

## "Charting a Course for Sustainable Development: Fortifying Righteous Governance, Empowering Equality, and Advancing Administrative Structures"

DJAMILA OUAZANI<sup>1</sup>, SALMA KHANCHALI<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Human Security Laboratory: Reality, stakes and prospects, University of  
Batna 1 (Algeria).

<sup>2</sup>Human Security Laboratory: Reality, stakes and prospects, University of  
Batna 1 (Algeria).

The Author's E-mail: [ouazanidjamila@gmail.com](mailto:ouazanidjamila@gmail.com)<sup>1</sup>,  
[salma.khanchali@univ-batna.dz](mailto:salma.khanchali@univ-batna.dz)<sup>2</sup>

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### Abstract:

The new vital vision for local development and good governance is grounded in the principles of good governance, emphasizing the implementation of strategic planning, organizing, and execution. This approach fosters the development of local administration and good governance, leading to economic growth through sustainable human development that protects and promotes human rights. The individual is central to true development, aiming to eliminate poverty and its causes, safeguard citizens' dignity, and uphold the principles of freedom, equality, and justice. This vision empowers every individual to participate in decision-making, ensures equal opportunities, fair distribution of economic resources, rational economic management, and achieves greater social justice and equality. It focuses on creating jobs without exploitation and establishing an environment that bridges the gaps between genders, the marginalized, the poor, and people with special needs, ensuring the protection of their basic rights.

**Keywords:** good governance, righteous, development, empowerment-equality, sustainable administrative development

### Introduction:

With the increasing rates of poverty, classism, unemployment, the marginalization of women, violence, and human rights violations, there is a pressing need to enhance the development of local administration through the application of effective development strategies and the inclusion of competent individuals. International and regional bodies, such as the

International Labor Organization and the United Nations Development Program, have emphasized restoring the human element by improving individuals' living standards and implementing comprehensive development strategies that address both social and economic aspects, along with protecting and promoting human rights. In this context, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted in September 2015 by all United Nations member countries. These goals form a plan to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all people on Earth. The 17 SDGs are integrated and interconnected, ensuring that progress in one area supports progress in others, balancing social, economic, and environmental sustainability. These goals address global challenges, including quality education, women's empowerment, gender equality, poverty eradication, decent work, economic growth, climate and environmental degradation, prosperity, peace, and justice. To ensure that no one is left behind, it is crucial to achieve each goal by 2030, and adopting the principles of good governance is essential for the development process.

The problem posed in this research is:  
- What is the role of good governance actors in achieving sustainable development in local administration?

To address this problem, we divided the study into three main axes:

1. The first axis: Promoting the concept of sustainable administrative development in building local administration development
2. The Second axis: The concept of good governance and its foundations
3. The third axis: The role of good governance in achieving sustainable development in developing local administration.

### **The First Axis: Promoting the Concept of Sustainable Development in Building Local Administration Development**

**1. The Emergence of Sustainable Administrative Development:**  
The system of sustainable administrative development has been recognized for a long time but did not take its formal legal and regular character until the establishment of the modern nation-state. The modern state increased its burden on citizens, necessitating the delegation of some responsibilities to local units. Academic interest in the development of sustainable administrative development emerged only recently, with jurists and politicians beginning to study it in the late nineteenth century. Initially part

of public law, local administration development eventually evolved into a distinct field of study. -

## **2. During the French Occupation:**

The development of sustainable administrative development during the colonial era can be divided into three basic stages:

### **- The First Stage:**

The French authority established a military-based public administration at the beginning of the occupation. It relied on influential local figures, dividing Algeria into three regions: civil administration regions with French administrative systems, mixed administration regions with both European and Algerian inhabitants, and military administration regions populated solely by Algerians, maintaining Ottoman-era regulations. Ali (Muhammad: 2011/2012 ,pp 11 )

### **- The Second Stage:**

The Second Empire abolished the position of public administration and created the "Ministry of Colonies and Algeria." The 1848 French law annexed Algeria as an integral part of the French Republic, dividing it into three states: Algeria, Oran, and Constantine, each with a governor and a state council modeled on the French system.

