

Celebrating the Belo Horizonte Food Security Programme



**Future Policy Award 2009:
Solutions for the Food Crisis**

“It’s so easy to end it.”

**Ariana Aranha, Special Assistant to Belo Horizonte’s
Food Security Programme and Brazil’s Zero Hunger Strategy**

**“Nothing is more degrading than hunger,
especially when man made.”**

Ban Ki Moon, United Nations Secretary General



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Hunger is about people – ending hunger is about policies

Food is not a material commodity. It cannot be treated as a material commodity. It is as essential as the air we need to breathe. If people don't eat they don't live."

Ariana Aranha¹

Lack of food destroys innocent lives, weakens human potential, creates misery and suffering and perpetuates inequalities as the hungry lack the strength to progress. Yet hunger can be overcome if the right policies are in place.

"Within a decade no man, woman or child will go to bed hungry", declared Henry Kissinger in 1974 at the first World Food Conference. 35 years later one billion people suffer hunger every day.

Why are hundreds of millions of people still hungry?

- It's not because there's a shortage of food. Agricultural production per person has increased by 20 % worldwide since 1980.²
- It's not because of poor economic growth. Half of India's children still suffer from malnutrition.³ And the country's progress in reducing hunger came to a halt during the booming 1990s.⁴
- It's not because a population grows too fast. In China each couple can only have one child, yet the number of hungry people rose in the boom periods 1995-97 and 2002-04.²

Hundreds of millions of people are still hungry because the current system of producing and distributing food is fundamentally flawed.



At the 2008 Food Summit UN General Secretary Ban-Ki Moon stated: "The threats are obvious to us all. Yet this crisis also presents us with an opportunity. It is a chance to revisit past policies. While we must respond immediately to high food prices, it is important that our longer term focus is on improving world food security."⁵



Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, Article 25.

(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

(2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.⁶

Rome Declaration on World Food Security 1996:

“Reaching sustainable world food security is part and parcel of achieving the social, economic, environmental and human development objectives agreed upon in recent international conferences. If all parties at local, national, regional and international levels make determined and sustained efforts, then the overall goal of food for all, at all times, will be achieved.”⁷

“**Malnutrition** is the lack of adequate food utilization which, in this context, is the proper digestion and absorption of nutrients in food by the human body and requires adequate diet, water sanitation, health services, and health education.”⁷

“**Food Security** exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy lifestyle”.⁷ Important for this definition are the following elements:

- Availability – sufficient food to supply peoples’ needs
- Accessibility – people’s economic and physical ability to acquire food
- Acceptability – cultural and nutritional suitability of the available food
- Appropriateness – ecological sustainability and safety of food supply
- Agency – access to accurate information on food supply, quality and safety for informed choices.

Food Sovereignty is “the right of each nation to maintain and develop their own capacity to produce foods that are crucial to national and community food security, respecting cultural diversity and diversity of production methods”.⁸



Future Policy Award 2009

Policies to change the world

W“We can’t carry on living off the capital of the earth without replenishing it. The new global food crisis is an urgent wake-up call: we risk leaving future generations conditions under which they can no longer feed themselves.”

Nurturing our Future, 2008 Declaration of the World Future Council

Climate change, ecosystem destruction, food and water shortage and financial turmoil call for courageous regulatory intervention. The Future Policy Award is designed to draw the attention of policy-makers and the public to the importance of model laws and to highlight examples of regulatory vision. ‘Policies to change the world’ are rated highest against the World Future Council seven policy principles that safeguard the rights of future generations and secure Future Justice.*

Celebrating visionary policies raises public awareness, encourages rapid learning and speeds up policy action towards just, sustainable and peaceful societies. That is why, each year, the World Future Council chooses one topic on which policy progress is particularly urgent and calls for

nominations of model policies that are inspiring, innovative and impactful. The Future Policy Award 2009 celebrates successful policies for food security – policies that create fair and sustainable food systems, be they regional, national or global, and thus contribute to a better world.

Winner Future Policy Award 2009

- **The Belo Horizonte Food Security Programme (Brazil)** – the world’s most comprehensive policy that tackles hunger immediately and secures a healthy food supply for the future.

