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FOOD SECURITY, DEMOCRACY AND PARTICIPATION: AN ANALYSIS OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCES ON FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY IN BRAZIL

Hugo Costa Tavares (hugocosta436@gmail.com)

Igor Simoni Homem De Carvalho (igorshc@yahoo.com)

This text aims to analyze the trajectory of the National Conferences on Food and Nutritional Security (CNSANs) in Brazil, highlighting their role in the formulation, consolidation, and resumption of public policies focused on the Human Right to Adequate Food (DHAA) and Food and Nutritional Security (FNS). It seeks to understand how each edition (1994, 2004, 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2023) contributed to the political and social context of its time, broadening debates, incorporating new actors, and strengthening public policies within that context. The methodology employed was a documentary analysis based on official conference reports and the research of Zimmermann (2011), Grisa and Zimmermann (2015), and Ramos, Sousa, and Dos Santos (2022). The analysis allowed to identify advances and setbacks throughout the six editions of

CNSANs, particularly noting the third edition, which had broader social participation and diversity in the represented groups. The aim was to relate the content of the conferences to socioeconomic dynamics and crisis contexts, such as the

dismantling of policies between 2016 and 2022 and Brazil's return to the Hunger Map during this period. The 6th National Conference on Food and Nutrition Security (CNSAN) (2023), for example, reaffirms the urgent need to (re)build weakened policies, resume the commitment to food as a right, and strengthen the National System for Food and Nutrition Security (SISAN) to address historical inequalities. We can conclude that the CNSANs constitute fundamental spaces for mobilization and democratic construction, where social movements, governments, researchers, and people from the countryside, forests, and waterways meet to define strategic guidelines. The conferences broaden the understanding of food security for the Brazilian population, consolidating concepts such as food sovereignty, agroecology, food culture, and ethnic-racial diversity. Finally, the trajectory of the conferences demonstrates that food security must be a permanent collective construction, deeply linked to democracy and social justice.

Palavras-chave: food security; democracy; brazil.