

The Legal Responsibility of Government in The Implementation of Sustainable Development Policies: A Normative Juridical Study on The Role of Bureaucracy In Supporting The Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) In Indonesia

Anak Agung Gede Agung Indra Prathama¹, Cokorda Gede Swetasoma¹,
Kadek Ary Purnama Dewi¹

1. Ngurah Rai University, Denpasar-Bali, Indonesia

Coessponding author;

Anak Agung Gede Agung Indra Prathama, Ngurah Rai University, Denpasar-Bali, Indonesia

Email: indra.prathama@unr.ac.id

Abstract. Sustainable development is a development paradigm that emphasizes the balance among economic, social, and environmental dimensions, aiming to fulfill the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This study aims to identify the legal norms underpinning government obligations, evaluate the implementation of bureaucratic roles based on the prevailing legal framework, and examine the juridical and institutional obstacles that hinder the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The legal issues addressed in this research include: (1) What is the nature of the legal responsibility of the Indonesian government in implementing sustainable development policies? (2) How does the bureaucracy contribute to supporting the achievement of SDGs from a normative legal perspective? (3) What juridical and institutional challenges do the bureaucracy face in executing the SDGs, and what legal solutions can be proposed? This study employs a normative juridical approach, focusing on the analysis of positive legal norms, including national legislation, constitutional provisions, and binding policy documents related to sustainable development implementation. The approach is complemented by a review of relevant literature and international legal instruments pertaining to the SDGs agenda. The findings indicate that, normatively, the Indonesian government holds a clear and binding legal obligation to realize the principles of sustainable development. However, the effectiveness of policy implementation is significantly influenced by the bureaucracy's performance, which is expected to be responsive, transparent, and accountable. Therefore, bureaucratic reform grounded in the principles of good governance is an essential prerequisite to support the achievement of sustainable development goals in Indonesia.

Keywords: bureaucracy; legal responsibility; normative juridical; sustainable development; SDGs

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development has established itself as a strategic concept within both international and national legal and public policy discourse, given its urgency in maintaining a balance among economic, social, and environmental dimensions. This concept underscores the necessity of a development approach that not only focuses on economic growth but also

emphasizes the principles of social justice and environmental preservation to ensure the fulfillment of present generation needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Therefore, sustainable development must be understood as a multidimensional normative paradigm requiring cross-sectoral integration and active participation of all stakeholders, ranging from the state, business actors, civil society, to the international community.

Within the framework of national and international law and policy, sustainable development demands the formulation and implementation of policies that are holistic, integrative, and long-term in nature. The resulting legal instruments must be capable of internalizing sustainability values across all aspects of planning and development implementation. The government, as the principal actor managing development, is obliged to uphold the principles of good governance, including participation, transparency, accountability, and legal certainty, thereby ensuring that development policies are executed without conflicting with environmental protection and social justice. Additionally, the private sector carries legal and ethical responsibilities to integrate sustainability principles into its business activities through the implementation of corporate social and environmental responsibility. Legal education and raising public awareness regarding the right to a good and healthy environment also constitute essential components to promote collective behavioral change in support of sustainability. Furthermore, scientific and technological advancements must be directed toward innovations that enhance the efficiency of natural resource use, the development of renewable energy, and climate change mitigation and adaptation (Alisjahbana & Murniningtyas, 2018).

As a developing country and member of the United Nations (UN), Indonesia has demonstrated juridical and political commitment to supporting the global development agenda by adopting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This commitment is formally regulated through Presidential Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 59 of 2017, which serves as the national legal framework for integrating the 17 goals and

169 targets of the SDGs into national and regional development planning. This regulation affirms the position of the SDGs as an integral part of national development policy aimed at achieving a balance between economic growth, environmental protection, and social justice. The implementation of the SDGs in Indonesia is grounded in the principles of inclusiveness and “no one left behind,” requiring the involvement of all societal elements, including local governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, academia, and local communities in all stages of policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation. The success of SDG implementation also necessitates strong synergy among actors and consistent, progressive regulatory support.

From a juridical-constitutional perspective, the principle of sustainable development holds strong legitimacy within Indonesia’s national legal system. This is reflected in Article 28H paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, which affirms the right of every person to live in physical and spiritual well-being, to have adequate housing, and to obtain a good and healthy environment as a constitutional right that must be protected by the state. Furthermore, Article 33 of the 1945 Constitution provides a normative basis for the management of the national economy based on the principles of kinship and state control over key production sectors and natural resources directly related to the livelihood of the people. This provision underpins the management of natural resources in a just, sustainable manner oriented towards the greatest prosperity of the people. Additionally, Law Number 32 of 2009 concerning Environmental Protection and Management (PPLH) serves as the primary legal instrument regulating the principles of sustainable development, including the principles of state responsibility, sustainability, participation, and intergenerational justice. This law also regulates the obligations of business actors and the community in environmental protection, enforcement of administrative, civil, and criminal law, as well as other important matters such

as Environmental Impact Analysis (AMDAL), risk-based permitting, and environmental supervision (Rizal, 2023).

Nevertheless, the implementation of sustainable development in Indonesia faces various practical challenges, particularly in the bureaucracy as the primary public policy executor. Suboptimal bureaucratic performance, marked by weak integration and coordination among government agencies both vertically and horizontally, often results in program duplication, budget inefficiency, and inadequate monitoring and evaluation of development goals achievement. Overlapping regulations across sectors and between central and regional governments cause policy inconsistency, jurisdictional conflicts, and divergent legal interpretations that disregard the principles of legal certainty and utility. On the other hand, low transparency and accountability within the bureaucracy, reflected in limited public access to information and weak accountability mechanisms, create opportunities for corruption, collusion, and nepotism, thereby undermining public trust in state institutions and hindering effective development governance. In addressing these challenges, comprehensive and sustainable bureaucratic reform is imperative by prioritizing the principles of good governance, including accountability, participation, effectiveness, efficiency, and the rule of law. Such reform must encompass strengthening inter-agency coordination through the integration of digital planning and reporting systems, establishing cross-sectoral mechanisms to enhance synergy among development actors, and simplifying regulations through revision and harmonization of conflicting laws.

