

HUMAN RIGHTS

Strengthening the relationship between International Humanitarian Law and the 2030 agenda¹

Ionelia Hirju²

Abstract

In today's world, peace, human rights respect, and ensuring a decent life for individuals still represent an objective we strive for. This paper aims to highlight the potential of the two frameworks, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Agenda for Humanity, but more importantly why it is crucial for them to work together to address ongoing conflicts, such as in the Gaza Strip, where both frameworks can tackle a complex cause and promote lasting peace in the region. Thus, the objectives of this paper are to analyze the two frameworks, identify connecting elements for them to work together, and examine the unfolding conflict in the Gaza Strip, particularly in the context of the violation of International Humanitarian Law, the insecurity of civilians in this territory, and the challenges of intervening or alleviating the conflict in this region. Finding answers to these questions will help achieve the goal of identifying how to strengthen the relationship between International Humanitarian Law and the 2030 Agenda and promote lasting peace.

Keywords: International Humanitarian Law; 2030 Agenda; Agenda for Humanity; Gaza Conflict; Sustainable Peace **JEL Classification:** [K38]

1. Introductory Aspects

The history of human rights is closely linked to human emancipation, to one's desire to live in peace, and to the wish to better understand what humanity is.³ The individual, living in a world where everything he knows boils down to

¹ This paper has been presented at the 10th Annual International Conference on Law and Administrative Justice from an Interdisciplinary Perspective, 24rd-26th November 2023, Bucharest, Romania.

² PhD student in Administrative Science, National School of Political Studies and Public Administration, ionelia.hirju18@administratiepublica.eu, ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6756-7907>.

³ Irina Moroianu Zlătescu, „Drepturile Omului – Un Sistem în Evoluție”, Institutul Român pentru Drepturile Omului, Bucharest, 2008, pp. 9-10. ³ *Ibidem*, pp. 10-11.

hunting, gaining, surviving, undergoes a slow and cumbersome journey to reach reason and understand the fundamental principles governing humanity: freedom, equality, and solidarity. Human societies have had different approaches regarding social rules, maintaining peace, and positioning humans within them. For example, the Buddhist conception emphasizes the equality of all beings in dignity and value, while in ancient China, Confucius painted a picture of a harmonious, pacifist society that depends on the morality of individuals and their efforts to be better, and so on.³

The issue of human rights became widely discussed after the Second World War, especially following the Holocaust, which strongly questioned the necessity of protecting humanity.⁴ As a result, in 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, emphasizing the need to prioritize the development of civil and political rights to ensure free expression, participation, representation, and democratic governance, as well as cultural, social, and economic rights.⁵ From the first paragraph of its preamble, it can be observed that international peace is at the core of human rights: *„Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world”*.⁶

Not far from the beginning of the 21st century, we are still witnessing numerous armed conflicts resulting in casualties, displacements, and, most importantly, loss of human lives. Among the most notable are the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, with precedents such as the annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the Donbas war with thousands of deaths; the Yemeni civil war that began in 2015, ongoing and causing the displacement of millions and tens of thousands of deaths; the Syrian civil war that started in 2011, also ongoing, leading to the loss of hundreds of thousands of lives; the Iraq war, Israel and Hamas conflict, Boko Haram in Nigeria, the Second Chechen War, and unfortunately, the list goes on. Information on their status can be found in the interactive Global Conflict Tracker, identifying trends and alerting to the risks of conflict escalation, maintained by the data collected by the Council on Foreign Relations.⁷ All these events have had and still have significant consequences economically, socially, culturally, causing displacements, geopolitical damage, and loss of human lives.

⁴ Micheline Ishay, *„The History of Human Rights: From Ancient Times to the Globalization Era”*, Berkeley, University of California Press, 2004, *apud*. Jim Ife, *„Human rights and peace”*, in: Handbook of peace and conflict studies, edited by Charles Webel and Johan Galtung, Taylor & Francis e-Library, 2007, p. 163.

⁵ Hurst Hannum, S. James Anaya et al, *„International Human Rights: Problems of Law, Policy, and Practice”*, Seventh Edition, Ed. Aspen, 2023, p. 6.

⁶ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Publication Date: 10 December 1948, The Preamble. ⁷ See Global Conflict Tracker, <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker>, accessed 11.11.2023.