Highly commended

- **Urban Agriculture (Cuba)**
- **Protection and Promotion of the Heritage of Local Breeds and Plant Varieties (Tuscany, Italy)**

* The seven policy principles are based on work of the International Law Association and reflect the World Future Council’s vision for Future Justice: creating a framework of governance that improves justice and wellbeing today while securing good living conditions for our children and children’s children. See page 8 for more information.





Food security in Belo Horizonte

T“There is a pervasive attitude that this is not the role of the state. And we challenge this: Why isn’t this the role of the state? Because the state is saving banks, constructing highways – why not save lives through food?”

Ariana Aranha

The city of Belo Horizonte in Brazil is a world pioneer in governance for food security. Its Municipal Law No. 6.352, 15/07/1993 set out a policy framework that is committed to the concept of food sovereignty: the right of peoples to define their own food and agricultural policies, to protect and regulate their production and trade in such a manner as to secure sustainable development, to determine the degree of their autonomy and to eliminate dumping on their markets.

History of the Belo Horizonte Food Security Programme

This success story started in 1993 when the Brazilian ‘Movement for Ethics in Politics’ emerged and mobilised up to 30 million people. ‘Citizenship Action against Hunger, Poverty and for Life’ was based on principles of solidarity and human rights

and involved social movements as well as political parties. People were viewed as citizens rather than consumers and food insecurity as a market failure requiring government intervention.

The newly elected mayor of Belo Horizonte, Patrus Ananias, acknowledged his 2.5 million citizens’ right to food and the duty of the government to guarantee this right. He created a Secretariat for Food Policy and Supply that included a 20 member council of citizens, workers and business leaders from all sectors involved with food, and church representatives to advise in the design and implementation of a new food system. The explicit mandate was to increase access to healthy food for all as a measure of social justice.

Goals of the Belo Horizonte Food Security Programme

- Because conventional markets are often too expensive for low-income groups, various channels of affordable access to healthy food were created.
- Because the poorest parts of the city, the shantytowns, are usually not well served with food distribution, mobile services were set up.

- Because children, expecting or nursing women and elder people are the most vulnerable to food insecurity, free health assessments, food supplements or full daily feeding were made available.
- Because family-agriculture is a key for rural social sustainability, reduced migration to the cities and organic production methods, government food purchases and selling incentives prioritised local producers.
- Because poverty is already marginalising and people don't need to be reminded of the stigma, most parts of the programme became universally accessible.
- Because the image of Brazilian public service was poor and trust needed to be built in a government-led food system, a commitment to high quality and a vision of 'food with dignity' underpinned the entire programme.

Concepts of the Belo Horizonte Food Security Programme

- Integrate logistics and supply chains of the entire food system
- Tie local producers directly to consumers to reduce prices and increase food sovereignty
- Use government purchases to stimulate local, diversified agricultural production and job creation
- Educate the population about food security and good nutrition
- Regulate markets on selected produce to guarantee the right to healthy, high-quality food to all of its citizens

Result: Hunger has been almost eliminated for the cost of less than 10 million USD per year, just 2% of the city's annual budget.

Success in Numbers

60% fewer children are dying compared to 10 years ago

25% fewer people live in poverty⁹

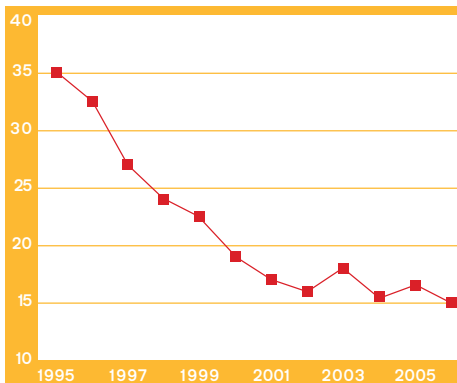
75% fewer children under 5 are hospitalised for malnutrition

40% of the population benefit directly from the programme

40% of people in Belo Horizonte report frequent intake of fruit and vegetables; the national average is just 32%¹⁰

2 million farmers have access to credit, 700.000 for the first time in their lives¹¹

Mortality rate among children under 5 years per 1000



Source: Health Ministry, Datasus 2006

While the national movement ended with the election of President Fernando Henrique Cardoso in 1995, Belo Horizonte continued to develop its municipal policy framework and programme. It became a model policy for President Lula da Silva as he launched his nationwide Zero Hunger Programme (Fome Zero)¹² in 2003, for which Patrus Ananias became lead advisor and later Minister for Social Development and the Fight against Hunger.

