

## THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE HUMAN SECURITY CONCEPT

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**Abstract:** The Human Security concept is widely used and commented by the security experts, seeking to shape a common accepted area of its understanding. This is particularly important when speaking about security doctrine and policies, having in mind the effect of such policies over the individuals, everywhere in the world, during peace time, crisis or war. We consider that the human security status may promote comparison between communities, driving ideals to a better life. Simply comparing must include appropriate instruments and references. There are many available indexes and lists establishing hierarchies related to specific status close to the meanings of human security, and this is an appropriate reference point to start establishing a formula for human security status measurement. Leading to the setting-up of a possible Human Security Index, the operationalization of the Human Security concept would offer a valuable research tool. By providing a valid measurement, the Human Security Index, along with other indexes affording references in the fields that configure the human condition, can help detect correlations able to deepen the debate, to change perceptions and develop on new bases the sustainable development efforts.

**Key words:** human security, operationalization, measurement, audit, index

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### THE HUMAN SECURITY CONCEPT IN DRAFT

Part of the conceptual redefining efforts related to the current security environment, the concept of "Human Security" refers to an emerging paradigm that addresses current and projected global vulnerabilities, whose proponents challenge the traditional concept of national security, arguing that the human being is the optimal reference for security concerns; thus, communities, as sums of individuals, prevail the state or nation's importance in security matters.

Better adjusted to current challenges, the concept has gradually penetrated the security policy formulation and strategic thinking, claiming an adaptive process both at doctrinal and practical levels; above all, it is absolutely clear that a solid approach aiming to clarify the human security's conceptual valences is strongly required.

The core understanding of the human security concept has experienced two significant developments as a result of Canadian and Japanese contribution - *freedom from fear* and *freedom from wants*<sup>1</sup>. Specifically, the *freedom from fear* refers to individuals' protection against violent conflicts associated with poverty, lack of state's support capabilities, and other forms of inequality (promoting as solutions: the emergency assistance, conflict prevention and resolution, peace building), while *freedom from wants* consists of a holistic approach seeking to meet human needs related to: famine, diseases, or natural disasters, statistically affecting more people than violent conflicts do (and focusing on sustainable development as broad solution).

The UNDP Report on Human Development (1994)<sup>2</sup> has detailed the conceptual model of Human Security by determining the main references intended to shape and support the development of practical values of human freedoms, in its initial bivalent acceptance. Even criticized as overly complex and heterogeneous to allow a relevant use of the concept as politic tool, these references meet tangible realities, rooted in events and dependent on decisions, outlining trends and scoring differences in time and space in the fields of: economic security, food production, health, environment, personal security, community safety and political security.

In 2005, the UN Secretary General Report "*In Larger Freedom: Towards Development Security and Freedom for All*" brought a third dimension to the concept of human security: "*freedom to live in dignity*"<sup>3</sup> - an adaptation of the older "*freedom to act on their own behalf*" (2003)<sup>4</sup>, a dimension that works for the need to promote the rule of law and democracy.

More recently, in the paper "*Facing Global Environmental Change: Environmental, Human, Energy, Food, Health and Water Security Concepts*", the team of scientists coordinated by Hans Günter Brauch proposed adding a fourth pillar to the previous three references of the Human Security concept: *the freedom from hazard impact*<sup>5</sup>. This supplementary pillar aims to reduce vulnerabilities and improve prevention and response capabilities of communities facing natural or anthropic hazards<sup>6</sup>, translated into an agenda of fighting against disasters and hazards.

A sustained scientific approach has conducted the Human Security Commission to propose, in 2003<sup>7</sup>, a conclusive definition of the Human Security concept, satisfactorily covering the subject in the dimensions shaped by its four pillars.