At the beginning of the 21st century, starting from the Millennium Development Goals, where the main issues to be addressed were poverty, inequality, infant mortality, environmental sustainability, etc., the extent of which was not yet known because these goals did not seek to identify the causes and factors contributing to the elevated issues, such as the presence of corruption, the absence of the rule of law, peace, and so on.⁷ Therefore, for a better understanding of the challenges society faces, in September 2015, we witnessed the adoption of "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." The challenges were translated into 17 Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved, with 169 specific targets, thus making the Agenda cover a wide range of needs that today's society experiences. One of these goals is the promotion of peace and partnerships, focusing on the principles of human rights, dignity, and the protection of the planet for the present and future generations.

2. The Role and Evolution of International Humanitarian Law

From the outset, states have interacted with each other in various forms: collaboration or conflict, a distinction that is reflected not only in the intentions of the parties involved but also in the type of legal norms that govern them (collaboration - Public International Law; conflict - International Humanitarian Law).⁸ In this research paper, I will focus on International Humanitarian Law, which can be understood as the set of regulations regarding international armed conflicts.⁹ The existence of written rules regarding the conduct of wars can be traced back to ancient times, such as the Manu Code in 12th-11th century BCE India, and the role of the Church in the Middle Ages, where mandatory truce days were established under the "Peace of God," leading to the first international instrument through which war operations carried out by individuals, authorized by a belligerent state, against commercial ships belonging to the adversary were eliminated by the Declaration concerning Maritime Law of War on April 16, 1856, in Paris.¹⁰ International Humanitarian Law can be defined through two concepts for which emphasizing the distinction is crucial: *the right to war* (just ad bellum) and *the right in war* (jus in bello). Just ad bellum refers to the right possessed only by states to wage war, the use of armed force to restore peace and international

⁷ See Bettelli Pietro, „What the World Learned Setting Development Goals” International Institute for Sustainable Development, 2021, Accessed November 13, 2023. <https://www.iisd.org/articles/deep-dive/what-world-learnedsetting-development-goals>.

⁸ I. Cloșcă, I. Suceavă, „Tratat de drept internațional umanitar”, Ed. V.I.S. Print, București, 2000, p. 12, *apud*. Ion Dragoman, David Ungureanu, „Tratat de drept internațional umanitar”, Universul Juridic, Bucharest, 2018, pp. 2627.

⁹ Beatrice Onica-Jarka, „Drept internațional umanitar: note aprofundate de curs”, 5th Edition, Universul Juridic, Bucharest, 2018, p. 18.

¹⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 13.

security, as well as their obligation to warn the enemy before attacking (*animus bellandi*), respecting the ceasefire, which pertains to the conduct of parties involved in the conflict (whether internal or international).¹¹

In 1863, the International Committee of the Red Cross was established with the aim of promoting the codification of regulations regarding the protection of non-combatants or those hors de combat in war, as well as civilian property. This led to the creation of two branches: "The Law of War" and "Humanitarian Law." In 1977, following the latest major codification, the new concept of "International Humanitarian Law of Armed Conflicts" emerged.¹² Humanitarian issues such as the protection of the wounded, sick in armed forces in the theater of war, shipwrecked members of the armed forces at sea, prisoners of war, and civilians are addressed and dealt with in Conventions I, II, III, and IV of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, formulated in Geneva and Switzerland. Together, these conventions consolidate the standards of international law concerning humanitarian issues.¹³

On May 23-24, 2016, in Istanbul, Turkey, the first World Humanitarian Summit took place with the aim of bringing together all stakeholders to collectively and individually take action to produce a positive change in the humanitarian needs and suffering of today. At the end of the summit, the report "One humanity: shared responsibility" was developed, within which we find the Agenda for

Humanity.¹⁴ The Humanity Agenda represents a set of 5 responsibilities, divided into 24 transformations ranging from: *preventing and ending conflicts, respecting the rules of war, leaving no one behind, working differently to end need, to investing in humanity*. These assumed objectives of this Agenda represent the strategic necessity that humanity requires to effectively conclude or manage a conflict, to include everyone, and to awaken a sense of urgency and care for humanity, reaffirming the principles agreed upon within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the Millennium Declaration of the United Nations, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹⁵

The issue of security and the respect for human rights and freedoms in today's world has become increasingly destabilized against the backdrop of technological development. Thus, there is an observable rise in the militarization

¹¹ Irina Moroianu Zlatescu, Elena-Roxana Visan, Dumitru Codita, „*Drept internațional umanitar: șapte decenii în slujba umanității: lucrare dedicată aniversării a 70 de ani de la adoptarea Convențiilor Umanitare de la Geneva, din 12 august 1949*”, Ed. Karta-Graphic, Ploiesti, 2019, p. 32.