The right to food – a policy decision for life

“People see working with food as if it was charity or donation, but if you work with food as if it was a basic right, you convince the population”.

Ariana Aranha

The Right to Food is one of the 30 universal human rights defined by the United Nations in 1966. These rights comprise conditions necessary and essential for all human beings to exist, develop their capacities and fully participate in society, in a dignified and egalitarian manner, without discrimination.

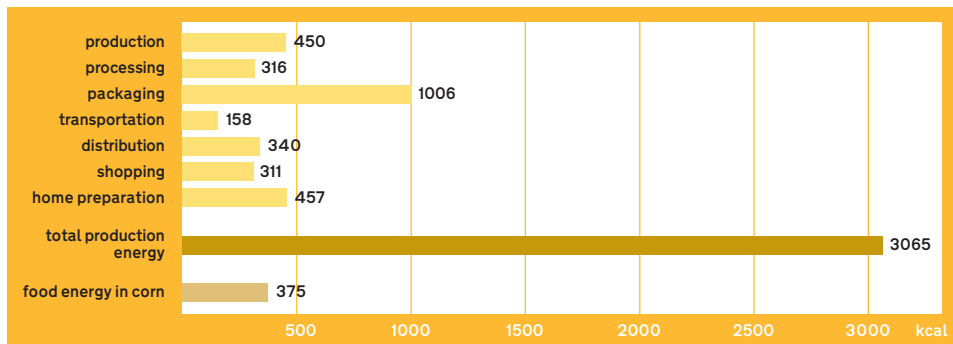
With rights for citizens come duties for governments and responsibilities for fellow citizens. This means that every child starving to death is a failure of civilisation. The world community fails over 30,000 times each day.¹³

Why is there so much food in the world yet so many continue without?

Market structures that are competitive, profit seeking and speculative create price structures that exclude the poor from access to healthy food and hinder investments into small-scale agriculture.

- World food prices roughly doubled between 2006 and 2009, yet the most significant jump was in a single year, between April 2007 and April 2008, when prices rose by 85 % as speculators re-oriented their portfolios toward food commodities.¹⁴
- In many developing countries the agricultural sector was more productive 50 years ago than it is today. During that period, between 1980 and 2002, Official Development Aid for small-scale agriculture was cut by 85 %.¹⁴
- Our highly decentralized convenience-oriented industrial agricultural system eats up to 10 times the amount of calories that it delivers for the consumer.¹⁵

Energy inputs for a 455 g can of sweet corn





Gearing policies towards the right to food means gearing our investments towards life.

The world spent US \$ 1,200 billion on arms in 2006 alone. This is 400 times the amount needed to end world hunger. “Against that backdrop, how can we explain to people of good sense and good faith that it was not possible to find US \$ 30 billion a year to enable 862 million hungry people to enjoy the most fundamental of human rights: the right to food and thus the right to life?” Executive Director, FAO, Dr. Jacques Diouf¹⁸

Gearing policies towards the right to food means integrating production and consumption patterns and ensuring smart, sustainable and fair use of resources.

While 75 % of the world’s poor live in rural areas in developing countries, a mere 4 % of Official Development Assistance is directed to agriculture.¹⁶ This is the result of a shift in aid orientation: development aid turned into food hand-outs, meaning that payments mainly benefit producers, processors and shippers in wealthy countries. Annual spending on African farming projects by the US, for example, topped US \$ 400 million in the 1980s, but by 2006 had dwindled to US \$ 60 million. Instead, US \$ 2 billion was given to US farmers to grow crops for food aid.¹⁷

Gearing policies towards the right to food means creating rules of collaboration through which each person can lead a healthy life, free of hunger, empowered to contribute to the development of societies.