<sup>1</sup> UNDP, *Human Development Report 1994*, chap. 2, p. 24, in [http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/hdr\\_1994\\_en\\_chap2.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/hdr_1994_en_chap2.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/hdr\\_1994\\_en\\_chap2.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/hdr_1994_en_chap2.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> UN Secretary General Report, "*In Larger Freedom: Towards Development Security and Freedom for All*", 2005, in <http://www.un.org/largerfreedom/contents.htm>

<sup>4</sup> Sadako OGATA, Amartya SEN, "*Human Security Now: Protecting and Empowering People*", Commission on Human Security, New York, 2003, in <http://www.humansecurity-chs.org/finalreport/English/FinalReport.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Hans Günter BRAUCH, Ursula Oswald SPRING, John GRIN, Czeslaw MESJASZ, Patricia KAMERIMBOTE, Navnita Chadha BEHERA, Béchir CHOUROU, Heinz KRUMMENACHE, *Facing Global Environmental Change: Environmental, Human, Energy, Food, Health and Water Security Concepts*, Hexagon Series on Human and Environmental Security and Peace, vol. 4, Berlin - Heidelberg - New York, Springer-Verlag, 2009

<sup>6</sup> see Gheorghe VĂDUVA, Grigore ALEXANDRESCU, Petre DUȚU, Vasile POPA, Alexandra SARCINSCHI, Cristian BĂHNĂREANU, *Efectele hazardelor naturale și tehnologice asupra infrastructurii critice*, in *Colocviu strategic*, nr. 2/ 2009, Universitatea Națională de Apărare, Centrul de Studii Strategice de Apărare și Securitate, București

<sup>7</sup> apud, C. THOMAS, *Global governance, development and human security - the challenge of poverty and inequality*, Pluto Press, London, 2000, p.4

Thus, Human Security means protecting fundamental freedoms, namely to protect individuals from relatively common threats and critical situations, by resorting to a series of processes that enhance their power and aspirations - the establishment of political, social, environmental, economic, military and cultural systems, able to ensure survivability, access to vital resources, and preservation of dignity. The Human Security also describes a condition of existence in which basic material needs are met and where human dignity, including active participation in community's life, can be fulfilled.

This paper strives to analyze previous attempts of operationalizing the concept of Human Security, establishing a range of approaching the subject under the light of performance indexes flourishing. Indicators like the *Human Development Index* of the UN Development Program, the *Failed States Index*, the *Index of States Fragility in a Developing World*, the *Index of Economic Freedom* or the one of *prosperity*, or the *World Competitiveness Yearbook*, all may contribute to the establishment of a *Human Security Index*, a necessary step toward shaping the general epistemological space and the evolution of human security condition.

### **A CRITICAL VIEW ON “THE AUDIT OF HUMAN SECURITY” SYNTAGMA**

In general terms, the notion of *audit* designs a control activity, a certification of parameters compliance, the conformity with certain restriction and the level of objective achieving.

In this respect, we may assess that the collocation “audit of Human Security” doesn't have a clear sense as long as the reference term is an abstract notion, with a large and not unanimously established range of representation.

There are two directions of approaching the subject of auditing: by one hand, the strictly speaking audit of Human Security related projects<sup>8</sup> (lucrative actions, developed in the base of a budgeted project, with clear objectives and terms of execution, managed by a responsible executive) and, by the other hand, the so-called “audit” of the Human Security status, spatially and temporally delineated, with the purpose of emphasizing de performance level of the target related to a relevant check-list.

In the first situation, the audit aims to conclude the conformity of Human Security programs with the pursued policy and end states, through a legal and economical perspective. Therefore, projects are subject of complex analysis, from financial issues to any other constraint or limitation regarding the work procedures, by examining the correspondent documentations, interviewing involved branches and performing in situ verifications, as appropriate. This kind of audit is critical for maintaining a firm control over the projects' compliance and budgetary spending, in order to hold investors' trust and the certitude of reaching the desired objectives, when safe, legal and constructive procedures are considered to be applied.

The second acceptance of the *audit* notion is linked with the measurement and determination of the Human Security status within a defined environment (from clearly delimited communities up to a global vision), for a certain period of time. We may talk about *auditing* when we refer to the compliance check or measurement of the performance accomplishment related to clearly defined and pre-established standards. All these have to be related with common accepted

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<sup>8</sup> \*\*\*, *Audit of the Human Security Program (HSP)*, February 2002, in [http://www.international.gc.ca/about-a\\_propos/oig-big/2002/human\\_security\\_program-programme\\_secuite\\_humaine.aspx?lang=eng](http://www.international.gc.ca/about-a_propos/oig-big/2002/human_security_program-programme_secuite_humaine.aspx?lang=eng)

objectives of performance, promoted both within academic environment and the political language, with a pronounced practical profile expressed through various programs implementation. Since the level of such measurement institutionalization and quantification is far to be generally achieved, and the process of concept operationalization is not matured, we cannot consider a proper process of *auditing*, but a *measurement* of Human Security status (even this one being questionable due to existing methodologies).

