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The principle of legality and sustainable development goals (SDGs): Impact and practices in UAE constitution

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Abstract: The principle of legality constitutes one of the basic principles of the government's rule of law, and as a result, it has been recognized as one of the most essential guarantees of human rights. The goals of sustainable development have a strong link with the principle of legality, and achievements in accomplishing a goal can frequently contribute to the accomplishment of other goals in addition. The United Arab Emirates' constitutional framework, regulations, and rules, along with the goals for sustainable development (SDGs), were profoundly affected by the principle of legality. The method in which international standards and laws have been integrated into the UAE's national legal framework provides definitive proof of this effect. The research concluded that all published and unofficial legal regulations have to be respected in order for public authorities to use within the limits of the principle of legality. These involve adhering to the standards of positive legitimacy and the fundamental regulations the community agrees on.

Keywords: the principle of legality; the sustainable development goals (SDGs); organizational regulations; law; United Arab Emirates

1. Introduction

This section presents an explanation of the principles of legality and sustainable development's goals, as well as the study's background and history. The goals, contributions, and structure of the article are described below.

For years, the concept of sustainable development dominated social and economic life for many years (Kaur, 2024). Production, habits of consumption, and advances in technology that preserve the natural environment (Murombo, 2024) raise the current generation, improve their lives more effectively, and simultaneously ensure an adequate standard of existence for future generations. As a way to achieve that, it shall be needed to organize present activities, develop novel approaches, and then seek to incorporate them into current circumstances for the purpose to achieve sustainable development.

That is suitable in terms of society, the economy, and the environment (Mania, 2024). Historical and legal context of sustainable development.

both socially just and politically applicable. Because of its long-term and sustainable perspective, all decisions implemented in the social, political, or related fields have to enhance the present as well and future generations (Llarena, 2024) and the long run.

Sustainability is defined as a philosophy with a new vision to search for social

structures, economic activities, production, consumption patterns and technologies that sustain the environment (Saha et al., 2023). Which empower the current generation and improve their lives and at the same time ensure a suitable life for future generations. To achieve this, it is necessary to reshape existing activities and create new innovations, then work to integrate them into the existing environment to create sustainable development which has to be culturally acceptable, economically feasible, environmentally appropriate, politically applicable and socially just (Inglese, 2024). Encouraging moderate and efficient consumption of resources, (Kotzé and Adelman, 2023) not consuming renewable resources in a way that harms humans or the systems that support life on Earth, expanding reliance on clean renewable energy and rehabilitating degraded environments as much as possible are all safeguards the human right to a sustainable environment for himself and for generations to come.

Sustainable development includes those needs that meet the aspirations of the present generation (Huck and Kurkin, 2018). for development without prejudice to the needs of future generations (Chiha, 2018). It is based on the rational use of resources in the environment, so that no one generation alone wastes or exhausts these resources, but leaves their share of them to future generations (Llarena, 2024), as a matter of justice and equity, so that it can be said that sustainability represents a cordon to save humanity and preserve its well-being and the right of all generations to enjoy existing resources. The study goals are to identify the impact of the principle of legality (SDGs) in Constitutional Legislation of UAE relates to applying the sources of legitimacy principle such as declarations of rights and preambles to constitutions, then the constitution follows laws, then organizational and individual administrative decisions, custom and the judiciary.

The constitutional legislation is the highest legislation in the state and is located at the top of the legal pyramid and transcends all other legal rules, as it determines the form of the state, the system of government in it, its relationship with citizens, the rights and freedoms of individuals, and the basic competencies of the various public authorities in the state, and therefore all state authorities should be committed to abide by its provisions, otherwise their actions are considered illegal, and the administration as the branch of the executive authority adheres to the rules of the constitution and is not entitled to violate it in its work, as this exposes its work to cancellation and compensation for what it causes of damage. The concept of the principle of legality was established with the summit of the basic guarantees of human rights and the emanated rights and freedoms from it, as this principle demonstrates one of the elements of the rule of law and the basis for its distinction from police or authoritarian states, It is well established that the supremacy of the law is achieved by the subordination of all public authorities in the state to the law and the submission of the governed to it, because the state is legal only when all public bodies are subject to the rules of law In all aspects of their activities, which will result in guaranteeing and protecting rights and freedoms from any arbitrariness, as all of this represents the desired goal of building the state of law.

The research gap is that many research studies neglect the impact of the principle of legality that has played a major role in shaping the sustainable development goals (SDGs) of constitutional legislation. Our research focuses on the impact of the principle of legality on the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and their practices

in UAE. The importance of this research lies in the fact that it is one of the rare studies that discusses the principle of legitimacy and its impact on enhancing the practice of sustainable development goals, in addition to providing a valuable addition to the field of law and sustainable development.