¹² Ioan Tudor Panciu, „*Dreptul Internațional umanitar, garant al civilizației*”, in: „*Drept internațional umanitar: șapte decenii în slujba umanității: lucrare dedicată aniversării a 70 de ani de la adoptarea Convențiilor Umanitare de la Geneva, din 12 august 1949*”, Ed. Karta-Graphic, Ploiesti, 2019, p. 330.

¹³ *Loc. cit.*

¹⁴ Report of the Secretary-General, Outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit Report of the Secretary-General, United Nations General Assembly, A/71/353, 23 August 2016, p. 2.

¹⁵ United Nations, Agenda for Humanity, Annex to the Report of the Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit, A/70/709, 2 February 2016, p. 1.

of artificial intelligence, transforming the battlefield, the boundaries of which, along with human implications, remain unknown. The tasks performed by AI surpass human capabilities, ranging from threat detection, simulation of the operational environment, and simplification of collected information to navigation and the use of ground, aerial, and naval vehicles.¹⁶ This raises the question of to what extent these advancements can contribute to the establishment of lasting peace and interstate harmony.

3. The Intersection of International Humanitarian Law and 2030 Agenda

'Leave no one behind' that was the aim of the intergovernmental negotiations in September 2015, which materialized in the development and adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the General Assembly. Subsequently, a year later, the need to consolidate the commitments made within the 2030 Agenda led to the creation of the Agenda for Humanity framework during the World Humanitarian Summit.

In 2016, during the World Humanitarian Summit, the UN Agenda for Humanity framework was born, hoping to raise awareness and emphasize the need for implementing the five core responsibilities, working on preventing the issues and global crises highlighted by the Agenda, and strengthening political leadership.¹⁷

Because among the motivations for creating the Agenda for Humanity was the need to strengthen the Sustainable Development Goals, in May 2016, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) compared the humanitarian connotations between the two frameworks. In 2019, Peride K. Blind conducted a more in-depth analysis of the 2016 findings by SDSN by identifying key terms, direct and indirect connections, overlaps, adjacent concepts regarding development and humanitarian aspects among the 169 targets of the SDGs and the 24 transformations, respectively, 32 commitments within the Agenda for Humanity. Therefore, Peride Blind interprets in his work that SDG 16.9, emphasizing ensuring legal identity for all, birth registration, is indirectly related to Transformation 3.3 in the Agenda for Humanity, which refers to ending statelessness. SDGs 8.8, 10.7, 17.18, referring to migration, are directly linked to Transformations 3.2 and 3.3 on migration and host communities of migrants.¹⁸ He manages to identify 189 linkages

¹⁶ Valentin-Stelian Bădescu, „Unele considerații cu privire la adaptarea problematicii umanitare la provocările lumii contemporane”, in: , „Drept internațional umanitar: șapte decenii în slujba umanității: lucrare dedicată aniversării a 70 de ani de la adoptarea Convențiilor Umanitare de la Geneva, din 12 august 1949”, Ed. Karta-Graphic, Ploiesti, 2019, pp. 48-49.

¹⁷ See The UN Agenda on Humanity, The Hague International Model United Nations Qatar 2019, 22nd – 25th of January 2019.

¹⁸ Peride K. Blind, „Humanitarian SDGs: Interlinking the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the Agenda for Humanity” Department of Economic & Social Affairs DESA Working Paper No. 160, ST/ESA/2019/DWP/160, May 2019, p. 8.

between SDGs and Agenda 2030, with the most common connections occurring in humanitarian aspects, capacity building against crises, coherent financing, women's empowerment, and inclusive decisionmaking.¹⁹

Analyzing the two mentioned frameworks, considering each Commitment of the Agenda for Humanity and the targets of the SDGs, direct and indirect connections are observed between the 5 transformations and the 17 SDGs: SDG 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 16, 17, as well as all other SDGs, including those emphasizing access to basic needs (such as access to clean water, food, shelter, etc.). Following this observation, it becomes evident that development and humanitarian efforts must collaborate to ensure global well-being and peace. Development without sustainability can hinder the realization of International Humanitarian Law, and humanitarian efforts without sustainable development are akin to a cry for help in a dense forest. The absence of either is a crime against all 17 SDGs, against individuals, and environment.