However, efforts to generate an Index of Human Security, supported by an appropriate methodology to measure the human security status, are not negligible. The scores achieved by countries in various references (defining human security dimensions) generate indexes which rank particular situations and establish a hierarchy of countries' performance in relevant fields. As an exponent of the human security status, the national situation is a reflection of the communities' situation, as sums of individuals, subject to certain rigours. The measurement operation is dependent by a number of indicators and parameters, which order phenomena - in amplitude, or spaces - in performance, within an integrated approach designed to give a dimension that refer to expectations or predetermined objectives.

A comparison of such indexes, starting from enclosed references that specifically approach distinctive dimensions of Human Security status, within similar space and timeframe, would emphasize distinct connexions between conditions characterizing a nation, but without avows on axiomatic rules establishment.

Beside this, the use of specific tools belonging to the Human Security status measurement, requires extensive data base and statistics, both official and private, a certain guarantee of records' accuracy, a corroboration of the findings with media investigations, ONG reports, academic studies, and so on.

Data gathering must be carefully approached, having in mind that media, politicians and various activists may tend to distortion the reality accordingly to their particular interests. As an example, the study of a think tank analysis must begin from an initial assessment of the initiating structure: location, key-personnel, sponsors, political beliefs, position on significant events, a.s.o.

Not less important is being aware that establishing a formula which ranks countries undertake responsibility for the obtained results, as well as for derivatives and possible interpretations. In this regard, the data must be verified and linked to local realities. A special attention should be paid to the terminology used, which must be strongly related to the reality; unverified or uninspired name given to a concept can lead to symbolic perceptions and unforeseen and harmful consequences<sup>9</sup>.

The comparison of the states<sup>10</sup>, as representing weighted sums of the indicators defining the physical security and the wellbeing of the individuals, is not an easy attempt. But it deserves any effort, as long as the results of such approach emphasizes analogies, contrasts, interdependences and trends, allowing accurate assessments and shaping appropriate preventive attitudes in human security matters.

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<sup>9</sup> Alexandru KIȘ, Daniel FRUNZETTI, "*Topul Statelor Eșuate*", de la reper în cercetarea științifică la instrument de manipulare, published in *Politici și strategii de securitate în cadrul relațiilor internaționale la începutul mileniului al III-lea*, Universitatea "Lucian Blaga", Sibiu, 24 may 2008

<sup>10</sup> A se vedea cerințele specifice ale sociologiei politice comparative în Mattei DOGAN, Dominique PELASSY, *Cum să comparăm națiunile*, Editura Alternative, București, 1993

### THE MEASUREMENT OF THE HUMAN SECURITY STATUS

We can account several previous attempts to establish a methodology to measure the human security status, since King G. and C. Murray<sup>11</sup>, who, starting from the theory of generalized poverty, have proposed three alternatives of measurement: *Years of Individual Human Security* (YIHS - number of years lived by a person outside of the state of generalized poverty), *Individual Human Security* (HIS – the ratio between YIHS and the total duration of individual's life) and *The Population Years of Human Security* (PYHS - representing a weighted YIHS at community level).

Kanti Bajpai<sup>12</sup>, who links the Human Security to direct and indirect threats to the safety and welfare of the individuals, has built a methodology based on a two-stage assessment, listing potential threats toward individuals and evaluating the resistance capacity to them.

The *Index of Human Insecurity* (IHI)<sup>13</sup> proposed by Steve Loneragan, Kent Gustavson, and Brian Carter inside GECHS (The Global Environmental Change and Human Security Project) defines Human Security related to a series of social and environmental conditions which, when applied to economically and institutionally vulnerable communities, can lead to circumstances of insecurity.

At his earlier issue, the Human Security Report of the Human Security Centre was limited to assess the human insecurity status sternly accounting human deaths resulting from armed conflict and criminal violence; the 2005 edition<sup>14</sup> developed its analytical approach by addressing issues such as human rights abuses and human trafficking.