This study contributed to the current understanding of how the principle of legality affects the (sustainable development goals) of the constitutional legislation of the United Arab Emirates, and improves the quality of life of individuals and societies through applying the principle of legality that supports the goals of sustainable development, preserving their rights and duties, and organizing the activities of individuals in the United Arab Emirates. The paper is organized into sequential sections—Introduction, methodology of research, the impact of the principle of legality on the practice of sustainable development goals (SDGs), the sustainable development goals (SDGs) as a comprehensive roadmap, discussion and results, conclusion providing recommendations.

2. Methodology of research

This section provides the method of research, the impact of the principle of legality on the practice of sustainable development goals (SDGs) by many aspects.

The research used the descriptive analytical method to reach the impact of the principle of legitimacy on the practice of sustainable development goals and obtain research results.

The impact of the principle of legality on the practice of sustainable development goals (SDGs)

The impact of the principle of legality on the practice of sustainable development goals (SDGs) in the UAE Constitution can be observed from several aspects such as: constitutional legislation and law, regulations and rules, executive regulations, control regulations, and unwritten sources, which are as follows:

Constitutional legislation: Constitutional legislation is the highest legislation in the state and is located at the top of the legal pyramid and transcends all other legal rules (Kamøy, 2020), as it determines the form of the state, the system of government in it, its relationship with citizens, the rights and freedoms of individuals, and the basic competencies of the various public authorities in the state, and therefore all state authorities should be committed to abide by its provisions, otherwise their actions are considered illegal, and the administration as the branch of the executive authority adheres to the rules of the constitution and is not entitled to violate it in its work, as this exposes its work to cancellation and compensation for what it causes of damage.

Law: It means legislation issued by the legislative authority in the state (Koff et al., 2023). and these legislations are second only to the constitution in terms of legal hierarchy (Krzymowski, 2020). And are the second source of legitimacy, and the administration as the executive authority is subject to the provisions of laws.

Regulations and rules: The administrative and organizational decisions issued by the executive authority are respectful (Lee et al., 2021). In that they represent abstract general legal rules that follow the law in their rank in the legal hierarchy (Morgan et

al., 2020), therefore these regulations and rules are legislation objectively because they include abstract general legal rules that address the total individuals or specific individuals in their capacities and not themselves, but they are administrative decisions in formal terms of their issuance by the executive authority, and can be issued in several forms:

Executive regulations, which are issued by the administration for the purpose of putting the law into effect and it adheres to the law and follows it, those ones cannot amend, add to it or suspend its implementation. and regulations of necessity, which are regulations issued by the executive authority in the absence of parliament or the legislative authority to face urgent exceptional circumstances that threaten the security and safety of the state, through which the executive authority has the right to regulate matters originally regulated by law, these decisions must be presented to the legislative authority at the earliest opportunity for approval. and organizational regulations, also called independent regulations, which are regulations that go beyond the implementation of laws to regulate some matters that are not addressed by the law, so their function is close to legislation.

Control regulations, they are the regulations issued by the administration with the aim of maintaining public order with its various elements, public security, public health and public tranquility. which is a very important task because it is directly related to the lives of individuals and restricts their freedoms because it includes orders and prohibitions and imposes penalties on violators, such as traffic regulations, protection of food, beverages and public shops, and delegated regulations, These regulations are issued by the executive authority with the authorization of the legislative authority to regulate certain matters that are originally within the scope of legislation, and these decisions have the force of law, whether they are issued in the absence of the legislative authority or in the event of its convening.

Unwritten sources: It includes unwritten sources of legality, which are the general principles of law, the judiciary and administrative custom (Aldhaferi et al., 2022).

3. Discussion and results

This section discusses the contribution of the principle of legality to the achievement of sustainable development goals through the achievement of the principle of constitutional legitimacy and the sustainable development goals (SDGs) as a comprehensive roadmap.

Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives met at United Nations Headquarters in New York in September 2015 and set 17 new global sustainable development goals (sustainable development goals) and 169 targets (Abashidze and others, 2016), which seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and build on what they have not achieved (Bulajic, 2023), It is indivisible and integral, balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. The SDGs (sustainable development goals) entered into work on the first of January 2016 (Manby, 2021). and guided the decisions to be taken over the next fifteen years with the full implementation of the new Agenda by 2030 (Denters et al., 2023), and the principle of legitimacy and the promotion and empowerment of the SDGs is achieved as follows (Chiha, 2018):