This shift involves a qualitative assessment of the goals and results of world policies, market incentives and investment decisions. The marketdriven ideology of past decades has not even succeeded in feeding the richest country in the world properly. In the US there are 2 kg of food – that is 8 fully loaded dinner plates – available each day for each person. And US \$ 1.6 billion is spent on marketing food and drinks to US children and teenagers each year.¹⁹ Yet 13 % of all US citizens – 38 million Americans – live in households where food security remains an issue.²⁰

Better policies – Future Justice

W“We have to ask ourselves: have we made the right choices and are we doing enough to provide our children with a sustainable future? Because our actions and our failures to act have been shaping the future of life on earth for thousands of years, if not forever.”

Bianca Jagger, WFC Councillor,
Human Rights Advocate

The World Future Council is convinced that for a sustainable and peaceful future we need to change our relationships with ourselves, with one another and with our earth. Sustainability means thinking in an integrated manner, connecting economic, social, environmental and cultural concerns. It means reconciling human wellbeing, security and equity with care for our environment, so that we do not overshoot the carrying capacity of our planet. With this goal the World Future Council tackles head on our cultural and economic values as well as our laws.



The vision of Future Justice means recognising the integrity, value and dignity of all human beings, the earth and all its life, and protecting it by law. The expected effect is increased justice today whilst safeguarding the conditions for justice in the future.

All ‘Policies to change the world’ meet the World Future Council’s seven policy principles conducive to Future Justice. These policies adopt an integrated approach to sustainability, foster respectful cooperation, equitable participation, and fair sharing of resources and benefits of economic, scientific and technological progress. Future Justice encourages policy making that works for future generations.

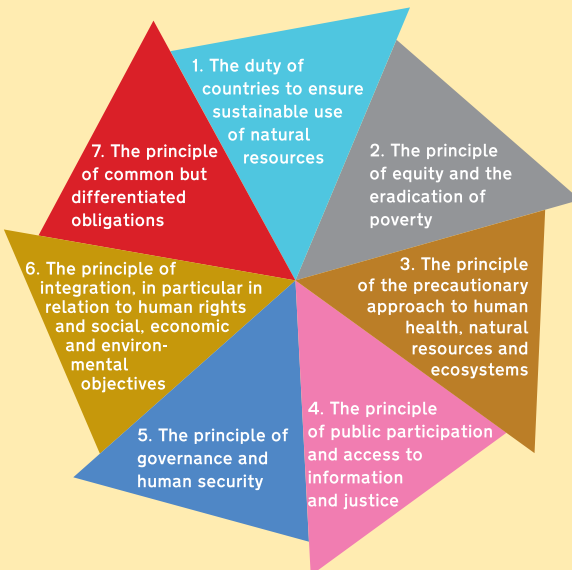
The seven principles for sustainable development law of the Delhi Declaration were presented at the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development. They are the product of ten years of academic work within the International Law Association and were presented as “a first crucial and definitive tool” for professionals dealing with policy making and evaluation.

The World Future Council adopted this “first blueprint for the emerging field of sustainable development law and policy”²¹ and amended some details on the advice of its Expert Commission on Future Justice. The resulting wheel symbolises the interrelationship between the seven principles.



To ensure fair and full policy assessment and to enable multi-regional comparisons to be made, the Future Justice Commission poses at least three questions against each principle to reflect important aspects in more detail.*

Examples of these questions are:
 Does the policy provide avenues of complaint and compensation for citizens, communities and others?
 Does the policy promote peaceful resolution of conflict, and help ensure that people are able to live in freedom from fear, and freedom from want?
 Does the policy ensure that development decision making takes environmental and social impacts into account?
 Does the policy take into account historical and other inequalities, including who has benefited from past activities and policies, when defining new obligations?



* In order to ensure comparability between different laws, research for the Future Policy Award adheres to the WFC Application Tool Kit (for download on our website: www.worldfuturecouncil.org/futurejustice).