Taylor Owen<sup>15</sup> has critically approached previous methods and considered as best methodology the one limiting the space of reference when measuring the human security status; thus, the desirable area of reference is the region, characterized by certain homogeneity.

Through *Participatory Vulnerability Analysis* - PVA<sup>16</sup>, E. Chiwaka and R. Yates have promoted a systematic process that entails communities in a thorough examination of self vulnerabilities, motivating them to take appropriate action. The basic principle of the model is that communities know best their own situation and any analysis must be built on this knowledge of their conditions.

More concretely, R. Bedeski<sup>17</sup> contributes with a complex formula providing a measurement of the individual extent of human security:

$$HS = I + K + F + E$$

where individual Human Security (HS) is the sum of the individual's relevant aspects of security (I), his degree of knowledge (K), the family (clan) membership

<sup>11</sup> Gary KING, Christopher MURRAY, *Rethinking Human Security. Political Science Quarterly*, Vol.116, No.4, in <http://gking.harvard.edu/files/hs.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> Kanti BAJPAI, *Human Security: Concept and Measurement*, Kroc Institute, SUA, 2000, in <http://www.cpdindia.org/conceptandmeasurement.htm>

<sup>13</sup> Steve LONERAGAN, Kent GUSTAVSON, Brian CARTER, *The Index of Human Insecurity*, in AVISO, no. 6/ January 2000, at <http://www.gechs.org/aviso/06/>

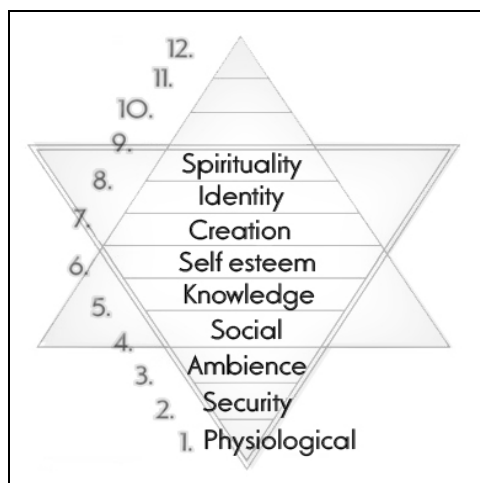
<sup>14</sup> \*\*\*, *Human Security Report 2005*, Human Security Centre, in <http://www.humansecurityreport.info/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=28&Itemid=63>

<sup>15</sup> Taylor OWEN, *Human Security Mapping: A New Methodology*, Oslo: Peace Research Institute, November 3, 2003, in [http://www.prio.no/files/file44641\\_human\\_security\\_mapping.pdf](http://www.prio.no/files/file44641_human_security_mapping.pdf) PHPSESSID=b8a30ac

<sup>16</sup> Ethlet CHIWAKA, Roger YATES, *Participatory Vulnerability Analysis*, ActionAid International, 2005, in [http://www.proventionconsortium.org/themes/default/pdfs/CRA/PVA\\_ActionAid2005\\_meth.pdf](http://www.proventionconsortium.org/themes/default/pdfs/CRA/PVA_ActionAid2005_meth.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> Robert E. BEDESKI, *A Human Security Approach to Japan's Modern State Formation: A Comparative Reading through the Lens of E H Norman's "Origins of the Modern Japanese State"*, in *Sungkyun Journal of East Asian Studies*, Academy of East Asian Studies, vol. 5, no. 1, 2005, pp. 97-116

(F) and the economic sufficiency he benefit from (E). Relating this formula to the *basic human needs pyramid* (figure 1) developed by A. Burcu<sup>18</sup>, proceeding research findings of Abraham Maslow and Frederick Herzberg, we note that the need of security consolidates the basis of prospective equilibrium of the individual, expressed as stability and sustainability of existence.



**Figure 1.** The basic human needs pyramid/stages of needs (apud Aurelian BURCU, *Piramida trebuințelor umane fundamentale*, Editura Fundației Mercur, 2003, p. 12)

Factors that determine the need for security of the individual are classified by A. Burcu in the base of produced effects and not on the source. As a result, he identified *factors relating to physical safety* and *factors affecting psychological safety*, in a close interdependence and relation<sup>19</sup>. In this case, we can replace (I) with the integrated risk exponent (R), as amount of identified hazards in all security dimensions concerning the individual.

