INTEGRATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) INTO PUBLIC POLICY AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION

Joraboyeva Nafisa
Student of the Andijon Technical Law College
nabiyevnad@gmail.com

Abstract

The current research paper aims to explore the link between the SDGs and the Public Policy and the necessary steps to achieve it. The core problems discussed in the paper are linked to policy coherence and institutional barriers that prevent SDGs from being achieved effectively. This research paper examines the relationship between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and public policy, with a particular focus on identifying the key steps required to achieve effective implementation. The study highlights that while the SDGs provide a comprehensive global framework for sustainable development, their success largely depends on the alignment and coherence of national and local public policies. A central issue explored in this research is the lack of policy coherence, where conflicting objectives across different sectors hinder coordinated action toward sustainability goals. Furthermore, the paper investigates institutional barriers such as bureaucratic inefficiencies, limited inter-agency collaboration, inadequate resource allocation, and weak governance structures. These challenges often result in fragmented policy execution and reduced effectiveness of SDG-related initiatives. Through analytical and conceptual evaluation, the research emphasizes the importance of integrated policy frameworks, cross-sectoral coordination, and strong institutional capacity. The study concludes that achieving the SDGs requires not only well-designed policies but also systemic reforms that enhance institutional efficiency and accountability. By addressing these challenges, governments and stakeholders can create a more cohesive and effective approach to sustainable development, ensuring long-term social, economic, and environmental progress.

Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals (SDG); Public Policy; Governance; Social Equity; Economic Growth; Policy Coherence; 2030 Agenda; Strategic Planning.

Introduction

The members of the United Nations established the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development back in 2015. This agenda contains 17 goals of sustainable development that suggest ways on how poverty can be reduced, the environment protected and prosperity ensured for all people in the world. Still, the key mechanism in achieving those goals is through the use of the Public Policy approach.

The Connection Between SDGs and Public Policy

Public Policy is a key tool that allows the government to mobilize its resources in order to resolve problems within the framework of a country. For reaching the set goals, it is essential to abandon the existing practices and pursue an integrated way of action. Mainstreaming of Policies: In the process of developing and implementing a strategy of achieving the SDGs, the targets should be mainstreamed into National Development Strategies (NDS). Sustainability should become not just one more aspect of public activities but the core of any ministry. Horizontal Coordination of Activities: Achieving some goals such as ending hunger (SDG 2), or taking climate action (SDG 13) would require collaboration of several governmental agencies. Therefore, horizontal integration would allow overcoming contradictions and conflicts between various government departments.

Regulation and Strategy Issues of Public Policies in Uzbekistan

The Republic of Uzbekistan made many achievements regarding alignment between legislation and SDGs. Goals and Objectives: In accordance with the Decree of the Government, 16 National Sustainable Development Goals and 125 targets have been adopted concerning socio-economic development of the country. Constitutional Amendments: Constitutional amendments were recently made in Uzbekistan, including the provisions related to social justice, sustainable development, and environmental protection

as the supreme law on SDGs. Strategy Document "Uzbekistan - 2030": It turned out to be the key document targeted at achievement of SDGs through provision of quality education (SDG 4), economic growth (SDG 8), and establishment of the rule of law (SDG 16).

Invironmental Governance and Enforcement Mechanisms

- Enforcement Innovations (Implemented as of 2026):
- Fines for Air Pollution Violation (Legislated on June 28, 2026):
- First violation concerning incorrect use of pollution control equipment: 30-50 times BCA
- Subsequent violations: 50-100 times BCA

Companies in environment effect categories I and II require an automatic system for continuous reporting

Fines for Environmental Violation (As of April 2026):

- Illicit tree cutting (by individuals): 25-50 times BCV (UZS 10.3-20.6 million)
- Illicit tree cutting (by authorities): 50-75 times BCV (UZS 20.6-32.9 million)

Repeat violation within a single year

Carbon Credits:

- 20% of national carbon credits reserved for meeting commitments to reduce emissions (non-transferable overseas)
- Remaining 80% may be traded on international carbon exchanges
- Government taxes will be applied to each carbon credit
- National carbon credit register created by January 1, 2026

Environmental Obstacles and Institutional Deficiencies (Critical Assessment)

Deficiencies Acknowledged (From UNECE and Academia):

- **Gap in Integration:** Insufficient integration of international commitments into domestic law or relevant economic spheres (such as agriculture, energy, industry)
- **Gap in Enforcement:** While there has been progress with legal documents, enforcement is still relatively poor at the regional and municipal level
- **Gap in Institutional Cooperation:** Poor enforcement as a result of inadequate cooperation between institutions
- **Gap in Public Engagement:** Lack of information access, public participation, and access to justice
- **Gap in Monitoring and Reporting:** Inadequate alignment with Sustainable Development Goal indicators

Conclusion

Thus, integrating the SDGs into national public policy is an important step in ensuring survival and prosperity of any state. This research proves that despite the creation of a global roadmap in the 2030 Agenda, transformation occurs on a national legislative level through budgeting and effective implementation of measures. Regarding Uzbekistan, several positive changes were identified due to constitutional reforms and adoption of the Strategy Uzbekistan-2030. Implementation of environmental fines and creating a carbon registry in 2026 will be the next step towards developing a Green Economy in this country as it moves away from theoretical commitments to enforceable legislation. Yet, there are several barriers to implementing the SDGs. The first one is known as the “Implementation Gap” between Uzbekistan’s laws and practices at the local level, which is considered the main barrier. In order to overcome the Implementation Gap, the following measures should be taken: Improving Local Governance by empowering local governments with necessary knowledge and funds to fulfill SDG goals; Enhancing Institutional Synergy by disassembling economic departments hindering the conservation of nature; Promoting Public Transparency by raising citizens’ awareness about environmental policies.

In summary, it is critical to adopt a sound national public policy to react quickly to any new

problems. Through implementation of internal and external norms of law, Uzbekistan will become an inspiring model for other Central Asian nations.

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