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Prospective analysis of sustainable development axes integrated into Niger Governance

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ABSTRACT

The integration of sustainable development axes into national governance frameworks has become a central concern for countries seeking to align long term development visions with short and medium term policy implementation. This study conducts a prospective analysis of the sustainable development axes integrated into Niger governance examining the coherence between the country long term development vision and its operational governance mechanisms. Drawing on a qualitative research design combining document analysis of national strategy papers institutional frameworks and development plans with assessment of governance structures the study evaluates the extent to which sustainable development principles are embedded in Niger governance architecture. The findings reveal that Niger has established a comprehensive framework for integrating sustainable development through the Strategie de Developpement Durable et de Croissance Inclusive Niger 2035 which serves as the long term vision and the Plan de Developpement Economique et Social as its five-year operationalization. The governance framework includes a multi-level coordination structure encompassing national regional departmental and communal levels. However, the study identifies significant challenges in operationalizing the sustainable development axes including weaknesses in the national statistical system insufficient financing for development programmes limited digitalization and incomplete decentralization. The prospective analysis suggests that while Niger governance framework is formally aligned with sustainable development principles the translation of these principles into effective implementation requires strengthening institutional capacities improving data systems and deepening decentralization. The research contributes to understanding the governance dimensions of sustainable development integration in Sahelian contexts.

Keywords: sustainable development, governance, prospective analysis, Niger, development strategy, institutional framework

RESUME

L integration des axes de developpement durable dans les cadres de gouvernance nationale est devenue une preoccupation centrale pour les pays cherchant a aligner les visions de developpement a long terme avec la mise en oeuvre des politiques a court et moyen terme. Cette etude realise une analyse prospective des axes de developpement durable integres dans la gouvernance du Niger en examinant la coherence entre la vision de developpement a long terme du pays et ses mecanismes de gouvernance operationnels. S appuyant sur une conception de recherche qualitative combinant l analyse documentaire des documents de strategie nationale des cadres institutionnels et des plans de developpement avec l evaluation des structures de gouvernance l etude evalue dans quelle mesure les principes de developpement durable sont integres dans l architecture de gouvernance du Niger. Les resultats revelent que le Niger a etabli un cadre complet pour integrer le developpement durable a travers la Strategie de Developpement Durable et de Croissance Inclusive Niger 2035 qui sert de vision a long terme et le Plan de Developpement Economique et Social comme son operationnalisation quinquennale. Le cadre

de gouvernance comprend une structure de coordination a plusieurs niveaux englobant les niveaux national regional departemental et communal. Cependant l etude identifie des defis importants dans l operationnalisation des axes de developpement durable notamment les faiblesses du systeme statistique national le financement insuffisant des programmes de developpement la digitalisation limitee et la decentralisation incomplete. L analyse prospective suggere que bien que le cadre de gouvernance du Niger soit formellement aligne sur les principes de developpement durable la traduction de ces principes en mise en oeuvre efficace necessite le renforcement des capacites institutionnelles l amelioration des systemes de donnees et l approfondissement de la decentralisation. La recherche contribue a la comprehension des dimensions de gouvernance de l integration du developpement durable dans les contextes saheliens.

Mots-clés : developpement durable, gouvernance, analyse prospective, Niger, strategie de developpement, cadre institutionnel

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1. INTRODUCTION

The integration of sustainable development principles into national governance frameworks has emerged as a central challenge for countries seeking to reconcile long term development visions with short and medium term policy implementation. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by United Nations member states in 2015 established a comprehensive framework of seventeen Sustainable Development Goals that countries are expected to integrate into their national planning and governance systems. For countries in the Sahel region including Niger this integration presents particular challenges given the combination of security crises climate vulnerability demographic pressures and institutional constraints.

Niger has developed a structured approach to integrating sustainable development into its governance framework. The Strategie de Developpement Durable et de Croissance Inclusive Niger 2035 serves as the country long term development vision articulating the ambition of making Niger by 2035 a united democratic and modern country peaceful prosperous and proud of its cultural values underpinned by sustainable ethical equitable and balanced development. This long term vision is operationalized through five year plans with the Plan de Developpement Economique et Social representing the primary implementation instrument.

The governance framework for sustainable development in Niger encompasses multiple levels and actors. At the national level the Council of Ministers and the National Orientation Council provide political oversight while technical coordination is ensured through the National Technical Committee the Technical Secretariat and sectoral coordination committees. At sub national levels regional departmental and communal coordination committees extend the governance architecture to the territorial level. This multi-level structure is designed to ensure coherence between national development priorities and local implementation.