### **- The Third Stage:**

The governorates were divided as follows:

- Municipalities with European concentrations, governed by elected mayors and municipal councils responsible for social and educational services.
- Mixed municipalities with fewer Europeans, where councils consisted of both Europeans and indigenous populations, with appointed presidents.
- Civil municipalities in predominantly Algerian areas, supervised by officials from the Governor-General, with no local administrative role for residents, and land under military administration.

## **3. Administrative Organization During the Revolution:**

Despite the colonial division of Algeria into three regions since 1845, the administrative structures established by the colonial authorities mirrored those in France but with different purposes. During the national liberation war, Algeria developed a political, military, and administrative organization under the leadership of the Liberation Front and Army. The

November 1954 Revolution, led by the Revolutionary Committee, consisted of committees responsible for political and military revitalization and political tasks abroad. The Soumam Conference on August 20, 1956, resulted in the division of Algeria into six states: Aures, Constantine, Kabylie, Algiers, Oran, and the Sahara, each with a council headed by a colonel and further subdivided into regions, districts, sections, and regiments. (Ali Muhammad: 2011/2012 pp 12. (

#### **4. Local Administrative Organization After Independence:**

After independence, the local administrative organization underwent several stages of development, influenced by the government system, political, economic, and social conditions inherited from colonialism, and the needs of construction. This period saw significant development and amendments to the local administrative organization, reflecting the evolving requirements and challenges of the new nation.

#### **Definition of Sustainable Administrative Development:**

The concept of sustainable administrative development has varied across different countries due to differences in focus. It has been referred to as regional decentralization in relation to the geographical regions it encompasses. To distinguish it from decentralized administration, some term it "development of sustainable local administration" due to its local rather than regional activity. In Britain and Osimilar countries, it is known as "local development administration" because it enjoys broad independence from the central government, resembling local government despite lacking legislative and judicial powers. Some prefer the term "elected local councils" because these councils are elected by the population they represent.

**Sustainable administrative development is defined as:** "A distribution of the administrative function between the central government and local elected bodies that exercise jurisdiction under the government's supervision and control" ,Another definition is: "A method of administrative organization of the state that is based on distributing (Abdul,2003,pp.14)

powers and duties between central and local development agencies. This allows the former to focus on general state policy and managing public facilities, while the latter efficiently manage their facilities and achieve their goals" ,

Additionally, it is defined as: "The management method according to which the state's territory is divided into units with a local concept that

have a legal personality and are represented by councils elected from their citizens to manage their interests under the supervision and control of the central government" (, Sustainable local government development is also described as: "Any organization with a population residing in a specific geographical area with a permitted organization and governing body, as well as an independent legal personality and authority that provides certain public or governmental services with significant independence, including legal and actual authority to earn at least a portion of its revenues." (Abdul,2003,pp.16)

### **Applying the Concept of Development to Promote Sustainable Administrative Development:**

The concept of development emerged in the twentieth century, gaining significant attention in modern countries. It refers to the process of building economic and political systems, often highlighted in the transformation process following independence in the 1960s in Asia and Africa. The concept's importance is evident in its multiple dimensions and levels, intertwining with planning, modernization, production, progress, and transformation.

A strategic vision encompassing all areas of life elevates individuals and institutions, promoting various types of development that positively impact society culturally, politically, and economically. This is achieved by exploiting all available resources and energies, enabling positive participation in civil society and shared responsibility. Development goes beyond mere growth, which indicates an increase, to include rational changes in institutional infrastructure, involving individuals and civil society in decision-making. (Ayyad,2014,pp17).

Development has been seen as a process of expanding and upgrading the true freedoms enjoyed by human beings, surpassing the classical concept of growth. While traditional indicators such as gross national product (GNP) growth and increased average per capita income are important, development also depends on social conditions and power relations that facilitate real access to health, education, employment services, civil and political rights, public debate participation, and accountability of policymakers and governments.

The concept of development gained prominence post-World War II, not used during the era of economist Adam Smith. Initially emerging in economics, it indicated radical societal changes to enable continuous self-development and improving life quality for all individuals. However, the

strategic development vision of newly independent countries focused primarily on economic growth, which did not achieve the expected results, leading to classism in developing countries.

The concept expanded to political science in the 1960s, focusing on the development of non-European countries towards democracy. It has since linked to many cognitive fields, including cultural development to enhance societal culture, social development to foster societal interactions, and human development to support individual capabilities and improve living standards. The concept of sustainable administrative development emerged during the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment organized by the United Nations, further integrating environmental sustainability into the development discourse.

