

Susana Cruickshank, *Citizen Diplomacy in the 1990s: Multilateral Forums as a Platform for Citizen-Government Interaction*

The structural adjustment policies imposed by international financial bodies following the Washington Consensus and the free market paradigm brought about stagnation, the polarization of wealth and the violation of people's basic human rights. During the 1990s, social movements and citizens' organizations began to shift their demands from national institutions to these international bodies, given that national economic policy decisions were being taken in the international arena. This led to the emergence of what some analysts have called citizen diplomacy. At present, only few organizations and movements are not contributing to bringing about changes in international bodies, through their discourse and their policies. What scenarios are envisioned for citizen diplomacy in view of the constant change to the Nation State? What challenges are faced by non-government movements and organizations and the international networks they form part of? In this article, Susana Cruickshank answers these questions and offers a reflection on the forms of articulation, mechanisms and strategies created by international organization and movement networks in the face of power held in international institutional platforms such as the WB, the IDB, the WTO and the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations on Climate Change.

Rosalba Icaza, *Mexican Civil Society and the Challenge of Epistemic Justice in Contemporary Regionalism*

In her article, Rosalba Icaza states that one of the fundamental challenges faced by civil society as it aims to influence or resist contemporary regionalism is to continue to contribute to epistemic justice or the capacity to make visions and knowledge politically visible, in this case over the region and regionalism, which have been systematically ignored. She discusses the role played by academia in ignoring “other” visions and knowledge concerning multilateral regional politics. In short, this article provides a critical academia analysis by the academia, and in it the author proposes epistemic-methodological steps aimed towards reverting conditions of epistemic invisibility and providing an answer to what are the challenges for Mexican civil society in the face of 21st. Century multilateralism.

Fernando Montoya, *Economic and Social Councils in the Wake of the Economic and Financial Crisis. The Cases of Spain, Greece and Italy*

In this article, Fernando Montoya analyzes the current European economic and financial crisis, particularly the cases of Spain, Greece and Italy; the substantial background to the crisis, the areas that have been gravely affected, and the actions of the economic and social councils of Spain, Greece and Italy in response to this situation. First of all, he describes the nature of the economic and social councils, their composition and their history; he continues by looking back at the political and economic contexts of Spain, Greece and Italy during the crisis, before looking at the actions simultaneously undertaken by the different social and economic sectors represented in these countries’

economic councils. In his conclusion, the author stresses that the role of the economic and social councils has been crucial in the instigation of a new social pact and in cooperative actions to alleviate the economic and financial crisis in their respective countries and the Eurozone, and ensures that the actions of the advisory bodies is transversal to the role exercised by the international community and public institutions, making their presence essential in strengthening social cohesion.

Rogelio Granguillhome Morfin, *Civil Society and International Development Cooperation*

The international development cooperation agenda has evolved dramatically in recent years. The wave of democratization that followed the end of the Cold War offered citizens a new opportunity for expression and freedom of association, thus encouraging the development of civil society around the world. At a time when cooperation is no longer the exclusive domain of States, a more significant role is being played by NGO's, the private sector, foundations and other organisms focused on international development cooperation. These new actors are gradually becoming integrated and are gaining ground in the debate over the most important international matters, giving them an increasing and more forceful involvement and influence in international bodies such as the UN, the OECD and G20. In this article, Rogelio Granguillhome analyzes how civil society organizations participate in the international development cooperation agenda and the role they play within the framework of the United Nations. He also provides an analysis of civil society organizations and international cooperation in Mexico.

Luis Alfonso de Alba, *Civil Society Participation in the United Nations*

In this article, Luis Alfonso de Alba provides an overview of the participation of civil society and NGO's in the United Nations, and underlines the achievements of these organizations and the limitations they have faced in their struggle to influence different UN negotiation processes. Firstly, he briefly examines the legislative framework through which civil society participation has taken place and the context of this participation within the United Nations. Subsequently, he deals with the need to adapt this legislative framework to civil society demands for greater participation and the consequent need to define key concepts to make this participation possible. With regard to Mexico, De Alba sets out to review the kind of relationship that the country, as a UN Member State, has managed to establish in different negotiation processes with civil society. In his conclusion, he looks at the importance of considering foreign policy as a lever for essential changes at national level.

