

## Citizen participation in the formulation and management of public policies - practical case: Municipality of Sucre

### Participación ciudadana en la formulación y gestión de las políticas públicas - caso práctico: Municipio de Sucre

ESPINOZA, Ronald†, CISNEROS, Santiago and DURAN, Selestina

*Universidad Mayor Real y Pontificia de San Francisco Xavier de Chuquisaca, Facultad de Contaduría Pública y Ciencias Financieras, calle Grau N° 117, Sucre, Bolivia*

ID 1<sup>st</sup> Author: *Ronald, Espinoza*

ID 1<sup>st</sup> Couthor: *Santiago, Cisneros*

ID 2<sup>nd</sup> Couthor: *Selestina, Duran*

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#### Abstract

This research paper presents the issue of citizen participation at the low participation in the formulation, development, implementation and control. Public policies promote a better quality life, the solution of society's specific problems and demands related to prioritized needs. Thus, public policies must be directed to an excellent development and institutional enforcement to satisfy the needs of a constantly growing society. This paper collected the perception of citizen participation in the Management of Public Policy in relation to the rulers and the ruled (Citizenship with the different levels of government). This research aims to improve public participation in the formulation, development, implementation and control, at different levels of government to contribute to the quality of Public Policy Management in the Municipality of Sucre.

#### Resumen

Este trabajo de investigación presenta el tema de la participación ciudadana ante la baja participación en la formulación, desarrollo, implementación y control. Las políticas públicas promueven una mejor calidad de vida, la solución de problemas y demandas específicas de la sociedad relacionadas con necesidades priorizadas. Así, las políticas públicas deben estar encaminadas a un excelente desarrollo y aplicación institucional para satisfacer las necesidades de una sociedad en constante crecimiento. Este trabajo recogió la percepción de la participación ciudadana en la Gestión de Políticas Públicas en relación a los gobernantes y los gobernados (Ciudadanía con los diferentes niveles de gobierno). Esta investigación tiene como objetivo mejorar la participación pública en la formulación, desarrollo, implementación y control, en los diferentes niveles de gobierno, para contribuir a la calidad de la Gestión de Políticas Públicas en el Municipio de Sucre.

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† Researcher contributing as first author.

## Introduction

Citizen Participation has been part of the discursive field of Bolivian public policies since 1994 with N ° 1551 "Law of Popular Participation". Especially located in the active social policy of governments (1994 - 2009). It presented, among other aspects, its low institutionalization, an unresolved social fragmentation and its limited capacity to channel social demands. Since 2010 in the New Political Constitution and with Law No. 031, the framework law of autonomy and decentralization "Andrés Báñez" guarantees the existence and validity of spaces for responsible and purposeful Citizen Participation in the definition of public policies of the State".

Analyze the level of citizen participation in Public Policies currently developed in the city of Sucre in light of its impact on the expansion of the public space for democratic deliberation. The actors involved, the scope of participation, its articulation with the chain of public decisions are considered.

Public Policies are defined as a stable course of action by the different levels of government to resolve a relevant area of matters of public interest in which society participates through its representative organizations as main actors.

A Public Policy exists as long as state institutions fully or partially assume the task of achieving objectives deemed desirable or necessary, through a process aimed at changing a state of things perceived as problematic.

The level of Citizen Participation is essential in the formulation of Public Policies, in order to obtain a high level of support from civil society in the implementation phase and achieve the proposed objective, generating a social impact and therefore raising the level of quality. of life.

The work postulates that the weak institutionalization achieved and its disconnection with the public space of deliberation have the effect of reproducing inequalities of access to public decisions and a certain irrelevance of the mechanisms implemented in the trajectory of policies.

## Background

Analyzing Politics from the historical perspective, the study of Political science comes from the ancient Greeks in the 5th century BC. It is worth noting that Aristotle described the human being as a "zoonpolitihon", this means a political being, as there are more than two people there are political relationships. This means that the individual sphere of action exists, but once it is transcended, even if only by two individuals, it is already a political phenomenon.

By making a conceptual disaggregation of the factors that define the policy, its thematic specification leads to a constructive and institutional operational definition of Public Policy as the set of decisions that translates into strategically selected actions that are political because they affect the social conglomerate from the beginning. State authority.

The adjective Public refers to two origins, one because it emanates after processes of consensus and participation of the State, which is the political, public and legal subject, and second because it impacts society.

