CONCEPTUAL, METHODOLOGICAL AND BIOETHICAL PERSPECTIVES OF STRENGTHENING HUMAN SECURITY IN REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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Abstract

The imperative necessity of strengthening human security in Republic of Moldova in conditions of degradation of regional security environment, as well as of the level of social protection of human person, can be fulfilled through reconceptualization at local and regional scale, in methodological and bioethical perspectives, of the phenomenon of human security. Tangentially to bioethical and human security problematic, defending social equity, human rights or pleading for eliminations of human risks in the context of global changes, the problematic of promotion of national interest encompasses the deepening of the elements of sovereignty and independence in the frame of complex decisional processes or in those of determining of its internal policies in such fields as economic, social, linguistic, ethnic or other type of minorities issues as well as regarding international strategies for supporting geopolitical position of the state, its prestige and respect among international long-term partners. In conclusion, the social, economic, political, military, cultural or environmental processes, phenomena and events, which can happen in the same geostrategic space, such as southeastern European region, Republic of Moldova being a part of it, are inter-dependent, inter-influencing each other, being characterized by complexity and multi-dimensioning, determining the appearance of a row of risks and menaces to national, regional or even global security

Keywords: human security, bioethics, Republic of Moldova, human rights, national interest

1. Introduction

From the history of the Universal mind, we can see that the aspirations of the human being to become better and well prepared in various fields and spheres of activity have always accompanied human civilization throughout its evolution. This human's desire to evoluate proves to be a constant throughout history, being reflected in works of the researchers, arises into the paradigms of time.

The opportunities and perspectives of progress have always been conditioned by the level of technology development at a certain historical stage. Technology supports the development of humanity as a whole, but also of the human being in particular, being in close interdependence with

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the spiritual and the civilization development of the people. In this regard, the most convtroversial and the most striking aspect becomes the necessity to increase the quality of life as a result of the development of the psyhosocial potential the abilities and qualities of the human being in a social context always dominated by the group, national or global interests.

Since its first precursors in the first half of the 20th century, the phenomenon of bioethics has been a constructive and engaging factor for the entire scientific community, for the public opinion alerted by the disastrous effects of the global crisis, and for the political class that is constantly seeking solutions in the form of general policies and strategies in order to offer a sustainable diretion to the humanking evolution as a whole.

Bioethics in the political environment is different in connection with the issue of human security, depending on the basic characteristics of these environments, based on the characteristics of these spaces. It derives from the set of social expectations and specific security needs for the bioethics method of rehabilitation of the global crisis as well as the concrete aims and tasks drawn to the scientific community that coordinates the launch of bioethics as a theoretical and methodological discipline but also as a field of implementation of bioethical values and principles¹. The various cultural, religious, ethical, mental, socio-political or technological-economic differences, as living standards and quality standards, characteristic of an enormous number of human communities contribute, on the one hand, to the strengthening of the human potential to cope with the most violent and destructive effects and results of the multidimensional global crisis, through the diversity it creates. On the other hand, it represents an impediment to finding common socio-civilizational elements for different communities for a better coordination or organization of the humankind as a whole, given the need for a coordinated and prompt response of the highest decision makers to the challenges of the global crisis affecting various areas of social life².

Identifying the ethical civilizational features common to all human communities, social guidance methods and societal management becomes the most important objective of bioethics as a science of survival, as thought by its founder, Van Rensselaer Potter, deeply anchored in the context of contemporary socio-civilizational elements and with plenary involvement in the political sphere, human security and strategic decisions fields at a global level.

¹ Sprincean S., Securitatea umană și bioetica. Monografie. Chișinău: F.E.P. "Tipografia Centrală". 2017, p. 36.

² Țîrdea T.N., *Demnitatea umană din perspectivă planetară și bioetică*. În: Educația în Bioetică și Drepturile Omului în România. București: UNESCO. 2006. p. 57.

The concept of human security has been of great interest to the academic community, but especially to the specialized international fora, being registered a rather large number of bibliographic sources on this topic. It is important to note the contribution of Canadian psychologist and pedagogue W.E. Blatz, an important researcher of human needs beginning with the interwar period, a follower of the development of social assistance field in Canada, in 1966 he uses this term - "Human Security" and introduces it into the academic circuit¹. From his point of view, the human dimension and the concern for the security of the person, at all stages of its development, must be at the center of the national strategies of states in what concerns the education of citizens. For W. E. Blatz, man is the determining factor of change in any society. It therefore requires special protection from the state through special policies and strategies. Despite all the undeniable contribution, William Ernest Blatz's approach to human security is more psychological and psychosocial rather than political, and does not address the aspects and implications of using the term in international relations field. But the concept of human security in its contemporary sense has evolved from the theoretical and conceptual conception of security that belonged to the Copenhagen School. An impressive number of attempts at conceptualization and theoretical approaches have been identified, which has clearly demonstrated the potential for concrete application of a set of methods and approaches that guarantee human security. This concept is theoretically quite grounded, modern and attractive. According to several reference authors, it represents the concept of the future in the field of security studies, addressing many contradictory aspects and dilemmas of contemporary society, because it integrates adjacent and converging issues such as the respect for human rights or the guarantee of security and the sustainable development in modern society.

