



**THE APPLICATION OF GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR  
IMPLEMENTING THE UNITED NATIONS' SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS: SDGs #16 IN AFGHANISTAN**

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**A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for  
the Degree of Master of Arts in Peace Studies and Diplomacy**

**Siam University**

**2022**



**Thesis Title: The Application of Good Governance for Implementing  
The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):  
Goal#16 in Afghanistan**

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**Degree** : Master of Arts

**Major Field** : Peace Studies and Diplomacy

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## ABSTRACT

This research had objectives to: (1) study the concepts and theories of good governance and sustainable development leading to the launch of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs); (2) to analyze the patterns of governance applications and best practices for the implementation of the UN-SDGs: Goal #16 in Afghanistan; (3) and to recommend some practical measures for the successful application of good governance practices for the implementation of the UN SDGs: Goal #16 in Afghanistan.

The study applied a qualitative research methodology by using documentary research methods. The secondary data were collected from various documents, such as academic books, research reports and papers, review articles and newspapers, and official reports of governments and international organizations. These data sources were used to analyze Afghanistan's governance opportunities and threats in light of SDG goal number sixteen. Finally, the author analyzed all collected data using content, logical, and comparative analyses to present the research's conclusion, discussion, and recommendations.

The results of this research found that the application of good governance was dependent on the effective implementation of the UN-SDGs goal #16: process of strong institutions, governance, anti-corruption, peace and justice, the rule of law, human rights, democracy process and foreign interference in Afghanistan. Therefore, the author recommends from this research that (1) to solve corruption problems, the Afghan government shall mobilize funds for training

Afghan public and private sectors' personnel skills on the application of good governance for implementing the UN-SDGs#16 to fight against corruption; (2) to strengthen good governance, Afghanistan shall cooperate closely with all stakeholders to implement the effective application of best practices for the implementation of the UN-SDGs, especially Goal#16; (3) to achieve sustainable peace and justice, the rule of law and human rights, Afghanistan shall establish and enforce strong Afghan institutions and good governance network to implement the application of best practices for implementing the UN-SDGs, especially Goal#16 efficiently and effectively; and (4) to stabilize democracy and peaceful Afghan politics, Afghanistan shall make a strong effort to prevent interference of foreign powers in its internal affairs according to the United Nations Charter to implement the UN-SDGs, especially Goal#16, progressively. In addition, the author recommends (1) doing further research on the application of good governance for implementing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDGs) under the new government of the Taliban, established after the complete withdrawal of the U.S. troops from Afghanistan on 30 August 2021; (2) conducting comparative research between the previous government and the new Taliban government on the application of good governance for implementing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDGs); (3) doing further quantitative research on the application of good governance for implementing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDGs): key success indicators of SDG Goal#16 in Afghanistan; and (4) conducting evaluation research on the application of good governance for implementing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDGs) of the previous government and the new Taliban government.

**KEYWORDS:** Application, Implementation Process, Good Governance, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Afghanistan



Approved

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful

I am delighted to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the support and encouragement I have received throughout my thesis journey.

Firstly, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Allah for His blessings and strength that enabled me to complete this research. I wish to express my profound gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Pornchai Monkhonvanit, President of Siam University for inspiring me to work on the subject of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Siam University as a sustainable university

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my principal advisor, Assistant Professor Dr. Suraphol Srivithaya, and co-advisor, Associate Professor Dr. Tatree Nontasak, for their invaluable guidance and expertise, which significantly contributed to the quality of my research. I also wish to thank Professor Dr. Boonton Dockhaisong, the Committee Chairperson, and all Committee Members of my thesis examination.

I am profoundly grateful to my parents and family for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout my academic journey. Their unconditional love and support have been a constant source of motivation and inspiration.

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to my amazing brothers, especially Mr. Allah Gul Hemmat, for their invaluable guidance and support. Without their encouragement and support, I would not have been able to pursue my studies in Thailand.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Associate Professor Dr. Tatree Nontasak, Director of the Master of Arts in the Peace Studies and Diplomacy program, and all staff of the MAPD Office for their administrative assistance and support during my studies at Siam University. Once again, I thank all those who have supported and encouraged me during this journey. I am truly grateful for your unwavering support and encouragement. Alhamdulillah.

## DEDICATION

**This thesis is dedicated to the  
Promoters of Peace, Justice, Good Governance, and Sustainable Development  
in Afghanistan, My Beloved Country.**



## DECLARATION

I, Farid Hemmat, hereby declare that this research is entirely my work and that it is original unless specific acknowledgments state otherwise.



(Signed).....