Evaluating the Belo Horizonte Food Security Programme – a policy to change the world

The subject of food security is broad. I believe there is a responsibility that has to be divided – the market has responsibility; the state has responsibility; society has responsibility. It reaches from production to consumption, encompasses issues of sustainability and the environment. It does no good if people are producing food in a way that compromises future generations.”

Ariana Aranha

The Belo Horizonte Food Security Programme meets all of the Future Justice principles and is considered ‘A policy to change the world’.

Integrated, long term thinking

With the establishment of the Belo Horizonte Secretariat for Food Policy and Supply (SMAAB), tackling hunger was no longer a matter of ‘emergency help’ and instead became integrated into policy making, where root causes and structural issues could be considered. Most of the Belo Horizonte Food Security programmes started in the early 1990s continue today. The highly participatory nature of the organisation and thorough annual

evaluations allowed for programmes to be altered as circumstances changed. (Principles 4 & 5).

Clear organisation and mandate (1993)

- The Department for Promotion of Food Consumption and Nutrition is responsible for education on healthy eating and distribution of food supplements to groups at risk from or suffering malnutrition.
- The Department for Administration of Food Distribution supports people on low incomes with their food staples including fruit and vegetables by working in direct partnership with food vendors to improve affordability and quality.
- The Department for Incentives to Basic Food Production provides technical and financial support to encourage local production of fruits and vegetables by small and low-income farmers, to connect producers and consumers and to promote urban agriculture.



Complementary measures improving with 'learning curve' (status 2009)*

1. Subsidised Food Sales: Nutritious meals are offered at very low cost and under strict quality and pesticide control (Principles 2 & 3).

a. Popular Restaurants: The public eateries are the most famous component of the programme, offering healthy and balanced meals at very low cost through government subsidies. Four public eateries have been opened since 1994; the newest and also biggest restaurant was built in the region with the highest poverty indicators in 2009. The restaurants serve between 3,000 and 8,000 meals a day to up to 700 people at a time. 85% of visitors are poor but everybody can use this service to avoid stigmatisation.

b. Popular Big Baskets: These contain subsidised non-perishable food items and can be purchased at 26 specific points of sale in poor areas regularly served by vans. This component is restricted to registered low-income families that receive a magnetic card.

2. Food and Nutrition Assistance: Specific needs of at-risk groups are addressed through direct food supply at public schools and daycare centres, health clinics, nursing homes, homeless shelters and other charitable institutions (Principles 2, 3, 6).

a. School Meals Programme: By 2007 40 million meals were served in 218 public schools and day care centres. The food is paid for by the federal government.

b. Preventing and Fighting Malnutrition: Food supplements like enriched flour, powdered milk or cooking oil are delivered to families whose children show signs of malnutrition.

c. Food Banks: These were added in 2004 to reduce unnecessary food waste. Fresh fruit and vegetable donations are collected from farmers markets and grocery stores around the city. After cleaning and vacuum freezing the perishable food, it is distributed to charitable organizations and social service agencies. In 2007, 108 institutions received 600 tonnes of food.

3. Supply and Regulation of Food

Markets: Access to nutritious and quality food is improved for all by increasing the number of outlets supplying healthy basic food articles at lower prices (Principles 1, 2, 4, 5, 7).

a. Food Outlets: In key regions of the city food outlets are licenced to private operators under the agreement that a selection of 25 quality-controlled products are sold at set prices, about 20–50% below market price. Also, in exchange for the profitable selling spot, vendors are required to serve low-income periphery areas on the weekends, where they can also sell additional produce at their own prices.

* The programme today is divided into six lines of work (Rocha 2009 & WFC expert interviews) and incorporates additional funding and support opportunities of the national Zero Hunger strategy initiated by the Lula government in 2003.

b. Straight from the Country and Country Store:

This part of the programme facilitates direct interaction between rural producers and urban consumers. Rural producers selected through a public process are assigned fixed sale points throughout the city. The price and quality of their produce are regulated. In 2008, 34 producers from 8 rural municipalities participated in the scheme.

c. Farmers Markets and Organic Markets:

These are supported with the provision of public venues. Moreover, workshops on organic farming are conducted in the countryside. In 2008 the city operated 49 conventional and 7 organic markets, benefiting 97 small producers from surrounding areas.

d. Basic Basket Research: The city compiles weekly price lists for 45 basic household consumption items (mostly food) found in 60 supermarkets around the city. The lists are posted at bus stops and printed in newspapers and also accessible by phone and internet. Consumers are thus informed on lowest prices, which encourages competition among bigger commercial establishments.

