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DIREITO ALIMENTAR E COMBATE À FOME

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Executive Summary

Daniel Balaban*

Food and nutrition security, beyond being at the very basis of the human survival, is at the core of the individual and social development. Despite our vital dependency on eating adequately every day and the challenge of eliminating hunger, scientific research can further explore the connections between the political actions aimed at fighting hunger worldwide and systematic knowledge appraising and dissemination. This opportunity is significant, especially for the Brazilian academia, which has the chance to investigate national experiences in fighting hunger, since Brazil became an inspiration for other countries to develop their own policies and programs.

Distinguishing the Brazilian accomplishments in food and nutrition security, since 2011, the United Nations World Food Programme has been working through its **Centre of Excellence against Hunger** in Brazil to support developing countries to find their own solutions for many of their food and nutrition security challenges. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), established in 2015, were another push in this direction. These United Nations' new Global Goals modernize the debate over food and nutrition security with a human rights approach, and set a roadmap for acting towards the eradication of hunger in all its forms and dimensions. The SDGs also highlight the important role of international cooperation, especially South-South cooperation, in achieving food security for all.

The Centre of Excellence in Brazil, celebrating its fifth anniversary, partnered in 2016 with the **University Center of Brasilia** to foster bridges between politics and science, publishing together this *Dossier on Fighting hunger worldwide*. This dossier presents articles and scientific findings on food and nutrition as a basic human right. The first part of the dossier focuses on linking Law, Political Science, and International Relations to public policies; connecting the human rights framework as a social construct to political actions of WFP and national governments, like Brazil. The first reflection comes from Ambassador João Almino, director of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency, talking about *South-South food and nutrition security promotion: the Brazilian experience multiplied*.

Professor Carlos Milani, from the Institute of Social and Political Studies of the State University of Rio de Janeiro, casts light on the *Access to food as a human right: Brazil, WFP and South-South cooperation*. Finalizing this reflexive background for the complete research papers, Christiani Buani and Bruno Valim Magalhães, from the Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil, bring into discussion *WFP's role in building sustainable bridges between the right to adequate food and the freedom from hunger*.

After this reflexive background, complete research articles follow first connections between politics and science and advance on sharing and systematizing knowledge. Their results come from desk researches, conceptual framework applications, and qualitative methods. Taking into account the debate over the human right to food, the article *Human right to food, food (in) security and development: the challenges to the progressive achievement in Latin America*, written by Sinara Camera and Rubia Wegner, evaluates the historical human rights construction and its internationalization and diversification, such as

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the human right to food. The discussion is based on an interdisciplinary analysis of the measures adopted by Latin American and European countries. In a second moment, it verses on the right to adequate food and food security in terms of economic development.

Rosalice Fidalgo Pinheiro and Laura Garbini Both present a discussion on the *Human and fundamental right to adequate food and the female condition in the Bolsa Família Program: an upside down empowerment?* Beyond fighting hunger, this article tackles gender debates, considering the policies of food and nutritional security as public policies in favor of the family. The female condition was highlighted in the Bolsa Família program because it prioritizes women as the main beneficiaries. The study points out that while some researchers indicate a loss of their autonomy in face of the labor market, others recognize the strengthening of their role in the family. The article concludes that by improving the feminine condition, due to the high percentage of families where the women is the sole person in charge, food security was strengthened for the families served by the program.

Food is the basic element of community self-reliance. It provides jobs, values culture, enables communitarian engagement, and supports public health. The study *Food Security and the Global Economic Governance*, by Danielle Mendes Thame Denny *et al.*, discusses the causes of food insecurity, and analyzes food wasting in Brazil, contextualizing this issue under an international environmental economic law approach, to finally address the problem under the perspective of global governance. The main conclusion of this paper is that food insecurity is caused by maldistribution rather than by lack of food, and that the tools of global governance to coordinate conflicting interests in pursuit of the common goal of hunger eradication have much to improve.

In a global food system dedicated to free trade that encourages exports, the trend is to grow monoculture crops on a large scale for distant markets. In reflections like *Negotiating agriculture in the World Trade Organization: food security as a non-trade concern*, Ana Luísa Soares Peres and Leticia de Souza Daibert bring up evidences indicating that if food security is treated as any trade issue, this perspective may partially undermine developing countries' actions towards fighting hunger. International trade is only one element in fighting hunger worldwide, meaning that well-designed trade policies and rules on

agricultural trade may contribute to accomplishing food security, as long as they are part of a broader initiative that can reach all the many levels of the issue.

Other articles in this dossier recommend possible solutions for that. Paula F. Strakos and Michelle B. B. Sanches' *State's international responsibility for the human right to food: implementation in Brazil through agroecology finds that the application of agroecological public policy in Brazil constitutes a relevant opportunity to positively address several obstacles found in previous public policies, such as the contradictions resulting from low intersectoriality.* This analysis shows that the normative content of the human right to food can be addressed and implemented through this strategy.

After the findings that the Brazilian experience could and should be used as a building block for further development towards a more effective implementation of the human right to food by integrating social, economic and environmental concerns through agroecology, Hiran Catuninho Azevedo arguments in her study *The role of sustainable learning policies on the fight against hunger in adult education* that educational processes based on sustainability context bring the opportunity to rethink the lack of collective coordination on food security, especially among states. Understanding how industry and society grow and develop is essential to know how they learn and how we can innovate with them to fight hunger globally and promote inclusive growth.

Still debating on Brazil's advances on food security as a right and as a system, Fernanda Viegas Reichardt and Maria Elisa de Paula Eduardo Garavello presents the challenge of *When dwelling corresponds to the human right to food.* They propose, after an extensive research project, a dialogue between three themes, territoriality, food sovereignty and human rights. This study's interest is restricted to the human right to food conceived in cultural terms linked to a territory, more specifically, in the native-Brazilian land of Pimentel Barbosa, a Xavante territory located in the Brazilian western state of Mato Grosso.

Bringing the attention of the Brazilian academia to other food security conditions, Ranjana Ferrao outlines *Food security in India*, analyzing and discussing a historical perspective of food management in India. This article dwells on the legislative changes made to ensure the right to food, the setting of administrative bodies and the creation of public welfare schemes. After a series of

empirical and framework applications, it proposes some recommendations.

Finally, celebrating scientific knowledge connected to political action, this dossier hopes to contribute to the literature on the issue, and to aid other researchers in their work. Most of all, we hope to contribute to an education strongly based on discussions among stu-

dents, researchers, practitioners and to inform the broader public about new developments and ideas on fighting hunger worldwide. For that, the WFP Centre of Excellence thanks the University Centre of Brasilia Law School faculty for the opportunity of jointly creating and disseminating this knowledge. Enjoy your reading.

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