Moreover, enhancing transparency and accountability mechanisms can be realized by leveraging information and communication technology that facilitates open, accurate, and data-driven reporting, supervision, and decision-making. Public participation should not merely serve as procedural legitimacy but also as a substantive instrument in decision-making processes with social and environmental impacts. Furthermore, expanding public participation in policy oversight mechanisms through accessible consultation forums and complaint procedures is crucial. The involvement of civil society, academia, and the mass media plays a strategic role in establishing effective social control over bureaucratic performance and government policies. Upholding the principles of information openness and constructive dialogue between government and society, policy evaluation serves as a means for correction and collective learning to enhance the effectiveness of sustainable development implementation.

Thus, the legal responsibility of the government through a strong, professional, and accountable bureaucracy constitutes the fundamental foundation to ensure governance that aligns with the nation's long-term development goals. Strengthening the principles of good governance within the bureaucracy will enable the optimal implementation of sustainable development, delivering broad benefits for public welfare and ensuring environmental preservation as a vital capital for the sustainability of future generations. The synergy among legal instruments, public participation, and effective state administration is an indispensable prerequisite for achieving the vision of national development that is sustainable and social just. Based on the discussion, this study focuses on three main legal issues related to the government's legal responsibility in implementing sustainable development policies: (1) What is the nature of the legal responsibility of the Indonesian government in implementing sustainable development policies? (2) How does the bureaucracy contribute to supporting the achievement of SDGs from a normative legal perspective? (3) What juridical and institutional challenges do the bureaucracy face in executing the SDGs, and what legal solutions can be proposed?

METHOD

This study employs a doctrinal legal research method, which provides a systematic explanation of legal norms governing a particular category of law—specifically, in this case, examining the interrelation of legal norms, clarifying complex legal areas, and offering descriptive insights in the form of predictions regarding the future development of legal norms (*ius constituendum*). It may be interpreted as a form of research that applies analytical and deductive reasoning to interpret and critique legal materials, aiming to develop legal theories or concepts by examining and comparing doctrines, principles, and legal precedents.

This research also utilizes primary, secondary, and tertiary data sources. The primary data comprises prevailing statutory and regulatory frameworks at both national and local levels. Additionally, the research makes use of secondary data in the form of relevant literature, journal articles, and academic papers pertinent to the issues under study. Tertiary data include dictionaries used to interpret foreign legal terms that require translation.

Data for this study were collected through documentary and literature review techniques, which involve gathering data and information by examining literature and written sources relevant to the issues under investigation (Puspitaningrat, I Dewa Agung Ayu Mas et al., 2024:34). The research further applies several approaches to provide clarity and depth to the substantive analysis of the scholarly work. These include the factual approach and the conceptual approach. The factual approach involves examining legal issues based on verifiable real-world conditions, grounded in both legal theory and legislation. The conceptual approach, on the other hand, employs current legal literature to investigate legal phenomena, relying on contemporary legal doctrines and theoretical perspectives.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Legal Accountability of the Indonesian Government in the Implementation of Sustainable Development Policy

Sustainable development has become a fundamental agenda in the formulation of national development policy in Indonesia, particularly in responding to the complex and multidimensional challenges of development. Within this framework, development is no longer directed solely toward achieving economic growth but also requires a balanced integration of social and environmental aspects. Consequently, development policies must be designed and implemented with due regard to the sustainability of natural resources and the fulfillment of the rights of future generations to a healthy and sustainable environment. Accordingly, the principle of sustainable development serves as both a normative and operational foundation that guides national development strategies.

As a state that has adopted and ratified various legal instruments at both national and international levels, the Government of Indonesia bears a legal obligation to ensure the effective and consistent implementation of sustainable development policies. The legal instruments underpinning such implementation include, among others, Presidential Regulation No. 59 of 2017 concerning the Implementation of the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as Law No. 32 of 2009 on Environmental Protection and Management. These legal commitments require the government to carry out functions of supervision, inter-agency coordination, and law enforcement in a synergistic manner, to ensure that all sustainable development programs are implemented in accordance with the provisions and objectives set forth (Nuriyatman, 2025).

Beyond the obligation to comply with legislation, the legal responsibility of the government also encompasses aspects of transparency and accountability in the implementation of sustainable development policies. These obligations constitute vital instruments to ensure public access to information and accountability in the execution of such policies. Furthermore, the government is also required to strengthen law enforcement

mechanisms to prevent and address violations that may harm environmental sustainability and public welfare. Therefore, a comprehensive understanding of the various forms of the government's legal responsibility is essential in realizing development that is legally and practically just inclusive, and sustainable.

The forms of action that reflect the legal responsibility of the Government of Indonesia in the implementation of sustainable development policies are as follows:

Compliance with Legislation

Compliance with legislation constitutes a fundamental basis for the Government of Indonesia in fulfilling its legal responsibility in the implementation of sustainable development. The government is not only required to carry out development policies effectively but must also ensure that all development activities are conducted in accordance with the applicable legal provisions. Key legal instruments that serve as primary references include Presidential Regulation No. 59 of 2017 on the Implementation of the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Law No. 32 of 2009 on Environmental Protection and Management, as well as the constitutional provisions enshrined in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. Article 28H of the 1945 Constitution explicitly guarantees the right of every citizen to a good and healthy environment, while Article 33 affirms the state's role in the sustainable management of natural resources for the welfare of the people. Non-compliance by the government with these legal provisions not only constitutes a violation of the principle of legality, but may also result in legal consequences, including administrative sanctions, fines, or even criminal liability, thereby undermining the credibility and effectiveness of sustainable development policy implementation. Therefore, ensuring legal compliance is a crucial step in safeguarding the integrity and sustainability of development programs that prioritize not only economic growth but also social equity and environmental preservation for the benefit of present and future generations. Moreover, legal compliance also reflects the government's commitment to upholding the principles of good governance, which include transparency, accountability, and public participation—thereby reinforcing legitimacy and public support in realizing comprehensive and continuous sustainable development goals (Capah, Rachim & Raharjo, 2024).