Currently, the structural design to see public policies is the capacity to design a public policy that depends on the success of the social capacity that defines the political agenda. This is key to understanding what are the problems of the city that must be answered from the perspective of each citizen.

As we can see, the detection of a public problem has to do with a private one (or several) of public importance, that is, a public problem implies individual but not isolated problems, but rather this manifestation of individual problems concentrated in a public problem. It is government involvement, and given that the government has scarce resources (not only monetary but temporary, personnel, etc.), choosing which public problems are to be considered by the government necessarily implies a conflict that will leave some out. In this phase, the government has to answer the question, what is more important among x, y, z, etc.? Is it more important, to create jobs, give up businessmen, help indigenous people, solve the problem of shortages? of water, expand the tax base, pave the streets.

**To solve the immediate or the urgent?**

This modus operandi indicates that in many cases the proposed policies are not related to the conflictive issues that affect a region; in other cases, the policy covers only partial aspects of a problem; or, they do not have the legitimacy of the social actors of the region; It also happens that the signals delivered from the central government level to the autonomous governments and other public institutions; In its implementation, the participation of the regional critical mass, as well as the user and / or beneficiary population, is not considered; Likewise, it is often the case that these policies are not related to regional development plans, goals or strategies.

In the same way, we cannot fail to mention that in the regions a true «culture of subordination to the political center» has been built, the profile of that culture is characterized by a permanent self-inhibition to generate policies, programs, plans and projects with strategic importance, and on the contrary they develop a complacent, conformist and passive attitude, even in the field of regional leadership and social movements.

In summary, understanding that public policies are formulated by the State from its central level, it must be recognized that these policies are weakly linked to decentralized autonomous governments, a consequence of which they do not contribute to the democratic construction of the country, nor do they strengthen regionalization and they do not meet the demands for the common good.

The transformation process that the country is experiencing has been reflected in various changes in the political-institutional sphere. Identifying different problems that require attention:

The scant knowledge of citizens in public affairs, the rigor with which official interventions are formulated and executed. Likewise, the scarce relevance between the offer of Public Policy actions and the real needs of demand from society and even more so in the face of an imperceptible practice of culture civil society - State.

The insufficient amount of academic studies on issues oriented to development management and the scarce presence of mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the results of public and social policies.

All of this requires us to approach and make decisions that transform opportunities into spaces and mechanisms capable of solving the problems posed. Beginning to give importance to the exercise of citizenship and the collective rights of the original communities reflected in the new Political Constitution of the State, which declares the country as a plurinational State.

Insisting on the importance that the social issue has acquired in the country, due to the structural problems that require the maximum attention of the State in order to solve its problems related to living conditions and quality of life.

**Problem Statement**

Public Policy is the fundamental basis for the best development and solution to the problems of society, therefore carry out an investigation to show the current relationship between the actors of the Management of Public Policies and know.

What is the level of relationship in Citizen Participation with Public Institutions in processes of formulation, elaboration, execution and control of public policies?

Why are there limited spaces for Citizen participation in Public Policy Management?

**Importance or justification**

Public policies are for the development of society, therefore, citizen participation in all the processes of formulation, preparation, planning, organization, execution and control is of the utmost importance, which is the fundamental basis of research, therefore it is important to take awareness about public policies for the development of society therefore all public institutions play a very important role that can satisfy, improve and respond to the needs and demands of the society it serves.

Public policies contribute to a better quality of life, in solving specific problems of the common society that present demands according to their priority needs, then public policies must be directed towards excellent development and institutional strengthening, thus meeting the needs of a constantly growing society. This research aims to provide a general overview of the current conditions of relations between society - public institutions in order to avoid problems and difficulties in the management of public institutions that proposes continuous improvement actions, especially to meet the needs of society as a whole

## Research Objectives

### General Objective

Analyze the degree of Citizen Participation in Public Policies in the Municipality of Sucre.

### Specific objectives

- Prepare a diagnosis of social organizations and public institutions in the Municipality of Sucre.
- Analyze the mechanisms of citizen participation of social organizations that help in the formulation, elaboration, execution and control of public policies.

## Hypothesis

Citizen Participation in decision-making in public institutions of the Municipality of Sucre is affected by Political decisions emanating from the different levels of Government.

## Variables operationalization

### There are the following variables:

Dependent variable.- Citizen participation in decision-making  
Independent variable.- Political decisions by different levels of government

## Methodology (materials and methods)

### Survey Method

The survey is an investigation technique that consists of a verbal or written questioning that is made to people in order to obtain certain information necessary for an investigation.