(Farid Hemmat)

Date : 03.08.2022



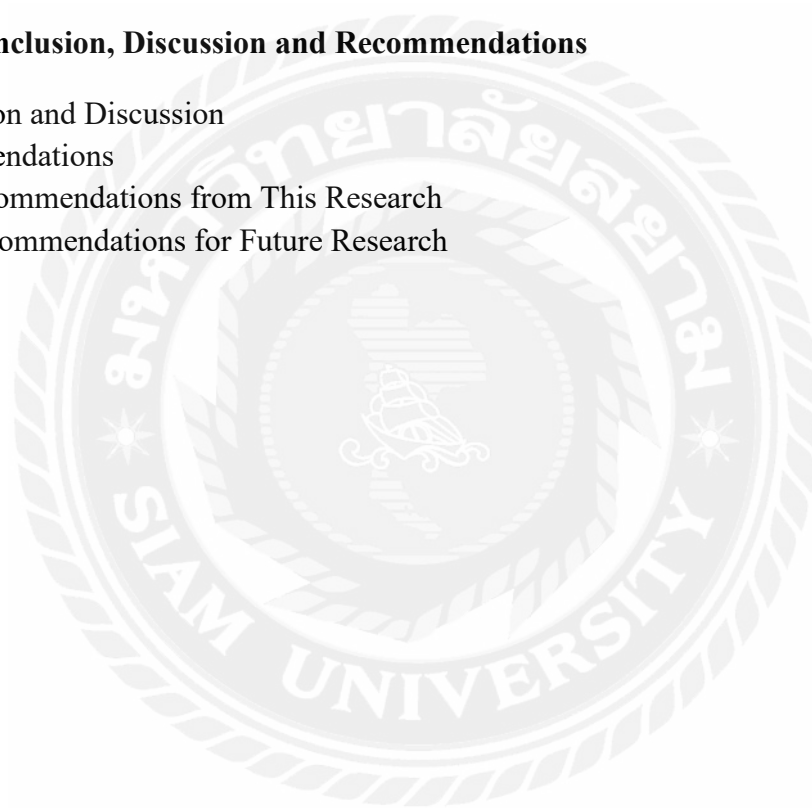
## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Abstract	i
Acknowledgements	iii
Dedication	iv
Declaration	v
Tables of Contents	vi
List of Abbreviation	viii
<b>Chapter 1 Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background and Significance of the Research	1
1.2 Research Questions	3
1.3 Research Objectives	4
1.4 Scope of Research	4
1.5 Research Methodology	4
1.6 Conceptual Framework	4
1.7 Definition of Terms	5
1.8 Limitations of Research	6
1.9 Expected Benefits of Research	6
<b>Chapter 2 Literature Review</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1 Concepts and Theories	7
2.1.1 Theory and Concept of Good Governance	7
2.1.2 Theory and Concept of Sustainable Development	14
2.1.3 Concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	17
2.2 Related Research	20
<b>Chapter 3 Application of Good Governance in Afghanistan</b>	<b>23</b>
3.1 Historical Development and Evolution of Good Governance in Afghanistan	23
3.2 Mechanism of Governance Application for Sustainable Development in Afghanistan	24
3.3 Transforming Governance Application for Sustainable Development in Afghanistan	40
3.4 Evaluation of Governance Application for Sustainable Development in Afghanistan	45



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<b>Chapter 4 Implementation Process of SDGs: Goal#16 in Afghanistan</b>	<b>49</b>
4.1 Overview of Implementation of UN-SDGs Application in Afghanistan	49
4.2 Implementation Process of UN-SDGs: Goal #16 in Afghanistan	51
4.2.1 Implementation Process of Sustainable Peace and Justice	51
4.2.2 Implementation Process of Rule of Law and Human Rights	53
4.2.3 Implementation Process of Strong Institutions and Governance	57
4.2.4 Implementation Process of Democracy and Foreign Interference	60
 <b>Chapter 5 Conclusion, Discussion and Recommendations</b>	 <b>72</b>
5.1 Conclusion and Discussion	72
5.2 Recommendations	78
5.2.1 Recommendations from This Research	78
5.2.2 Recommendations for Future Research	79
 References	 80