4. Support to Urban Agriculture:

Participatory community involvement and the use of agro-ecological, sustainable methods in growing fruits, vegetables and medicinal plants in the urban area are promoted. In 2008 the city had 44 Community and 60 School Gardens, distributed over 1,600 seedlings for fruit trees and offered 62 workshops for planting in alternative spaces (Principles 1, 3, 4, 6).

5. Education for Food Consumption:

Workshops, manuals, posters and lessons on the internet provide information on safe handling and storage of food, cooking and healthy diets to address malnutrition in form of hunger and obesity. 3,500 people were reached in 2007, mainly multipliers like teachers or staff implementing other parts of the programme (Principles 3, 5, 6).

6. Job and Income Generation: 800 people participated in this programme that offers training in food-related professions in 2007 (Principles 3, 4, 5).

4-way win for food sovereignty:

Academics studying the Belo Horizonte policy consider the encouragement of local food production to be the most important programme from the medium to long-term perspective.²² They describe its effects as a ‘four-way win for food sovereignty’:

- Poverty reduction – incomes of often poor small farmers close to the city rise while more people can buy the food they need
- Rural sustainability – farmers can stay on their land instead of migrating to the overcrowded city with high unemployment and poverty rates
- Healthy nutrition – family agriculture increases the availability of fresh and health-promoting food for all citizens not produced by big farms in Brazil exporting sugar and oilseeds
- Price stability – increased local production reduces disturbances of volatile world market prices

Integrated policy making – key for food security

“I knew we had so much hunger in the world. But what is so upsetting, what I didn’t know when I started this, is it’s so easy. It’s so easy to end it”.

Ariana Aranha

A solution considered by the World Future Council as ‘A policy to change the world’ is likely to be contagious. In 2006 the Federal Government of Brazil adopted a National Food and Nutritional Security System. The goal is to guarantee food and nutrition security for all Brazilians. “Food and nutritional security consists in the realization of the human right to regular and permanent access to good quality food, in sufficient quantity, without compromising the fulfillment of other basic needs, having as its basis healthy nutritional habits that respect cultural diversity and that are environmentally, culturally, economically and socially sustainable” (Brazilian National Law No.11.346, 15th September 2006, Article 3).



Lessons for international learning

The success and level of sophistication of Brazil’s Food and Nutrition Security Strategy has made the country a showcase for international learning. The Food and Agriculture Organization now coordinates exchanges between countries interested in the ‘Lessons from Brazil’. A conference report summarises: “If lasting results are to be attained, it is essential to put in place institutions, policies and programmes which address the often complex underlying causes of vulnerability to hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity in ways which respect the rights and dignity of all concerned. This ‘twin-track’ approach is consistent with the FAO recommendations on national food security programme design”.²³



Common success factors of better food policies

According to the policy evaluation interviews conducted by the World Future Council, the most important success factors applying to all three short-listed food policies are the following:

- Transparent public communication and education on the goals and strategies
- Organised citizen participation and multiple public-private partnerships
- Clear organisation with the bundling of tasks under one distinct agency with its own budget and continuously adapting the programme through evaluation
- Addressing food security in its entire chain of production and consumption
- Securing the right to food through legislation resilient to government changes

Cuba – Urban Agriculture

The main idea behind this law is the productive use of all land available for growth of nutritious food. It encourages universal participation in urban agriculture, whether through production, distribution or education. The Cuban law takes scientific, economic, environmental and cultural concerns into account:

- allowing all citizens to productively use arable lots in any part of cities
- conducting research and offering expertise in technology and organic production
- subsidising sales of produce on farmers markets or on site to reduce transport costs and emissions and keep produce fresh.