This first formula has as reference the *human in nature* (the individual) and serves as a basis for understanding the *human in society* (the pre-state person) and the *human in state* (as citizen). As T. Frunzeti noted, the individual's existence cannot be held outside of living structured system (regardless the level of representation) and therefore, the security analysis cannot ignore its elements<sup>20</sup>. Thus, to the natural determinants are also compounded: *the context*, both structural and historical; *the culture*; *the structure* of actors and their resources; *the processes*, dynamic relations of cooperation or antagonism; *the effects* or intentional and unintentional consequences of actions, omissions and processes. In addition, cooperation, competition and conflict are conditions that contribute to strengthen status and security of individuals within social groups.

The security assessment of the human structured system as a sum of human security experiences brings into the equation the additional protective capabilities, deliberately developed in order to set up an awareness system for the prevention of hazards and impact reduction, but also the inherent risks

<sup>18</sup> Aurelian BURCU, *Piramida trebuințelor umane fundamentale*, Editura Fundației Mercur, 2003, p. 12

<sup>19</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 15-16

<sup>20</sup> Teodor FRUNZETI, *Cunoașterea și contracararea factorilor de risc și a vulnerabilităților la adresa securității umane (I)*, in *Gândirea militară românească* no. 1/2009, p. 40, [www.defense.ro](http://www.defense.ro)

generated by social life. Consequently, starting from Bedeski's formula regarding the national security, we can define the security of communities, correlated to corresponding territorial systems, as:

$$Sc = m(HS) + Pc + Pe - Rs$$

where the security of a community (Sc) represents the human security average achieved by all individuals within its territory (m(HS)), the added value of communities' protective capabilities (Pc) and the external support (Pe), lessened by specific social risks (Rs).

Even if the status of state's citizen implies the existence of a "social contract" whereby individuals give up a degree of autonomy, the social being means an extension from the limited affinity towards relatives to the enlarged community, provides access to a rich volume of knowledge, facilitates an appropriate economic reward, according to the level of expertise, and, through specific means, the State develops a degree of collective security, including most of the benefits expressed by the concept of Human Security.

This view challenges the readiness level of the state, society and international community as a whole regarding an appropriate assessment of the transformations of nature, society, economy, ideology, equipment and technology a.s.o., in order to ensure its own evolutionary transformation throughout a smooth process, with no disturbances and revolutionary shocks at individual level.

### **THOUGHTS ON HUMAN SECURITY INDEX SETTING UP**

Developing an index of human security (Human Security Index - HSI) is a challenge that starts from the need to properly manage all the dimensions of the notion and its endorsed applications, identifiable within policies globally promoted. As the ICISS report of 2002<sup>21</sup> revealed, the human security seeks reconciliation of the security for individuals with the security of the state, recognizing state's sovereignty, but, nonetheless, the assistance which the international community must provide to individuals by authorizing *interventions* (even military) aiming to protect them in special conditions. This statement marks the transition from the concept of sovereignty as state's absolute principle to that of sovereignty as prerogative conditioned by the "social contract". As a matter of fact, this position requires sound fundamentals and responsibility. In this respect, it is mandatory to overcome the circumstances of human security policy agenda<sup>22</sup>, coming to concrete initiatives of instituting principles of such intervention.

The Index of Human Security may have a particular utility for this purpose<sup>23</sup>, as a possible marker of an early warning system for human condition alteration (HSI accurately depicts trends of human security dimensions). It also allows to focus on high-risk geographical regions (through *Geographical*

<sup>21</sup> International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS), *The responsibility to protect: report from the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty*, 2002, in <http://www.dfaitmaeci.gc.ca/iciss-ciise/report-en.asp>

<sup>22</sup> Rita FLOYD, *Human Security and the Copenhagen School's Securitization Approach: Conceptualizing Human Security as a Securitizing Move*, in *Human Security Journal* no. 5/2007, p. 38

<sup>23</sup> More detailed in Kanti BAJPAI, *Human Security: Concept and Measurement*, in <http://www.cpdindia.org/conceptandmeasurement.htm>

*Information Systems - GIS*<sup>24</sup>, delineating maps of sensitivity in terms of human security, which provide a geopolitical perspective on the subject), as well as on critical branches (by disaggregating HSI score and identifying elements that compose the drivers of evolution, enabling an appropriate remedial response).