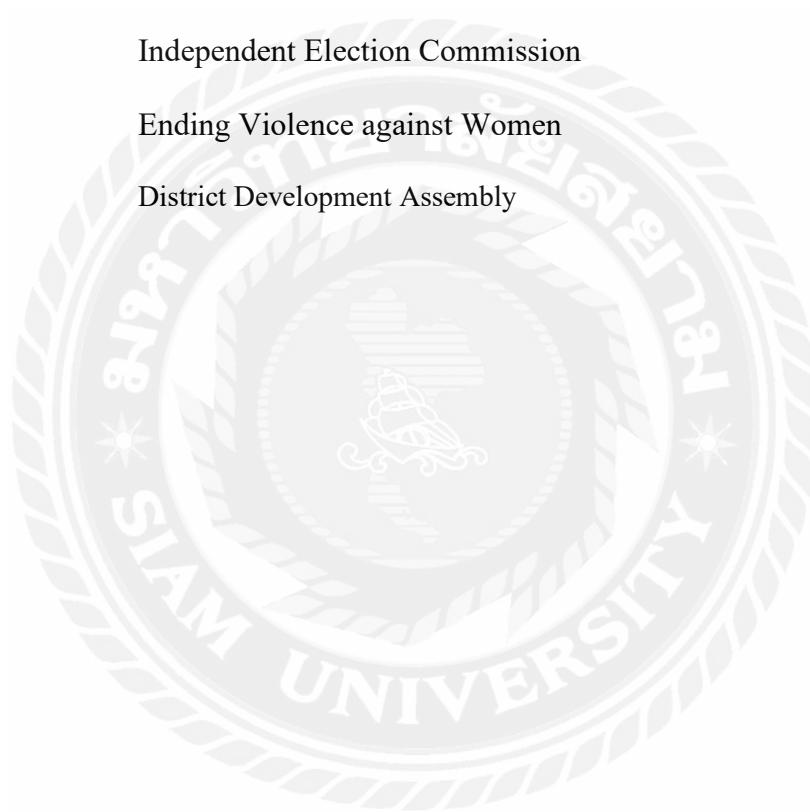


## LIST OF ABBREVIATION

ANP	Afghan National Police
AIHRC	Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission
AGO	American Government Office
AGO	Attorney General's Office
AREU	Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit
ANDS	Afghanistan Public Improvement Methodology
ANPDFII	National Peace and Development Framework
CCAP	Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Program
NPPs	National Priority Programs
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
UN SDGs	United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
NPP	National Priority Programs
ND-GAIN	Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative Index
VNR	Voluntary National Review
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
MEC	Monitoring and Evaluation Committee
GoIRA	Government of Islamic Republic Of Afghanistan

## LIST OF ABBREVIATION

ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
IARCSC	Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Services
CSAB	Civil Service Appointments Board
PDCs	Provincial Development Committees
IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance
IEC	Independent Election Commission
EVAW	Ending Violence against Women
DDA	District Development Assembly



# CHAPTER 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Background and Significance of Research

Most nations and worldwide associations attempting to improve administration in Afghanistan are doing so by assisting the Afghan government by supporting organizations and authorities in terms of better administration. All in all, in their verifiable conceptualization - shared by most Afghan authorities - administration is generally comparable to governance. Sustainable development goals have been a way for the international community to engage every state to work for its betterment. Analyzing governance opportunities and threats in Afghanistan through sustainable development goal number sixteen i.e. “Promote just peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels” will be essential to address the governance institution in light of international standards. As one of the active UN member states and a country in transition and developing phase, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan endorsed the SDGs in the summit which was attended by its Afghanistan Chief Executive H.E. Abdullah Abdullah in September 2015, and afterward, Afghanistan took some concrete steps to affirm its commitment to attaining the SDGs.

One of the fundamental goals of the Afghanistan Public Improvement Methodology (ANDS) is to “reinforce popularity-based practice and organizations, common liberties, law and order, conveyance of public administrations, and governance accountability” (Brick, 2008). The 1230 report similarly examines how far Afghan governance has progressed in its capacity to “expand strong administration and promote positive financial and social outcomes” throughout Afghanistan. The U.S. common military mission plan centers around improving the public authority's specialized limits and strategies, while the Express Division's local adjustment technique centers around "improving the Afghan people’s trust in their administration" through "improved help conveyance, more prominent responsibility, and more assurance from savage practices (Goren, 2012)" At a worldwide meeting in Kabul in July 2010, the Afghan governance vowed to embrace, with help from foreign contributors, “primary change to make a compelling, responsible, and straightforward governance that can convey administrations to the Afghan people protect public interests” and “to fortify each of the three parts of the public authority and establish balanced governance that ensures and implement resident rights and obligations” (Jackson, 2014). Paradoxically, most Afghanistan investigators and researchers distinguish between administration and governance. According to Thomas Barfield and Neamatollah Nojumi, management is simply how networks lead to secure social requests and maintain their security.

