the group or the state that want to integrate, perform this action in a conscious and voluntary way, this choice not being imposed. At the same tome, integration is a selective process because the integrator is the one who decides who is to be allowed or not as a member. Thus, the European Union, as a political and economic organization, decides what country can be a member, based on the adhering criteria.

As a conclusion, we can appreciate that integration is a multidimensional, optional and selective process, which, in essence, means the acceptance of common goals through the assimilation of social, economic, political and cultural roles and models of behavior and through the development of the same types of fundamental relations between the integrated parts and the integrator environment. The adopting of the norms and values of the integrator environment represent the most important parameter of an individual, group or state integration in a reference group, professional association or union of states; the moment this values and norms are considered national goals they will be promoted by the integrated parts.

4. Globalization, integration and development interrelating

Globalization is a vast, lasting, and extremely complex process both taking into account its negative and positive effects at global scale, as well as its objective character.

We have to underline that each state no matter how large or small, no matter of its economic development, political regime, or military power, cannot oppose to globalization. The human development tendency and sense is the building up of a global community. Marshall McLuhan speaks about this tendency in "The Global Village" (1986)[3].

UN has a similar point of view, which perceives globalization as a holist vision on the word and place of the individual in it. According to this holist conception, the word is an entity that comprises more reality and value than its component parts, namely the people. The birth of man in this entity is nothing but a stage in human development. The human being is real only because he is made up of matter, and his death is nothing but the returning to the universal matter. It is in his destiny to follow the biblical sense "ashes to ashes, and dust to dust". The UN in its Charte de la Terre sustains these ideas[4].

Integration is a process that cannot be imposed, each state being free to choose it or not. The option to be integrated in the UE belongs only to Romania and the country freely, responsibly and consciously, knowing both the costs and the advantages. The integration of Romania in the North Atlantic Alliance is the result of an identical process. We have to underline that both the integration in UE as well as that in NATO are selective processes, because the integrator environment chooses the state or the states that are to become members. Once accepted, a state begins its process of integration that must have two stages. First stage is the adjustment, a process that implies the assimilation of norms and values and the adoption of the behavioral patterns promoted by the integrator environment. The second stage the real integration takes place when the integrated part place its role by defending and promoting of all that is typical for the integrator environment. Globalization and integration as processes can be considered the foundations for the development of word states. This is true because the states create the institutional framework and validate the principal norms and regulations that are useful and sufficient for the building up of a planetary, lasting, human society. The relationship between globalization, integration and development are in a reciprocal relationship as well as in a relationship of determination. The reciprocal character resides in the fact that globalization and integration are interdependent processes that influence each other. Together they

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contribute to the development of human society. Globalization facilitates the integration of states in different political, economic, military, cultural, and social structures. In its terms, integration sustains globalization both in the economic field, as well as, in all human activity sectors. This thing also contributes to the development of world states. The relationship between globalization, integration and development is a determinative one because the first who mention lead to the accomplishment of the later. Globalization, as an objective process, in time, leads to the realization of the integration of the world states in the international community, which "will function" in optimal and lasting parameters.

The building up of a strong word community has to take into account the strengthening of the relationships between the states based on *democracy, social justice, the legitimacy of world public politics and the perennially of the economic growth*[5].

Democracy can be obtained through:

1) The enforcement of the role and legitimacy of the democratic states the main, pillar around which the world governance is built;

2) The improvement of democracy in international organization by making them more transparent and open to the civil society taking into account the population of the member states;

3) The public global decision making factors and the power factors must take the same steps by elaborating a world viable antitrust system and by fighting against transnational criminal organizations.

In its turn, the social justice should and ensure the convergence of incomes on grounds of politic legitimacy and economic effectiveness. In order to make all these concepts viable we should use methods generally accepted in order to ensure perennially of the economic growth. In the end, we can strongly affirm that globalization and integration really assure the premises for harmonious development of all the countries and from all points of view. This goal can be achieved if the relationships between the world states and their relationships with international organizations are founded on these values, principals, and regulations unanimously accepted.

Translated and abridged by Alexandrina VLAD

NOTES:

[1] Bernard GUILLOCHON, **Globalizare, o singură planetă, proiecte divergente**, Bucureşti, Enciclopedia RAO, 2003, p.7.

[2] Anthony GIDDENS, **Sociology**, Cambridge, 1991, p.727.

[3] Ilie BĂDESCU, Dan DINGACIU, **Sociologia şi geopolitica frontierei**, Bucureşti, Editura Floare Albastră, 1995, pp. 143-146.

[4] Michael SCHOOYANS, *L'ONU et la Globalization*, in http://perso.infonie.be/le feu/ms/ framesfr/ onuglfr.htm

[5] Jean-Louis BIANCO et Jean-Michael SEVERINO, *Globalisation, governance, development: un autre monde est possible*, in http: // www.hcci. gouv.fr/lecture/note/n1094.html

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