However, the existence of formal governance structures does not guarantee effective integration of sustainable development principles. The operationalization of these principles faces significant challenges. The national statistical system exhibits weaknesses in producing quality statistics regularly and disaggregated data for monitoring sustainable development indicators. Financing for development programmes remains constrained with limited domestic resources and dependence on external partners.

Digitalization of governance and data systems remains limited. Decentralization processes while initiated have not been fully completed with implications for local ownership and implementation capacity.

This study conducts a prospective analysis of the sustainable development axes integrated into Niger governance. The research examines the coherence between the country long term development vision and its operational governance mechanisms identifies the institutional arrangements for sustainable development coordination and assesses the challenges and opportunities for strengthening integration. The study adopts a qualitative research design combining document analysis of national strategy papers institutional frameworks and development plans with assessment of governance structures.

The significance of this inquiry lies in its contribution to understanding the governance dimensions of sustainable development integration in Sahelian contexts. While there is substantial literature on sustainable development planning in developing countries research on the specific governance mechanisms for integrating sustainable development axes in Niger remains limited. This study addresses this gap by providing systematic analysis of Niger governance framework for sustainable development.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Sustainable development and governance

The relationship between sustainable development and governance has been a central concern in development literature since the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. Governance for sustainable development encompasses the institutional arrangements processes and mechanisms through which societies make decisions about resource allocation environmental protection social equity and economic development. Effective governance for sustainable development requires coherence across sectors and levels of government integration of environmental social and economic dimensions and participation of diverse stakeholders.

The 2030 Agenda explicitly recognizes governance as both a goal in itself through Sustainable Development Goal 16 on peace justice and strong institutions and as an enabler of progress across all goals. The principle of policy coherence for sustainable development calls for ensuring that policies across different domains are mutually reinforcing rather than contradictory. This requires coordination mechanisms that can reconcile sectoral interests and align short term decisions with long term sustainability objectives.

In the African context the African Union Agenda 2063 provides a complementary framework to the 2030 Agenda articulating a vision for an integrated prosperous and peaceful Africa. The alignment between the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 has been promoted through the African Union Continental Results Framework which guides member states in integrating both agendas into national planning.

2.2 Niger development vision and strategy

Niger has articulated its long term development vision through the Strategie de Developpement Durable et de Croissance Inclusive Niger 2035. This strategy establishes the ambition of transforming Niger into a united democratic and modern country peaceful prosperous and proud of its cultural values underpinned by sustainable ethical equitable and balanced development. The strategy identifies six priority domains of action which address the economic social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

The strategy recognizes the importance of integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development. Analysis of the strategy indicates that four of the six priority domains are directly linked to the three dimensions of sustainable development with the remaining two relating to peace and governance. The social dimension is primarily addressed through human capital improvement the economic dimension through private sector development and rural modernization and the environmental dimension through sustainable management of natural resources.

The operationalization of the strategy occurs through five year plans. The Plan de Developpement Economique et Social 2017-2021 represented the first five-year implementation of the long term vision. The Plan de Developpement Economique et Social 2022-2026 constitutes the second five-year plan and has been described as a unique framework for monitoring development agendas with contextualization and prioritization of Sustainable Development Goals targets. The 2022-2026 plan prioritized 100 targets of the Sustainable Development Goals compared to 43 targets in the previous plan reflecting an expanded integration of sustainable development objectives.

2.3 Institutional framework for sustainable development

The institutional framework for sustainable development in Niger encompasses multiple levels of governance. At the political level the Council of Ministers presided over by the President of the Republic and the National Orientation Council presided over by the Prime Minister provide strategic direction and oversight. The Council of Ministers approves decisions of the National Orientation Council and ensures respect for development plan priorities.

Technical coordination is ensured through the National Technical Committee which serves as the primary technical coordination body. The Technical Secretariat provides ongoing support for implementation and monitoring. Sectoral Coordination Committees bring together actors from different sectors to ensure coherence across policy domains. At sub national levels Regional Coordination Committees Departmental Coordination Committees and Communal Coordination Committees extend the governance architecture to the territorial level.

Support structures include the services of the Ministry of Planning the Permanent Secretariat of the National Orientation Council and the National Institute of Statistics. The National Institute of Statistics plays a critical role in producing data for monitoring sustainable development indicators. Consultation frameworks including the State Partners Technical and Financial Committee and sectoral consultation frameworks provide mechanisms for dialogue between government and development partners.

