CDES
Conselho de Desenvolvimento Econômico e Social
Diálogo para o Desenvolvimento
The Brazilian Economic and Social Development Council and the debate on the digital revolution

Presentation for the AICESIS Workshop on Digital Revolution
Session 2: Governance and the Role of Social Partners

March 9th, 2018
Abidjan – Côté d’Ivoire
Our experience and good practice

This presentation:

Growing role of social partners in Brazil
The CDES as a forum for civil society dialogue
Recent recommendations related to the digital revolution
Government feedback and the CDES effectiveness
The growing role of social partners in Brazil

- Social dialogue in Brazil strengthened after re-democratization in mid-1980s: growing societal demand to influence the public policy decision-making processes;

- The 1988 Federal Constitution: social participation becomes an integral part of how democracy is understood – core principles and chapters on social and political rights;

- Only a few public policy councils at this time with substantive participation of civil society;
Since the 1990s, the participation in the policy processes of planning, monitoring and evaluation has been widened, becoming consolidated in the 2000s;

Emergence of new civil society organizations, social movements and networks in many issue-areas;

Business Confederations and Labor Unions strengthened;

Participatory budget in many Brazilian cities: allows citizens to influence or decide on the local public budget;
The growing role of social partners in Brazil

- New country-level **sector councils** (nearly 50 councils in the federal public administration) and state/local-level councils created as forums for qualified debate and agreement;

- Noteworthy is the operations of the National Education Council, National Health Council, National Social Assistance Council and the National Nutrition and Food  Security Council;

- Implementation of more than 140 National Conferences in nearly 40 policy-areas, many of which included local, State and Regional consultations organized by the administrations, aiming at collecting impressions and proposals from societal actors: consultation and development of guidelines.
CDES and the social partners

- The CDES emerges and grows precisely in such a fertile ground for the adoption of **participatory management of public policies**;

- Created 15 years ago, CDES differs from other councils and sector-oriented forums in the Federal Government. Broader thematic scope: **economic and social development**;

- It is by excellence a forum for the country to build its **future strategic vision**: CDES has not only been a forum for debating relevant specific themes, but paths or models to development;

- Similarly to CDES, approx. 30 economic and social development councils have been created at the State/local levels, therefore gathering social partners or actors;
CDES and the social partners

- It is amongst the most important contemporary instruments of social participation in Brazil;

- Its creation was inspired by experiences of economic and social councils from Europe, but a different model emerged: closeness to the government decision-making centre in order to amplify its effectiveness;

- Currently composed by 102 councilors, CDES is a direct advisory body of the President of the Republic;

- The Minister of the Chief of Staff’s office of the Presidency is the Executive-Secretary for CDES;
CDES and the social partners

It represents

• a substantial share of GDP
• the most dynamic segments of the national economy
• a high percentage of trade/labor unions
• a wide range of social agendas

It allows

• consensus-building
• bridging the gap between politics and the policy agenda
• new ideas to improve public policies

Current composition favored the appointment of councilors that are involved with the agendas of innovation and digital society, in addition to other traditional groups.
Improved effectiveness

- Capable of **fostering solid consensus and producing relevant recommendations** to the country’s development agenda;

- The support, commitment and unwavering presence of the President and the Minister of the Chief of Staff’s Office of the Presidency during the Council meetings have been paramount to assure the empowerment and effectiveness of CDES;

- The Secretariat as part of the Chief of Staff’s Office of the Presidency: improves the inclusion of the CDES topics at the center of government decision-making;
Participation of high-ranking decision-makers in all stages of the recommendation process: successful strategy;

This rapprochement between government and civil society within the Council helps to overcome eventual resistance to implementing the recommendations issued;

Many proposals put forth by CDES in 2016 and 2017 have been either implemented or are being implemented by the Federal Government;

CDES has been strengthened both inside and outside the government, increasing its credibility and effectiveness to support the making of a better country;
Main accomplishments in 2017