Governance is the activity of administering, the nonstop exercise of state authority over the populace it oversees. While governances in the created world are the unchallenged providers of administration to their nearby networks, this has not generally been the case in Afghanistan (Shawn, 2014). Here one finds satisfactory neighborhood administration without formal

establishments. Likewise, Douglas Saltmarshe and Abhilash Medhi characterize administration as "the qualities, standards, and shows that distinctive social, political, and authoritative groupings apply to meet their organizational objectives, alongside the association among them" and note that administration "identifies with casual practices, religion, and the activity of common society just as formal governance (Lamb, 2012)".

Hamish Nixon states that administration "concerns methods of getting sorted out assets and obligations toward aggregate closures" and "includes inquiries of the cycle, interest, and accountability". And refers to a definition that centers not on governances but rather on associations as a rule (Qaiser, 2009). Michael Shurkin, expounding on nearby governance in Afghanistan, sees that "neighborhood administration is a more extensive idea that alludes to the plan and execution of aggregate activity at the neighborhood level' and envelops the jobs of formal foundations of nearby governance and governance pecking orders, just as the jobs of casual standards, organizations, local area associations, and neighborhood relationship in seeking after aggregate activity by characterizing the system for resident and resident state communications, aggregate dynamic, and conveyance of nearby open administrations (Skandari, 2019). A few creators present a wide conceptualization of administration in their first pages just to move in the fundamental body of their work to an investigation and proposals zeroed in on governance weaknesses, frequently treating casual and mixture administration structures as something that should be uprooted by governance establishments.

For years, emerging, nations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, collectively known as the "Third World", were targets of weak administration resulting in a major decline in their developmental status. Afghanistan is no oddity. The majority of Afghanistan's government-based authorized institutions are completely reliant on government choices and operate through an ineffective judiciary framework. Unlike other growing states in Asia, Afghanistan's governance is not based on accountability, denying people the right to challenge the existing administration. Corruption is at an all-time high inside the Afghan governance party that makes decisions. As a result, the country lacks the effective capacity to make important decisions in an orderly manner. Army actions in Afghanistan have been reported to have the upper hand in several situations, especially during times of emergency, weakening the administration's deep stabilization. Corruption and a lack of accountability are significant challenges to the country's general growth. Afghanistan's main opportunity for better economic growth is a more secure and stronger governance system, according to the visible perception of Western legal institutions on post-2001 constitutional change initiatives to reduce the gap between change and execution prospects.

Ineffective management and compliance capacities have eroded trust in the current regulatory and policy framework, which, if correctly implemented, can considerably contribute to effective governance. The Afghan administration's centralized framework significantly inhibits spending, financial planning, sub-national preparation, and judgment capacity, despite the premise that the legislation gives authority to neighborhood association units. As a result, successful policy implementation at the local level is hindered. In addition, Afghanistan saw numerous achievements

in legal, planning, and implementation aspects in 2013, showing promise for growth. However, challenges exist in implementing transition more consistently.

As Afghanistan was ranked at the bottom of the Global Peace Index and has 54.5% of its population living below the national poverty line, the Afghan government must work hard to explore some of the treatments and challenges faced in implementing the UN's SDGs. Five years on from their initial implementation, questions are being raised about the applicability of the UN SDGs in places of extreme poverty and political conflicts in Afghanistan. In the coming months, Afghanistan will be sharing its experiences implementing various UN SDGs in one of the most challenging parts of the world (Afghanaid, 2020). The objective of this research is to examine how well the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) are being implemented in Afghanistan and how it is affecting the country's growth. For this, a comparative study shall be done to provide a theoretical layout of the governance model for future academic policy makers. The interconnections between effective governance and a state's growth are the subject of this research. The primary aim is to evaluate the effect of effective governance on Afghanistan's socioeconomic and democratic growth. Effective governance has a significant impact on nations where there is significant institutional instability as a result of ongoing democratic or civil disputes. This research aims to contribute to a conceptual understanding of the consequences of efficient governance on Afghanistan's socio-economic growth, as well as the extent to which it can lead to potential wealth and revenue in the state's governance, influencing its sociopolitical development.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

This thesis analyzes the patterns and problems of the application of good governance for the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) in Afghanistan to answer the following research questions:

1.2.1 What are the patterns of best governance practices used in Afghanistan to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)?

1.2.2 What are the threats and obstacles to Afghanistan's efforts to implement good governance practices in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals: Goal #16?

1.2.3 What and how can the successful application of good governance practices for the UN SDGs: Goal #16 be implemented in Afghanistan?