## **7. Concepts of Development Implications**

### **Political Development to Achieve Democracy in Sustainable Administrative Development**

Political development is often confused with terms such as democracy, political transition, political reform, and political openness. Political development refers to the evolution of relationships between people through governmental political, economic, and social institutions. It involves increasing equality, enhancing the capacity of the political system, and differentiating political structures.

Despite variations in their verbal formulations and means, political development theories share a common goal: achieving comprehensive freedom. This includes reducing the state's role in confronting society, increasing individuals' participation in political power, and ensuring equality among societal groups. These theories aim to maximize citizens' freedom vis-à-vis the state, thereby promoting democracy and political participation. They seek to create suitable political conditions for development, changing values and beliefs to ensure political transformation towards modern societies, contributing to national integration and unity, and rejecting fanaticism and tribalism. This approach emphasizes equality, citizenship, achievement, efficiency, and work. Abdul,2003,pp.17

Political development mobilizes the masses and encourages their interaction with the existing system, increasing popular participation and building institutions that align with economic and social conditions. Social change necessitates dismantling outdated social structures. The importance of political development lies in deepening identity and loyalty to the state, achieving political stability, satisfying citizens, prioritizing public service, and fostering cohesion and integration.

## **8. Foundations and Implications of Sustainable Development**

The United Nations program is built upon five fundamental aspects of sustainable administrative development, all of which significantly impact the lives of the poor and vulnerable groups:

**Empowerment:** This involves expanding citizens' freedom of choice by enabling fair elections, allowing citizens to elect representatives at local and national levels, and activating the roles of civil society, freedom of the press, and political parties. (Governance in the Service of Sustainable Human Development: 1977,pp.7)

**Commonality:** Fostering a sense of cooperation among members of society, eliminating tribalism and fostering integration among marginalized and disadvantaged groups. Development should focus on enhancing people's work and well-being.

**Equality:** Ensuring education for all, bridging economic disparities, enhancing capabilities and opportunities, increasing income, and improving individuals' living standards.

**Sustainability** This entails utilizing current resources while meeting the needs of present generations without compromising the rights of future generations, ensuring freedom from poverty and deprivation.

**Security:** People require security, encompassing the right to life, livelihood security, respect, and freedom from threats such as disease, displacement, and other existential risks.(Abdul,2003.pp13)

Sustainable development also ensures justice across three dimensions:

- **National:** Fostering equality among different social classes and regions.
- **Global:** Addressing disparities between poor and rich countries.
- **Temporal:** Balancing the interests of current and future generations.

Sustainable administrative development achieves systemic consensus through various means:

- **Political System:** Ensuring effective citizen participation in decision-making processes.
- **Economic System:** Promoting self-reliance and surplus generation.
- **Social System:** Ensuring alignment of plans with implementation methods.
- **Production System:** Adhering to environmental considerations in projects.
- **Technological System:** Seeking solutions to all challenges.
- **International System:** Enhancing cooperation and exchange of developmental experiences.
- **Administrative System:** Maintaining flexibility and the capacity for self-correction.
- **Educational System** Providing training to integrate environmental considerations into all activities, with a focus on sustainable development. These systems work in harmony to achieve overarching goals. (Ayyad-Hussein 1982, pp.132)

## **The Second Axis: The Concept of Good Governance and Its Foundations**

### **1. The Concept of Good Governance**

The emergence of the concept of good governance occurred before the close of the twentieth century, propelled by international organizations offering loans and aid with conditionalities. These entities, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), extended loans to developing nations under the condition that these countries undertake economic and political reforms to embrace capitalism and democracy, respectively. Faced with economic hardships like inflation and low GDP, these nations sought loans or aid to address their challenges and pursue development. To access such assistance, these countries were required to undergo two types of changes:

- **Immediate Changes:** These involved implementing proposed solutions to address the financial dimensions of economic crises, including reducing public spending, liberalizing trade, privatizing markets, and encouraging savings and private investment (Khaled, 1993, pp.48)
- **Structural Changes:** This entailed redefining the state's role, safeguarding market mechanisms, and enabling efficient resource allocation and distribution, which often led to a reduction in state capacity.