2.4 Challenges in operationalizing sustainable development

The operationalization of sustainable development in Niger faces significant challenges. A critical constraint is the weakness of the national statistical system. As noted in institutional assessments the national statistical system exhibits weaknesses in producing quality statistics regularly and disaggregated data for monitoring sustainable development indicators. The absence of disaggregated data for most indicators limits the ability to assess progress and identify disparities across regions and population groups.

Financing constraints represent another major challenge. The financing of development programmes depends heavily on external resources with limited domestic resource mobilization. The poverty reduction strategy implementation has faced lower than expected domestic financing and weak sector and international partner reporting. The financing gap for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals remains substantial. Digitalization of governance and data systems remains limited. The National Institute of Statistics has noted low digitalization as a challenge affecting data collection and analysis. The digital divide between urban and rural areas limits the potential for digital solutions to improve governance effectiveness.

Decentralization processes have been initiated but remain incomplete. The transfer of competencies and resources to territorial collectivities has been pursued as a policy objective but implementation has been partial. Incomplete decentralization limits the capacity of local governments to plan and implement sustainable development activities adapted to local contexts.

2.5 Prospective analysis and strategic planning

Prospective analysis or strategic foresight provides methodological tools for examining long term development trajectories and identifying strategic options. Unlike forecasting which seeks to predict probable futures prospective analysis explores possible and desirable futures through scenario development. The French school of prospective emphasizes not only scientific analysis but also teleological and critical dimensions engaging stakeholders in collective reflection on desired futures.

In the Sahel context prospective analysis has been applied at various levels. A prospective workshop in Agadez region in 2023 brought together stakeholders to reflect on the future of the region using scenario development and the analytical framework examining social technological economic environmental and political factors. The workshop identified key trends including demographic growth informality of the economy climate change impacts and security challenges.

The prospective approach emphasizes stakeholder participation and collective learning. The workshop in Agadez used the Polak game to elicit participants predispositions toward the future revealing diverse perspectives ranging from optimistic and voluntarist to pessimistic and fatalistic. This diversity of perspectives highlights the importance of inclusive dialogue in strategic planning.

3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This study is guided by the following research questions.

Primary research question

How are sustainable development axes integrated into Niger governance framework and what are the prospects for strengthening this integration.

Secondary research questions

First what is the institutional architecture for coordinating and implementing sustainable development in Niger.

Second how does Niger align its national development strategy with international frameworks including the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

Third what are the principal challenges constraining the operationalization of sustainable development axes in Niger.

Fourth what prospective scenarios can be identified for strengthening sustainable development governance in Niger.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Research design

This study employed a qualitative research design using a prospective analytical approach. Prospective analysis was appropriate for examining the long term dimensions of sustainable development integration and identifying strategic options for strengthening

governance. The study combined document analysis of national strategy papers institutional frameworks and development plans with assessment of governance structures and challenges.

4.2 Study setting

The study focused on Niger a landlocked country in the Sahel region of West Africa. Niger has a population of approximately 24 million with one of the highest population growth rates in the world. The country faces multiple development challenges including poverty food insecurity climate vulnerability and security threats. The study covers the national territory with particular attention to the governance framework for sustainable development.

4.3 Data collection

Data collection employed the following methods.

Document analysis. National strategy papers including the Strategie de Developpement Durable et de Croissance Inclusive Niger 2035 and the Plan de Developpement Economique et Social were analyzed. Institutional frameworks for sustainable development coordination were reviewed. Reports from the African Union Peer Review Mechanism and the United Nations on Niger sustainable development progress were examined.

Institutional assessment. The institutional architecture for sustainable development governance was assessed including political oversight bodies technical coordination mechanisms and sub national structures. The roles and responsibilities of different institutions were mapped.

Prospective analysis. Key trends and uncertainties affecting sustainable development governance were identified through analysis of demographic economic environmental and political factors. Strategic options for strengthening governance were developed based on the assessment of challenges and opportunities.

4.4 Data analysis

Document analysis focused on identifying the sustainable development axes integrated into national strategies and the institutional arrangements for their implementation. Thematic analysis was used to identify patterns in governance challenges and opportunities. Prospective analysis synthesized findings into scenarios for the future of sustainable development governance in Niger.

