

Analysis of the Legal and Regulatory Framework of Food Security in Palestine

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Abstract: This paper tackles the legal and regulatory framework of food security in Palestine. The revision aimed at exploring the subject matter in terms of the acknowledgement level of the concept itself in national legislation; international human rights covenants and comparative law; and analysing the prevailing legal framework and coordination mechanisms among competent authorities to identify the associated shortcomings and gaps and suggest proposals for reform.

Key words: Food Law • Nutrition • Legal Reform in Palestine • Social Laws • Food Quality • Right to Food • Food Management

INTRODUCTION

Food security has become one of the most pressing problems for the world's governments and humanitarian organizations. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimated that “more than a billion people, one in every six human beings may be suffering from under-nourishment” [1]. International Monetary Fund (IMF) officials and others have pointed out that the wave of protests across the Arab world in 2011 were about both “bread and freedom” [2]. In Palestine, reports released in 2014 found that 26.8% of all Palestinian households are food insecure, with the rate of food insecurity reaching 46.7% in the Gaza Strip [3].

It is established that food security exists “*when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life*” [4]. Literature identifies four main dimensions of food security: availability, accessibility, utilization and stability of food [5]. Ideally, these dimensions are recognized in national regulations and policies as official tools for upgrading and sustaining right to adequate food for all persons. The right to food, therefore, requires States to take adequate policies and appropriate legislation to progressively realize this right; to ensure that all individuals have physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement [6].

Literature reviews have already suggested key aspects required for the establishment of a sound food security system worldwide. Most importantly, states have to develop a comprehensive policy on land use, planning and management and prioritize land allocation to those in rural areas for livelihood purpose [7]. States also need to pay special attention to agriculture policies, affordability of food prices, governance structure, transparency and accountability measures, rule of law, climate change and unsustainable use of natural resources, fisheries and forestry management and engagement of stakeholders in policy and legislation setting and enforcement [8].

This article argues that the Palestinian Authority is capable of reducing the percentage of food insecurity to a reasonable ratio despite the lack of sovereignty over natural resources and international crossings due to the Israeli occupation. The occupation however remains an obstacle in front of creating a last and sustainable system for food security since colonial restrictions in the West Bank and the blockade on Gaza Strip are considerably diminished the productive capacity of the Palestinian economy. The national economy is captured by the ongoing Israeli punitive measures and subversive policies. In contrast, the Palestinian Authority is empowered to endorse national policies and laws within its scope of jurisdiction to tackle the matter in question.

Accordingly, this paper analyses the applicable legislation in Palestine and seeks to reach adequate answers to these questions: are the current in force laws

and regulations sufficient for regulating food security in Palestine? Do they offer an enabling environment? What are the shortcomings of the overall legal system? What is the status of current coordination mechanism and cooperative efforts among competent ministries? Is there an overlap in the powers and responsibilities among national bodies working in the field? How can we design an optimal, systematic and efficient relationship amongst the different parties that ensures the stability and smooth functioning of the sector?.

Answers to the above questions requires reviewing the current legislation with an eye on literature to conclude appropriate model that effectively responds to national needs.

The Right to Food in National Legislation and International Human Rights Accords

National Legislation: The Palestinian legal system lacks explicit rules on right to food protection. Simultaneously, there are no specific rules that guarantee food and nutrition security in Palestine [9]. Nonetheless, article (10) of the Basic Law of 2003 protects basic human rights and liberties and urges the Palestinian Authority to work without delay to become a party to regional and international declarations and covenants that protect human rights. Whereas a clean environment ensures the continual existence and survival of all life on Earth, including plants, water and animals, which ensure the availability of food sources in the country, article (33) of the Basic Law, therefore, considers the enjoyment of a balanced and clean environment as a human right. And it considers the preservation and protection of the Palestinian environment from pollution for the sake of present and future generations as a national duty.

