

THE GREAT DECISIONS

The history of mankind and the life of institutions and individuals are conditioned by great decisions. In fact, small decisions, those which define the next step to take, are sometimes the ones that determine the course of our reality and their accumulation results into what becomes of our lives. But the important changes, the significant undertakings, the wars and the failures, almost always derive from good or bad great decisions.

Such decisions, whether rational or not, arise very frequently as a result of the crisis suffered by affected persons, entities or nations. In the case of scientific publications, the crises are of a conceptual kind (when the nature or the level of the contents is questioned) or of an instrumental nature (when lacking the means or the needed personnel). Not having access to a stable funding program from the official organisms for the promotion of science constitutes an important crisis that has forced *Interciencia* to adopt ever more stringent policies aimed to request contributions from the institutions where the authors of papers that are accepted for publication are employed. To this end we insist through the authors themselves and on occasions the process delays the appearance of a given paper, although at the end all those that have been accepted find their place in the journal.

The lack of availability of such basic supplies as is paper, among others, in the case of a journal that, although it maintains an electronic version, has not abandoned its printed version for various reasons, becomes a major crisis

that demands great decisions. On top of this is the deficient and erratic distribution by the local postal service. Regrettably, the possible solutions pass by migration, be it of the editorial production or of the journal as a whole.

In a globalized world and, particularly, in those countries that are going through crises of one kind or another, the migratory phenomenon is a process that is not exceptional anymore and has become a common one. Migration is common, but difficult, and on many occasions painful. Well known are the scientist migration processes, sometimes massive, that have taken place in our continent in times of oppression, difficulties or lack of liberties. As is also well known the extreme difficulty that there ensues in order to repair the damages produced by such migrations, once the causes that originated them have ceased to be present.

In the case of periodic scientific publications, migration is less frequent than disappearance. In this realm, it seems as if there is a particular nationalism or adherence to the origins. However, a journal such as *Interciencia*, that is of an international, regional and multilingual character, and that is in demand for the publication of their results by researchers of almost all the countries in our region and many of other latitudes, should be reluctant to disappear. It should make the great decision, however difficult it results, to move temporarily to where it is possible to solve the logistic aspects necessary to be able, after 38 years of uninterrupted publication, to produce the journal and keep going.

MIGUEL LAUFER
Editor