Within the concept of human security, special emphasis is placed on the importance of protecting the interests of the human individual as a fundamental component of the society of the future, at the same time the most vulnerable part of society, the least protected and most easily destructible. However, the concept and practice of human security faces serious challenges that need to be identified, analyzed and explained to relevant public authorities and political decision makers, if in-depth analysis of critical situations and more sustainable implementation of models human security is needed. The main challenges in conceptualizing the notion of human security arise from the lack of coherence and

¹ Blatz, W. E., *Human Security: Some Reflections*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1966. p. 18.

theoretical systematization due to the lack of interdisciplinary approaches and cooperation among researchers in various fields, but coagulated by a single end goal of their research work, from the lack of a common methodology of study and evaluation, from the erroneous perception that the content of the concept of human security is a completely new approach in finding an appropriate balance between the field of ensuring security in society and other human rights and freedoms¹.

Problems and situations that involve significant threats and potential risks to the safety of people, induce public opinion and decision makers, a new attitude and approach to a totally different level of vigilance and awareness of the issue of the priority of public interests to individuals. This dilemma can not be solved entirely and unequivocally by the mere reference to the attitude of contemporary bioethics towards biotechnological or research processes. This discrepancy can be mitigated by constantly pointing out to the primacy of the prospects for generalization and dissemination of knowledge acquired due to the progress of science, as the priority given to the public interest towards the individual, with negative consequences for human security, can fundamentally undermine confidence in equidistance and the correctness of the decision factor as a means of protection of the person against abuses of the normative and social system. Thus, in the context of a balance between the socio-political importance of collective and personal interests, a new paradigm for the adoption of political decisions will be promoted as a tool to ensure the accomplishment and protection of the individual interest against abuses motivated by a collective or state interest.

Under these conditions, while in the Republic of Moldova there is no approved concept as a state policy or a strategic vision in the bioethics subject and security of the human being in the critical and risky situations of life, unlike many states in the European Union, the United States of America or other substantially advanced societies through the implementation of bioethical norms and principles in various spheres of social life, including in the field of politics, it is necessary to enlist the most important values and political principles in the category of the national interest of the state. Arising from our culture, the development of the bioethics strategy in the Republic of Moldova will be based on the national interest, targeting the most diverse bioethical and human security dilemmas at the level of state politics. Bioethical problems and risks to human security are closely linked to the accomplishment of the national interests of the Republic of Moldova. They affect the entire population and

¹ Поттер В.Р., *Биоэтика: мост в будущее*. Под ред. С.В. Вековшининой, В.Л. Кулиниченко, Киев: Видавец В. Карпенко, 2002. р. 109.

generate public disputes, for example on issues like euthanasia, abortion, informed consent of the person to be involved in human research, etc. With these types of security issues with bioethical implications, people in the Republic of Moldova are already directly confronted, but these security risks and threats will increase significantly in the foreseeable future, taking into account the existing global and regional trends, the threats to the moral and spiritual foundations of contemporary society at global and local level, as well as on the cultural, economic and social specificity of the Republic of Moldova.

The process of democratization has reached a new level, both in the world and in developing countries, including the Republic of Moldova, in the context where democratization has become an intrinsic part of the process of guaranteeing human security as a national, but also as a global goal. It also meant that individual human life gained more and more attention, including from state authorities. Therefore, the role of human rights and freedoms and their implementation at national and international level have become much more important. The process of amplification of globalization leads to a reconceptualization of space and time, as well as the abrogation or ignorance of natural, political or civilizational boundaries. The role of geographic factor and physical distance has decreased and the importance of technologies has increased rapidly and globally.

The notion of security at the conceptual level after the Cold War extended its content simultaneously, horizontally and vertically. This extension covers the inclusion of 7 non-military basic issues, such as the environment, economy, food, health, personnel, community security and political security sectors. This combination of non-military security dimensions has generated the new concept of human security as a new stage in the conceptualization of the security phenomenon. The concept of human security evoked by the United Nations in the 1994 World Report on Human Development has since evolved into a series of new definitions, conceptions and theoretical approaches to the security of the human being.