4.5 Ethical considerations

This study is based on analysis of publicly available documents and reports. No primary data collection involving human participants was conducted. Ethical approval was therefore not required. The study adheres to principles of objective analysis and respect for national sovereignty.

4.6 Methodological limitations

This study has several limitations. The analysis relies on secondary data from national strategy documents and institutional reports which may be subject to reporting bias. The prospective analysis while systematic is inherently speculative and future developments may diverge from identified scenarios. The study focuses on formal governance structures and may not fully capture informal governance mechanisms. Access to current implementation data may be limited.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Sustainable development axes in national strategy

Analysis of Niger national development strategy reveals systematic integration of sustainable development axes. Table 1 presents the alignment between the priority domains and the three dimensions of sustainable development.

Table 1. Alignment of Priority Domains with Sustainable Development Dimensions

Priority Domain	Primary Dimension	Secondary Dimension
Human capital improvement	Social	Economic
Private sector development	Economic	Social
Rural modernization	Economic	Environmental
Sustainable environmental management	Environmental	Economic
Peace and security	Governance	Social
Institutional strengthening	Governance	All dimensions

Source: Analysis of the national development strategy

The national development strategy recognizes the interconnected nature of sustainable development dimensions. The strategy articulates the vision of making Niger by 2035 a country that is united democratic and modern peaceful prosperous and proud of its cultural values underpinned by sustainable ethical equitable and balanced development. This vision integrates economic prosperity social inclusion and environmental sustainability with peace and governance as enabling conditions.

5.2 Alignment with international frameworks

Niger has aligned its national development strategy with international sustainable development frameworks. Table 2 presents the alignment between the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 within the development plan.

Table 2. Integration of International Agendas into National Development Plan

Framework	Integration Mechanism	Targets Prioritized
2030 Agenda	Contextualization and prioritization	43 targets 2017-2021; 100 targets 2022-2026
Agenda 2063	Correspondence matrix established	Alignment based on United Nations methodology
Both agendas	Single monitoring framework	Priority Action Plan and Results Measurement Framework

Source: African Union Peer Review Mechanism Presentation

The national development plan serves as a single framework for monitoring both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. Niger prioritized 100 Sustainable Development Goal targets in the 2022-2026 plan compared to 43 targets in the previous plan

representing expanded integration. A correspondence matrix between the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 was established based on the alignment methodology developed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

5.3 Institutional architecture for governance

The institutional architecture for sustainable development governance in Niger encompasses multiple levels. Table 3 presents the governance structure.

Table 3. Institutional Architecture for Sustainable Development Governance

Level	Institution	Function
Political	Council of Ministers	Strategic direction approval of decisions
Political	National Orientation Council	Policy oversight chaired by Prime Minister
Technical	National Technical Committee	Technical coordination
Technical	Technical Secretariat	Ongoing support implementation monitoring
Technical	Sectoral Coordination Committees	Sector coherence
Sub national	Regional Coordination Committees	Regional coordination
Sub national	Departmental Coordination Committees	Departmental coordination
Sub national	Communal Coordination Committees	Local coordination
Support	Ministry of Planning	Technical support
Support	National Institute of Statistics	Data production monitoring
Consultation	State Partners Technical Committee	Dialogue with development partners

Source: African Union Peer Review Mechanism Presentation

The governance structure provides for coordination across levels from national to communal. The Council of Ministers presided over by the President of the Republic provides the highest level of political oversight. The National Orientation Council presided over by the Prime Minister ensures policy coherence. Technical coordination is ensured through the National Technical Committee and its Technical Secretariat.

5.4 Challenges in operationalization

The analysis identified several challenges constraining the operationalization of sustainable development axes in Niger. Table 4 presents these challenges and their severity.

Table 4. Challenges in Operationalizing Sustainable Development

Challenge	Description	Severity

Statistical system weakness	Limited capacity to produce quality disaggregated data	High
Financing constraints	Dependence on external resources limited domestic mobilization	High
Limited digitalization	Low digitalization of data and governance systems	Medium
Incomplete decentralization	Partial transfer of competencies to local authorities	High
Coordination challenges	Ensuring coherence across sectors and levels	Medium
Data disaggregation gaps	Absence of disaggregated data for most indicators	High

Source: African Union Peer Review Mechanism Presentation and Voluntary National Review

The weakness of the national statistical system is a critical constraint. The National Institute of Statistics and its partners in the national statistical system require strengthened capacities to provide objective bases for decision makers to adjust or strengthen their actions. The absence of disaggregated data for most indicators limits the ability to assess progress and identify disparities.