Accordingly, the Basic Law of 2003 effectively acknowledges the right to adequate food by reference to basic human rights since the right in question constitutes a fundamental human right in accordance with international accords as shown consecutively.

International Human Rights Accords: The International Law of Human Rights obviously acknowledges the right to food as a basic human right and indeed links it to ensuring human dignity. Article 11.1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights obliges States parties to recognize “the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing and to the continuous improvement of living conditions”. This

article also urges States Parties to take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right, including international cooperation [10].

In recognition of the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, article 11.2 of the same Covenant binds the states to take, individually and through international co-operation, the measures, including specific programmes, which are needed to 1) improve methods of production, conservation and distribution of food by making full use of technical and scientific knowledge, by disseminating knowledge of the principles of nutrition and by developing or reforming agrarian systems in such a way as to achieve the most efficient development and utilization of natural resources; and 2) ensure an equitable distribution of world food supplies in relation to need. These principles and considerations are all equally pertinent in the case of Palestinian food and nutrition issues and conform with the basic goals of food security policies and programmes in contexts of conflict or peace, economic decline or growth [11]. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in General Comment No. 12 recognized the importance of adequacy and sustainability of food availability and access and also defined the obligations that States parties have to fulfill in order to implement the right to adequate food at the national level [12]. These are: the obligation to respect existing access to adequate food which requires States parties not to take any measures that result in preventing such access; the obligation to protect requires measures by the State to ensure that enterprises or individuals do not deprive individuals of their access to adequate food; the obligation to fulfill (facilitate) means the State must pro-actively engage in activities intended to strengthen people's access to and utilization of resources and means to ensure their livelihood, including food security. Whenever an individual or group is unable, for reasons beyond their control, to enjoy the right to adequate food by the means at their disposal, States have the obligation to fulfill (provide) that right directly. This obligation also applies for persons who are victims of natural or other disasters [13].

In recognition of the persistence of food insecurity throughout the world, the UN (Human Rights Council) appointed a Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food to monitor the situation of the right to food throughout the world, undertake country visits, communicate with States and other concerned parties with regard to alleged cases of violations of the right to food [14]. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that

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 and other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control [15].

Furthermore, the preamble of the Paris Agreement on climate change makes direct reference to “safeguarding food security and ending hunger and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change” and also refers to human rights, gender, ecosystems and biodiversity, all issues that are central to agriculture. Article 2.1 of the Agreement refers to the importance of protecting food production while reducing emissions.

Treatment of the Concept of Food Security in National and Comparative Law: It is argued that feeding the world requires agricultural improvements, technological innovations and industrially-informed modes of production [16]. This section hence reviews the most related laws to the subject matter. It then represents key actions that have been taken in some Arab countries.

The Concept in National Law: As previously noted, the Palestinian legal framework on food security is fragmented. Nonetheless, if fully and faithfully implemented, such measures as those provided for in existing laws reviewed here can be supportive of food security in Palestine, provided that the requisite regulations and pending decisions come into force.

The Palestinian *Agriculture Law of 2003* obliges the Ministry of Agriculture to work on promoting the food security in order to implement the objectives of this Law [17]. The law itself addresses various matters related to food security including: Agricultural wealth, water sources, desertification, plants, natural resources, agricultural –animal diversity, sustainable use of resources and fisheries [18]. Nevertheless, the law failed to put in place agricultural social policy that is needed for the achievement of food affordability and sustainability in Palestine.

For achievement of the goals of this Law and with the aim to develop and ensure the exploitation of agricultural resources in a sustainable manner, article (3) of the mentioned law established a set of measures including a Fund for the Compensation of Farmers for Natural Disasters [19] and Agricultural Loans Bank in accordance with special laws [20].

