

Final Considerations

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Final Considerations

This book has highlighted the main themes of each chapter and their relevance in the context of Brazil-EU relations and the Jean Monnet Chair at UFG, from the perspective of Laís Forti Thomaz, Chair Coordinator. This conclusion addresses the main policy recommendations (policy prescription) addressed to the EU, Brazil and the state of Goiás. The present recommendations result from the particular interpretation of each chapter of this book.

First, the use of artificial intelligence in the service of environmental protection is recommended, as it allows for the monitoring of deforestation, pollution and climate change, among others (see chapter by Oliveira and Flauzino). Data collection and analysis using AI could provide more effective, faster and more accurate public policies in the face of environmental problems.

Guidelines and regulations are recommended to ethically guide the collection, storage and use of data. Additionally, the promotion of inclusive and fair governance based on a collaborative and adaptive approach in view of global standards and local needs is emphasized.

Secondly, a perspective that integrates economic, environmental and local community approaches is recommended in view of the provisions on

trade and environmental protection contained in the agreements between Mercosur and the EU (see chapter by Camargo and Hora). In this context, at least at the diplomatic level, there was an understanding about the need to combat deforestation, restore degraded areas and regularize the protected territories of indigenous peoples.

In this case, Brazil adheres to the ILO Convention 169 and has adopted a robust forestry code. This recommendation highlights the possibility of benefiting agricultural exporters who respect the standards and actively promote sustainability. Therein lies a potential for innovation in cooperation with the EU in the areas of energy efficiency, water resource management and genetic improvements, among others. However, not all Brazilian exporters abide by these rules, and it is this group of producers that the EU is concerned about with reference to Brazil.

Thirdly, it is recommended that Brazil pay attention to the opportunities to achieve high standards of environmental preservation supported by European funding for projects to promote sustainable development (see chapter by Silva). In this sense, Brazil could, instead of accusing the EU of economic protectionism under an environmental pretext, highlight products and economic sectors that comply with both national legislation and EU requirements. This reinforces the argument that promoting environmental sustainability is also a way to foster economic development.

Fourthly, recommendations directly related to municipalities stand out: aligning local legislation and projects with national and global guidelines and standards; as well as promoting the exchange of experiences with a view to implementing these laws and projects (see chapter by Nascimento and Martín-Vide). For example, both Brazil and Spain have committed to mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change, but nationally and locally, there are several layers that differentiate these contexts. Sharing experiences has the potential to diagnose similar problems and apply adaptive solutions.

In the fifth place, the report on the partnership between the Social and Environmental Impact Business Incubator (Inyaga) of the Federal

University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) and the University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE) reinforces the aforementioned recommendation (see chapter by Silva *et al.*). In addition, it inspires an additional recommendation, which concerns the interdisciplinary approach of projects in unison with the private sector. It is worth noting, in this context, that actions to promote innovation and sustainable development do not depend solely on the State, and that it is crucial to stimulate businesses, especially those with a high socio-environmental impact.

Finally, two recommendations present in all chapters of this book stand out. The first is the centrality of local actors. The perspectives presented in this work have emphasized the leading role of these actors, the need to adapt to them, or both. The second relates to the centrality of the EU as a global actor, which is indicated by its prominence in the environmental agenda or by the capillarity of initiatives (programs or projects) that involve cooperation at the national, regional or local level, as well as between state and non-state actors.

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