### 1.3 Research Objectives

This thesis has the following research objectives:

1.3.1 To study concepts and theories of good governance and sustainable development leading to the launch of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs);

1.3.2 To analyze the patterns of governance application and best practices for the implementation of the UN SDGs: Goal #16 in Afghanistan;

1.3.3 To recommend some practical measures for the successful application of good governance practices for the implementation of the UN SDGs: Goal #16 in Afghanistan.

### 1.4 Scope of Research

This research was scoped to study the application and implementation of the Afghan good governance practices for the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), especially SDG goal #16, in Afghanistan for the period of 2015-2021 before the withdrawal American military troops from Afghanistan.

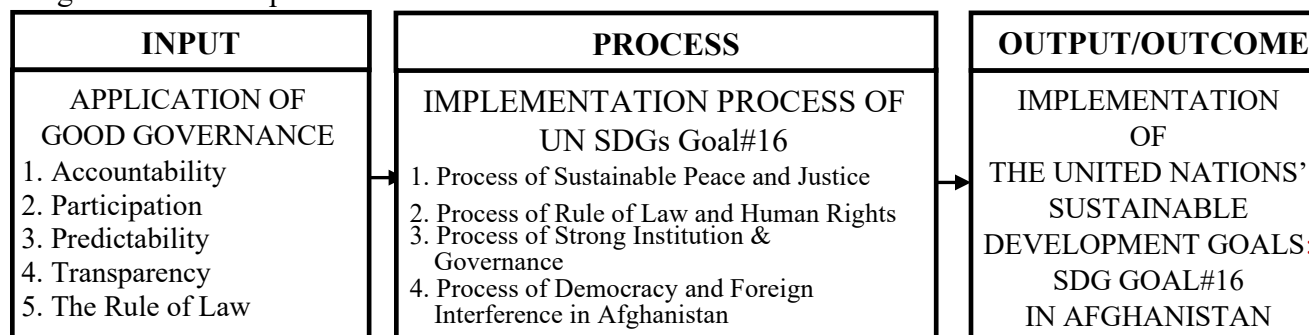
### 1.5 Research Methodology

This research applied qualitative research by using documentary research methods. The secondary data is collected from various documents, such as academic books, research reports and papers, review articles and newspapers, and official reports of governments and international organizations. These data sources shall be used to analyze governance opportunities, threats, and opportunities in Afghanistan in light of SDG goal number sixteen. The researcher analyzes all collected data by using content analysis, logical analysis, and comparative analysis to make the research's conclusion, discussion, and recommendations

### 1.6 Conceptual Framework

The researcher shall analyze the five applications of good governance comprising accountability, participation, predictability, transparency, and the rule of law by the Afghan government for implementing the UN SDG Goal #16. However, the effective implementation of the UN SDG Goal #16 is relied on the process of sustainable peace and justice, the rule of law and human rights, Strong Institutions and Governance, as well as the process of democracy and foreign interference in Afghanistan.

Diagram 1.1: Conceptual Framework of Research



**Sustainable development goals** mean the United Nations' SDGs were first launched in 2015, acting as the follow-up to the hugely successful Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which are an all-encompassing global set of objectives designed to provide countries with a pathway to peace and prosperity. Composed of 17 goals, subdivided into 169 targets and 304 indicators, which address everything from ending hunger and protecting marine wildlife to making cities sustainable and reducing gender inequalities, and are expected to be achieved by 2030.

**Sustainable development goal number sixteen** means UN's SDGs aim to *“Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.*

**Good governance** means the entirety of the practice of power in the administration of a state's interests, including the diverse structures, procedures, and institutions by which people and groups express their constitutional obligations and initiate their differences. Etoungue Manguella claims that “The implementation of the legal system, the protection of civil liberties the nature of an accountable and successful administration, responsibility, openness, consistency, and inclusiveness” are all characteristics of successful administration.

**Sustainable peace and justice** mean existence in a state where the probability of using destructive conflicts, oppression, and violence to solve problems is so low that it does not enter into any party's strategy, while the probability of using cooperation, dialogue, people participation, and collaborative problem-solving to promote social justice as well as to respect *the* rule of law and human rights.

**The rule of law** means every individual in a democracy should abide by the law or a constitution that is made. It also includes that no person would violate the laws. Thus, the rule of law governs a state in democracy. All laws apply equally to all citizens of the country and no one can be above the law. Nevertheless, any crime or violation of law has to be established after which a specific punishment is given in the due process of law. As a result, law enforcement shall be applied effectively to all situations of democracy in which the people in a society obey its laws and enable it to function properly.