Beyond the relative knowledge ensured by the access to data, scientific comparison promoted by such an index assumes the deduction of general laws in many specific cases. They are reflected in causality and spatial-temporal interdependences of state's analyzed indicators evolution.

All this may serve to redefine the priorities in national and international policies (in terms of target groups and appropriate rules, regulations and administrative measures), leading to the establishment of national and international standards to ensure multidimensional protection of human being.

The Commission on Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress (CMEPSP), established at the request of President Sarkozy in February 2008<sup>25</sup>, aimed, inter alia, the determination of relevant indicators of social progress and development and creation of feasible alternative instruments for the proper handling of statistical information that could represent the basis of the emerging principles of compiling an Index of Human Security.

The authors of the Report have considered that it is advisable to shift from the measurement system focused on economic output to a new formula measuring the population well-being, the latter directly connected with the sustainability of a society.

The measurement of material welfare or living standards (expressed in terms of population income and consumption levels, to the detriment of the classic model focused on the production) is considered a starting point for this approach. Welfare is a multidimensional indicator, which should be considered in an integrated manner, enabling scientists to achieve a complete picture of the reality. These key dimensions, as analyzed by Sarkozy Commission, are<sup>26</sup>:

- the material standards of living (income, consumption and property);
- health;
- education;
- personal activities, including employment and housing;
- political expression and government;
- social connections and relational system;
- the environment (present and future condition);
- economic and physical insecurity.

The performance in matter of welfare must always be correlated with the sustainability and its mechanisms for long-standing subsistence. The measurement and evaluation of sustainability, as a separate indicator of welfare, raises a series of issues regarding the model of evolution, politically conditioned. The sustainability is expressed by the preservation/development of "stocks" (quantities and qualities of natural resources, as well as physical and social human capital) capable to warrant the ensuring of future welfare.

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<sup>24</sup> A good starting reference available in Nathalie STEPHENNE, Clementine BURNLEY, Francois KAYITAKIRE et al., *Consultative assessment and Geographical Information Systems techniques to develop a regional spatial decision support model of instability – test case on the Caucasus Region*, Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Communities, 2009

<sup>25</sup> Joseph E. STIGLITZ, Amartya SEN, Jean-Paul FITOUSSI, *Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress*, in [www.stiglitz-sen-fitoussi.fr](http://www.stiglitz-sen-fitoussi.fr)

<sup>26</sup> *Ibidem.*, p. 14-15



Another important element in the equation of welfare is the need to find appropriate expression within subjective dimensions of perceived quality of life, which depends on objective conditions and capabilities of communities. Beyond accounting the average welfare of the subject communities, it is also required to record the diversity of individual experiences and the links between various dimensions of life. Valuable and interesting steps have been made in the field of subjective perception of the quality of life and well being, translated into individual levels of happiness. Suggestive examples are those of the overall projection of happiness and well-being conducted by Adrian White, of the University of Leicester (2007)<sup>27</sup>, or The Index of (Un)happy Planet - HPI, released by the British think-tank *The New Economics Foundation* – NEF<sup>28</sup>, since 2006.

The Human Security status check within a community (including the territorial system), related to *the incidence of threats* (dependent on hazards) versus *the management capabilities* (rules, institutions, decisional degree of representation) may also constitute a guide mark in comparison making of community-territory systems. The multitude of communities, each with its cultural specificities and their horizons of understanding, requires a certain flexibility of the concept of human security. Its operationalization should follow analytical usefulness, political sustainability and practical dimensions.

The lack of a participatory effort, a pre-emptive projection of quantitative indicators at the expense of qualitative markers<sup>29</sup>, a certain conservatism of the traditional concept of security, or an anthropocentric limitation of the approach, without a self-adjustment to the culture of the ecosystem, all of them may stand to corrupt a possible Index of Human Security<sup>30</sup>.