Financing constraints represent another major challenge. The implementation of development programmes depends heavily on external financing with limited domestic resource mobilization. The poverty reduction strategy implementation has faced lower than expected domestic financing.

5.5 Prospective scenarios

Based on the analysis of trends and governance structures three prospective scenarios can be identified for the future of sustainable development governance in Niger. Table 5 presents these scenarios.

Table 5. Prospective Scenarios for Sustainable Development Governance

Scenario	Key Features	Probability
Institutional strengthening	Completion of decentralization strengthening of statistical system increased domestic financing	Moderate
Incremental progress	Continued formal alignment with limited operational improvement	High
Governance regression	Security and political challenges undermine coordination and implementation	Low to moderate

Source: Prospective analysis based on identified trends and governance assessment

The institutional strengthening scenario would involve completing the decentralization process with full transfer of competencies and resources to territorial collectivities. It would require significant investment in the national statistical system to produce quality disaggregated data. Domestic resource mobilization would increase reducing dependence on external financing.

The incremental progress scenario represents continuation of current trends with formal alignment between national strategies and sustainable development principles but limited improvement in operational effectiveness. Coordination mechanisms would continue to function but with limited impact on implementation.

The governance regression scenario would involve deterioration of security and political conditions undermining the coordination and implementation of sustainable development strategies. This scenario is plausible given the security challenges facing the Sahel region.

6. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

6.1 Coherence of governance framework

The findings reveal that Niger has established a formally coherent governance framework for integrating sustainable development axes. The national development strategy provides a long term vision that integrates the three dimensions of sustainable development with peace and governance as enabling conditions. The national development plan serves as the operational instrument for translating this vision into concrete programmes and monitoring progress.

This finding is consistent with the observation in the voluntary national review that the national development strategy and plan demonstrate coherence with the Sustainable Development Goals with each dimension of the goals corresponding to a strategic axis of the plan. The plan takes into account the five Ps of the 2030 Agenda namely people through axes one and two prosperity through axis three peace through axis four planet through axis five and partnership through implementation programmes.

The institutional architecture provides for coordination across levels and sectors. The multi-level structure from national to communal levels creates channels for vertical coordination while sectoral committees provide for horizontal coordination. This architecture reflects recognition of the multi-dimensional nature of sustainable development and the need for integrated approaches.

6.2 Challenges in translating vision into implementation

However, the findings also reveal significant challenges in translating the formal governance framework into effective implementation. The weakness of the national statistical system limits the ability to monitor progress and make evidence based adjustments. As noted in institutional assessments the national statistical system exhibits weaknesses in producing quality statistics regularly and disaggregated data.

The absence of disaggregated data is particularly problematic for sustainable development governance. As the voluntary national review notes there is an absence of disaggregated data for most indicators requiring strengthened capacities of the National Institute of Statistics and its partners. Without disaggregated data it is impossible to assess whether progress is reaching all population groups or to identify disparities requiring targeted interventions.

Financing constraints represent another critical challenge. The dependence on external financing creates uncertainty and limits the sustainability of development programmes. The limited domestic resource mobilization constrains the ability to finance sustainable development investments from national resources.

Incomplete decentralization limits the capacity of local governments to plan and implement sustainable development activities adapted to local contexts. While coordination committees exist at regional departmental and communal levels their effectiveness depends on the transfer of competencies and resources from central to local levels.

6.3 Prospects for strengthening integration

The prospective analysis suggests that the prospects for strengthening sustainable development integration depend on addressing the identified challenges. The institutional strengthening scenario would require completing decentralization strengthening the statistical system and increasing domestic resource mobilization. These are long term structural changes that require sustained political commitment and investment.

The incremental progress scenario represents continuation of current trends. This scenario would see continued formal alignment between national strategies and sustainable development principles but limited improvement in operational effectiveness. Coordination mechanisms would continue to function but with limited impact on implementation outcomes.

The governance regression scenario would involve deterioration of security and political conditions. Given the security challenges facing the Sahel region this scenario cannot be dismissed. The International Monetary Fund statement noted that persistent security threats in the Sahel region continue to impact Niger which could necessitate higher security and social spending potentially diverting resources from essential development projects.

6.4 Implications for policy and practice

The findings have several implications for policy and practice related to sustainable development governance in Niger.

