

Ana GARCÍA JUANATEY, *Alimentación Sostenible, Hambre y Transición Ecológica en Derecho Internacional*, Reus, Madrid, 2022, 256 pp.

Reus Publishers has published recently a book titled “*Sustainable Food, Hunger and Ecological Transition in International Law*” (*Alimentación Sostenible, Hambre y Transición Ecológica en Derecho Internacional* in Spanish language), written by Dra. Ana García Juanatey, professor at the CEI International Affairs, adjunct center to the University of Barcelona. It is a very comprehensive study which comes at an opportune time. Food Sustainability is emerging now as a component of discussion at the international agenda. It is good to bear in mind that on 23 September 2021, it took place the United Nations summit on food systems, convened by the Secretary General.

This summit did not achieve the results foreseen and revealed the completely different and polarized approaches from peasant and rural movements, governments, companies, civil society, etc. Nevertheless, the summit has succeeded in putting the issue at the top of the international agenda. This role should translate into the provision of legal texts and guidelines forthcoming years. In light of this, Dra. García Juanatey’s book is welcomed.

There are two common threads that run throughout the chapters: the right to food and the principles of sustainable development derived from international environmental law. We believe this will be correct in scientific terms. Implementation success in these areas will contribute to the solution of the whole complex of problems raised by the book’s title.

The book has been divided into three main parts, following an ordered sequence. The first part focuses on the general problem of hunger, food production and consumption patterns. The author explains in a clear and simple way the main facts and technical concepts. Achieving world food security with full sustainability depends on a complex situation that is affected by many factors - climatic, economical, environmental and others. The elimination of hunger in the world is an objective which should be a priority in all policies, but it is needed patience and endurance because the fight against hunger is long and hard. This is despite the United Nations Zero Hunger Goal 2 sustainable development.

A fortiori, even if hunger is eradicated by 2030, the issue will not be resolved definitely because there are projections for fifty years or more that show that climate change will drastically reduce global food security. We have already mentioned that in some lectures.

The second part is devoted to the right to food. The author offers a complete analysis of the state of the art of this right, addressing in three chapters all its fundamental aspects, such as its recognition, its legal nature, its normative content and the obligations that derive from it. In particular, we consider it is particularly noteworthy the analysis of the extraterritorial obligation for states as well as the non-state actor obligations derived from the right to food. These issues have been scarcely dealt with by the doctrine, despite the relevance they should have.

This part ends with a final chapter devoted to its implementation, including constitutional recognition, national legislation and justiciability. In sum, we agree with the author that the right to food is a fundamental tool for ending hunger and achieving food sustainability. This right is already part of the international order, but it needs to be made more effective and implemented. .

In the third part of the book, the author analyses the application of the principles of sustainable development to the field of food security. We can consider it is the most original part of the book and where she makes the greatest contribution.

It is divided into three chapters. The first is devoted to the general methodological framework of sustainable development, with the emphasis on practice according a human rights approach. It then moves to a second chapter about the application of these principles for the realisation of the right to food. We found this to be the most relevant chapter of the book. It provides arguments for an issue no yet addressed at the international level. In particular, she discussed the scope of principles as integration, sustainable use of natural resources, intergenerational equity, common but differentiated responsibilities as well as the precautionary principle.

The author concludes with a chapter on how to elaborate public policies to achieve food security in accordance with the methodological framework of the principles of sustainable development. In this respect, some interesting tools can be found, such as, for example, impact assessment, education and awareness-raising provisions, provision of monitoring systems and the creation of a national authority for the right to food.

The author concludes by briefly outlining some of the areas where these public policies should be established through the prism of sustainable food, such as, for example, genetic resources, the relationship with trade or nutrition. Clearly, each of these areas requires further in-depth research and new perspectives and proposals in order to create emerging rights and legal solutions to these highly complex problems. We encourage the author of this worthy work to continue on this path and to continue to work in this field of such extreme necessity for today's and tomorrow's world.

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