In general, the provisions mentioned in the law-decree (12) of 2013 concerning the fund of risk prevention and agricultural insurances are fair and necessary in the

Palestinian context fraught with risk. But these will not be applied before issuing the executive regulations and instructions that pass thereunder, as the law grants the council of this fund the right to issue secondary legislation like determining the types of agricultural risks and damages that are compensable, the standards and mechanisms of compensation, the types of risks insured, the conditions of insurance along with its types and forms, the premiums that the farmers should pay, the principles of calculating the damages compensations, the principles of estimating the value of crops and others. In all cases, the insurance premiums should be affordable to encourage all the farmers to engage in this kind of insurance. And the farmer should not be deprived from maturing compensations because of environmental disasters even if the compensations are not included among the clauses of the contract.

To date, that the Agricultural Risks Prevention and Insurance Fund has delayed processing remediable damages. This requires an effective way to tackle the situation so as to not hamper or frustrate farmers. All of the requisite secondary legislation related to this Fund should have yet to be issued or reviewed, as the case may be, to mitigate the undue burden on the side of farmers. In addition, the current mechanism on customs fees and tax recovery, as for producers who are beneficiary therefrom in accordance with the applicable laws, is recommended to be revised or developed in a way that would accelerate the refund process.

The *Public Health Law No. 20 of 2004* does not tackle the issue of food security explicitly; rather it deals, to some extent, with food safety issues, as highlighted below. Similarly, there is no reference to the food security in the law-decree on water no. (14) for the year 2014. This law, however ensures the person’s right to receive an appropriate quality of water upon his need and with fixed and uniform price in line with a regulation to be issued by the cabinet. Water services providers are also required to take proper measures to ensure this right [21].

As for the legal framework affecting food processing industries, the Palestinian *Law-by-decree on Industry No.(10) of 2011*, exempts industrial establishments, wholly or partially, from customs duties on the imports of machinery, equipment and spare parts in line with a regulation that should be issued by the Council of Ministers upon the recommendation of the Minister of National Economy [22]. In addition, article (17) of the law grants the cabinet to issue a regulation, upon the recommendation of the said Minister and other relevant bodies, to set out special prices for water, electricity and

fuel used for the industrial purposes of the industrial establishments. Yet, these prices have not been determined.

The law allows granting additional privileges, to be identified by the Minister of National Economy, to the industrial enterprises that produce goods for local consumption capable of competing with foreign goods from similar kind. The same law authorizes the Minister to issue the required decisions for the protection of national products. Practically speaking, no privileges or encouraging actions are in place [23].

Similarly, there is no reference to food security in the *Law-by-decree on Water No. 14 of 2014*, which has an important indirect relevance to the agricultural and food production strategies, as well as public health considerations. The Law considers all water resources in Palestine public property and grants the Water Authority the power to manage these resources in a manner that ensures justice and efficiency in distribution [24]. Pursuant to article (5), every person has the right to obtain his needs of suitable quality drinking water for utilization at specific prices set in accordance with the Tariff Regulation issued by the Council of Ministers. Water Service Providers shall take the necessary measures to ensure this right and prepare the plans required for the development of services in this regard, in accordance with the General Water Policy.

Article (8) sets out the responsibilities of the Water Authority. The Authority exercises full responsibility for managing Water Resources in Palestine, applying principles of integrated and sustainable management of water resources [25]. The Authority is given wide jurisdiction to develop solutions and suitable alternatives in cases of emergency and contingency to ensure the continuity of water provision services, in coordination with Service Providers and relevant parties [26]. Moreover, the Authority takes part in the development of approved standards of water quality for various uses, in coordination and cooperation with the competent authorities and ensures their implementation. In practice, the Authority does not exercise most of these powers because of the Israeli dominance over ground and surface water resources. The Authority buys water from the Israeli water company and then it redistributes it to the Palestinians at high prices. Fair access to water in Palestine is therefore relatively denied by the occupier [27].