A survey can be structured, when it is composed of formal lists of questions that are asked to everyone equally; or unstructured, when they allow the interviewer to modify the questions based on the answers given by the respondent.

## Interview Method

It is a technique in which the person (interviewer-interviewer) requests information from another (informant or researched subject) to obtain data on a specific problem. It presupposes the existence of two people and the possibility of verbal interaction.

## Sampling Process and Sample Size

Considering the number of Public Institutions, Institutions of organized civil society and non-elected public servants to be interviewed, it will be decided to use intentional sampling, according to criteria of representativeness and popularity.

Political organizations	Social Organizations	Public decision makers
MORE IPSP	FEJUVE	Non-elected Public Servants and Servants (GAM-SUCRE) (GAD-CHUQUISACA)
A	SURVEILLANCE COMMITTEE	
LEADER	CSUTCB	
COUNTRY	CNMCB "BS"	
MSM	OTB'S	
	NEIGHBORHOOD BOARDS	

**Table 1** Social Organizations

There are a total of fourteen Public Institutions, in which the sample for the investigation corresponding to the subject will be carried out.

## Results and discussion Results Obtained

The population level of the Municipality of Sucre, there are a total of 259,388 inhabitants among men, women, etc. Of which the sample size is obtained with the application of the following finite population formula.

$$n = \frac{N z_{\alpha/2}^2 P(1-P)}{(N-1)e^2 + z_{\alpha/2}^2 P(1-P)}$$

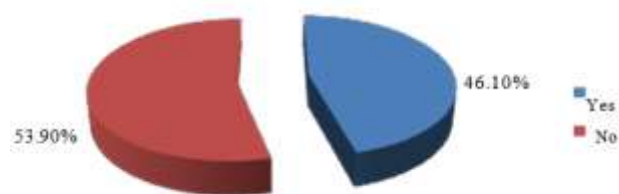
Where:

N = Population total (Total population number 259,388)

Z = Standardized variable at 95% confidence 1.96

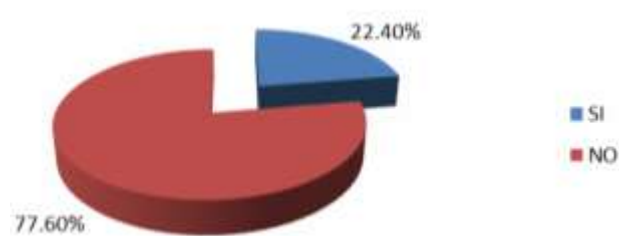
P = Probability of success = 0.5  
 Q = (1 - P) Probability of failure = 0.5  
 E = Level of Error = 0.05

Replacing the data in the formula, a total of 384 data was obtained that represents the number of surveys that were collected for the present investigation.



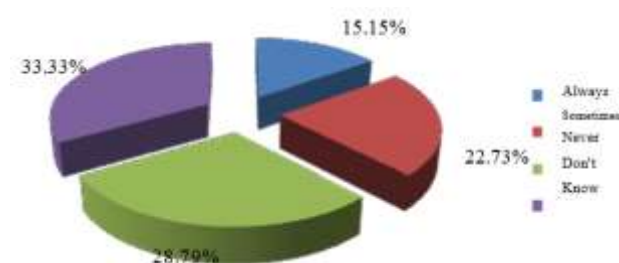
**Graph 1** Knowledge of the formulation and management of public policies

A total of 46.10% of the people surveyed answered yes they have some knowledge of the formulation of management of public policies and the rest of 53.90% demonstrated that they do not have knowledge of the formulation of public policies, this indicates that most of the population do not know public policies.



**Graph 2** Participation in the formulation and management of public policies developed in your Municipality

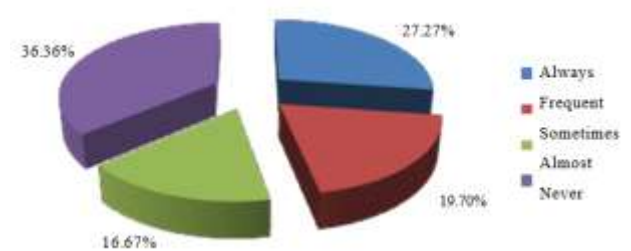
Participation in the formulation and management of public policies developed in your Municipality.