Law Enforcement and Sanctions

Law enforcement is one of the fundamental instruments reflecting the government's legal responsibility in ensuring the comprehensive implementation of sustainable development policies. In this context, the government is obliged to carry out intensive and continuous oversight of all development activities that may potentially cause adverse impacts on environmental sustainability. Effective enforcement is not only intended to address violations but also to prevent future transgressions through the application of firm and equitable sanctions. Therefore, law enforcement mechanisms must be designed based on the principles of effectiveness and efficiency, to ensure both deterrence and the long-term sustainability of development programs. Moreover, the implementation of law enforcement in the context of sustainable development requires harmonious synergy and coordination among competent authorities, including administrative, civil, and criminal law enforcement bodies. This coordination is essential to ensure a comprehensive enforcement process and to avoid jurisdictional overlaps that may hinder legal proceedings. Sanctions imposed must be proportional and aligned with the severity and nature of the violations, thereby serving not only a punitive function but also an educative one—promoting legal compliance among development actors (Susetio, Azis, Saragih & Bertha, 2024). Robust and consistent enforcement is key to ensuring that development not only pursues economic objectives but also maintains ecological balance and social justice. Consequently, the government must enhance the institutional capacity of law enforcement agencies and optimize cross-sectoral

coordination to ensure a professional, transparent, and accountable enforcement process—leading to environmentally conscious and socially just governance.

Accountability and Transparency

To ensure the effective implementation of sustainable development policies in accordance with the principles of good governance, government bureaucracy bears a critical responsibility to consistently apply the principles of accountability and transparency throughout all stages of policy formulation and execution. The government is legally obligated to provide open, clear, and verifiable accountability to the public and authorized oversight institutions, as a form of respect for the public's right to accurate and timely information. This accountability can be realized through the preparation of structured and periodic implementation reports, the execution of independent and objective performance audits, and the systematic and ongoing evaluation of development programs to identify both achievements and challenges. Furthermore, transparency in policy management and reporting serves not only to increase public trust in the government but also plays a strategic role in preventing and reducing the risks of maladministration, abuse of power, and corruption, all of which could harm the development process. With adequate information disclosure, the public and various stakeholders can actively participate in social oversight, provide constructive input, and monitor policy implementation to ensure it aligns with established objectives. To this end, the bureaucracy must develop an effective and accessible information management system and utilize information and communication technology (ICT) to accelerate the transparent dissemination of data and reports. Strengthening accountability and transparency is expected to enable the bureaucracy to function professionally and responsibly, thereby supporting the realization of sustainable development that is just, efficient, and environmentally sound (Erwin, 2008).

Protection of Community Rights

The government holds a binding legal obligation to ensure the fulfillment of the people's right to a good and healthy environment, as affirmed in the constitutional and statutory provisions applicable in Indonesia. This obligation requires the government to take proactive steps in formulating, implementing, and supervising development policies that not only promote economic growth but also safeguard environmental sustainability and social justice for all citizens. Failure to uphold these responsibilities provides the public with clear legal recourse to demand the fulfillment of their rights through various legal mechanisms, including civil or administrative litigation before judicial or oversight bodies. This right is a manifestation of the principles of the rule of law and fundamental human rights protection, and it serves as a critical means for communities to seek environmental justice (Fahmi, 2011). Moreover, legal protection of community environmental rights also functions as an accountability tool for the government—requiring not only transparency and responsibility but also enabling public participation in the monitoring of sustainable development policies. This social control mechanism acts as a check on governmental power to ensure that policies do not ignore public interests or damage ecological systems. With adequate legal frameworks in place, development can proceed in alignment with social justice and environmental sustainability, ensuring the well-being of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Therefore, strengthening legal instruments and expanding public access to environmental justice are integral components of building responsive, inclusive, and sustainable development governance.

Bureaucratic Reform and Institutional Strengthening

The government's legal responsibility in implementing sustainable development policies necessitates a comprehensive and systematically structured bureaucratic reform. Such reform is essential to overcome various structural challenges that have hindered effective governance, including overlapping norms and regulations that create jurisdictional ambiguities, weak

coordination between central and regional government institutions, and ineffective internal oversight mechanisms that fail to respond adequately to policy implementation dynamics (Adila, Refdi & Hadi, 2025). Accordingly, the strengthening of bureaucratic governance must encompass several strategic aspects, including the enhancement of civil service capacity and competence through professional development and training, the simplification and harmonization of complex and conflicting regulations to accelerate administrative processes and decision-making, and the establishment of transparent and accountable monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure that policies align with sustainable development goals. An effective and efficient bureaucracy serves as the main driving force behind the implementation of sustainable development policies—not merely as a formality but as a genuine agent of transformative impact for both society and the environment. Thus, bureaucratic transformation that emphasizes professionalism, integrity, and accountability is expected to improve public service quality, reinforce stakeholder collaboration, and ensure transparent and responsible governance. Ultimately, this will accelerate the comprehensive and continuous achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while reinforcing the legal and institutional foundation necessary to address current and future development challenges. Therefore, bureaucratic reform is not merely an administrative requirement but a fundamental legal obligation of the government in fulfilling its constitutional mandate and national development policy.