- Labor Law modernization
- Consolidated Commission on Normative Decrees
- Modules for the Foreign Trade Internet Portal
- National Council for De-bureaucratization
- Policy proposal for training and continued development of teachers and education managers
- Online education (Broad band)
- Census on agricultural and livestock activities
- National Network for Streamlining the Registering and Formalization of Companies and Businesses (Redesim)
- Inter-sectoral Committee on Early Childhood Public Policies
Improved effectiveness

1st cycle of Working Groups
Implementation status

- Concluded or on time: 54% (14)
- In progress: 38% (10)
- Not yet addressed: 8% (2)

By February 2018: approx. 92% of the presidential determinations on the CDES recommendations for this Working Group cycle has been implemented or are “in progress”.
Monitoring activities

- The recommendations developed during the working groups are presented to the president during the plenary meetings;

- Once briefed by the substance of the recommendations, the president may determine their immediate adoption in public institutions or the development of further measures to implement them;

- The decision of the president triggers the monitoring activities of the presidential determinations;
Monitoring activities

- Meetings with the Minister of the Chief of Staff’s Office of the President (executive-secretary of CDES), of the Secretariat and the management board with the councilors-rapporteurs and working groups, in order to give substance to the determinations and discuss implementation strategies.

- Meetings between the CDES Secretariat and public institutions to assess the progress of implementation and the fulfillment of goals and deadlines.

- Coordination activities between the CDES Secretariat and the deputy heads of the Chief of Staff’s Office of the President to include the Council’s determinations in the monitoring processes of the government activities.
Ministerial Meetings with the working group councilors-rapporteurs to monitor the implementation process. Ministers and other public authorities introduce the progress of each presidential determination, highlighting what has already been delivered, what is ongoing, and the outstanding bottlenecks and challenges to implementation.
The engagement strategy for public authorities in the CDES activities takes place since the initial stages of working group debates;

Aims at smoothing the implementation of the CDES recommendations and, consequently, the effectiveness of dialogue;

- Identifying and coordinating with ministries and other public institutions involved with the topics of the working groups
- Side meetings with deputy-secretaries, secretaries and the remaining public authority of ministries and other public institutions to introduce the new work methodology of CDES
- Invitation to attend the working group meetings
Councilors recommended 4 actions related to digital transformation:

- **Business Environment**
  - Create a national computerized unified licensing system, establish mechanisms for the coordination of the various licensing agencies

- **Primary Education**
  - Ensure the implementation of connectivity infrastructure through open WiFi and broadband internet in the classrooms + development of a digital culture

- **Agri business**
  - Formulate and implement state policies for the development of logistic, digital, telecommunication and energy infrastructures

- **Productivity and competitiveness**
  - Implement a program of bureaucracy reduction and digital government, associated with the Presidency of the Republic, presenting in three months a goals plan with emphasis on actions prior to 2018. Among the actions of this plan, the resumption of the Civilian Identity Registry (RIC) and the creation of service portals for citizens and businesses should figure

- **Bureaucracy reduction and modernization of the State**
  - Ensure the implementation of connectivity infrastructure through open WiFi and broadband internet in the classrooms + development of a digital culture

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**Working groups - first cycle**
Demands by the CDES President

President has demanded authority to implement 3 actions

- Brazilian Strategy for the Digital Transformation
  Present a long-term strategy for the digital economy

- Broadband in Public Schools
  Universalize access of schools to digital tools and platforms until 2022. Provide access to quality broadband to around 22,400 public schools until 2018

- National Civilian Identity
  Use of the TSE biometric database for civil identification in the country. Seek approval of Draft Bill 1.775-B / 2015 (creates the Civil Identification Registry). Improve the Citizen Services Portal
THANK YOU!

MERCI BEAUCOUP!

Secretariat for the CDES - Brazil

www.cdes.gov.br

ccdesh@presidencia.gov.br

+ 55 61 3411-2199