**Graph 3** Participation in the management of public policies developed in the municipality

Of the total of 384 people surveyed, in this question only 66 people participated and the rest of the people 318 determined that they never participated in the management of public policies.

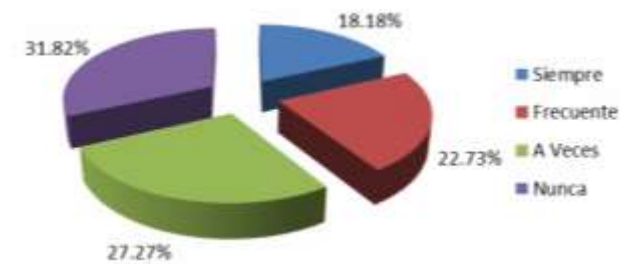
Of the 66 people surveyed, the frequent participation in the management of public policies developed in the municipality, the percentages were determined as follows. The 15.15% who did always participate, 22.73% participated at times, 28.79% said they never participated and 33.33% do not know or understand what public policies are.



**Graph 4** Participation of women in the formulation and management of public policies

Of the total of the people surveyed 384, participation only 66 people of which they explain that they saw the women participate in the following way:

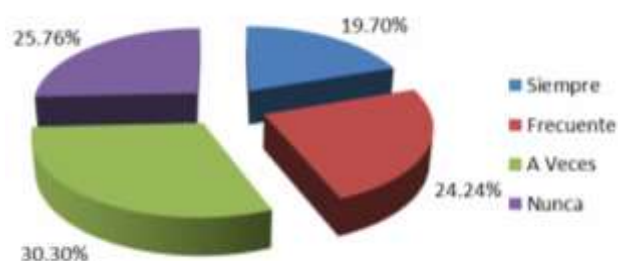
27.27% women always participate, 19.70% saw women participate frequently, 16.67% saw women participate sometimes, and 36.36% said they almost never saw women participate in the processes of public policies.



**Graph 5** Youth participation in the formulation and management of public policies

Of the total of 384 people surveyed, only 66 people participated, of which they explained that they saw young people participate in the following way.

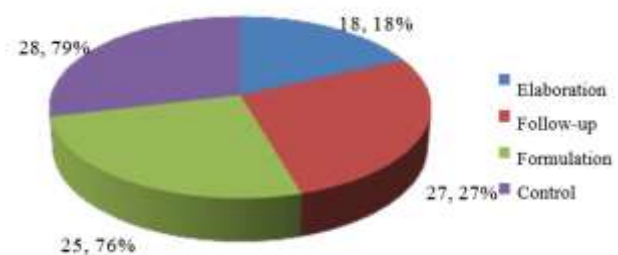
18.18% of young people always participate, 22.73% saw young people participate frequently, 27.27% saw young people participate sometimes, and 31.82% said they almost never saw young people participate in processes of public policies.



**Graph 6** Participation of the elderly in the formulation and management of public policies

Of the total of the people surveyed 384, participation only 66 people of which they explain that they saw the elderly participate in the following way:

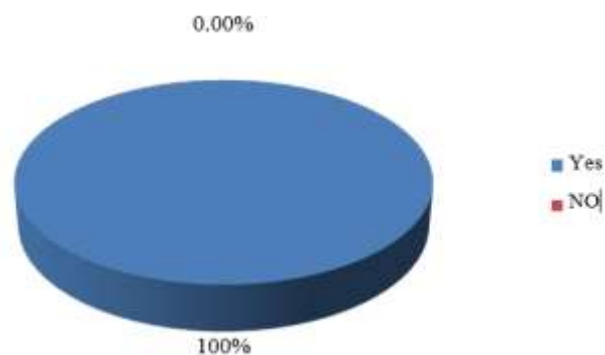
19.70% older adults always participate, 24.24% saw older adults participate frequently, 30.30% saw older adults participate sometimes, and 25.76% said they almost never saw older adults participate in public policy processes.



**Graph 7** Participation in the stages of the process of public policies developed in the Municipality

Of the total of the people surveyed 384, only 66 people participated, of which they explain that they participate in the public policy processes as follows:

18.18% in the preparation, follow-up 27.27% participated in the follow-up, 25.76% participated in the formulation and 28.79% participated in the control of public policies.