Fulfillment of International Commitments

As an active member of the United Nations (UN), Indonesia bears a significant international legal responsibility to support and implement global commitments related to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Tantimin, 2021). The Indonesian government is obligated to ensure that all national policies formulated and executed are aligned with the principles, standards, and international obligations that the state has agreed to and ratified. This requires the systematic harmonization of domestic regulations with international norms, so that sustainable development implementation proceeds consistently without legal conflicts or overlaps. In addition, the government is required to conduct regular reporting to international bodies on the progress of SDG implementation, serving as a form of accountability and transparency in fulfilling global commitments. This obligation not only affirms Indonesia's position as a responsible actor in the global arena but also strengthens its strategic role in sustainable development diplomacy, opens opportunities for international cooperation, and enhances the country's global reputation. Thus, the integration of national and international legal frameworks is a crucial element in Indonesia's efforts to realize inclusive, socially just, and environmentally sound development in line with the global agenda.

In conclusion, the legal responsibility borne by the Government of Indonesia in implementing sustainable development policies reflects the State's commitment to achieving development that is continuous and balanced across economic, social, and environmental dimensions. Compliance with applicable regulations serves as a fundamental foundation to ensure that every policy measure taken aligns with the normative objectives of sustainable development. Moreover, firm and consistent law enforcement, accompanied by the imposition of fair and proportional legal sanctions, is essential to safeguard the integrity of policy implementation and to prevent violations that may harm the public and the environment.

The principles of transparency and accountability within the bureaucracy play a vital role, not only as a means of public accountability but also as a mechanism to enhance the quality and effectiveness of sustainable development program implementation. The protection of the public's right to a healthy and viable environment serves as a key indicator of the success of such policy implementation, as the objectives of sustainable development cannot be optimally achieved without such guarantees. Bureaucratic reform focused on strengthening inter-institutional coordination, simplifying complex regulations, and reinforcing both internal

and external oversight mechanisms constitutes a crucial strategy for overcoming various obstacles that have hindered the implementation process of sustainable development policies.

Furthermore, Indonesia's fulfillment of its international commitments through the harmonization of national regulations with global standards and norms further strengthens the country's position in the realm of sustainable development diplomacy. This demonstrates that the government's legal responsibility is not merely normative or rhetorical in nature but must be realized in a concrete and continuous manner in order to achieve the goals of a just, inclusive, and environmentally conscious national development. Accordingly, the implementation of sustainable development policies requires strong synergy among legal frameworks, bureaucratic institutions, and public participation to ensure the creation of a better and sustainable future for all segments of the nation.

The Role of Bureaucracy in Supporting the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from a Normative Legal Perspective

From a normative legal perspective, bureaucracy occupies a central position as the principal executor of sustainable development policies aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Yoriska, 2020). As a state executive organ, the bureaucracy holds a crucial responsibility to actualize the legal norms and policies formulated within national and international legal instruments. Therefore, the bureaucracy is required to perform these functions professionally, accountably, and responsibly to ensure the effective implementation of sustainable development in accordance with the applicable legal framework. Beyond merely fulfilling administrative functions, the bureaucracy also serves as a guardian of compliance with substantive legal principles that underpin the implementation of sustainable development. Specifically, the bureaucracy is legally obligated to conduct public administration based on the principles of transparency and accountability as stipulated in the prevailing laws and regulations, including the Regional Government Law, the Administrative Law, and regulations governing the achievement of SDGs in Indonesia (Sudarwanto & Kharisma, 2020). Within this framework, the bureaucracy is mandated to formulate development planning integrated with SDG targets and to carry out continuous and systematic monitoring and evaluation at every stage of policy implementation. Adherence to the principles of transparency and accountability is a vital prerequisite to maintain the legal and social legitimacy of sustainable development policies in practice. Furthermore, the bureaucracy's legal obligations encompass the integration of sustainable development principles throughout the entire public policy process, including planning, implementation, supervision, and evaluation. This demands the optimization of resource management effectively and efficiently while maintaining a balance among economic, social, and environmental dimensions. Thus, bureaucracy functions as a mediator harmonizing the interests of various stakeholders involved to achieve the goals of sustainable development comprehensively and sustainably.

In the practical implementation, the bureaucracy is also obligated to ensure coordination across governmental institutions at both central and regional levels, as well as to involve relevant stakeholders. Such coordination is essential to prevent overlapping regulations and procedures and to facilitate the smooth execution of sustainable development programs. Moreover, strengthening internal supervision mechanisms is a crucial aspect to detect and address potential deviations and obstacles in policy implementation. The existence of an effective oversight system will enhance the quality and accountability of policy execution, thereby enabling the optimal achievement of the SDG targets. Furthermore, the bureaucracy serves as a liaison between the government and the public in order to increase public participation and guarantee transparency of information. The principle of transparency functions as a key instrument in strengthening public trust and encouraging active community involvement at every stage of sustainable development. Bureaucratic accountability to the public and supervisory institutions becomes a critical factor to ensure that development

policies not only meet formal legal standards but also obtain strong social legitimacy. This is essential to ensure that policies can respond to the needs and aspirations of society without compromising the balance of the environmental ecosystem. Thus, from a normative legal perspective, the bureaucracy does not merely act as a technical policy executor but also as a central actor responsible for ensuring the integrity and consistency of sustainable development implementation in accordance with national legal norms and international standards. Professionalism, integrity, and commitment of the bureaucracy are the key determinants of the successful and sustainable achievement of the SDGs, while simultaneously reinforcing Indonesia's position as an active contributor to a just and inclusive global development agenda.