The contribution of the principle of legality to the achievement of sustainable development goals through the achievement of the principle of constitutional legitimacy, through a compatible and fair constitutional document stemming from the consensus of citizens on the need to respect public rights and freedoms, and that ensuring public rights and freedoms for individuals depends on an essential element of legitimacy because of the intellectual value they represent, and these rights and freedoms are natural and innate rights, acquired by man just because he is a human being, which requires providing them to society, including minorities of the citizens of the state, Ensuring basic human rights is imperative to create a healthy political climate and desired economic progress for the country, and we note that the most respectful countries for the rights of their citizens are the most advanced at the industrial and economic level and the most violating countries of the rights and freedoms of their children are the most backward and least developed. perhaps one of the most famous and important results on which legitimacy is based, is the principle of the supremacy and rigidity of the constitution, which is known as the principle of constitutionality, the principle of separation of powers in its proper sense and the flexible separation of powers and not that rigid separation that generates conflict. Between the authorities, ensuring the rigidity of the constitution leads to the inability to manipulate it by the public authorities and achieve the legal state, this leads to justice and equality, because the principle of legality is an important element for the establishment of legal constitutionality and legitimacy is achieved by the stability of the authority and citizenship.

The principles of legality are related to each other. Citizenship is the basis of sound legal construction, by dedicating its political, social, economic and cultural dimensions to liberate the individual and acquire his rights. Every application of the principle of legality is evidence of the truth of citizenship. Citizenship is the backbone of the principle of legality in the modern era, on the basis of which it is possible to start fair and equal work open to all members of the state, finally the need for social justice and relative equality among members of society because without that, the establishment of the rule of law and the opportunities provided by laws, solutions and legal systems to achieve the goals of sustainable development cannot be imagined.

- (1) Eradicate poverty.
- (2) Eradicate hunger.
- (3) Good health and well-being.
- (4) Quality education.
- (5) Gender equality.
- (6) Clean water and hygiene.
- (7) Clean and affordable energy.
- (8) Decent work and economic growth.
- (9) Industry, innovation and infrastructure.
- (10) Reducing inequalities.
- (11) Sustainable cities and communities.
- (12) Responsible consumption and production.
- (13) Climate action.
- (14) Life under water.
- (15) Life in righteousness.

(16) Peace, justice and strong institutions.

(17) Partnerships to achieve the objectives (Riegner, 2016).

The sustainable development goals (SDGs) as a comprehensive roadmap

The SDGs are interrelated and often succeed in achieving one goal in addressing a specific topic that leads to the achievement of other goals (Pavoni and Piselli, 2016) and the SDGs require cooperation and work with all partners and practically so that we can make the right choices to improve lives in a sustainable way for future generations. It provides clear principles and targets for all countries to adopt in accordance with their national priorities and plans, highlighting the environmental challenges facing the entire world.

The sustainable development goals (SDGs) represent a comprehensive roadmap (Abashidze and others, 2016). It addresses: the root causes of poverty and unites people to bring about positive change for the whole world. What distinguishes the SDGs from other goals is that they focus on inclusiveness, as no country can act alone to achieve social and economic growth within its borders, but countries must join hands and cooperate to ensure that the goals and sustainability are achieved for the whole world.

The sustainable development goals (SDGs), also known as the Global (Goals et al., 2016) are a global call to action to eradicate poverty, protect the planet and ensure peace and prosperity for all, and build on the successes achieved in achieving the millennium development goals (2000–2015), as well as new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, promoting innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice among other priorities. Goals are interconnected and the key to success in achieving a particular goal often lies in addressing issues that are closely related to other goals.

Ultimately, the principle of legality plays a crucial role in achieving the SDGs, and promoting and strengthening the real and effective application of the requirements of the principle of legitimacy has become essential to achieving the SDGs, taking into account the need to accelerate progress to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

Environmental sustainability is linked to human life, as it targets solutions that achieve social justice through a strong economy based on a suitable environment through which waste can be contained, hence the state of balance between environmental, social and economic needs at the global level, and we have reached a set of results and recommendations that we present as follows.

4. Conclusion

This section provides results and recommendations of research.

The topic of sustainable development is among the common topics that have aroused the interest of researchers' decision maker, the government section and politicians, but to be linked with the principle of legality is an interesting topic. The research discusses the problem of identifying the impact of this principle of legality is a sustainable development, and the principle of legality played a major role in the formulation of sustainable development of constitutional legislation, laws and

regulations in the United Arab Emirates. It is evident that UAE's constitutional framework provides a strong foundation for the principle of legality and sustainable development, encompassing fundamental rights, directive principles, and specific provisions related to environmental conservation.