**Graph 8** Necessary consideration on the exercise of the participatory constitutional right in the formulation and management of public policies

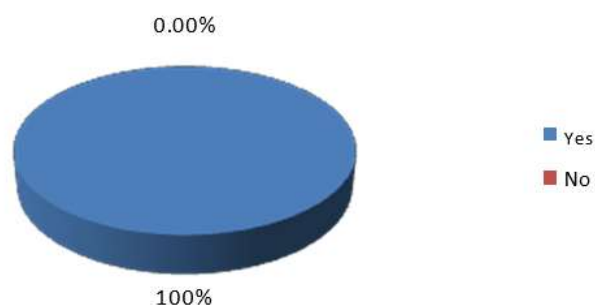
Of the total of the people surveyed 384, only 66 people also participate, of which they explain that it is very necessary to exercise the participatory constitutional right in the formulation and management of public policies, therefore the 66 people said YES and NO there is a 0.00 % this indicates that all participants strongly agree that constitutional law must always be respected.



**Graph 9** The does not participate in the formulation and Management of Public Policies

The people in question two who said they never participated directly jumped to this question with options that are 384 people which they determined as follows:

25.52% said they did not participate due to lack of time, 14.58% said that they are not very interested in these participation processes in public policy processes, 35.16% explain that they do not participate due to lack of opportunity, 9.38% said that they no longer participate due to age and health, 4.94% said that they previously participated and now cannot participate due to various factors, 6.77% explain that they are not clear about or understand why they do not participates, 3.65% explain that they do not participate due to disbelief and bad experiences.



**Figure 17.10** Need for more information on the mechanisms for citizen participation and promoting the Participation of society in public affairs

The total of the participants in this question the 384 people said that IF it is very necessary that the governments be National, Departmental and Municipal, they must necessarily always provide information on the mechanisms of citizen participation promoting the participation of society in public affairs, in there is NO 0.00%.

### **Results of interviews with the actors involved in the management of public policies of the Municipality of Sucre**

In this section, an analysis will be made of the results obtained in the interviews with the main actors of the public policies of the Municipality of Sucre, and an analysis of the information collected will be carried out, taking into account that these will be presented only as an illustration. that the sample is not representative.

When the interviewees were asked, if only those actors who mobilize manage to influence the formulation and management of public policies; Most civil society actors agreed that when they do not do anything or do not press, they do not benefit from public policies and that the only way for them to benefit is by participating, which motivates them to participate in the management of policies. public well above that the law empowers them or not. Despite this, the authorities and representatives of social organizations always perceive the presence of political parties and citizen groups with their ideals through the representatives and the absence of some sectors of civil society, such as; young people, adults, women, businessmen and professionals.

They also pointed out that public policies are the result of the specific characteristics of the political system, and that sometimes there is imposition and unilateral decisions in decision-making and the complex relationship between the actors involved in the management of public policies leads to generating conflicts in these spaces of participation.

It should also be noted that from the perspective of public policy actors, they consider that the economic and political context is decisive rather than the social context when making public policies.

Civil society actors consider it necessary to carry out activities aimed at strengthening capacities to lead citizen participation processes.

Both public administrators and representatives of social organizations consider that citizen participation in the management of public policies is beneficial and very useful and that it also gives legitimacy to public management.

Finally, the actors representing civil society consider it necessary to have sanctions regarding non-compliance with the commitments and agreements that are reached with social organizations in the negotiation stage.

### **Discussion**

In this research work on “citizen participation in the formulation and management of public policies”, based on the bibliographic review and through the results obtained, an effective discussion on the subject can be given.

Regarding the relationship between society and the State, the New Political Constitution of the State explains that Bolivia is democratic, participatory, representative and community, which thus takes into account men and women, apparently this is a simple theory that is never put into practice. Where many times when it comes to citizen participation, the spaces are limited and the rights of participation in the management of public policies are limited.

The author (Subirats) gives a very important explanation regarding citizen participation, he determines that it is not only enough to decide on behalf of the citizenry, for the citizens, but that citizens must be involved and explanations must be given as to why these decisions are made. , which can help to have a quality of management of public policies and to obtain good results in the formulation, elaboration, execution and control of public policies.

By the determination of the law of participation and social control of February 21, 2013, participation is a democratic right, which is exercised individually or collectively through their representatives, these can be Organic (social organizations, neighborhood councils and / or or organized trade unions), Community (nations and rural native indigenous peoples, etc.), Circumstantial that are organized (for a specific purpose), these organizations are recognized by the constitution and the corresponding laws, therefore the participation of these social groups in public policies it is of utmost importance.