Although we make progress in technological, economic, educational, medical development, etc., in terms of International Humanitarian Law with the Geneva Conventions, with or without the Agenda 2030 and Agenda for Humanity, the reality is that human rights and environmental rights are still violated. This not only complicates the restoration of peace, alleviation of victims' suffering, but also hinders the ability to secure a future for upcoming generations.

The mission undertaken by Agenda 2030 in the identified connection with International Humanitarian Law is certainly the consolidation of peace and the eradication of poverty, notably anchored in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international treaties and instruments.²⁰ In this regard, it must be emphasized that the Agenda's involvement is visible in promoting the rule of law, combating inequalities, and facilitating access to justice²¹, objectives supported by The DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus, designed to assist the efforts of stakeholders involved in implementing initiatives across the areas of peace, development, and humanitarian action, particularly in sensitive, vulnerable, and conflictprone situations.²²

The challenges faced by Agenda 2030, which may pose difficulties in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are marked by climate crises,

¹⁹ *Ibidem*, p.9.

²⁰ See United Nations, *About the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development*. OHCHR and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Accessed November 20, 2023, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/sdgs/about-2030-agendasustainable-development>.

²¹ See International Development Law Organization, *IDLO and the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, Accessed November 20, 2023, <https://www.idlo.int/what-we-do/rule-of-law/2030-agenda>.

²² See OECD, *DAC Recommendation on the OECD Legal Instruments Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus*, OECD/LEGAL/5019, Accessed November 20, 2023, <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/public/doc/643/643.en.pdf>.

conflicts destabilizing peace, economic crises, as well as medical crises. According to the Special Report on Sustainable Development Goals in 2023, only 15% of the SDGs are achieved to the intended extent, 48% are achieved to a small extent, but 37% have stagnated or even regressed.²³ Unfortunately, the projected trends in this report are not positive, mentioning, among other things, that we are 286 years away from eliminating discriminatory legal frameworks, 575 million people will live in extreme poverty, and 84 million children and youth will not attend school.²⁴ Due to conflicts over the years, the report notes that by the end of 2022, over 108.4 million people globally were displaced, the number increasing 2.5 times compared to the last decade, and in 2021, it recorded the highest number of intentional crimes in the past two decades²⁵, as exemplified by the conflicts mentioned in the first chapter of this work.

Regarding the violation of International Humanitarian Law, responsibility may lie on both national and regional courts, especially when it comes to democratic states where access to justice is not denied. However, the court with the most competence in deciding violations of IHL is the International Court of Justice, with over 70 years of experience.²⁶ It can issue judgments in disputes between states concerning the illegal use of armed force and provide advisory opinions on the consequences of international activities.²⁸

4. The Intervention of the Agenda for Humanity and 2030 Agenda in Addressing the Gaza Strip Conflict

The conflict between Israel and Palestine has a complex history involving political, religious, and cultural arguments. The relationship between these factors became increasingly tense during the context of World War II when the influx of Jews heading to Palestine from Nazi Germany significantly increased, raising the risks of revolts between them.²⁷ At the end of World War II, the idea of creating a Jewish state, supported by the USA at Yalta, gradually led to the formation of the Arab League consisting of Egypt, Syria, Transjordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and Palestine. This league supported the Palestinian state in terms of "restoring peace and security" on May 15, 1948. However, the conflict was only beginning with the establishment of the State of Israel in

²³ United Nations, *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023*, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ISBN: 978-92-1-101460-0, New York, 2023, ISBN: 978-92-1-101460-0, p. 11.

²⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 4.

²⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 44.

²⁶ Ion Dragoman, David Ungureanu, *op.cit.*, p. 629. ²⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 630.

²⁷ Marius Lazăr, *Noua geopolitică a Orientului Mijlociu: conflictul arabo-israelian / La nouvelle géopolitique du Moyen Orient: le conflit arabo- israélienne*, Annales Universitatis Apulensis - Historica, Alba Iulia, Roumanie, Nr. 4-5, 2000-2001, pp. 203-204.