However, many developing countries failed to meet the conditional economic objectives imposed by lending organizations, leading to a loss of credibility and legitimacy domestically. This failure exacerbated political, economic, and social crises, hindering their ability to secure new funding without further reforms. As the crisis deepened, it undermined the legitimacy of ruling regimes in these nations, highlighting the necessity for alternative solutions.

In response, donor organizations sought strategies to help developing countries manage their loan allocations effectively and efficiently. Consequently, efforts commenced to formulate a new concept encapsulating a set of policies and general principles emphasizing economic performance. This concept, integral for developing countries seeking loans from international donor organizations, aimed to optimize goal achievement while minimizing costs.

### **Standards of good governance:**

Good governance embodies the following principles: participation, transparency, and accountability. It is also characterized by effectiveness, justice, and the reinforcement of the rule of law. It ensures that political, social, and economic priorities align with broad societal consensus, and that the voices of the most marginalized and vulnerable are heard in decision-making processes regarding resource allocation for development. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) underscores that good governance enhances national anti-poverty initiatives by assisting countries in developing their capacities to achieve it. Reports indicate that the program aims not only to deliver aid but also to build essential societal capabilities, including:

- Governance institutions.
- Management of both the public and private sectors.
- Decentralization and support for local governance.

According to the UNDP's policy document titled "Good Governance to Serve Sustainable Human Development" from January 1979, the components of good governance are delineated as follows:

(Governance in the Service of Sustainable Human Development: 1977,pp -7-14)

1. **Participation:** This entails the right of all stakeholders within an institution to participate in decision-making processes, either directly or through legitimate channels, based on democratic principles of freedom of expression and opinion.
2. **Rule of Law:** Legal frameworks must be fair and impartial, applying

universally to govern relationships between management, individuals, and other stakeholders of the institution.

3. **Transparency:** Transparency requires the free flow of information, making processes and information accessible to all interested parties for understanding and monitoring.
4. **Responsiveness:** The governance of an institution must respond to the demands and needs of all stakeholders with an interest in the institution.
5. **Consensus:** Good governance seeks to reconcile diverse interests to reach a broad consensus that reflects the collective best interests of the group.
6. **Equality or Fairness:** It strives to provide equal opportunities for all individuals to achieve well-being and ensure their fair protection, acknowledging that equality may not always equate to identical treatment.
7. **Effectiveness and Efficiency:** This involves the judicious management of resources, both human and material, to maximize their benefits.
8. **Accountability:** Decision-makers are accountable to stakeholders within the organization and under their oversight.
9. **Strategic Vision:** Leaders and managers should possess a long-term vision for good governance and the sustainable development of human resources within the organization. (Abdul,2003,pp.16-35)

### **The third axis: The imperative role of exemplary governance in fostering sustainable management development**

Attaining commendable governance at the echelon of sustainable management development transcends the conventional citizen-state dynamic. It hinges not solely on optimizing the efficacy of institutions tasked with co-managing state and societal affairs, but rather underscores the imperative of empowerment values fostering judicious sustainable management grounded in democratic principles. This entails:

1/ **Active civic participation:** Ensuring the unfettered freedom of opinion and expression in decision-making through extensive local involvement, underpinned by human rights legitimacy, thus conferring public credence to local policies, fostering their resilience and longevity.

2/ **Rule of law and institutional integrity:** Upholding laws guaranteeing equitable treatment and punishment, shielding vulnerable local groups from exploitation and injustice.

3/ **Communal alignment:** Harmonizing divergent interests towards a broad consensus on public welfare, delineating policies and procedures to achieve it.

4/ **Social equity:** Ensuring all citizens, particularly disadvantaged groups, have opportunities for betterment, prioritizing policies to meet basic needs and societal security.

5/ **Efficiency and efficacy:** Ensuring state effectiveness in serving public interests, necessitating trained professionals delivering local public services with proficiency.

6/ **Strategic foresight:** Offering clarity in crafting alternatives, considering local variables and long-term prospects.

7/ **Legitimacy:** Satisfying local citizens by exercising authority within acceptable rules and justice, fostering equal responsibilities.

8/ **Resource stewardship:** Optimizing resource utilization to meet current needs while considering future generations' requirements.

