

PERSPECTIVES AND PLURAL CHALLENGES FOR DELIVERING 2030 AGENDA - A NEW CHAPTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EVOLUTION

Marco Ribeiro Henriques & Daniela Serra Castilhos

The year 2020 will go down in history as the year in which societies have put the brakes on from every possible angle. We have gone from a health scare to a kind of “cat and mouse game” between a climate of fear and anxiety about the uncertainty surrounding the world.

This was also a year in which we collectively witnessed nature’s drastic return to its natural inhabitants. Clairvoyance and marine animal resources returned to the canals of eternal Venice, planes remained on land for months, and it was possible to revisit residual amounts of pollution as not seen since almost immemorial times. Has Human Being changed?

Indeed, the scenario of reconfirmation of humanity as such in this balance between security and the adequacy of social behavior has forced us to transform our days, and our routines will perhaps remain unwritten in the heralds of history whether or not we become better people in 2020.

On the other hand, the reconfiguration of academic practices in the 21st century is already a process with no return, and 2020 has consolidated it in some respects, notably by joining the virtual universe. This was also the case with the 2nd edition of the Euro-American Conference on Human Rights Development, initially designed to take place in person and somewhat like the 1st edition, to add value to the human contact between the academic commu-

nity and civil society on days of intense debate and scientific reflection in 2020 under the aegis of Agenda 2030.

The Euro-American Conference on Human Rights Development in its 2nd edition in 2020 had as its theme “Agenda 2030 - A New Chapter for the Evolution of Human Rights” and allowed not only an integrated reflection on Agenda 2030, facilitating the articulation of research and academic debate on the different Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but also networking among more than 900 people among academics and experts in these areas, promoting the development and aggregation of international and multidisciplinary research networks proposing to bring together the knowledge of scholars and experts, at the international level, who can contribute to the research, implementation, and achievement of these objectives and reflect good practices in the implementation of the United Nations Agenda 2030.

On the 2030 Agenda, we can also assert that 2015 already has a captive place in history as the year of setting the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, set at a UN summit in New York (USA) from 25-27 September, which brought together world leaders to adopt an ambitious agenda for poverty eradication and global economic, social and environmental development by 2030, known as the “Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development”.

**PERSPECTIVES AND PLURAL CHALLENGES FOR DELIVERING 2030 AGENDA
- A NEW CHAPTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EVOLUTION
MARCO RIBEIRO HENRIQUES & DANIELA SERRA CASTILHOS**

Agenda 2030 is the fruit of the joint work of governments and citizens around the world to create a new global model for ending poverty, promoting prosperity and well-being for all, protecting the environment, and combating climate change and incorporates 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), successors to the 8 Millennium Development Goals, to be implemented by all countries and covering areas as diverse but interconnected as equitable access to education and quality health services; the creation of decent jobs; energy and environmental sustainability; ocean conservation and management; the promotion of effective institutions and stable societies; and combating inequality at all levels.

However, when we least expected it, the pandemic took hold, turning our world upside down. Unexpectedly, this pandemic showed that what began as a health crisis quickly turned into a socio-economic situation. The devastating impact on SDG, especially on the poorest countries and the most vulnerable people, shows us how important it is to mobilize to rethink and rebuild the world in a more just, equal, and sustainable way. Never before have SDGs been so important.

Besides, with increased uncertainty about the future, there has been increased concern about the spread of false news, so that SDG has gained a new strength: that of combating misinfor-

mation.

Portugal played an important role in the process of defining this Agenda 2030, with the emphasis on more strongly advocating the goals of promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, eradicating all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence, and conserving the seas and oceans by managing their resources in a sustainable manner.

The document adopted at the Summit, to run until 2030, is entitled “Transforming our World: The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda”.