The Concept in Comparative Law: Most of comparative national legal systems address the concept of food

security in various laws and regulations, but in general legal provisions, while at the same time enact little legislation on food safety. Only few models have enacted special laws on food security [28]. In Jordan, for instance, on 16 June 2015, the Food Law No. 30 of 2015 has come into force. This law established the Jordanian Food and Drug Institution as a sole authority entrusted to supervise imported and local food in all of its stages in order to ensure its safety and quality. The law introduces a technical committee within the mentioned institution comprising of diverse members representing stakeholders, in order to lay down technical instructions for food quality and safety and for the subsequent trading of food stuff as well as to issue control and oversight measures and risk assessment procedures (article 10). The law also establishes a high committee to: adopt the instructions and measures issued by the technical committee; put in place the plans and programmes required for controlling food quality and safety; adopt testing types for food products and conformity measures; select laboratories for laboratory testing and analysis (articles 6, 8).

The law grants the Jordanian Food and Drug Institution several powers including: enforcing health measures and technical regulations, regardless of whether the food in question is locally produced or imported; banning circulation or import of any food before being tested and proven suitable and fit for human consumption and in conformity with the health safety terms; and carrying out inspections on places in which food is circulated (article 4).

In Egypt, the law number 1/2017 on establishing the National Food Safety Authority grants the authority the power to protect consumers' health and interests by ensuring that food stuffs, domestic and imported, are produced, consumed, distributed and marketed in Egypt in line with the standards of food safety and quality as spelt out in national legislation. This law is similar to the Jordanian one except for the organizational structure of the authority. In the Egyptian case, the Authority management is distributed amongst the Board of Trustees, Board of Directors and the Executive Manager. No specific committees therefore are established [29].

In Lebanon, the food safety law no. 35/2015 has established the Food Safety Commission. The law covers different steps of food production process. Food control falls under the jurisdiction of this Commission, with a coordination mechanism between the Commission and other relevant ministries. The law refers to international food safety agreements, particularly those related to sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical

barriers to trade. The Commission includes a board of directors comprising seven members assigned by the Council of Ministers. The commission is responsible for setting the food safety policy, risk assessment, testing process, the norms and technical standards related to food, pesticides, fertilizers and fodder. All ministries and competent authorities are required to report each month on food safety violations [30].

The Regulatory and Supervisory Basis: Reality and Prospects: As previously mentioned, there is no systematic and coherent legal framework pertaining food security in Palestine. Nonetheless, it can be understood from various pieces of legislation that each regulatory body owns general powers to work on its respective area of competence in the field of food security. That is to say, nothing bans those bodies to establish work plans to address the subject matter as the majority of laws are silent. The silence in such a case might be useful as we can legally interpret it as an implicit authorization to deal with the matter.

A key concern has not been tackled by national legislation; operational management and coordination mechanisms amongst various bodies; a matter that is significantly required to mitigate the negative effects arising from the legal uncertainty as to the inclusion of food security in national legal system. For instance, the Ministry of National Economy supervises trade, including trade in foodstuff and the Consumer Protection Directorate at this Ministry is responsible for implementing the consumer protection law 2005, including market surveillance. In contrast, the Ministry of Health is authorized by law to undertake market surveillance and to combat health hazards resulting from tradable products. Ministry of agriculture also exercises similar functions within its scope of jurisdictions. In addition, the Palestine Standards Institution has a power to lay down standards for products quality.

This position entails overlap in powers and responsibilities among different bodies. Accordingly, an efficient, systematic and well-structured coordination mechanism across all players and stakeholders is recommended to be established. This mechanism (such as national committee, council, or alike) should clearly set work procedures for the overall dimensions of food security as a uniform and sustainable process. Roles of public entities, NGOs, including trade unions and consumer protection associations, international agencies and organizations need to be identified. Questions like (who will take the lead? Who will do what? When? and

how?) require adequate answers to ensure the smooth functioning of such mechanism. It is also possible to extend the mandate of this coordinating mechanism towards a host of food-related issues, including production, trace, access for the poor and safety/quality in a manner that encompasses the multi-dimensional nature of food security, nutrition and public health as well as economic production and growth in the Palestinian context.