**Human rights mean** the basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person in the world, from birth until death. These rights apply regardless of where they are from, what they believe, or how they choose to live their life. These basic rights are based on shared values like human dignity, fairness, equality, respect, and independence.

**Democracy** means the form of government regime in which political control is exercised by all the people, either directly or through their elected representatives. In short, it is a political regime and institution that have a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.



**Strong Institution and Governance** means a consideration of sustainable development to be the essential foundation for the SDGs of the United Nations, based on the belief that these development and reforms lead to better institutions that are able to provide the rule of law, support economic growth and reduce poverty through basic service provision. The government rules the country and people in which power is exercised in the management of a country's political, economic, and social resources for effective sustainable development.

**Foreign interference** means attempts by one country or a group of actors to manipulate directly or indirectly any domestic or national politics of the other country through covert and deceptive means to undermine its sovereignty, political regime, and economic benefits and harm its social cohesion.

## **1.8 Limitations of Research**

This research, like similar, studies faces different limitations during the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially the difficulties of primary data collection from the key informants and the changing and unstable political situations after the US government decided to implement the withdrawal of American military troops from Afghanistan.

## **1.9 Expected Benefits of Research**

1.9.1 To know concepts and theories of good governance and sustainable development leading to the launching of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs);

1.9.2 To obtain analysis results of patterns of the best governance practices application for the implementation of the UN SDGs: goal #16 in Afghanistan;

1.9.3 To recommend some practical measures for the successful application of good governance practices for effective implementation of the UN SDGs: goal #16 in Afghanistan.

## CHAPTER 2

### Literature Review

In this thesis the researcher has collected all related literature and research for literature review before continuing to undertake the data collection and the data analysis, as well as research findings, conclusion and recommendations. This chapter reviews the existing literature to study concepts and theories of good governance and sustainable development leading to the launching of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), which is the first objective of this thesis.

#### 2.1 Concept and Theories

##### 2.1.1 Concept and Theories of Good Governance

###### (1) Definitions of Governance and Good Governance

The term “governance” comes from the Greek word “*kubernaein*” and the Latin verb “*gubernare*” which means “*to steer*”. The term was often used interchangeably with the term “government”. While the government is broadly defined as a set of institutions established by constitutions and laws, governance broadly refers to a behavioral relationship between governors and the governed. The United Nations defines governance as “the structures and processes whereby a social organization - from a family to corporate business to international institution - steers itself, ranging from centralized control to self-regulation” (United Nations, 2016: p. iv). The United Nations has also defined governance more simply, referring to “the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented or not implemented” (UNESCAP, 2009: p. 1). The terms governance and government are closely linked: government institutions produce laws and provide public services, whereas governance refers to a wider set of relationships between ordinary citizens and public officials who apply the laws and deliver the services; between different government institutions conceptualized as “checks and balances” and private entities involved in policy design and delivery; and between formal and informal institutions. In other words, governance refers to how those with power exercise that power, formally and informally, and it describes how institutions work and how States relate to societies more broadly, rather than just through government agencies (Grindle, 2017).

In this way, questions of governance intersect with questions concerning ethical leadership and public integrity. However, the term governance can be associated with any organization or grouping at any level and is used in various contexts e.g., corporate governance, global governance, international, national, and local governance. Thus, governance generally relates to institutions, power, order, justice, and equity. In the public sector, governance also refers to the process of wielding power - in this case entailing the enactment and promulgation of effective

public policies, procedures that are legitimate and accountable to the citizenry, and laws that directly affect human and institutional interaction, economic and social development (Rose-Ackerman, 2016). It focuses on designing and implementing modern regulatory welfare programs and mass public benefits systems and encourages efficient public service with democratic ideals.

The terms “government” and “governance” are interchangeably used, denoting the exercise of authority in an organization, institution, or state. **Government** is given to the entity exercising that authority. The most basic definition of authority is "legal power." Whereas power is the ability to influence the behavior of others, authority is the right to do so. Authority is thus based on an acknowledged duty to obey rather than on any form of coercion or manipulation. Government is closely related to studying politics which is, in essence, to study government and the exercise of authority. Politics is the art of government, the exercise of control within the society through the making and enforcement of collective decisions (Heywood, 1997). This is the sense in which politicians are described as “political” whereas civil servants are seen as “non-political”, the state as “public” and the civil society as “private”. The institutions of the state and the apparatus of the government (courts, police, army, society-security system, and so forth) can be regarded as “public” in the sense that they are responsible for the collective organization of community life. Based on this public/private life division, the government is restricted to the activities of the state itself and the responsibilities which are properly exercised by public bodies. Although civil society can be distinguished from the state, it nevertheless contains a range of institutions that are thought of as “public” in wider access. Since the government does not only decide for all and the civil society and the private sectors, play vital roles in the community (Heywood, 1997). Thus, **governance** is a broader term than government. In its widest sense, it refers to the various ways in which social life is coordinated. Government can therefore be seen as one of the institutions in governance; it is possible to have governance without government.