The concept of human security is intrinsically linked to the concept of human development, it is theoretically grounded, modern and attractive, but it is difficult to implement as a whole. The concept of human security complements the notion of national and international security, with more emphasis on the human component than on critical infrastructure, institutions or territory. At present, human security has become a fundamental element of security and safety concepts and policies at the national, regional, international and even global levels. The concept of human security has also become a logical motivation that determines, to a certain extent, the way public policies are developed and implemented.

The development of the concept of human security has been profoundly influenced by the post-Cold War political and security context. Several factors have created a cognitive space necessary for the development of such a concept, such as the reduction of the threat of the international community for a global nuclear war the prevalence of non-traditional and non-military threats, democratization, the development of national and international policies, the sensitization of the population, but also of the elite and the political class to the importance of human life and well-being, the consequences of globalization, increasing poverty and differences between developed and developing countries and societies, increasing the number of local and regional armed and violent conflicts, liberalization of the gun policy in many parts of the world.

Because the phenomena mentioned above are characteristic of the whole of society, they create a new conceptual context of human security as a basis for promoting the national interest of states that develop according to the paradigm of democratization. Some regions of the world face many conflicts in a social, cultural, economic and geostrategic context and are in a different situation from other safer regions. These are other reasons for the development of many academic definitions and political applications (similar but slightly different) of the phenomenon of human security.

A comparative analysis of the diversity of approaches to the phenomenon of human security reveals a wide variety of threats and potential security risks to individuals and human communities. Most of these security threats and risks fall into the category of non-traditional threats. However, traditional security threats and risks, characterized by the application of military violence and force, are maintained in the probable category by specialists in this area. Therefore, the range of security threats and risks covers economic, political, demographic, food, health, environmental, personal and personal security risks, threats to the safety of people, criminality in all its forms, including terrorism, natural disasters, violent conflicts and wars, genocide, etc.

As a result, following the academic world, the UN has broadened the official definition of security threats and risks to international peace and stability, including inter-state conflicts and human security crises. nternal armed conflict, political persecution or the application of violence against human beings, as well as other extreme violations of human rights at the local level can be dealt with from the point of view of qualification of the United Nations as a threat to international peace and security. Numerous United Nations documents show that international peace and security

emphasize more and more the importance and priority of ensuring human security as an increasingly relevant issue, especially if it addresses the danger of terrorism in the face of living conditions and biosocial life.

Human security, by its definition, arises the question of the relationship between freedom and security. The concept and practice of human security are closely linked to human rights. For researchers, human security refers to the protection of personal security and individual freedom. Human security, by its definition, opens the question of the connection between freedom and security. Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Freedoms states that everyone has the right to life, freedom and security of person¹. Former Secretary-General Kofi Annan also stressed the positive correlation between human rights, security and development in his report Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All, that is to say, greater freedom: development, security and respect for human rights. In his view, the notion of greater freedom and the idea that development, security and human rights go hand in hand, are interdependent. This creates a triad of interrelated elements - security, human rights and development. Former Secretary-General Kofi Annan says these three elements are reinforcing and mutually reinforcing. This triple relationship has only been consolidated in contemporary times, under the influence of rapid technological progress, increased economic interdependence, globalization and geopolitical changes. As a result, Kofi Annan argues that humanity will not be able to benefit from development without security, nor from security without development and without respect for human rights.

Therefore, the concept of human security is directly related to the process of ensuring security within the limits of respect for human rights. However, human rights and freedoms are limited because of pre-defined interests in national and public security. This is where problems arise, especially in the context of an intensification of the fight against terrorism, which is a deeply rooted threat in our postmodern societies.

The process of striking a balance between ensuring human security and respect for human rights should at least be based on international documents such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights², the European Convention on Human Rights and the Fight against Terrorism³,

¹ UN General Assembly, Universal Declaration on Human Rights and Freedoms, General Assembly Resolution 217 A (III), New York, 10 December 1948, art. 3.

² UN General Assembly, Universal Declaration on Human Rights and Freedoms, General Assembly Resolution 217 A (III), New York, 10 December 1948, art. 3.

³ Council of Europe, The European Convention on Human Rights, Rome, 1950.

Human Rights and Counter-terrorism Guide¹, the Johannesburg Principles on national security, freedom of expression and access to information². These documents support certain exceptions and situations in which human rights may be legally restricted. However, these acts lay down a strict line of conduct, which can not be neglected by state authorities in order to guarantee national security.

