Chapter 1

Contexts of peace, justice, and strong institutions

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Introduction

In 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was declared by the United Nations (UN) to establish a common standard of justice, taking into account individual's and group's rights for all people of all nations. As the most translated document in the world, it is the basis for peaceful societies and long-lasting sustainable development. It also establishes equality and recognizes the dignity of all humanity, thus making governments responsible for ensuring that people can enjoy the rights and freedoms to which they are entitled. Based on these fundamental rights, UN adds that peace and access to justice are not only fundamental human aspirations, but also the cornerstones of sustainable development.

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco), the culture of peace respects all individual's and group's rights, ensures and sustains freedom of opinion and strives to avoid conflicts, such as exclusion, extreme poverty and environmental degradation on behalf of peace and security. The culture of peace also encompasses values such as equality, respect for human rights and cultural diversity, justice, freedom, tolerance, dialogue, solidarity, development, and social justice.

Taking into account the legacy of the Millennium Development Goals established in 2000, the UN set a new global sustainable development agenda in 2015 consisting of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets to be achieved by 2030 (2030 Agenda). In order to strengthen universal peace for a more prosperous planet, SDGs seek to ensure human rights for everyone. The 193 UN member states, working in partnership, have been implementing this agenda in order to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and deprivation (Figure 1) and to heal and protect our planet.

As a UN member country, Brazil has joined all intergovernmental negotiation sessions for establishing SDGs. In this sense, the Brazilian Federal Government,

Photo: Marcelino Carneiro Guedes

Figure 1. A riverside family living in precarious conditions, in the extreme north of the Brazilian Eastern Amazon, in the state of Amapá.

by means of its Government Secretariat, created the Comissão Nacional para os Objetivos de Desenvolvimento Sustentável (Brazilian Commission for Sustainable Development Goals) with the purposes of incorporating and disseminating these goals and making the 2030 Agenda implementation process in Brazil transparent. The commission gathers 32 incumbent and alternative representatives of civil society and governments.

Global context

According to the UN (United Nations, 2013), in order to achieve peace, countries' governments must address the problems which matter most to people, such as corruption and violence, especially against minorities and vulnerable groups, and the lack of transparency in public accounts. They should also ensure that the State provides basic services and rights, without discrimination, such as access to safety and justice, food, drinking water, and health services.

Throughout the world, there is a strong demand for better governance. Ethical leaders are called for to guarantee that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights embraces everyone. People need their voices to be heard and their demands to be addressed, and request transparent, agile, capable and responsible institutions. To do so, they need to join politics, to participate in decision-making using their right to freedom of expression and association, to peaceful protest and access to independent media and information. Responsibility works better in a participatory governance environment. In the Millennium Declaration, freedom was singled out as one of the six fundamental values, which is best ensured through participatory governance.

Over the last 7 years, according to the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), based in Australia, the overall global peace index increased from 1.96 to 2.06, in other words, popular appeal increased, which indicates that the world is less peaceful. However, despite being ill and unbalanced, and affected by violence of all sorts and features, the contemporary world presents a promising scenario for changes through ideas and direct and institutional actions led by national and local networks. It is, therefore, necessary to enhance education for non-violent conflict resolution and for multicultural and anti-racist development and education (Figure 2); to emphasize the value of human life and the culture of non-violence; to seek the truth and to teach the historical truth; to get to the root of problems; to value justice and to reject revenge and hatred; to fight fear; to combat ignorance and information manipulation; to insist on the importance of democracy and on the need for worldwide human rights; to appeal to countries governments on UN reorganization as a guarantee for international relations; to offer social development alternatives (Figure 3) and to share knowledge of social achievements; and to educate based on commitment and hope as values (Jares; Santana, 2007).

Brazilian context

With a permanent representative in Brazil since 1947, the UN seeks to promote peace and justice and focuses on the efficiency of institutions committed to guarantee the fundamental rights of citizens. To this end, the United Nations System is represented by agencies, funds and programs with more than 26 organs associated to several institutions in the world, with offices in Brazil, addressing varied emergency issues. The main goal of this representative is to ensure that institutions provide a collective, consistent and integrated answer to national priorities and needs within the framework of SDGs and other international

Photo: Ana Claudia Lira Guedes

Figure 2. Cameroon, Indian and Argentinean master students with Embrapa researcher joining the program of institutional collaboration between Embrapa Amapá and foreign universities.

commitments, jointly seeking solutions to overcome challenges and difficulties for equitable human development. UN agencies work in a coordinated way, running projects with federal, state and municipal governments, with private companies, with educational institutions, with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and with civil society.

Photo: Anderson Schwamke

Figure 3. Students from Escola Família de Maracá (Family School of Maracá), in Amapá, and instructors from Embrapa Amapá on the way to practical classes of beekeeping course.