There are also other possible several limitations of a Human Security Index, as K. Bajpai revealed<sup>31</sup>:

- that one of validity and consistency, raised by an adequate representation of the concept through the indicators implementation;
- the problem posed by the aggregation of different measures, and their weighting within an unique formula determining the human security level;
- strong regional print of the realities expressed by the HSI;
- subjectivity of social realities understanding, which requires corroboration with other methods (such as surveys of public opinion, periodic qualitative assessment of the human security status, and others).

### **THE HUMAN SECURITY INDEX – METHODOLOGICAL GUIDE MARKS**

Establishing an Index of Human Security engages the completion of several stages. Thus, in a first phase, it would be laid down a list of relevant indicators defining subsequent fields of human security and the threats to which

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.technovelgy.com/ct/Science-Fiction-News.asp?NewsNum=893>

<sup>28</sup> Saamah ABDALLAH, Sam THOMPSON, Juliet MICHAELSON et al., *The UnHappy Planet Index 2.0: Why good lives don't have to cost the Earth*, The New Economics Foundation, June 2009, in <http://www.happyplanetindex.org/public-data/files/happy-planet-index-2-0.pdf>; the counted dimensions purposed to define the frame of a happy life are: life expectancy, life satisfaction and the ecologic print (the human consumption versus Planet's resources recovery capabilities)

<sup>29</sup> Qualitative dimensions of Human Security include: emancipation, strengthen and capacity of enjoying human dignity

<sup>30</sup> Katja SVENSSON, *Human security as inclusive security – gender, epistemology and equality*, in *Institute for Security Studies, African Security Review*, 16.2

<sup>31</sup> BAJPAI, Kanti, *Human Security: Concept and Measurement*, Kroc Institute, SUA, 2000, in <http://www.cpdindia.org/conceptandmeasurement.htm>

they are subjected. After A. Mack or N. Thomas and W. Tow<sup>32</sup>, a holistic accounting of all the listed risks would lead to the concept's analytical weakness. They consider as appropriate to focus exclusively on relevant references belonging to the envisaged territorial structures. Each of these references are to be determined through an evaluation algorithm, preferably in a form that weights the threat level or degree of vulnerability against the counter-reaction or readiness level on the identified risk.

Collecting<sup>33</sup> and organizing data is another important step, having given the area of interest and the plurality of dimensions that contributes to defining human security landscape. The subsidiarity principle becomes important in terms of feasibility of data collection process, taking into account that the data collected in a given area may not be available for another space; in this situation, other equivalent indicators can be assimilated, as appropriate. Starting from this idea, T. Owen and O. Slaymaker have considered useful if data sets have would detailed only the best represented regional indicator, for each considered threat<sup>34</sup>. This option allows us to give more weight to risks that define vectors leading to collateral effects of other circumstances affecting normal life's coordinates.

It is clear that the workload and necessary resources to achieve a database of this scale are considerable and difficult to reach. An undemanding adaptation of such an approach is to compile and organize data furnished by various indexes put into service by academic institutions, think tanks, or scientific organizations, but under several cautions.

With the completion of data collection (their selection from composite indicators lists of other specialized indices), it is necessary to organize the findings in GIS, using territorial systems' references link. The spatial visualization and data analysis allows accurately picturing a broad view over the geographical region of reference, highlighting areas with higher incidence of multiple and severe threats (the so-called "hot-spots")<sup>35</sup>. Hence, hot-spots are depicted as a concurrence between accounted vulnerabilities and identified hazards threatening a system. The analysis of hot-spots, as regions of aggregated human insecurity, allows the correlation of risk relating sources which are traditionally issuing from different disciplines, with distinctive policies. Hot-spots expressively illustrate regional distribution of vulnerabilities within states; this awareness is especially important with regard to the usefulness and relevance of development policies design.

Building a methodology around spatial references defines a common element – the space, as physical support of the territorial system – that allows direct aggregation and analysis of human security status according to the values of the indicators identified as relevant.