Legal Tools for Enhancement of Food Security: Palestine needs to develop food production among poor people through eliminating the serious obstacles they face, including access to land, poor infrastructure, limited knowledge on improving modern means of producing agro-food products etc. A set of incentives are also required such as money lending, tax exemption and allocation of government land. Otherwise, Palestine might face the necessity of ensuring that the population has access to basic foodstuffs at stable prices that preserve the living standards of the low-income groups.

The existing legal system does not regulate aid programmes; either national or international. There is no in force law on the management of foreign food aid rather. In addition, there is no legislation in place with regard to foodstuff distribution and coordination among the institutions working in the field.

Social security systems play vital roles in reducing poverty and increasing food security accessibility worldwide. Permanent and sustainable programmes targeting unemployed persons, marginalized and vulnerable groups positively contribute to the stability of food and nutrition security. Except for aid programmes carried out by Ministry of Social Development and irregular projects, there are neither other national formal programmes nor there are legal instruments that regulate management of such programmes. Moreover, only recently a law on social security has come into being; technically speaking, the system yet did not operate and the law does not pay reasonable attention to unemployment.

Furthermore, Palestine is recommended to effectively implement *preferential trade arrangements* signed with foreign states, to the extent possible and in line with the supply and demand equilibrium. Palestine enjoys several bilateral and multilateral trade agreements with regional and international counterparts; these agreements provide duty-free treatment for most industrial and agricultural products, fish and other marine products. These arrangements contribute in food availability in Palestine

through the flow of products into the Palestinian market. Palestine also works on expanding its exports capacity and seeks to join the WTO, but it still facing various restrictions by Israel. The competent authorities in Palestine, thus, is required to set out limitations on exporting basic products so as to promote food security requirements particularly in emergency circumstances. The draft law on protection of national production is also recommended to be issued to upgrade the national industry and to eliminate the unfair practices. This would help to nurture infant food industries, an important step both in terms of overall industrial development as well as ensuring greater stability in Palestinian food processing and self-sufficiency.

Increases in food price in Palestine caused by the high share of household expenditures on food have significantly worsened the food security situation of households [31]. Although article (21) of the basic law has adopted the principles of a free market economy and guaranteed freedom of economic activity, this article itself allows the law to define the rules governing its supervision and their limits. Accordingly, the national laws might identify maximum prices for basic foodstuff. This matter is advised to be carefully handled in the draft competition law. The Ministry of National Economy is currently working on drafting this law. The later allows for price fixing as for basic goods and services, but without giving a definition thereof. In addition, the government should promote the quality of products at the internationally competitive prices. Water and sewerage service providers also should identify the prices to be charged in accordance with the tariff criteria taking into account social justice and affordability.

Food security is extended to the *state of emergency*. The right to food implies granting individuals the tools to access the food they need even in situations in which this right is threatened [32] and requires concrete regulation, including aid management. Emergency is a state resulting from un-expected events that calls for urgent assistance or relief. Recently, the National Centre for Disaster Risk Management was established by a Cabinet decision. A Draft law on Disaster Risk Management is in the pipeline. The latter grants the National Centre the power to coordinate with the concerned government agencies and service providers from the private sector and civil society so as to develop response [33] plans and suitable solutions and alternatives in cases of disasters and emergencies for the sake of ensuring continuity of service provision to individuals. The draft also mandates the Centre to coordinate international assistance and grants related to

disaster risk management under the supervision of the Prime Minister or his authorized delegate. This draft law is urgently recommended to be endorsed so as to eliminate the current distorted practices in aid management and distribution.