1948.²⁸ From the "Six-Day War" to the thousands of deaths and Israel's victory to the beginning of the era of Arab terrorism around 1970 and the consequences on the Gaza Strip.²⁹ Due to Gaza's vulnerable security position during conflicts, it has suffered over the decades in the Israel-Palestine context, whether referring to the Second Intifada from 2000-2005, Hamas taking control of the Gaza Strip in 2007, the Israel-led Operation Pillar of Defense in 2012, the conflict in May 2021 when Hamas launched rockets at Israel, and Israel responded with airstrikes on Gaza.³⁰

On October 7, 2023, the conflict escalated with Hamas rocket attacks on Israel, and two days later, Israel responded by restricting food, water, medicine, fuel, and electricity in the Gaza Strip.³¹ On November 22, after a tense period, Israel and Hamas agreed to a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip for at least 4 days, allowing humanitarian aid to intervene in the area, considering also a hostage exchange between Israel and Palestine.³² On November 22, after a tense period, Israel and Hamas agreed to a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip for at least 4 days, allowing humanitarian aid to intervene in the area, considering also a hostage exchange between Israel and Palestine. It was thus agreed that this pause would enter into force on November 24th, but on November 27th, it was decided to extend the pause by two days in order to release more hostages, and on November 30th, a further extension was proposed, with mediators negotiating a permanent extension of the ceasefire. However, even if during this pause 240 hostages were exchanged for Palestinian prisoners, on December 1 the ceasefire expired, setting of the conflict between the two sides again.³³ A month later, in January, Hamas announced in an ultimatum that it was willing to release all hostages in exchange for a permanent ceasefire, a proposal that Israel refused, and at the end of January Israel also issued a two-month ceasefire proposal to Hamas, which Hamas refused.³⁴ Also, it is noteworthy the historical action of

²⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 204.

²⁹ *Ibidem*, pp. 206-207.

³⁰ See Julie Marks, *Gaza: The History That Fuels the Conflict*, October 16, 2023, History, Accessed November 21, 2023, <https://www.history.com/news/gaza-conflict-history-israel-palestine>.

³¹ See BBC, *Gaza 'soon without fuel, medicine and food' - Israel authorities*, October 9, 2023, Accessed November 21, 2023, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-67051292>.

³² See United Nations, *Gaza: UN welcomes deal for pause in fighting, hostage-release pact*, November 22, 2023, Accessed November 22, 2023, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/11/1143857>.

³³ See United Nations, *Gaza: Guterres invokes 'most powerful tool' Article 99, in bid for humanitarian ceasefire*, December 6, 2023, Accessed December 8, 2023, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/12/1144447>.

³⁴ See CNN, *Hamas says there must be a permanent ceasefire deal in order for remaining hostages to be released*, Accessed January 25, 2024, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-rejects-israels-offer-for-two-month-pause-for-release-of-hostages/corob>. The Times of Israel, *Hamas said to reject Israeli offer of two-month pause in war for release of hostages*, Accessed January 25, 2024, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-rejects-israels-offer-for-twomonth-pause-for-release-of-hostages/>.

South Africa's involvement, which submitted an 84-page case to the International Court of Justice in The Hague, alleging Israel's commission of genocide in the Gaza Strip: "The acts in question include killing Palestinians in Gaza, causing them serious bodily and mental harm, and inflicting on them conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction." The case has sparked a wave of debates, with some states supporting South Africa's action, while others criticize it, such as the USA, the United Kingdom, Iceland, Guatemala, and Hungary. Among the expected effects of this action are increased pressure against harmful activities in the Gaza Strip, which may lead to concrete measures and sanctions.³⁵ On January 26, the International Court of Justice responded that it would not dismiss the case; however, it would not order Israel to stop the war. Nevertheless, it ordered Israel to take all necessary measures to prevent genocide in Gaza.³⁶ It is noteworthy that Israel, being a signatory to the Geneva Conventions, even though it is not a member of the International Court of Justice, is granted jurisdiction by the ICJ over issues related to possible violations of the conventions.

Due to the armed conflicts in the Gaza Strip, achieving Sustainable Development Goals has become increasingly challenging at the national level of Palestine. Among the objectives facing the greatest challenges are SDG 1: No Poverty, where a significant increase from 2.4% to 7.21% between 2011 and 2019 is observed in the Middle East, particularly among Palestinian refugees, notably impacted by the conflict in Gaza; SDG 2: Zero Hunger; SDG 3: Quality Education; SDG 5: Gender Equality; SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth globally, with Gaza experiencing the highest unemployment rate due to the conflict with Israel, restricted movement, and limited livelihood opportunities.³⁷

Furthermore, since October 2023, 1.7 million people have been displaced from Gaza, and over 11 thousand individuals have been killed, including patients from hospitals, schools housing displaced families, and so forth. This underscores the fact that in an armed conflict, weapons do not distinguish the age or location of the victims.³⁸

As emphasized in the previous sections of this paper, International Humanitarian Law under the umbrella of the 1949 Geneva Conventions aims to

³⁵ See Trevor Bach, „EXPLAINER: The ICJ and South Africa's Genocide Case Against Israel", U.S News & World Report, January 26, 2024, <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/explainer-the-icj-and-south-africa-s-genocidecase-against-israel/ar-AA1mPcge>, Accessed January 27, 2024.