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<sup>32</sup> Andrew MACK, *Feasibility of Creating an Annual Human Security Report. Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research*, Harvard University, 2002; Nicholas THOMAS, William TOW, *The utility of human security: sovereignty and humanitarian intervention*, Security Dialogue no. 33, pp. 177–192, 2002, in <http://sdi.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/33/2/177>

<sup>33</sup> Data gathering is performed by using local researchers, ONG community, and also by compiling existent databases belonging to Ministers or International Organizations

<sup>34</sup> Taylor OWEN, Olav SLAYMAKER, *Toward Modeling Regionally Specific Human Security Using GIS: Case Study Cambodia*, in *AMBIO: A Journal of the Human Environment*, vol. 34, issue 6, August 2005, pp. 445–449, in [http://ambio.allenpress.com/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1639%2F0044-7447\(2005\)034%5B0445%3ATMRSHS%5D2.0.CO%3B2&ct=1](http://ambio.allenpress.com/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1639%2F0044-7447(2005)034%5B0445%3ATMRSHS%5D2.0.CO%3B2&ct=1)

<sup>35</sup> OWEN, Taylor, *Human Security Mapping: A New Methodology*, Oslo: Peace Research Institute, November 3, 2003, in [http://www.prio.no/files/file44641\\_human\\_security\\_mapping.pdf?PHPSESSID=b8a30ac](http://www.prio.no/files/file44641_human_security_mapping.pdf?PHPSESSID=b8a30ac)

We propose such a scheme of connecting indicators belonging to other indexes in order to frame an initial matrix of a possible HSI. The Index approach has to take into account, not exhaustively, the following considerations:

- HSI main references are those described by UNDP Report;
- The used Indexes follow, if and as appropriate, the requirements expressed in the Sarkozy Commission's Report. Some dimensions of the Human Security concept are not sufficiently covered, claiming more exploratory advances;
- The dimensions common to more indicators will be examined for weighting their importance. The value of each indicator is to be represented on a single value scale. The level of threat would be aggravated by the existence of particular vulnerabilities and attenuated by protective factors belonging to the state or community, or implied by external interventions and support;
- Each territorial reference system faced with situations of risk to the human security matches a prominent driver, that engages collateral vulnerabilities and risk situations. The analysis should determine how the driver influences the evolution of the reality, compared to the pre-event condition of facts. This approach allows shaping the evolutionary model of the human security status' dimensions with or without a certain persuasion of the influencing vector.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

There are at least two reasons of promoting a Human Security Index.

First, researchers may have a broadened vision and a better understanding of the human security roots and its development mechanisms. The measurement of human security is a necessary requirement of conceptual operationalization. In this respect, defining a set of reference areas must take into account the possibility of quantifying indicators they contain, but also allowing a certain degree of relativity in their measurement. All this requires a sustained and multilateral effort, purposed to support the determination of actual developments on the strenght of systems' causality and procesuality.

Moreover, the decisional and executive actors (international organizations, NGOs, governments, local administrations) must perform a meaningful assessment of the impact of the policies they promote and to adjust them accordingly to the pursued finalities.

We want to emphasize that, if a distinct approach to the indicators of interest would not raise major difficulties, their correlation requires a considerable effort of representation. Creating a single composite Index of Human Security by aggregating all dimensions of human security concept is a challenging approach. The use, in this idea, of the wide range of close-related existing indexes developed by various academic institutions, think-tanks, publications, NGOs, is an opportunity that must not be neglected. All these indexes define realities of the human security status and its evolution in the territorial systems.

The practical side of the human security is to use the concept as a research tool regarding security analysis issues, concretized both as a Human Security Index and as a catalyst for implementation/ adjustment of policies and programs aiming to improve the multidimensional parameters of the human being. In this respect, it is no less significant the engendered added-value in the scientific understanding of society, ensured by the material outcome of the concept operationalization.

By providing a valid measurement, the Human Security Index, along with other indexes affording references in the fields that configure the human condition, can help detect correlations able to deepen the debate, to change perceptions and develop on new bases the sustainable development efforts.

Assuming human security references as basic orientation for states' and International Organizations' politics of action ensures, above everything, an ethical dimension<sup>36</sup> of the approach.

The human security is, simultaneously, a condition and an expression of the sustainable development. Its requirements are closely linked with ensuring stability and balance between socioeconomic systems and elements of the natural capital, beyond a simple anthropocentric approach.

No less important, capitalizing on the concept of human security at the decisional level of security organizations provides certainty of a new approach to crisis situations and another vision in shaping the post-conflict reconstruction strategies.

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