Through this research, the research reached the most important results, which are:

1) The principle of legitimacy represents the backbone of legal life and the backbone of building the legal system of the state as the only criterion on which it is based, especially subjecting the work of the administration and its various activities to administrative control, through what is known as legality, as it has become at the present time the basic serious and decisive guarantee of the rights and freedoms of individuals, and all the gains that peoples have been able to make. as this principle has emerged as a distinctive character of the contemporary state as it represents the natural haven for citizens so that they are safe from being attacked Authority contrary to what is permitted by law or more than what is authorized.

2) The principle of legality is a restriction on the actions of public authorities and requires adherence to all written and unwritten legal rules, among these general legal rules that society settles on, as well as adherence to the rules of positive legality, it means respect for ideal ideas that carry with them the meaning of justice, respect for the rules of legality positivism, also the principle of legality in the contemporary state is an upper limit on the authority and actions of public bodies and the governed and requires adherence to natural law and the general legal principles it contains the conscience of the group settles on it as the main pillars of the meaning of justice and public interest, it requires also a commitment to positive legitimacy that rests on the principle of the supremacy of the constitution and legislation and the necessity of adhering to the rule of supreme law, whatever its source.

3) The legal state means that the state is subject in all aspects of its executive, administrative, judicial and legislative activity to the law and the law in it is not only a tool for the management of the state, but it is also the guarantee that guarantees the rights of individuals in the face of the state, which is bound in all aspects of its activity—and whatever the nature of its authority—by legal rules that are superior to it and are itself a control of its actions and actions in its various forms, every citizen has the primary guarantee to protect its rights and freedoms. The law here means every legal rule according to its gradation in the legal system of the state, the constitution, as the supreme law, is sovereign and bound by all state authorities and individuals, the legislature and by the constitution in its legislation. The executive is bound by both the constitution and legislation in its regulations and all members of society are addressed to respect the law, whatever its source and level in the legal system.

4) Sustainability is the ability to exist continuously, in the twenty-first century and generally refers to the ability of the biosphere and human civilization to coexist, as it is defined as the process of people who maintain change in a balanced environment, where resource exploitation, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development and institutional change are harmonious and enhance both current and future potential and to provide current needs and human aspirations for the future.

5) The SDGs are a global call to action to eradicate poverty, preserve the earth and improve livelihoods everywhere. All 17 UN Member States adopted these 17

goals in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which set out a 15-year plan to achieve the goals.

6) The SDGs require working in partnership and pragmatically so that today we can make the right choices to improve lives, in a sustainable way, for future generations. It provides clear guidelines and targets for all countries to adopt in accordance with their priorities, taking into account the environmental challenges facing the entire world.

Through our study, we have reached many recommendations, the most important of which are:

1) The various institutions must adopt a distinct strategy for environmental sustainability, through their willingness to protect and preserve the natural environment by activating strict laws that help to do so.

2) The media must promote community awareness towards supporting responsible environmental behavior, formal and informal institutions are interested in the effective management of resource consumption especially water and energy.

3) Everyone in his specialization must develop systems to reduce waste and gasses emitted from production processes and improve air quality, and the state emphasizes building partnerships with all organizations that make environmental goals at the forefront of its priorities.

4) Care must be taken in environmental laws to increase the effectiveness of the standards adopted by institutions procedurally, which leads to achieving the competitive advantage of the economic sector, and then foreign investments flow through a safe environment that ensures sustainability associated with reducing pollution by reducing the per capita carbon dioxide emission, purity of the product and working to decay the effects of climate change.

5) Social equity must be achieved by working to create equal opportunities in a decent life, reduce deprivation and provide equal opportunities for all, in accordance with international standards that guarantee the safety of the environment and take into account the needs of the present and the requirements of the future to reduce disparities between citizens in health, education, housing and access to all basic services, and this is one of the requirements of environmental sustainability that depends on the principle of living in harmony and stability inherent with the environment and its angles, also responsible work to protect and maintain them.

6) Educational institutions must commit seriously towards developing awareness of environmental sustainability by focusing on spreading sustainable awareness, starting with orientation towards preserving the environment and developing positive thinking towards the development of its resources and functional practice through intentional environmental activities through which the learner understands environmental issues and problems to participate in solving them scientifically.

7) The various state institutions, each in its specialization, must be responsible for the development of environmental culture, which aims to create environmental awareness that constitutes a public opinion aware of environmental issues linked to instilling the values of preserving the environment to work on its maintenance from the threats it faces, and from here the development of environmental culture ensures the image of effective integration into the environment in accordance with the framework of environmental responsibility that achieves preserving the environment

for the present and future aspirations to ensure environmental sustainability.

We look forward to current generations who enjoy their natural resources, preserve the rights of future generations, and work to purify the environment through long-term development and based on development plans, continuous economic and legal policies. So that social justice is achieved in the way that everyone aspires to.

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