Good governance can be variously defined as (UNDP, 1997): (1) sound exercise of political, economic, and administrative authority to manage a country’s resources for development. It involves the institutionalization of a system through which citizens, institutions, organizations, and groups in a society articulate their interests, exercise their rights, and mediate their differences in pursuit of the collective good; (2) exercise economic, political, and administrative authority to manage a country’s affairs at all levels. It comprises mechanisms, processes, and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations, and mediate their differences; (3) in governance; citizens are rightly concerned with a government’s responsiveness to their needs and protection of their rights. Governance generally pertains to the ability of government to develop an efficient, effective, and accountable public administration process that is open to people's participation and strengthens a democratic system of government; (4) the process of decision-making by which decisions are implemented or not implemented. Governance can be used in several contexts, such as corporate governance, international governance, national governance, and local governance; and (5) interactions among structures, processes, and traditions that determine how power and responsibilities are exercised, how decisions are taken, and how people or stakeholders have their say. Fundamentally, it is about

power, relationships, and accountability: who has influence, who decides, and how decision-makers are held accountable. In Brief, good governance has been defined as the rules of the political system to solve conflicts between all actors of stakeholders and adopt decisions conformed to legality. It has also been used to describe the proper functioning of institutions and their acceptance by the public with trust and legitimacy.

## **(2) Evolution of Good Governance Definition**

Gradual global recognition of the need for good governance emerged only from the 1990s onwards. Although different meanings of good governance exist, the term is generally associated with political, economic, and social goals that are deemed necessary for achieving development. Hence, good governance is the process whereby public institutions conduct public affairs and manage public resources in a manner that promotes the rule of law and the realization of human rights: civil and political rights, economic, social, and cultural rights. In 1996, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) declared that “promoting good governance in all its aspects, including by ensuring the rule of law, improving the efficiency and accountability of the public sector and tackling corruption, are essential elements of a framework within which economies can prosper”. Today, the term good governance is commonly used by national and international development organizations. However, its meaning and scope are not always clear. While this flexibility enables a contextual application of the term, the lack of conceptual clarity can be a source of difficulty at the operational level. In some cases, good governance has become a “one-size-fits-all buzzword” lacking specific meaning and content.

Johnston (2002, pp. 1-2, 7) defines good governance as “legitimate, accountable, and effective ways of obtaining and using public power and resources in the pursuit of widely accepted social goals.” This definition links good governance with the rule of law, transparency, and accountability and embodies partnerships between state and society, and among citizens. Similarly, Rose-Ackerman (2016, p. 1) suggests that good governance refers to “all kinds of institutional structures that promote both good substantive outcomes and public legitimacy”. Good government is also associated with impartiality (Rothstein and Varraich, 2017), ethical universalism (Mungiu-Pippidi, 2015), and open-access orders (North, Wallis, and Weingast, 2009). According to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the key question for assessing good governance is: Are the institutions of governance effectively guaranteeing the right to health, adequate housing, sufficient food, quality education, justice, and personal security? Core elements of good governance include transparency, integrity, lawfulness, sound policy, participation, accountability, responsiveness, and the absence of corruption and wrongdoing, as well as the relationship between integrity and lawfulness in the public sector.

The World Bank defines good governance in terms of the traditions and institutions by which authority in a country is exercised. This includes (1) the process by which governments are selected, monitored, and replaced; (2) the capacity of the government to effectively formulate and implement sound policies; and (3) the respect of citizens and the state for the institutions that

govern economic and social interactions among them (Kaufmann, Kraay, and Zoido-Lobaton, 1999). This definition is one of the most frequently used definitions of good governance and forms the basis of the World Bank's widely used Worldwide Governance Indicators, which are discussed below. This broad definition has been criticized for mixing policy content (sound policies) and procedures (the rule of law) as well as people's evaluations (respect) and for referring to both institutions that provide access to political power and those that exercise and implement laws and policies (Rothstein and Teorell, 2008). The inclusion of "sound policies" in the definition raises the question of whether international economic experts can really be expected to know what constitutes sound policies. Some political institutions are more important than others when determining the quality of government (Rothstein and Teorell, 2008).

