

Review of: "Examining the Ethical and Geopolitical Context of Global Food Security Policy"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

As a Venezuelan scientist on food security, I am thrilled to see a critical review not only of the initial report, but also of some aspects that, in my opinion, require a "refreshed" perspective. At the very beginning, the author is critical of the title, as "Collective Action for Ending a Collective Problem, Rome, July 4-8th, 2023," sounds rhetorical at this point. Who is the collective that will take the actions? It is again so ethereal, as the many conclusions we see in the multilateral agencies' reports when they express: we encourage the states parties to make efforts to guarantee the right to food. Such a conclusion lacks strength as much as the title that is an ambiguous form to say we do have a problem, but we don't want to say much about it.

Then, about ending the food security problem, it seems idealistic in the realm of the 2024 year, as we are increasing the number of armed conflicts around the world and experiencing economic turndowns that make people migrate and take inhuman risks (and human mobility is also a human right, by the way). Both situations—armed conflicts and migration—are open doors to food insecurity, as we know.

I agree with the author when he approaches the lack of connection between the right to food and civic and political liberties. As Amartya Sen states, freedom and development are interconnected, and the lack of connections allows us to think about the use of food as a weapon for controlling the population.

And finally, the solutions are not yet well defined, as the global market and food systems cannot be eliminated as such, as we live in an overpopulated world, and we are somehow the product of technology and science development. I am disappointed when I hear that solutions literally are calling backwards into "grow your own food in your backyard," when we know about sanitation and diseases promoted by the interaction of animal feces or waiting several months to get the crops ready. One thing is to grow herbs for cooking, or having community gardens for keeping a variety of foods, or a school garden for educational purposes, but feeding the world is a different story, so I can feel Vojtech Masek's disappointment when critically addressing this document, and I agree with this, as also the document addresses the problem as if all countries are at the same level, when they are not. The discussion is to be continued as this is a work in progress; we are still learning about this poly-crisis world.