Sustainable and diversified use of all available urban space is necessary for sufficient food production. This includes all unused land.

Tuscany, Italy – Seed Varieties

The main idea behind this law on the protection and promotion of the heritage of local breeds is the right to use collective heritage. It protects seed varieties as ‘natural insurance’ for the future of society and protects the rights of farmers as legitimate trustees of this resource. The Tuscan law takes scientific, economic, environmental and cultural concerns into account:

- promoting and protecting local breeds and varieties and their cycles of reproduction
- ensuring that farmers have access to sharing local seeds and knowledge
- giving value to local agriculture as a model for economically, culturally and environmentally sound livelihoods.

Seed biodiversity is necessary for the survival of species, for safeguarding rural heritage and for building resilience of farming. Access should not be restricted by patenting.



The power of rights-based approaches

“I believe that we will really only end hunger when countries elect governments which will act on this and say: Enough! We don’t want hunger.”

Ariana Aranha

All policies shortlisted for the Future Policy Award 2009 incorporate a human rights approach to food. They all view people as citizens rather than as consumers. Enshrining citizen rights is a fundamental first step to sound governance. The second step is designing policy measures that will deliver on citizen rights. In the case of food security this means making available resources accessible:

- The Belo Horizonte Food Security Policy ensures **access to food** through free meals and supports local production
- The Cuba Urban Agriculture Policy ensures **access to land** necessary to grow enough food and promotes local production
- The Tuscany Plant Heritage Policy ensures **access to seeds**, making it impossible to exclude farmers from saving and using them, thus protecting their variety

Lack of access to good and healthy food is a threat to our societies today, but even more so a threat to our children and children’s children. We need to feed 1 billion hungry people today, but also create systems of agricultural production and distribution that will feed about 9 billion people in 2050²⁵. This will not happen under our current food production and consumption system.

The World Summit on Food Security in November 2009 aims to build consensus among governments to eradicate hunger by 2025. The Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation Dr. Diouf states clearly: “The time for talking is long past. Now is the time for action.”

This action requires strong leadership and workable policies: effective policies such as those described in this paper, which are celebrated by the World Future Council as ‘policies to change the world’.

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Future Justice means recognising the integrity, value and dignity of all human beings, the earth, and all its life. For this vision we have to break free from what has become a destructive development path. The WFC works to develop a comprehensive legal and policy framework that can guide systemic change so that our rules of collaboration balance the needs of individuals with the needs of the planet. This framework guarantees human security, ecological integrity, and social equity in the interest of future generations. The goal is to improve justice today whilst safeguarding the preconditions of justice tomorrow.

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The World Future Council

The World Future Council brings the interests of future generations to the centre of policy making. Its 50 eminent members from around the globe have already successfully promoted change. The Council addresses challenges to our common future and provides decision makers with effective policy solutions. In-depth research underpins advocacy work for international agreements, regional policy frameworks and national lawmaking and thus produces practical and tangible results.

In close cooperation with civil society actors, parliamentarians, governments, business, and international organisations we identify “better policies” around the globe. The results of this research then feed into our advocacy work, supporting decision makers in implementing those better policies. As independent and trustworthy non profit organisation, neither bound to short-term profit nor to governmental or institutional interest, the World Future Council enjoys a high credibility with its political work.

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The Future Policy Award honours exemplary laws that promote equity and sustainability. Each year, the World Future Council selects one topic of critical political concern and receives nominations from all over the world for best policies on this topic. The laws are evaluated according to our Future Justice Policy Principles. As the number of people suffering from hunger rises dramatically – one billion at the end of 2008 – the inaugural prize, given in 2009, is dedicated to food security.

“The time has come to act responsibly and address the root and multifaceted causes of food insecurity by adopting lasting political, economic, financial and technical solutions so that all people in the world can enjoy the ‘Right to Food’ ... the most fundamental of all human rights.”

Food and Agriculture Organisation Communiqué
for the 3rd World Food Summit, November 2009²⁶

Future **Policy** Award 2009