³⁶ See Nadeen Ebrahim, Abbas Al Lawati, „Why both South Africa and Israel are welcoming the UN court's ruling in a landmark genocide case", CNN, January 26, 2024, <https://edition.cnn.com/2024/01/26/middleeast/israel-genocidecase-icj-ruling-analysis-mime-intl/index.html>, Accessed January 27, 2024.

³⁷ See UNRWA, *Sustainable Development Goals*, August 2022, Accessed November 22, 2023, https://www.unrwa.org/sdg_2020.

³⁸ See United Nations, „This must stop,' UN chief says as deaths, displacement ripple across Gaza, November 19, 2023, Accessed November 23, 2023, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/11/1143762>.

protect civilians, prohibit indiscriminate attacks, and any violation of these regulations during an armed conflict, known as the "law of war," as mentioned earlier, constitutes a war crime. Since the beginning of this year's conflict between Israel and Palestine, Israel's tactics have been questioned due to the significant number of Palestinian casualties, and the use of white phosphorus weapons has had an impact on both human health³⁹ and the environment.⁴⁰ The targeted locations, which are protected under international law (1977 UN Additional Protocol and The Hague Conventions and the Rome Statute), state that

"Medical units shall be respected and protected at all times and shall not be the object of attack." The violation of these regulations is prosecuted and adjudicated by the International Court of Justice. However, the extent to which these sanctions can be applied to states, individuals, organizations, and the nature of these sanctions has been and remains challenging to define in the context of interstate conflicts.

Conclusions

The evolution of human rights has experienced a rather flexible and active history, reflecting humanity's journey towards emancipation, the pursuit of peace, and the understanding of fundamental principles such as freedom, equality, and solidarity. However, persistent armed conflicts in the 21st century, along with their significant economic, social, and cultural consequences, remain substantial, highlighting ongoing challenges that jeopardize human lives and global stability. In this context, the evolution of international humanitarian law, marked by the codification of regulations and the emergence of the Agenda for Humanity, mirrors the intricate balance between ensuring security, respecting human rights, and addressing the impact of technological advancements such as artificial intelligence on global peace.

The analysis of connections between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Agenda for Humanity has highlighted the existence of both direct and indirect linkages, underscoring the necessity of collaboration between development and humanitarian efforts to address global wellbeing, peace, and the realization of international humanitarian law. However, despite progress in technological, economic, and educational development, human rights and environmental rights are still violated, complicating peace restoration, impeding

³⁹ See Action on Armed Violence, *Alleged violations of International Humanitarian Law in the Israel-Palestine conflict: a simple explainer*, November 1, 2023, Accessed November 23, 2023, <https://aoav.org.uk/2023/allegedviolations-of-international-humanitarian-law-in-the-israel-palestine-conflict-a-simple-explainer/>.

⁴⁰ Seyed Mohammad Mojabi, A. Navazi, F. Feizi and M. Ghourchi, "Environmental impact of white phosphorus weapons on urban areas", 2010 International Conference on Environmental Engineering and Applications, Singapore, 2010, pp. 112-116, doi: 10.1109/ICEEA.2010.5596102.

future prospects, and emphasizing the challenges faced by Agenda 2030 in achieving SDGs amidst climate, conflict, economic, and medical crises.

The history between Israel and Palestine is intricate, rooted in political, religious, and cultural factors, with significant events like the creation of Israel in 1948 and subsequent conflicts, including the recent escalation in Gaza. The ongoing conflict poses substantial challenges to the global achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in Palestine, notably in Gaza, impacting poverty, hunger, education, gender equality, and economic growth. The displacement of millions and thousands of casualties highlights the devastating impact of the conflict, raising concerns about potential violations of International Humanitarian Law. However, the effectiveness of sanctions and their application in interstate conflicts remains a complex and challenging issue.

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9. Onica-Jarka Beatrice, „*Drept internațional umanitar: note aprofundate de curs*”, 5th Edition, Universul Juridic, Bucharest, 2018, p. 18.

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