First strengthening the national statistical system should be a priority. The capacity of the National Institute of Statistics and its partners in the national statistical system to produce quality disaggregated data regularly requires investment in human resources infrastructure and digitalization. The launch of new data collection mechanisms such as the Call Center for youth employment monitoring represents a positive development that should be expanded.

Second completing decentralization is essential for effective sustainable development governance. The transfer of competencies and resources to territorial collectivities would enhance local ownership and enable context appropriate solutions. The ongoing decentralization process should be accelerated with clear timelines and adequate resource transfer.

Third domestic resource mobilization should be strengthened to reduce dependence on external financing. This requires improving tax administration broadening the tax base and reducing illicit financial flows. The increase in the non-oil tax to gross domestic product ratio should be pursued as a policy objective.

Fourth coordination mechanisms should be strengthened to ensure effective implementation. The multi-level governance structure provides a framework but its effectiveness depends on clear mandates adequate resources and regular monitoring. The National Technical Committee and its Technical Secretariat should be adequately staffed and resourced.

6.5 Theoretical contributions

This study contributes to theoretical understanding of sustainable development governance in Sahelian contexts. First it demonstrates the importance of examining both formal governance structures and their operational effectiveness. The existence of coordination mechanisms does not guarantee effective integration of sustainable development principles.

Second the study contributes to understanding of the specific challenges facing sustainable development governance in fragile contexts. The combination of statistical system weakness financing constraints incomplete decentralization and security challenges creates a difficult environment for operationalizing sustainable development.

Third the study contributes to prospective analysis methodology by applying scenario development to sustainable development governance. The three scenarios identified provide a framework for strategic planning and risk assessment.

7. CONCLUSION

This study conducted a prospective analysis of the sustainable development axes integrated into Niger governance. The findings reveal that Niger has established a comprehensive framework for integrating sustainable development through the Strategie de Developpement Durable et de Croissance Inclusive Niger 2035 and the Plan de Developpement Economique et Social. The governance framework includes a multi-level coordination structure encompassing national regional departmental and communal levels.

Niger has aligned its national development strategy with international frameworks including the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The national development plan serves as a single framework for monitoring both agendas with 100 Sustainable Development Goal targets prioritized in the 2022-2026 plan compared to 43 targets in the previous plan.

However, the study identifies significant challenges in operationalizing the sustainable development axes. The national statistical system exhibits weaknesses in producing quality disaggregated data. Financing constraints limit the implementation of development programmes. Digitalization of governance systems remains limited. Decentralization processes have been initiated but remain incomplete.

The prospective analysis identified three scenarios for the future of sustainable development governance. The institutional strengthening scenario would involve completing decentralization strengthening the statistical system and increasing domestic resource mobilization. The incremental progress scenario represents continuation of current trends with formal alignment but limited operational improvement. The governance regression scenario would involve deterioration of security and political conditions undermining coordination and implementation.

The study concludes that while Niger governance framework is formally aligned with sustainable development principles the translation of these principles into effective implementation requires strengthening institutional capacities improving data systems and deepening decentralization. The research contributes to understanding of the governance dimensions of sustainable development integration in Sahelian contexts and provides recommendations for strengthening governance effectiveness.

8. LIMITS OF THE STUDY

This study has several limitations that should be acknowledged. The analysis relies on secondary data from national strategy documents and institutional reports which may be subject to reporting bias. The prospective analysis while systematic is inherently speculative and future developments may diverge from identified scenarios.

The study focuses on formal governance structures and may not fully capture informal governance mechanisms that influence implementation. The perspectives of local communities and civil society organizations are not directly represented in the data.

Access to current implementation data may be limited particularly given the security situation in parts of the country. The study does not examine sector specific implementation of sustainable development axes in detail focusing instead on the overall governance framework.

The study examines governance at a single point in time and does not assess changes over time. Longitudinal analysis would provide additional insights into the evolution of sustainable development governance.

9. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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10. AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Amadou Issifou Saidou is the sole author of this study and was responsible for all aspects of the research including conceptualization methodology document analysis and manuscript preparation.

11. COMPETING INTEREST

The author declares no competing interests.

12. FUNDING INFORMATION

This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public commercial or not for profit sectors.

13. DATA AVAILABILITY

The data that support the findings of this study are available from publicly available national strategy documents and institutional reports. The specific documents analyzed are cited in the bibliography.

14. DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of any institution with which the author is affiliated.

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