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# Decentralization

It can be defined "a process of redistribution of powers of the State, in favor of more autonomy, efficiency and main character of the regions and the municipalities, and of the citizen's more direct participation in the management of the public local matters" (Orjuela).

Several authors pick up the arguments that can be adduced in favor of the decentralization like integral strategy of public politics, useful for the democratization and the efficiency of a political governable system:

1) The decentralization is a half appropriate one to promote the political socialization of the popular classes and the development of the individual freedoms, as well as the socioeconomic transformations of egalitarian tendency (Jodi Borja).

2) The decentralization serves to the fundamental objective as stabilizing the political system. (Christian von Haldenwang).

3) It can facilitate the articulation and the implementation of the development policies designed to achieve growth with justness, strengthening the capacity of the regional units and subregional ones and enabling the political leaders to identify their own problems and development priorities (Rondinelli).

4) It foments the efficiency when allowing a narrow correspondence between the public services and the individual preferences, and it promotes the responsibility and the mediating justness a clear linking of benefits and costs (World Bank).

5) A process of decentralization institutionalizes the social conflicts and it distributes them territorially, preventing that these accumulate.

6) The decentralization can be used as a strategy of regional development, in the measure in that it allows to overcome the limitations of the centralized planning

7) It contributes, also, to reduce the costs and the complexity of the public administration.

8) It allows, equally, a national bigger integration, in the measure in that it facilitates the penetration of political national in areas far from the center.

9) Also it facilitates a bigger participation of the political, social, ethnic different groups, religious and cultural ones in the decisive process of the development, conducive to a bigger justness in the assignment of the public resources.

The decentralization is conceived today like the creation of mechanisms, institutions and relationships that assure the local governance.

The decentralization of the State has three dimensions: the politics, the administrative and the prosecutor's:

1) The *politics* pursues to enlarge the channels of civic participation by means of the popular election of mayors and governors, the establishment of plebiscites or popular consultations and the forms of the administrating local meetings.

2) In their *administrative* dimension, the decentralization looks for the improvement of the management of the local governments and to transfer new responsibilities and functions to the municipal entities, so much in the benefit of the public basic services as in the field of the planning of the local development, the ordination of the urban space and the execution of investment projects. It also restates the function of the regional States or intermediate entities as coordination

levels between the Nation and the Municipalities. This strategy of decentralization should create mechanisms of articulation of the regional development by means of the regions and advice of planning, and it suggests to suppress national organisms of character that before completed functions regarding the sectional and local entities. This implies redistribution of competitions and of relationships among the State's several entities.

3) And from the *prosecutor's* point of view, the decentralization looks for a reorganization of the government relationships, as a means to rationalize and to optimize the public expense. It is about strengthening the sources of resources characteristic of the regional and municipal entities; the volume to increase of the national revenues that are transferred to the regions and municipalities (located fiscal, surrender of the tax IVA and others). This process of decentralization will demand own effort of administrative efficiency to the municipalities; it will establish mechanisms of credits and cofinance for the local and sectional development, and a new approach that will modify the philosophy with which it is elaborated the national budget organically.