In addition to these efforts, Brazil has, for 15 years now, the world's fourth largest network created by private sector to promote human rights and sustainability: the Brazil Network of the UN Global Compact. It promotes ten universal principles derived from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Labor Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. The Brazil Network gathers 756 companies for human rights, decent work, environmental responsibility and combating corruption.

Embrapa context

The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa), linked to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (Mapa), in order to honor its commitment to meeting SDGs targets, identified that, out of all Brazilian government SDG commitments by 2030, Mapa can contribute to up to 50% of them and Embrapa can contribute to up to 40% of them.

Within the scope of SDG 16, of its 12 targets, Embrapa can potentially contribute to 6. These targets were selected based on adherence to and alignment with the mission of Embrapa and they will be addressed throughout the chapters. Here they are[1]:

- 16.a - Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, particularly in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.

- 16.5 - Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.

- 16.6 - Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

- 16.7 - Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

- 16.8 - Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.

- 16.10 - Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.

Technical cooperation in agriculture (target 16a) is carried out by means of projects and activities which foster development by offering human and institutional training. Its core is to strengthen the partner country's capacity to locally develop and/or to adapt agricultural technologies for its own context. International Technical Cooperation programs and projects of Embrapa have been providing technologies, information and services to reduce peoples hunger and poverty in partner countries through a substantial increase in production, productivity and sustainability based on the wealth of local agriculture. It is believed that this is an effective and rational way of promoting peace and harmony, reducing conflicts and putting away violence, terrorism and crime inexorably.

Alternatives to improve ethical management (targets 16.5 and 16.6) in Embrapa have been built by sharing and incorporating responsibilities and combating and preventing any type of corruption and bribery, not only among people and public and private institutions, but also in scientific research, which is the Company's main focus. In this way, we intend to have an effective, responsible, ethical and

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[1]   Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>.

transparent institution at all levels. As part of its management system, Embrapa has effective tools for incorporating concepts and guiding all employees. It includes Embrapa monitoring and verification systems operated by several departments, of which the following stand out: Internal Audit Services, Ethics Committee and Ombudsman's Office, Animal Ethics Committee and the Genetic Heritage Management Board.

To suit the highest standards for public service, resulting in greater institutional effectiveness, Embrapa has developed, improved and applied strategies and tools that make it more responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative, while revealing its efforts to address society's interests (target 16.7). Governance mechanisms used by Embrapa have sought to be responsive – by means of the Integrated Performance Management System (Integro), Strategic Intelligence System (Agropensa) and Social Report –; inclusive – by means of programs for Gender Equity and traditional peoples –; participatory – by Diálogos (Dialogues) program and tools such as Intranet and Virtual Communities –; and representative – the Citizen Assistance Service Center (SAC) and the Technology Transfer Action Management System (Sisgatt) are seriously and competently managed.

Embrapa actions for global policies (target 16.8) aim to monitor and manage institutional participation in international conventions, agreements, protocols, treaties, commissions, and forums. Embrapa also addresses public policies as an important partner of the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding decision-making on national and global policies by offering all technical and scientific support for both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply. Thus, Embrapa supports Brazilian delegations in meetings for convention, treaties and other agreements ratified by the Country as well as parties (parliamentary fronts and special commissions) involved in discussing new laws in Brazilian Congress.

Information security model (target 16.10) implemented at Embrapa is based on protecting public heritage, as a result of its main activity. The goal is to protect business-relevant information generated by Embrapa in order to ensure that its institutional purposes are accomplished, so that it can keep delivering efficient and cost-effective results to society. In order to ensure that information security principles are disseminated and applied by all employees, Embrapa has created the Information Security Management Committee (CGSI), a collective body which decides on procedures to be followed. Annually, a global planning is carried out to set the agenda for Embrapa Central and Decentralized Units to carry out

information security activities based on the following pillars: People, Documents, Infrastructure and Information Technology.

Final considerations

In the current context and taking SDG 16 – *Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions into consideration*, the expected targets will be achieved by expanding access to education (Figure 4) and improving its quality and by combating social problems by means of specific, individual and collective actions – mainly related to respecting others and fighting corruption – and by strengthening institutions, making them effective and efficient. Thus, reducing violence, corruption and crime, promoting the Rule of Law, transparency in institutions, and participatory decisions at all levels, providing access to information and obeying the law are means to achieve SDG 16, which states that there is no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

In sum, at the foundations of sustainable development are peace and justice and the effectiveness of institutions; these principles should lead the global

Photo: Julia Franco Stuchi

Figure 4. Expanding access to education through agroecologically-based theoretical-practical workshops hosted by Embrapa Amapá technicians.

development by 2030. Within this scenario, this book presents the main contributions of Embrapa to achieve the selected SDG 16 targets seeking its maximum efficiency, even in harsh contexts.

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