



THE STATUS OF NET FOOD-IMPORTING COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION: CURRENT OPPORTUNITY FOR ITS LEGAL DEVELOPMENT

The paper titled "The Status of Net Food-Importing Countries in the World Trade Organization: Current Opportunity for Its Legal Development" addresses the structural issues faced by net food-importing countries in the context of recent food crises and the impact of dependency on international trade. In this regard, the war in Ukraine and the rise in food prices, driven by factors such as inflation and disruptions in supply chains, have exposed the vulnerability of many States. Consequently, the paper seeks to delve into the role of international law in creating mechanisms to promote sustainable solutions for these countries, based on the 1994 Ministerial Decision of the WTO. Despite the absence of a clear legal definition of a "Net Food-Importing Country", the paper proposes the creation of a legal framework that establishes specific measures to enhance food security and reduce dependence on international trade. Moreover, it suggests the need for a review and update of the measures already adopted by the WTO and other international organizations, as well as the strengthening of cooperation programs and support for local production. In conclusion, it argues that the current context presents an opportunity to advance the legal development of this status and strengthen global food security.