Marieclaire Acosta Urquidi, *The Emergence of Civil Society as a Global Political Actor: Menaces and Challenges*

In her article, Marieclaire Acosta essentially focuses her attention on the emergence of civil society as a global political actor. She analyzes its development and activity within the framework of the international human rights regime, given the natural grip offered by this area, in which most of its efforts have been concentrated. In her conclusions, she briefly examines the global threats currently faced by civil society and the most recent initiatives in counteracting them, with particular reference to Mexico.

Carlos Heredia Zubieta, *Mexicans in the United States and their Role as Transnational Political Actors*

U.S. political actors take numerous decisions that have a significant impact on Mexico, such as NAFTA in the 1990s and, at present, the potential reform of U.S. migration laws. As a result, Mexicans find themselves in contrasting positions: some voices in the government believe that Mexicans should not meddle in affairs which the United States strictly considers as domestic policy, whereas others in academia and civil society organizations are convinced that the U.S. political process can be influenced if there is an intelligent strategy in place. Carlos Heredia's article deals with the citizen diplomacy of non-governmental actors, particularly Mexicans in the United States. Firstly, the author looks at the migrant networks, its binational nature and its association with other civil society organizations, and he sets out the processes through which migrant organizations influence policy, both in Mexico and the United States. He continues by outlining the position that Mexican migrants have in Mexican foreign policy, in global platforms and in the affairs of North and Central America and the Caribbean. At the end of the article, he includes his conclusions and proposals for strengthening the influence of Mexicans abroad in their role as transnational political actors.

Gustavo A. Torres Cisneros, *Indigenous Diplomacy: Shifting from the Problem to the Solution*

This article deals with the reach and influence of indigenous diplomacy in a context where citizens and civil society organizations participate increasingly in the foreign policy of countries. Gustavo Torres Cisneros asserts that indigenous diplomacy

is becoming an essential instrument in the new relationship between States and indigenous peoples in their role as actors responsible for freely pursuing their economic, social and cultural development. He explains the emergence of indigenous diplomacy on multilateral platforms since the second half of the 20th. Century and emphasizes two immediate and crucial cases (the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the negotiations on climate change) to illustrate the specificity and complexity of a phenomenon which is only beginning to be understood.

Carlos Zarco Mera, *Mexico and Care for the Common Home*

In this article, Carlos Zarco reflects on the relationship between government and civil society in the area of Mexican foreign policy based on his experience with one civil society organization: Oxfam. The article begins with a conceptual reflection on the term civil society and he subsequently provides an analysis of its relationship with Mexican Government, beginning by looking at the work focus areas that are essential for the tasks of Oxfam Mexico: a rights-based approach, the development agenda and its discussion in the various international forums, humanitarian action and international cooperation. The author provides brief reflections on each of these aspects based on his experience (relationship, influence and cooperation with foreign policy in Mexico). In his conclusion, he highlights the importance of a foreign policy which envisions a State strengthened by the active participation of civil society and the different organized sectors in the country.

Miguel Díaz Reynoso, *Institutional Channels for Citizen Diplomacy in Mexico*

This article contributes to the debate on how government and civil society relate to each other in Mexico. Miguel Díaz does this by looking at the relationship between foreign policy and civil society, government strategies planned and carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico (SRE) to promote citizen diplomacy in Mexico and the challenges faced by civil society and government to generate better conditions for the participation of civil society organizations on international political platforms. The author presents the government's perspective of what has been done by the SRE through the General Directorate of Engagement with Civil Society Organizations to achieve increased institutionalization in the promotion of citizen diplomacy in Mexico, looking at different engagement experiences between government and civil society that have been pursued by this government office.

Antonio Alejo Jaime, *Civil Society and Foreign Policy in Mexico in Light of New Diplomacies*

This article contributes to the debate on the relationship between foreign policy and civil society in Mexico in the frame of globalization. Based on a study produced by the General Directorate of Engagement with Civil Society Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which looks at this directorate's experiences in promoting civil society participation as part of foreign policy agendas, multilateral mechanisms and global agendas between the years 2006 and 2012, Antonio Alejo identifies windows of opportunity for the inclusion of civil society

actors within the workings of foreign policy and diplomacy in Mexico. Taking the concept of new diplomacies, he explains the interaction through which governments and civil society actors work to transform areas of foreign policy and diplomacy with a view to making them more democratic.