Based on the foregoing discussion, it can be affirmed that the bureaucracy holds a central and strategic role in supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from a normative legal perspective. The bureaucracy is obligated to perform public management functions with professionalism, transparency, and accountability, in accordance with the applicable legal norms and regulations. The legal duties of the bureaucracy encompass the integration of sustainable development principles throughout all stages of the policy process, the effective implementation of inter-agency coordination, as well as the strengthening of systematic internal supervision mechanisms to ensure the effectiveness and accountability of SDG implementation. Furthermore, the role of the bureaucracy as an intermediary between the government and society in upholding the principles of transparency and accountability is a crucial factor in reinforcing the legitimacy and sustainability of development policies. Accordingly, the professionalism and integrity of the bureaucracy are indispensable prerequisites for realizing development that is just, inclusive, and sustainable, in line with national legal standards and adopted international conventions. This conclusion underscores that the bureaucracy is not merely a technical policy implementer but a principal legal actor responsible for maintaining the conformity of sustainable development implementation with applicable legal principles, thereby making a significant contribution to the comprehensive and sustainable achievement of the global development agenda.

Juridical and Institutional Challenges Faced by the Bureaucracy in the Implementation of SDGs and Legal Solutions

Juridical and Institutional Challenges in the Implementation of SDGs by the Bureaucracy

In the context of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Indonesia, the bureaucracy plays a crucial role as the frontline executor of public policies focused on achieving sustainable development (Aqila & Sisdianto, 2025). However, the execution of these duties is not without various challenges, both juridical and institutional, encompassing structural and substantive aspects. Normatively, one of the primary challenges faced is the lack of alignment and harmonization among sectoral laws and regulations. This has resulted in insufficient regulatory integration to support a cross-sectoral and multidimensional development approach, as mandated by the SDGs framework.

Meanwhile, on the institutional side, the bureaucracy continues to encounter serious issues related to fragmented authority among government agencies, causing overlapping duties and functions. Furthermore, weak inter-agency coordination hampers synergy in the implementation of sustainable development programs. Equally important is the low capacity of human resources within the state apparatus, who have not yet fully comprehended or been able to consistently implement the principles of sustainable development comprehensively. The mismatch between existing regulations and the dynamic need of development causes the bureaucracy to tend to operate in a partial and sectoral manner, thereby impeding the realization of comprehensive and effective policy integration.

Given these issues, an in-depth effort to examine juridical and institutional challenges is critically necessary. Such an analysis not only serves to identify systemic obstacles hindering

bureaucratic performance in fulfilling the sustainable development mandate but also aims to formulate legal solutions that are more adaptive and responsive to the dynamics of development progress. The proposed solutions should be oriented towards the principles of a democratic rule of law, ensuring policy coherence and enhancing bureaucratic capacity to optimally contribute to achieving the established SDG targets. Consequently, reforms in juridical and institutional aspects constitute strategic keys to strengthening the role of the bureaucracy as the driving force behind sustainable development in Indonesia.

Regulatory Complexity and Legal Fragmentation

In the context of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), one of the most significant juridical obstacles is the complexity and fragmentation within the regulatory framework governing sustainable development aspects (Zen, Mageiasti & Yulhendri, 2025). Various legal norms dispersed across multiple sectors at both national and regional levels have often not been fully harmonized, resulting in disharmony and potential normative conflicts among regulations. This situation causes overlapping authorities among government agencies, which in turn triggers confusion in technical implementation on the ground and weakens inter-sectoral coordination that should operate synergistically. The absence of a single, integrated legal framework that can systematically accommodate and integrate the principles of sustainable development is a primary factor hindering the bureaucracy's effectiveness in implementing the SDGs across sectors and governmental levels. This condition demands efforts toward regulatory harmonization and the formulation of a comprehensive legal umbrella to ensure that sustainable development administration can be conducted consistently, purposefully, and sustainably throughout Indonesia. Thus, strengthening legal governance that prioritizes the principle of integration becomes a crucial key to overcoming regulatory fragmentation, which has long been the main obstacle to achieving SDG targets.

Ambiguity of Authority and Dysfunctional Institutional Coordination

Another equally important juridical issue is the unclear delimitation of authority among various government institutions, both at the central and regional levels, including technical ministries and non-ministerial agencies. The lack of clear authority division and binding legal provisions regarding cross-sector coordination mechanisms results in significant institutional dysfunction in both the formulation and implementation of policies related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This situation creates gaps that lead each bureaucracy to tend to operate sectorally without adequate integration between agencies. Consequently, fragmentation occurs in the execution of sustainable development programs, adversely affecting policy synergy and the effectiveness of achieving SDG indicators at the national level. The absence of coordination mechanisms with normative authority and clear mandates further exacerbates this condition, thus impeding and suboptimizing efforts to achieve sustainable development targets. Therefore, regulatory reform is urgently required to clarify the delineation of authority and establish legal and effective coordination mechanisms to strengthen inter-agency cooperation in realizing integrated and sustainable SDG implementation.

Weak Law Enforcement and Sanctions on Environmental Violations

Suboptimal law enforcement regarding violations of environmental provisions and the implementation of sustainable development represents an urgent normative obstacle requiring immediate improvement. Although various legal instruments have been prepared, ranging from administrative, civil, to criminal sanctions, their application in practice is often inconsistent, hindered, or even ignored. This is reflected in the minimal firm legal actions against perpetrators of environmental pollution, illegal exploitation of natural resources, and acts causing massive ecosystem damage. The weak enforceability of the law ultimately has a negative impact on the effectiveness of sustainable development policy implementation. Moreover, the lack of seriousness in law enforcement undermines the protection of the public's

right to enjoy a healthy and decent environment, as mandated in Article 28H paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. Consequently, reforms in the law enforcement system that are firmer, more transparent, and equitable are highly necessary to ensure environmental sustainability and the implementation of just and sustainable development for all layers of society.