Increasingly worrying is becoming the subject of biosecurity aspects related to the subject of bioterrorism, in connection with issues of biosecurity and biodangers for life. In this context, bioterrorism is a sub-type of terrorist action as a socio-political manifestation and a destructive and inhuman phenomenon, which implies the establishment of a fearful and anxious state towards a person, a well-defined group or fear of political conflict. whole societies as a whole, without differentiating it by category, with the ultimate aim of influencing and determining subsequent decisions on a particular subject or determining a certain behavior after the bioterrorist act³.

Unlike conventional terrorism, bioterrorism is characterized by the use of certain methods and techniques that have biological implications on humans, with a destructive impact on all the characteristics of the biological condition of the human body. Bioterrorism most often uses very active pathogens or characterized by a rapid and effective action to modify the initial bio-psychic state of the person in order to induce death or cause certain dysfunctions or the loss of total or partial control by the person concerned over his biological, psychological and mental faculties, according to the ultimate goal of the bioterrorist action and the biotechnological potential of the agent applying these bioterrorist techniques and processes.

In the context of the revelation of the danger of terrorism, the main objective of the human security program is to help those facing threats. Two approaches of preventive and reactive means or measures are identified. Prevention measures refer to all methods aimed at minimizing the vulnerability of human beings, while reactive means are considered as secondary means of ensuring human security. The use of force is interpreted only as a last resort.

¹ Council of Europe, Guidelines on Human Rights and the Fight against Terrorism, Directorate General of Human Rights, 11 July 2002.

² Article 19 – Global Campaign for Free Expression, Johannesburg Principles on National Security, Freedom of Expression and Access to Information, London, November 1996.

³ Fukuyama Fr., *Viitorul nostru postuman: consecințele revoluției biotehnologice*. București: Editura Humanitas. 2004. p. 104.

The following means are frequently mentioned to ensure human security: humanitarian intervention or humanitarian assistance, peacekeeping operations, peace-building, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, sustainable economic development, early warning, diplomatic missions, building a strong civil society and so on. The approaches differ, giving priority to the aforementioned means. Many analysts argue that it is easier to ensure human security, as a basis for the national interest, through early prevention than through further intervention. However, this approach is not always applied in practice for a variety of reasons.

An overview of the means and modalities for ensuring human security suggests that human security has become an inseparable part of national and international security policies implemented by States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. Human security plays a direct, formative and methodological role in the formulation and implementation of these policies.

At the same time, human security must be based on human development. This is very important in the process of guaranteeing human security because it is placed in a sustainable perspective. In fact, sustainable development creates an environment in which human security is less threatened by violent conflict or radical crises. The kind of situation is less likely. This is why the concept of human security is intrinsically and strongly linked to the concept of sustainable human development, formulated in the second half of the 1980s by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCEF) and refers to: meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The Commission has clearly defined this point by stating that sustainable development requires meeting the basic needs of all, expanding the definition to meet the aspirations of generations for a better quality of life. In the opinion of the members of the Commission: "A world where poverty and inequality are endemic will always be subject to ecological and other crises" ¹. The report states that a safer world is only possible if poor countries offer a real chance of growth.

The level of human development in different states is measured by the human development index. In fact, this index determines the achievements of a society in three fundamental dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, the level of knowledge and a decent standard of

¹ Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future, Transmitted to the General Assembly as an Annex to document A/42/427 - Development and International Co-operation: Environment, New York, 1987.

living¹. A close link between human development and human security must be taken into account in the subsequent development and conceptualization of the human security index.

The responsibility of individuals is one of the fundamental preconditions for sustainable development. Education is a reference in this regard. The rule of law, respect for human rights, economic development, social development, environmental protection, the creation of appropriate legal standards and socio-political regimes can represent the starting point for a sustainable human development in a democratic society

Many peacebuilding practices around the world show that development is linked to the process of ensuring people's safety. A state of security is a precondition for the implementation of any type of development project that has a greater impact on the well-being of the population. Once the basic needs of the population are met, violent political and mass events become unlikely.

Human security is therefore a multi-dimensional phenomenon, encompassing a wide range of security aspects and sectors, as well as a wide range of types and categories of security threats, risks and vulnerabilities that relate to almost all aspects of human life and cover a wide range of forms of manifestation. This is one of the main reasons why human security requires a form of multidisciplinary approach in its study and can be considerably enriched through the experience of bioethics. Human security can be approached from the perspective of human rights, national security, humanitarian aid, environmental protection, from a development perspective, but also in correlation with the conceptualmethodological apparatus of bioethics. Thus, there is evidence of the development of interdisciplinary studies on human security that will inevitably lead to research projects in the field of human security conducted in universities, discussed at conferences, etc. Only a broad approach to human security can lead us to a full and proper analysis of the concept of human security.