As the author (Molina) explains, these organizations are often excluded from active participation in public policy processes more than in rural areas (peasant communities).

Therefore, what (Hernández) says is true that Politics is the conflict of interests that can be individual or collective, so it can be determined that the management of public policies is determined based on the interests of certain people or groups, thus benefiting certain sectors and not all.

The Ministry of Transparency determines the Social Control of public management to the mechanisms or means of monitoring and active participation of any individual or collective person in the processes, actions and results developed by the institutions of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, this suggests that the civil society can participate in all public policy processes.

Due to all these factors that limit citizen participation in the management of public policies, many people "do not know" what the formulation and management of public policies consists of, the highest percentage of the surveyed population "do not participate" in the formulation and management of public policies.

To improve citizen participation in the management of public policies, it is necessary for the State to promote and guarantee participation in the formulation, preparation, execution, and control where civil society can actively participate.

Because citizen participation in all public policy processes is a constitutional right, therefore, Governments should inform more about citizen participation mechanisms and promote the Participation of society in public affairs for the better development of public policies.

### **Conclusions**

Based on the analyzes carried out and the data collected, the relationship between society and the State is very poor in terms of citizen participation, as a consequence there are very limited spaces for participation.

The knowledge of the population about the formulation and management of public policies through the diagnosis carried out is very low, there is a higher percentage who do not have knowledge about the formulation of public policies, this indicates that most of the population have very little knowledge regarding public policies.

Participation in the formulation and management of public policies developed by public institutions is totally low, where the people surveyed explained that they do not know how to participate, for these reasons the knowledge of the population about public policies is deficient.

Where the participation of young people, women and older adults is very little in these processes of formulation, elaboration, execution and control which help to have a quality of management of public policies for the better development of society.

For all these reasons, the population considers that it is very necessary for citizens to exercise their rights through participation in the processes mentioned above, with which participation and the management of public policies can be improved and thus obtain better results that respond to the needs of the population.



The population does not participate in all the processes mentioned above due to several factors that prevent active participation, especially they said they did not participate due to lack of opportunities, this suggests that only some people or certain groups have that opportunity to participate and not the entire population in general.

Therefore, the participatory, representative and community democratic form must be respected as mentioned in the Political Constitution of the State, thus taking into account men and women.

In this way, the different levels of government are responsible for informing and rendering accounts to the citizens, this helps to maintain a constant and close relationship between the elected and the voters, counting on transparency in the management of public policies.

It is true that true democracy is based on the participation of its citizens and social organizations, which is a fundamental right that people must know about the management of public policies.

Where citizens can participate freely by respecting all their rights and not suffer from situations of exclusion, these causes occur in both rural and urban areas.

Thus, the social actors, whether individual or collective, can participate at the national, departmental, regional, municipal and native indigenous peasant levels for the better development of public institutions in the good management of public policies.

The management of public policies must have transparent, strengthened, efficient and effective institutions that grant greater reliability, credibility and legal security, with respect to society, with which it is possible to achieve the government objectives and goals of the highest interest level. public.

Social organizations are the fundamental basis for enforcing rights against the government, otherwise many kisses impose laws, norms, etc. From above without consulting the public, with these organizations all rights can be enforced and thus the different levels of government can respond to the demands of the citizens.

Citizen participation is very important to help in the good management of public policies with effective mechanisms of participation in the design and monitoring of public policies as well as accountability which can provide effective tools in the formulation, elaboration, execution and control for the better development of society.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that citizens put themselves in the case to participate in all public policy processes such as in the formulation, elaboration, execution and control of public policies at all different levels of government.

Through social organizations and representatives of society, strict monitoring must be carried out, which can help to achieve the best results in all processes of public policy management.

Otherwise, citizens will continue to be out of date with public functions, leaving the management of public policies to the different levels of government to chance.

On the other hand, the national, departmental and municipal governments must provide the necessary information so that the general population can be informed of public policy matters.

There must also be seriousness and commitment when signing contracts by the authorities towards society in order to comply with the agreements reached in established procedures. Citizen participation must be consulted and guaranteed when formulating public policies so that they can provide their opinion and thus break the monopoly in decision-making by the National Government.

Governments must pay greater attention to social structures when formulating and determining public policies. Likewise, there must also be coordination and coherence in the actions taken by the multiple actors, even if the relationship is complex.

Finally, public policy actors and all citizens in general must build an institutional vision and not watch over sectoral and individual interests.

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