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Argentina approves a new education project to transform society

With this reform, the Argentinean society sends a message all over the world: education is a crucial factor for establishing the bases of another globalisation which is more democratic and shows greater solidarity.

Josephine Santos
Herald Tribe Service

NEW YORK - Social movements, which begun with the White Tent (*Carpa Blanca*), have been protesting against the commercialisation of education and the privatisation of the education system in Argentina for many years. Yesterday, the National Congress, following extensive debate which included the participation of different sectors of society, finally approved an innovative model for education, both basic and university, with a view to creating a new public education system, which is more democratic, sustainable and plural.

Furthermore, this reform is accompanied by a summons to the international community: "we must overcome the homogenising idea of neo-liberalism and resolutely progress in the construction of cultural identities, the development of humanist philosophies integrating men and women and the creation of fair and sustainable global produc-

tion structures. In order to create a new alternative globalisation, it is necessary to consolidate reformed public education, where civil society is the protagonist, knowledge is considered to be humanity's collective cultural heritage and education is a social right that must be guaranteed by States".

This is exactly what was approved in Argentina yesterday. The new education system will be directed at providing technical knowledge (linked to work), but also practical social knowledge, political knowledge (for active citizenship and the strengthening of democracy) and critical knowledge (to help overcome the obstacles of single thinking).

In both schools and universities, the transversal core will be the teaching of values (solidarity, democracy, justice, peace culture, etc.). In this way, educational centres will open to the community and social alliances will be brought about.

Furthermore, the collective

construction of knowledge will be encouraged, fomenting the diversity and plurality of learning. In this way, scientific content will be the product of extensive consensus, which will include social and cultural expressions from regions and nations all over the world.

Complementary to this, the role of art will be revalued.

Through democratic education, areas of participation and reflection will be generated where both students and different actors of the teaching community will have active protagonism. New pedagogies are also planned, directed at promoting a new model: ecodesvelopment. An ethical re-education towards sustainability, from a global viewpoint, will be elaborated.

Development of the project will begin as from the next academic year.

Undoubtedly, this innovative education system, the outcome of Argentinean social protests, will become a worldwide reference point in the area of education.

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