However, the concept of human security actually concerns almost all aspects of security, threats and risks. The question is how to build the theory of human security and implement it in practice if it refers to all aspects of security. What is really needed is the development of a human security index, as some scholars and specialists have already proposed and discussed. This would enable the international community to monitor the human security situation in crisis areas and elsewhere in a systematic and

¹ Human development index is calculated for 177 countries and areas of the world. http://hdr.undp.org/en/ (vizitat 17.08.2017).

permanent way. This would be a point of reference for preventive actions to ensure human security through a better and more complete organization of training and the fight against various threats and risks to security.

The complex security environment creates opportunities for rapid interconnection between different categories, dimensions or sectors of threats to human security. Human security crises are in fact critical situations in which security threats of various origins and from different sectors of human activity develop and intensify. There are still no effective mechanisms at the international level but also at the local level to prevent or resolve such crises, because there are no commonly accepted methodologies in different countries and because the need to ensure human security is not perceived and understood by most decision-makers, by civil society, by academia. An interdisciplinary approach to human security is now more than necessary to be adopted at the international level and to be promoted at the level of national public policies. The interdisciplinary concept of human security in this regard refers to the various theoretical and applied disciplines that work together and apply their own methodologies to achieve the common goals of strengthening human security. Equally valid is that many international actors involved in promoting human security policies do not interact sufficiently to achieve immediate results: OSCE, EU, NATO, UN Human Security Network, Commission for Human Security, etc.

Through technical and scientific advances, humanity has gained access to a range of biomedical technologies that can fundamentally alter the sociocivilized, biosocial and spiritual-moral foundations of contemporary human society¹. As a natural catalyst of material and spiritual values, man has thus become not only a measure of the success of the implementation of new social transformation policies in accordance with eugenic theories and biologists, but also an important object of the efforts of moral revival promoted by bioethics.

Human security, by defining its three fundamental plans: freedom from want, freedom from fear and the right to live in dignity sets the political objectives of bioethics to achieve these desires. Freedom from want is a goal to be achieved as a state in which specific human needs (physiological, spiritual and socio-political) will no longer be an obstacle to personal progress or a source of insecurity. The freedom from fear, however, is perceived as a psycho-emotional state in which a person is free from care and fear of the future through sustainable, rational, equitable and participatory policies. And the right to live in dignity crowns security

¹ Барбур И., Этика в век технологии. Москва: ББИ им. св. апостола Андрея, 2001, р. 165.

efforts by giving the end product an ethical value, namely improving the quality of life. In terms of applicability, both bioethics through its methodological conceptual elaborations and human security contribute to solving a problem of major importance in the world: defining the perspectives of the international system and of human civilization as a whole to counteract the negative effects of the global crisis. In a tangential perspective to bioethics and human security, representing the defense of social equity, human rights and the elimination of human risks in the context of global change, the issue of promoting national interest includes the deepening of the element of sovereignty and independence in complex decision-making processes and the determination of national policies such as the economic, social, linguistic or national protection and support of minorities and others, as well as international strategies that can contribute to strengthening the geopolitical position of the State, increased prestige, and respect for States and international organizations with whom they intend to collaborate in the long term.

At the same time, with reference to the national interest of the Republic of Moldova, a number of other elements, besides the deepening of the sovereignty and the independence of the state on the internal and external level mentioned above, stand out from the nature, values, historical experience, the character of the Republic of Moldova as a state and a community, such as increasing the socio-economic welfare of the population and raising the standard of living, achieving a high level of economic and energy self-sufficiency, realizing internal civic peace or territorial integration, under the conditions of strengthening the decisionmaking power and the implementation of policies the central and local state authorities, the building of the rule of law. All these elements of national interest of the Republic of Moldova in the context of its comparison with the requirements of bioethics and the objective of establishing a sustainable system for the promotion of human security in the Republic of Moldova are complementary elements for a national strategy to overcome the crisis. Thus, it is clear that the social, economic and historical national interest of the Republic of Moldova of Romania, Ukraine or other states in the region derives from their foreign policy vectors, the political agenda they face, the specificities of the risks and threats to security, the specificity of the composition of their population, etc. Consequently, the social, economic, political, military, cultural or ecological phenomena and processes that appear in a common geostrategic space, such as the region of South-East Europe, to which the Republic of Moldova is part, are interdependent and are influencing each other, being characterized by complex and multidimensional features, causing a series of risks and threats to national, regional and global security.

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