Task Fragmentation and Weak Institutional Capacity

From an institutional perspective, the bureaucracy faces quite complex challenges related to fragmented functions and tasks among various government agencies, which are often disproportionate and overlapping. This situation causes institutional confusion, slows down decision-making processes, and results in inefficiency in the use and distribution of available resources. Additionally, the bureaucratic institutional capacity to handle the multidimensional issues inherent in sustainable development—such as gender mainstreaming, enforcement of social justice, and climate change mitigation efforts—is still relatively low. This condition indicates that the integration of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) principles into the public policy planning and implementation processes has yet to run optimally (Alisjahbana & Murniningtyas, 2018). Therefore, strengthening institutional capacity and harmonizing functions among agencies is crucial for the bureaucracy to effectively and responsively manage the complexities of sustainable development in accordance with community needs and global development demands.

Limited Technical Competence and Capacity of State Apparatus

Limitations in human resources, both in terms of quantity and quality, constitute one of the main obstacles hampering the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the government bureaucracy (Christmas & Aminah, 2019). Most civil servants still lack technical competence and deep understanding of sustainable development principles and their underlying legal regulations. This condition directly affects the quality of policy formulation, resulting in misdirected policies, weak program implementation effectiveness, and inaccuracies in data collection and reporting on sustainable development performance indicators. Moreover, the lack of continuous and systematic training programs to enhance civil servants' competencies exacerbates the capability gaps across bureaucratic levels, both at central and regional levels. Therefore, strengthening human resource capacity through structured training and enhanced conceptual understanding is an essential step to guarantee the successful and sustainable implementation of the SDGs.

Issues of Transparency, Accountability, and Potential Abuse of Authority

Transparency and accountability are crucial elements that often-become weak points in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) policies (Christmas, Hardiyanti & Prawira, 2021). The lack of open information to the public and limited community involvement at every stage of policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation opens the door for abuse of authority and corrupt practices that undermine the integrity of development programs. This condition weakens the role of social control, which is vital to ensuring that development budgets and resources are used properly and responsibly. In the context of governance founded on the principles of the rule of law and democracy, the bureaucracy's failure to establish transparent and participatory accountability mechanisms risks a crisis of public trust and threatens the legitimacy of SDG implementation. Therefore, it is essential to strengthen both internal and external oversight systems that emphasize openness, accountability, and public participation as foundational pillars for realizing good governance and the successful achievement of sustainable development goals.

Legal Solutions to Overcome the Challenges

In the context of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the bureaucracy faces a number of juridical challenges that require comprehensive strategies for

regulatory harmonization and synchronization (SDGs Center Universitas Padjadjaran, 2020:13). The complexity and fragmentation of regulations across various sectors and levels of government often give rise to normative conflicts and overlapping authorities among institutions. This condition not only impedes the smooth implementation of policies but also diminishes the effectiveness of achieving sustainable development objectives. Therefore, a comprehensive and integrated national legal instrument is needed, such as the enactment of a special law on Sustainable Development, which not only integrates economic, social, and environmental aspects but also provides legal certainty for the implementation of cross-sectoral and cross-regional policies.

Moreover, strong and consistent law enforcement is a key factor in ensuring compliance with the principles of sustainable development. The imposition of sanctions—whether administrative, civil, or criminal—must be applied firmly and proportionately in accordance with the severity of the violations. For example, the revocation of business licenses as an administrative sanction can be imposed on parties that systematically damage the environment. Provisions in Articles 98 and 99 of Law Number 32 of 2009 concerning Environmental Protection and Management provide a robust legal foundation for environmental criminal enforcement. To support these efforts, consideration should be given to establishing an independent supervisory body specifically tasked with monitoring SDG implementation, as well as strengthening internal oversight functions within each ministry and agency directly involved with the sustainable development agenda (Rahmawati & Setyowati, 2021).

On the other hand, bureaucratic reform is an urgent necessity to address governance challenges in sustainable development. Such reform must be comprehensive, encompassing structural, functional, and cultural aspects to enhance the capacity of state apparatus human resources. Civil servants need to be equipped with in-depth knowledge of the legal norms of sustainable development, principles of good governance, and skills in utilizing modern information technology. A concrete initiative that can be implemented is the systematic organization of thematic training related to the SDGs by the National Institute of Public Administration (*Lembaga Administrasi Negara/LAN*), aimed at strengthening bureaucratic capacity at both the policy formulation and field program implementation levels.

Coordination among government agencies and across sectors constitutes a crucial factor in ensuring policy alignment and the successful implementation of sustainable development programs. To address coordination challenges, it is necessary to establish an integrated institutional framework that clearly regulates the division of authority and responsibilities among respective institutions. As an institutional solution, the establishment of a National SDGs Coordination Forum can serve as a collaborative platform involving representatives from technical ministries/agencies, regional governments, the private sector, academia, and civil society organizations. This forum functions not only as a coordination mechanism but also as a deliberative body that promotes periodic cross-sectoral performance evaluations and data-driven decision-making based on relevant sustainable development indicators (Sari & Wicaksono, 2020).

Furthermore, the implementation of result-based management systems must be strengthened as a tool for evaluating the effectiveness of SDGs implementation. The development of a publicly accessible, digital technology-based SDGs indicator dashboard constitutes a strategic instrument to enhance bureaucratic transparency and accountability. For instance, regional governments may adopt the SDGs Scorecard developed by Bappenas to monitor and measure the achievement of development targets both quantitatively and qualitatively. With such an open monitoring system, the quality of policy implementation can be objectively assessed and adjusted in accordance with the applicable legal framework.

Lastly, active public participation and the strengthening of external supervisory bodies are integral components of democratic governance grounded in the rule of law. Public participation in the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of SDG policies must be guaranteed through regulations that mandate public consultation mechanisms and participatory forums. Additionally, the roles of independent institutions such as the Indonesian Center for Environmental Law (ICEL), Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia (WALHI), and the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) should be reinforced to conduct social and environmental audits on strategic national development projects (Sachs, *et al*, 2022). This approach not only enhances horizontal accountability among institutions but also ensures the protection of community rights and justice within sustainable and inclusive development processes. Accordingly, the implementation of the SDGs can proceed effectively, transparently, and equitably, in line with the legal and democratic principles underpinning the state.

