представительства. Кроме того за выполнение отдельных консульских действий на территории Беларуси отвечают консульские пункты и консульское управление Министерства иностранных дел Республики Беларусь.

Следуя международным договоренностям, местонахождение и класс консульского учреждения, границы консульского округа определяются по согласованию между представителями белорусского МИД и властями государства пребывания. Непосредственно же консульское учреждение может быть открыто только с согласия правительства страны пребывания.

Консульскими должностными лицами могут быть только граждане Республики Беларусь, они являются работниками Министерства иностранных дел Республики Беларусь. На должности же консульских служащих могут претендовать, как белорусские граждане, так и граждане стран пребывания.

В современных условиях на сотрудников белорусских консульских учреждений возлагаются задачи самого широкого спектра: прежде всего, они должны защищать за рубежом интересы и права Республики Беларусь, юридические интересы ее граждан и юридических лиц. Опираясь на данные анализа положений Консульского устава и консульских конвенций, заключенных Республикой Беларусь с зарубежными государствами, можно определить основные функции консульских учреждений в нынешних условиях: представительские, нотариальные, транспортно-логистические, по защите прав белорусских граждан, санитарной, фитосанитарной и ветеринарной охране и другие функциональные обязанности, не противоречащие законодательствам Республики Беларусь и стран пребывания.

В современной практике межгосударственных отношений все большее значение придается представительному компоненту в перечне функций, которые могут выполнять консульские учреждения. При этом неизменно важным направлением остается оказание содействия представителям официальных государственных органов Беларуси по вопросам осуществления своих служебных полномочий на территории консульских округов.

Консульские учреждения все чаще выполняют мультифункциональные задачи, что является характерной чертой взаимодействия государств на международной арене в XXI в.

**NEW CHALLENGES FOR MODERN DIPLOMACY**

*Rodrigo Benitez Proano, Embassy of Ecuador in Belarus, Consul, e-mail: rodbenitez@hotmail.com*

*Pobediteley Avenue 100, Of. 501, Minsk 220020, Belarus*

*PHD Candidate, Universidad de Malaga*

*Cervantes Avenue 2, Malaga 29071, Spain*

The cooperation agreements between one or several countries are the basis of the peaceful relationship of them, which must contain elements of interest for both parties, in order to facilitate negotiations and the achievement of them. However, these agreements have an immense combination of possible factors and changing circumstances involved in their signature, so it is impossible to design an algorithm with a specific procedure for its proposal and negotiation.
Precisely this is the fundamental work of diplomacy, the proposal, negotiation and monitoring of the execution of these agreements, which is an art that requires the use of negotiation techniques, in addition to skills acquired with experience and a large dose of creativity, ingenuity and insight.

In the current international scenario, multilateralism is difficult to sustain over time, because paradoxically the same interests that promote them often cause their rupture. Recent examples of this in Latin America are the disintegration of UNASUR, ALBA and the fragility evidenced within the United Nations.

The post-modern era, as it has been commonly called at the time after the 2001 terrorist attacks, is especially marked by the appearance of new actors that influence international politics. Famous and anonymous individuals, NGOs, multinational companies, mass media, sectional governments and think tanks, are some examples of actors who easily find spaces of opinion in social networks and mass media.

This complex international scenario is convulsed by the emergence of new threats to security that cause insecurity and mistrust among its actors, such as terrorism, with indiscriminate attacks against the civilian population perpetrated by irregular groups, which in many cases are a result of previous badly resolved conflicts.

Poverty, inequality, repression, armed conflicts, lack of opportunities and as social environmental organizations say, the effects of climate change, are a breeding ground not only for the formation of irregular groups but also factors that cause the exodus of large populations in search of refuge in other countries.

In this current international reality makes it increasingly necessary the involvement of an active diplomacy that allows the search of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, seeking to restore and increase confidence among States, through the exchange and protection of information, transfer of technology and knowledge, which is a powerful coadjutor to reduce inequalities and minimize conflicts.

Diplomacy with the ability to distinguish between available information, which is useful and which can be replicated, is becoming more and more necessary. In the same way, the form of communication generated by diplomacy must be increasingly precise and transparent, because thanks to the massive access to information, the number of people who listen to it, think and criticize is growing and is not limited to the State in which they are accredited.

The first step must then be the recruitment and selection of the best human talent, chosen on the basis of merit and not political affinity, capacity and not only loyalty, who have an adequate professional preparation and who carry out their diplomatic career by vocation.

From then on, the establishment or restoration of diplomatic training centers will be indispensable, where career diplomacy will be educated on how to face current challenges, the promotion of the country and national policies for the execution of public diplomacy.

For this to be correctly articulated, it is necessary to have motivated diplomacy, not only to defend the interests of the nations they represent, but with adequate structures inherent to the profession, a legal framework that defends and guides it, within a hierarchical functional model that gives value to experience and knowledge.

Finally, it will be necessary to draft rules if they do not yet exist, on the management model of a diplomatic or consular mission, starting from the infrastructure required to provide an adequate service with savings of resources, as well as its functional structure and working model that standardizes the management be effective and efficient according to national interests.
The difficulty and at the same time opportunity of this investigation lies in the lack of scientific documentation that supports and defines the structure, preparation and necessary skills of diplomacy, therefore, it is essential to start from the experience and from there pose a reasonable and acceptable model for this profession.