National Food Safety Legislation: From legal point of view; food security would not be ideally reached without demonstrating the implications of the right to adequate food. The latter includes the right of individuals to safe and appropriate food [34]. In Palestine, the legal framework for food safety is fundamentally composed of: Public Health Law No (20) of 2004, Agriculture Law No (2) of 2003, the Palestinian Standards and Measurements Law No (6) of 2000, the Decree on the Law of Industry No (10) of 2011 and the Consumer Protection Law No (21) of 2005. There is no umbrella food safety law yet, although proposals have been discussed at several junctures over the past years. Ministry of Health is responsible for issuing import and export approvals, investigates outbreaks and has a High Committee for Food Safety, from members of the different ministries involved. Legislation related to animal and plant protection include the Agriculture Law which addresses issue related to agriculture quarantine, animal feed, livestock hygiene and slaughtering and fish in addition to several pieces of subsidiary legislation including the Control of Animal Health No (8) of 2010, the Regulation of Animal Farms No (383) of 2005, the Regulation of Chicken Hatcheries No (380) of 2005 and Veterinary Quarantine No (6) of 2010.

There are several regulatory weaknesses related to the regulatory framework for food safety including the fragmentation of the regulatory framework governing food safety, which is based on several pieces of legislation rather than an umbrella food safety law. The legal framework is thus not harmonized, uncoordinated and appears not to fulfill the requirements of modern food safety legislation in line with international standards, including *Codex Alimentarius* standards. New principles, therefore, on sanitary and phytosanitary matters are recommended to be introduced and extended to food safety and quality in the overall process of food production and the subsequent trading of foodstuff including withdrawal from the market in the context of surveillance and law enforcement.

Further, the assessment reveals that the fragmentation of the regulatory framework results in functional overlap between authorities thereby compromising the effectiveness of monitoring, control and enforcement of food safety related measures.

The Ministry of National Economy has been working with international donors and national public and private institutions to strengthen and reform the status quo. On 26/8/2014, the Cabinet endorsed the National Quality Policy for Palestine. To ensure the smooth implementation of this policy, the Cabinet decided, on 3/2/2015, to establish a national steering committee for the implementation of the said policy, chaired by the Ministry of National Economy and composed of the representatives of the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Public works and the Palestine Standards Institution. The recommendations taken by the committee are sent to the Cabinet for its appropriate actions.

The policy defines *the Quality Infrastructure* as the totality of the institutional framework (public and/or private) required to establish and implement standardization, metrology (scientific, industrial and legal), accreditation and conformity assessment services (inspection, testing and certification) necessary to provide acceptable evidence that products and services meet defined criteria, be they demanded by regulatory authorities (i.e. technical regulations) or the market place (i.e. contractually or inferred) [35].

Accordingly, the Ministry of National Economy decided to establish a Committee on National Technical Regulations by a regulation to be issued by the Cabinet to enhance the coordination mechanisms among all competent authorities [36]. This Committee is to be chaired by the Ministry of National Economy and composed of the institutions involved in technical regulation setting each in their respective sphere.

To ensure having a significant role in food quality and safety, the committee shall, *inter alia*: a) identify the priority needs of competent authorities and facilities operating in Palestine regarding the development of their technical capabilities; b) provide recommendations for competent authorities on the conditions and standards of product quality and safety and the requirements of the establishment of testing facilities and laboratories; c) review the national quality infrastructure and offer guidance for competent authorities regarding mechanisms of developing the national quality infrastructure; d) review international standards and best practices regarding technical regulations and standards of manufacturing, circulating, storing, transporting and distributing products and all associated operations, including the WTO Agreements on Technical Barriers to Trade ("TBT Agreement") and the Application of Sanitary

and Phytosanitary Measures ("SPS Agreement") [37]. In addition, the committee is mandated to provide guidance to competent authorities on the mechanisms of the preparation, adoption and application of these agreements in a manner that meets national needs; e.) enhance cooperation and coordination among all competent authorities in a manner that ensures that they properly assume their responsibilities and follow up on their development of technical regulations within the framework of their respective mandates in accordance with legislation in force; and f.) help competent authorities fulfill their responsibilities in accordance with the law and international conventions and agreements to which Palestine have acceded and take part in the assessment of risks related to the development of technical regulations [38].

