Abstract

In a long, and sometimes difficult, process of transition to democracy transition in Latin America, the region´s countries face a series of uncertain circumstances at the beginning of the new millennium. Many aftereffects of authoritarianism, of the enclaves left by prior regimes, and the economic difficulties to face globalization comprise the variegated political atmosphere of the new century. It would seem that Latin America´s chief dilemma, which it has experienced during the last twenty years, is the consolidation of democratic regimes or the return of authoritarianism, in different paradigms. The construction of a new order implies the institutionalization of democratic life, through the mechanisms of negotiation among actors, in a framework of reforms, and multiple responses to the new conditions, that guarantee social development and political culture.