9/ **Environmental stewardship:** Preserving and rejuvenating the environment through sustainable practices. )Governance in the Service of Sustainable Human Development: 1977,pp.30-54 )

10/ **Responsiveness:** Addressing stakeholder demands impartially, contingent upon transparency and trust among local agencies.

11/ **Empowerment:** Facilitating societal advancement by comprehending societal norms to achieve legitimate goals.

12/ **Collaboration:** Fostering institutional frameworks for public-private-community partnership, underpinned by trust, voluntary cooperation, and shared objectives, elevating development and governance standards.

13/ **Accountability:** Holding individuals and organizations answerable through objective performance evaluations, fostering freedom of

information, stakeholder organization, and adherence to the rule of law.

### **Conclusion:**

Good governance and sustainable administrative development are inherently intertwined, with legislation playing a pivotal role in ensuring the activation of key principles such as the separation of powers, an independent judiciary, social justice, accountability, transparency, oversight of administration, and responsible elected councils. Additionally, factors like power alternation, active civil society participation, popular oversight, and media freedom further solidify their interdependence. Therefore, rather than being separate entities, integration and compatibility between them is the norm. Addressing challenges aims to identify correct

and suitable approaches for achieving comprehensive development under the umbrella of good governance and effective civil society oversight. (Ayyad,2014,pp16 )

### **Recommendations:**

The linkage between good governance and sustainable administrative development underscores the crucial role of good governance in translating economic growth into sustainable human development. Reports on sustainable administrative development, as issued by the United Nations program over the years, prioritize the concept of quality of life and the centrality of human beings in the development process. The United Nations classifies countries based on various criteria such as life expectancy, per capita income, access to health services, and educational attainment. Several considerations emerge from this:

-The advancement of sustainable management development is contingent upon economic growth and serves as a conduit for realizing sustainable administrative development. Good governance necessitates the monitoring of its qualitative benchmarks, which extend beyond material indicators of wealth to encompass essential investments in human capital. Education and healthcare, although borne as costs by the state, represent enduring investments aimed at enhancing individuals' lives, fostering well-being, and eradicating poverty.

-The concept of good governance pervades the discourse of development experts and international cooperation organizations, yet remains elusive in terms of unified definition and tangible embodiment in administrative reform and development. Its interpretation varies depending on the context it addresses. Former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan contended that righteous governance fosters development while combating poverty, destitution, and backwardness.

-Good governance signifies the trend of "decentralizing the state's centrality" in the political realm by redefining the boundaries between public and private domains in terms of tasks, powers, and resources, thereby enabling civil society and non-governmental organizations to supplement the state's role and bridge gaps in its developmental strategies. This shift engenders new levels of decision-making and policy formulation beyond traditional state structures.

-Adherence to principles of accountability, transparency, and oversight in local administration cultivates mutual trust between administrators and

citizens, facilitating the implementation of administrative development plans and ensuring sound alignment between plans, programs, and operational methodologies, with enhanced control over resource utilization.

-The essence of development materializes within a societal framework defined by a constitution delineating rights and obligations between administrators and citizens. The imperative of fostering good governance emerges as a cornerstone of sustainable administrative development, entailing the attainment of democratic standards commensurate with prevailing circumstances.

-The safeguarding and advancement of human rights serve as catalysts for peace, security, prosperity, resilience, public confidence, and the realization of sustainable administrative development, manifesting in economic, social, and personal progress. As articulated in the Declaration of the Right to Development, everyone, devoid of discrimination, possesses the entitlement to a social and international order conducive to the realization of human rights and freedoms.

-Good governance epitomizes institutionalized authority and the establishment of robust institutions, underpinned by the principle of separation of powers. Authority is regulated by societal rules, laws, and controls, irrespective of individuals passing through or exercising its functions, fostering organizational coherence and procedural cohesion. Organizational adaptability correlates with institutional robustness.

-Ensuring equal opportunities sans discrimination is a fundamental right, fostering the harnessing of talents and skills, and unleashing their full potential. This engenders role integration across social, political, and economic domains, facilitating access to rights such as education, healthcare, political participation, and economic advancement.

-Realizing development dimensions necessitates combating all forms of violence, fostering social justice and equality, thereby fostering stability, peace, and security, laying the groundwork for implementing principles of good governance within a framework of justice and legality. Responsive state institutions attuned to citizen concerns and endowed with resilience and sustainability are essential outcomes of this endeavor.

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