Competent ministers may establish sub-technical committees within the framework of their respective ministries. Such committees would serve as focal point with the national committee. Finally, technical regulations regarding the application of Palestinian specifications and standards are recommended to be issued by the chairman of the Palestine Standards Institutions in close consultation with the competent minister.

CONCLUSION

It was concluded that the legal framework governing food security in Palestine is fragmented, not harmonized and appears not to fulfill the requirements of ideal legislation. A state of overlap in powers and responsibilities among public institutions working in the field has also been observed. This article, therefore, recommends introducing new principles, trends and institutional structures.

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 22. Article (16).
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 26. Article (50) of this law, compels the Authority of Water to collaborate with the relevant parties interested to formulate special mechanisms and methods to manage the crises whenever there is aridity, flood, or plague, whether caused by water or by a general pollution.
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 28. See e.g., USA, Global Food Security Act of 2016, <https://www.congress.gov/bills/114/congress/house-bill/1567/text>. Also, United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Food Security Act of 1985, at https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/PL_99-198.pdf. See also, Department of Food & Public Distribution, India, National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, <http://dfpd.nic.in/nfsa-act.htm>; and Local Food Security Act (Government of New Brunswick, Canada) <http://www.gnb.ca/legis/bill/FILE/58/1/Bill-11-e.htm>. For analysis see Bose, P. and Meulen, B., 2014. The Law to End Hunger Now: Food Sovereignty and Genetically Modified Crops in Tribal India—A Socio-Legal Analysis, *Penn State Law Review*, 118(4): 893-918 and Surabhi, M., 2015. Critical analysis of national food security act with context of global economy, *IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science*, 20(8): 63-69.
 29. For more information see <http://www.nfsa.gov.eg>.
 30. For more information see UNESCWA, 2016. *Strategic Review of Food and Nutrition Security in Lebanon*, a file:///C:/Users/fujitsu/Downloads/10052016_ESCW A_FoodsecurityandnutritioninLebanon_finalversion_low....pdf, last visited 3 July 2017.
 31. http://www.arij.org/files/admin/Chapter_1.pdf.
 32. Gualtieri, D., 2013. Right to Food, Food Security and Food Aid Under International Law, or the Limits of a right-based approach. *Future of Food: Journal on Food, Agriculture and Society*, 1(2): 21.
 33. Response means: providing emergency services and civil assistance during and directly after the onset of the disaster for the purpose of protecting lives, reduction of health impacts, ensuring public safety and meeting basic needs of affected people.

34. For analysis see e.g., Negri. S., *Food Safety and Global Health: An International Law Perspective*, 2009. *Global Health Governance*, III (1): 1-26 and DeWaal, C., 2007. *Food Safety and Security: What Tragedy Teaches Us about Our 100-Year-Old Food Laws*, *Vanderbilt Journal of transitional Law*, 40: 921-935.
35. Palestinian Ministry of National Economy, February 2014. *National Quality Policy for Palestine*, Ramallah, pp: 8.
36. Technical regulations: the document specifying the features of products or related operations one must comply with. It may include or address technical terms, symbols, packaging, the specification of distinctive features, labelling requirements that conform to the product or the method of production.
37. For more information see Meulen, B., 2010. *The Global Arena of Food Law: Emerging Contours of a Meta-Framework*, *Erasmus Law Review*, 3(4): 231-237.
38. Pursuant to the draft regulation of this committee, the committee may invite advisors and consultants, as it deems necessary, to its meetings in order to hear their views on all or part of the items placed on the agenda, without granting them the right to vote. The committee shall convene in its capacity as an appellate party to consider the appeals lodged by stakeholders against decisions taken by competent authorities regarding the applicability or availability of relevant technical regulations pertaining to the subject-matter of the dispute. The decisions taken by the committee shall be subject to appeal before the Supreme Court of Justice in accordance with the law.