Based on an in-depth study of various juridical and institutional challenges in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it can be concluded that the bureaucracy plays a crucial role while simultaneously facing several fundamental issues in executing sustainable development policies. Various obstacles, both structural and normative, such as regulatory disharmony across sectors, weak coordination among government agencies, limited capacity of civil servants, and suboptimal internal and external supervisory mechanisms, constitute determining factors that may hinder the effective and efficient achievement of SDG targets. This condition directly affects the quality of public policy implementation oriented towards sustainable development objectives, particularly in terms of effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability. Therefore, addressing these issues must be undertaken through the formulation of systemic and comprehensive legal solutions. Such measures include harmonization and synchronization of sectoral legislation to align with SDG principles and indicators, strengthening the normative framework for law enforcement to guarantee social justice and environmental preservation, as well as reconstructing bureaucratic institutions through reform approaches addressing structural, functional, and cultural aspects. The proposed bureaucratic reform should be aimed at building a quality governance system consistent with the principles of good governance, emphasizing civil servant professionalism, transparency of policy processes and outcomes, active public participation, and robust institutional accountability. These principles serve as the main pillars for establishing a democratic governance system based on the rule of law. Furthermore, strengthening synergy among institutions and sectors is an urgent necessity, with a focus on effective and efficient coordination to ensure that various sustainable development policies and programs are implemented in an integrated manner without overlapping.

In the current digital era, the utilization of information technology also plays a central role as a tool to support transparency, data openness, and enhanced public accountability. The development of a regulatory-based monitoring and evaluation system supported by digital technology is a vital strategy for overseeing real-time and accurate progress in achieving the SDGs. With a responsive and adaptive bureaucracy that addresses both local and global dynamic challenges, the state can optimally fulfill its domestic and international legal obligations as mandated. Through a progressive legal approach combined with a professional and capable bureaucracy, Indonesia is expected to realize equitable, inclusive, and sustainable development. This simultaneously strengthens Indonesia's position on the international stage as a law-abiding country with a strong commitment to the public interest within the framework of global development. The implementation of holistic and synergistic policies thus becomes a fundamental foundation for sustainable national development that benefits both current and future generations.

CONCLUSION

The Government of Indonesia holds a comprehensive legal responsibility in the administration of sustainable development policies, reflecting the State's commitment to achieving a synergistic balance among economic, social, and environmental aspects in a sustainable manner. Compliance with applicable laws and regulations, effective, fair, and proportional law enforcement, as well as the implementation of principles of transparency and institutional accountability, constitute the main pillars in ensuring the effectiveness and integrity of sustainable development program implementation. Protection of the public's right to a healthy and decent environment, accompanied by bureaucratic reforms that prioritize regulatory harmonization, strengthened inter-agency coordination, and enhanced supervisory mechanisms, are strategic instruments to overcome various obstacles in the implementation of sustainable development policies. Furthermore, the fulfillment of international obligations through harmonization of domestic regulations with international legal standards and instruments further strengthens Indonesia's position in the realm of global development diplomacy. Therefore, the success of sustainable development implementation heavily depends on the integration of legal frameworks, a professional and accountable bureaucratic capacity, and the active involvement of the public as legal subjects, all aimed at achieving national development goals that are just, inclusive, and environmentally conscious for both present and future generations.

From a normative legal perspective, the bureaucracy holds a strategic and central role in the implementation of sustainable development policies oriented towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As an executive organ of the State, the bureaucracy has a legal obligation to perform public management functions professionally, transparently, and accountably, by integrating sustainable development principles at every stage of policy-making, from planning, implementation, to monitoring and evaluation. In practice, the bureaucracy is required to optimize cross-agency coordination and strengthen internal supervisory mechanisms to ensure the effectiveness, integrity, and legal as well as social legitimacy of sustainable development policies. Moreover, the bureaucracy also serves as a mediator between the government and society by guaranteeing information openness and public participation, which are absolute prerequisites in reinforcing accountability and public trust. Therefore, the professionalism, integrity, and commitment of the bureaucracy are not only prerequisites for the sustainable success of SDG implementation but also reinforce Indonesia's legal standing in the global arena of just and inclusive development. Thus, the bureaucracy functions not merely as a technical policy implementer but as a principal legal actor responsible for maintaining the alignment of sustainable development implementation with national legal norms and principles as well as applicable international standards.

Nevertheless, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Indonesia faces a range of complex and multidimensional juridical and institutional challenges. From a legal standpoint, the main issue lies in the fragmentation and lack of harmonization of cross-sectoral regulations, which results in overlapping authorities and weak coordination mechanisms among government institutions. This situation adversely affects the effectiveness of law enforcement, particularly regarding the inconsistent and insufficiently stringent application of sanctions for environmental violations. From an institutional perspective, the disproportionate fragmentation of functions and duties among government agencies, coupled with limited human resource capacity within the civil service, undermines the bureaucracy's ability to comprehensively integrate sustainable development principles. Additionally, low levels of transparency, accountability, and public participation create opportunities for potential abuse of authority, thereby hindering the achievement of sustainable development objectives.

To overcome these obstacles, comprehensive juridical and institutional reforms are necessary. Legally, the harmonization and synchronization of legislation under a single, comprehensive legal framework is imperative to address fragmentation and normative

conflicts. Strengthening law enforcement that is fair, consistent, and just—including the rigorous and proportional application of administrative, civil, and criminal sanctions—is a crucial aspect to ensure compliance with sustainable development principles. Institutional reform must also encompass structural and functional improvements that clarify the division of authority and reinforce coordination mechanisms across sectors and levels of government. Furthermore, developing the capacity of civil servants through continuous training and enhancement of technical competencies is a strategic step that cannot be overlooked to ensure officials can address the complexities of sustainable development.