This active role in the elaboration and consequent implementation of Agenda 2030 in Portugal in 2017 reinforced the commitment by being one of the countries that voluntarily presented a “National Report on the Implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development”, where the actions carried out at national level in relation to each of the SDGs could be verified. In 2019, a UN report on sustainable development, led by independent scientists, highlighted Portugal as one of the most sustainable countries in the world. In 26th place (out of 162 countries assessed), Portugal had, at the time, a better performance in ODS number 7: Renewable and Affordable Energy.

The United Nations Agenda 2030 is, therefore, an expanded program that presents several dimensions of sustainable development of societies. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

**PERSPECTIVES AND PLURAL CHALLENGES FOR DELIVERING 2030 AGENDA
- A NEW CHAPTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EVOLUTION
MARCO RIBEIRO HENRIQUES & DANIELA SERRA CASTILHOS**

set out in Agenda 2030 form a shared vision for humanity, which can only be achieved through the cooperation and collaboration of societies committed to the priorities and aspirations set out in Agenda 2030.

Thus, the new United Nations Agenda 2030 for sustainable development constitutes a plan of action focused on people, the planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership. It is an ambitious agenda towards the goal of global poverty eradication and economic, social, and environmental development, but it is also a universal agenda based, as mentioned above, on the achievement of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets to be implemented by all countries in the United Nations.

The assessment of progress in implementing the Agenda will have to be carried out regularly by each country, involving governments, civil society, business, and other development actors. This monitoring requires overall coordination of efforts.

The truth is that for many years scientists have been warning that environmental problems resulting from human activities are endangering both the health of the planet and that of human beings.

The coronavirus has made it clear that we are not invulnerable to these threats, and their impact cannot make us forget the great challenge of humanity: the fight against climate change.

Bodies such as the European Union (EU), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank (WB) have already positioned themselves in favor of Green Recovery to overcome this health, economic and social crisis, following the path mapped out by Agenda 2030 in search of a more sustainable world.

This publication builds on these multidisciplinary and intersectional questions based on the discussion of cooperation processes for sustainable development, which proposes to embrace all the different disciplinary and methodological views of research.

The main objective of the CEDH2020 is to develop an academic dialogue on the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development in all its forms at national, regional, and international levels.

The event also aimed to strengthen the epistemological debate on issues relating to peace and justice from an international perspective and reflect on access to justice across societies and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions.

It also intended to reflect on the necessary efforts of both the most vulnerable and the institutions struggling to combat this social asymmetry; to recognize the multidimensional human rights-centered response as a tool for building more just and inclusive societies, as well as to propose acceptable practices and methodologies in inter-

**PERSPECTIVES AND PLURAL CHALLENGES FOR DELIVERING 2030 AGENDA
- A NEW CHAPTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EVOLUTION
MARCO RIBEIRO HENRIQUES & DANIELA SERRA CASTILHOS**

vention with the most vulnerable and resource-building to the countries involved.

The CEDH2020 has a multidisciplinary nature, receiving proposals that embody descriptive studies on theoretical, methodological or social research issues in general, thus accepting work on case studies, literature review, empirical, qualitative or quantitative methodologies, on models, processes and/or institutions that reflect, among other topics, on the eradication of poverty and hunger, gender equality and the promotion of equality, inclusion, health and education as fundamental rights and the promotion of human dignity.

The event proposed to discuss the two days of the event, necessarily virtual, the different theoretical perspectives, supported by general, legal, national, and international literature and principles.

This was very special participation, not only for the opportunity of the theme or for the growth in human terms with the adhesion of more than 900 people from 12 countries involved in the authorship of the almost 500 approved works, but above all for the resilience of all people, the whole academic community and the civil society, institutional partners and others, who allied themselves to this 2. The second edition of the Euro-American Conference on Human Rights Development working collectively for the development of international and

multidisciplinary dialogue on the design of public policies to promote more peaceful, inclusive, and just societies for sustainable development and the achievement of social justice, seeking to create solid frameworks based on development strategies for the most vulnerable.