Moreover, the implementation of result-based management systems and the utilization of information technology to enhance transparency and accountability must become primary instruments in the monitoring and evaluation of SDGs implementation. The development of publicly accessible indicator dashboards represents a concrete example of realizing the informational openness essential for good governance. Active public involvement and strengthening the role of external oversight institutions are also fundamental elements in establishing a democratic governance system based on the rule of law. Public participation in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of SDGs policies must be guaranteed through legally regulated mechanisms of public consultation and participatory forums.

Thus, the integration of legal solutions and institutional reforms that uphold the principles of good governance constitutes an indispensable prerequisite for the successful achievement of the SDGs in Indonesia. This approach will not only enhance the effectiveness of sustainable development policy implementation but also ensure the realization of a national development that is just, inclusive, and sustainable in accordance with domestic legal mandates and international commitments. Through professional, transparent, accountable, and participatory governance, Indonesia is expected to realize development that is equitable and environmentally sound, while simultaneously strengthening its position as a state governed by the rule of law and committed to the public interest within the framework of global development.

REFERENCES

- Adila, W., Refdi, R., & Hadi, F. (2025). Kajian literatur tentang implementasi tujuan pembangunan berkelanjutan (SDGs) di Indonesia: Evaluasi dan perspektif berkelanjutan. *Madani: Jurnal Ilmiah Multidisiplin*, 3(2), 318–331. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14913530> (Jurnal Daarul Huda)
- Albers, J. (2017). *Human rights and climate change*. Utrecht University.
- Alisjahbana, A. S., & Murniningtyas, E. (2018). *Tujuan pembangunan berkelanjutan di Indonesia: Konsep, target, dan strategi implementasi*. Unpad Press.
- Aqila, K. S., & Sisdianto, E. (2025). Analisis integrasi akuntansi lingkungan dan CSR untuk mencapai tujuan pembangunan berkelanjutan berbasis digital. *Jurnal Ilmiah Ekonomi, Manajemen, Bisnis dan Akuntansi*, 2(1), 508–517. <https://doi.org/10.61722/JEMBA.V2I1.662>
- Capah, B. M., Rachim, H. A., & Raharjo, S. T. (2024). Implementasi SDG's-12 melalui pengembangan komunitas dalam program CSR. *Share: Social Work Journal*, 13(1), 150–161. <https://doi.org/10.24198/share.v13i1.46502> (Jurnal Universitas Padjadjaran)
- Christmas, S. K., & Aminah. (2019). The principles of environmental based development in international law and sustainable development goals. *Jurnal Hukum Novelty*, 10(2), 101–110.
- Christmas, S. K., Hardiyanti, M., & Prawira, S. A. (2021). Role in the forest village community-based forest management sustainable development. *Journal of Judicial Review*, 23(1), 115–128.
- Erwin, M. (2008). *Hukum lingkungan dalam sistem kebijaksanaan pembangunan lingkungan hidup*. Refika Aditama.

-
- Fahmi, S. (2011). Asas tanggung jawab negara sebagai dasar pelaksanaan perlindungan dan pengelolaan lingkungan hidup. *Jurnal Hukum Ius Quia Iustum*, 18(2), 212–228.
- Nuriyatman, E. (2025). Efektivitas penerapan tanggung jawab sosial lingkungan. *Riau Law Journal*, 9(1), 1–12.
- Rahmawati, S., & Setyowati, H. (2021). Peran pendanaan dalam implementasi SDGs di Indonesia: Studi tentang keterlibatan sektor swasta. *Jurnal Keuangan Publik*, 10(4), 65–80.
- Rizal, M. (2023). *Implementasi program pembangunan dan pemberdayaan masyarakat (Pro Bebaya) di Kota Samarinda* [Skripsi, Universitas Mulawarman].
- Sachs, J. D., Schmidt-Traub, G., Kroll, C., Lafortune, G., & Fuller, G. (2022). *Sustainable development report 2022: Tracking progress on the SDGs*. Cambridge University Press.
- Sari, I. P., & Wicaksono, A. (2020). Perubahan iklim dan keberlanjutan SDGs: Tantangan bagi Indonesia. *Jurnal Lingkungan dan Pembangunan Berkelanjutan*, 8(2), 98–113.
- SDGs Center Universitas Padjadjaran. (2020). *Tujuan pembangunan berkelanjutan di Indonesia: Konsep, target, dan strategi implementasi*. Universitas Padjadjaran.
- Susetio, W., Azis, R. A., Saragih, H., & Bertha, A. (2024). Peran hukum dalam mencapai tujuan pembangunan berkelanjutan (Sustainable Development Goals/SDGs). *Lex Jurnalica*, 21(2), 229–236.
- Sudarwanto, A. S., & Kharisma, D. B. (2020). Omnibus law dan izin lingkungan dalam konteks pembangunan berkelanjutan. *Jurnal Rechts Vinding: Media Pembinaan Hukum Nasional*, 9(1). <https://doi.org/10.33331/rechtsvinding.v9i1.411>
- Tantimin. (2021). Relevansi hubungan hukum pidana lingkungan hidup Indonesia dengan prinsip sustainable development goals. *Jurnal Komunikasi Hukum*, 7(2), 619–627.
- Yoriska, Y. (2020). Pembangunan hukum yang berkelanjutan: Usaha mencapai pembangunan nasional yang berkelanjutan. *Jurnal Legislasi Indonesia*, 17(1). <https://doi.org/10.54629/jli.v17i1.507>
- Zen, N. H., Mageiasti, L., & Yulhendri. (2025). Analisis penerapan SDGs dalam pembangunan berkelanjutan di Indonesia: Tinjauan literatur dan tantangan implementasi. *Gudang Jurnal Multidisiplin Ilmu*, 3(1), 775–785. <https://doi.org/10.59435/gjmi.v3i1.1316>