Similarly, Keefer warns against broad definitions that extend the study of governance to all questions related to how groups of people govern themselves, as this would cover all areas of political science. As a result, development practitioners and government officials "continue to confront long lists of 'things that must be done to achieve good governance, with little guidance about how to pick and choose among them as priorities" (Keefer, 2004, p. 5, 571). The Quality of Government Institute (QoG) of the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, focuses on the quality of government per se, particularly in relation to a number of specific policy areas, such as health, the environment, social policy, and poverty, for the well-being of its citizens. The QoG developed a dataset of political institutions and processes with over 2,500 variables, including indicators of formal and informal institutions that may affect levels of corruption, such as a country's rule of law, equity, political pluralism, and access to knowledge, information, and education.

### **(3) Good Governance and Sustainable Development**

Good governance is considered key to achieving sustainable development and human well-being. Empirical studies show that good governance, in contrast to democratization, has strong positive effects on measures of social trust, life satisfaction, peace, and political legitimacy (Ghosh & Siddique, 2015; Rose-Ackerman, 2016; Rothstein & Teorell, 2008) for improving life evaluations either directly, because people are happier living in a context of good government (Ott, 2010), or indirectly because good governance enables people to achieve higher levels of their well-being and the control of corruption, which has been demonstrated to affect well-being. The absence of corruption has often been shown to increase the efficiency of public and private enterprises and thus create favorable conditions for economic growth. There is also evidence that higher levels of general and specific trust increase the happiness of people even beyond higher incomes (Mungiu-Pippidi, 2015). Changes in government quality services contribute positively to people's life evaluation (Helliwell et al., 2018). Accordingly, modern notions of good governance are necessary for attaining the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goal# 16 of the SDGs, which is titled "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions" and aims to "*promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels*". After all, sustainable development requires that those in power have respect for human rights and work towards eradicating poverty,

addressing hunger, securing good health care and high-quality education for their citizens, guaranteeing gender equality, reducing inequality, and so on.

#### **(4) Core Principles of Good Governance**

Good governance is tightly linked to the fight against corruption. Accordingly, some of the core principles of good governance are also principles of anti-corruption: (1) participation; (2) the rule of law; (3) transparency; (4) responsiveness; (5) consensus orientation; (6) equity and inclusiveness; (7) government effectiveness and efficiency; and (8) accountability (Rothstein & Teorell, 2008; UN, 2009). When political systems do not adhere to these eight principles, their institutions might be incapable of delivering public services and fulfilling people's needs as follows:

**(4.1) Participation** refers to the opportunity for active involvement by all sectors of society in the decision-making process regarding all issues of interest. Participation is fostered by enabling environments where pertinent information is appropriately disseminated so that all concerned people can voice their opinion in an unconstrained manner. Article 13/UN Convention against Corruption requires all States parties *“to promote the active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, in the prevention of and the fight against corruption”*.

**(4.2) Rule of law** is the exercise of state power within a legal framework where there is law and order, the justice system is independent, human rights are implemented, and the constitution constraints on the executive power (Johnston, 2002). Fukuyama (2013) distinguishes between “rule of law” and “rule by law”. The “rule by law” refers to the executive use of law and bureaucracy as an instrument of power, while the “rule of law” is when the executive itself is constrained by the same laws that apply to everyone else. The UN defines the rule of law as a principle of governance in which all public-private persons and institutions, including the State itself, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced, and independently adjudicated, which are consistent with human rights norms (United Nations, 2004). It requires measures to ensure adherence to the supremacy of law principles, equality before the law, accountability to the law, fairness in the application of the law, separation of powers, participation in decision-making, legal certainty, avoidance of arbitrariness, and procedural and legal transparency.

**(4.3) Transparency** exists where the process of decision-making by those in power can be scrutinized by concerned members of society. Transparency rests on a partnership: officials must make information available, and there must be people and groups with reasons and opportunities to put the information to use. Key among those is an independent judiciary and a free, competitive, responsible press as well as an active, critical civil society (Johnston, 2002). Transparency is also one of the most important principles underlying the fight against corruption. In this regard, article

10 of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) requires State parties to take the necessary measures to enhance transparency in their public institutions.

**(4.4) Responsiveness** exists where institutions readily serve all stakeholders promptly and appropriately so that the interests of all citizens are protected. Responsiveness also refers to identifying and addressing built-in discriminatory practices affecting ethnic or minority groups, including gender responsiveness and the participation of all genders in governance. Mechanisms to improve responsiveness may include selective decentralization so that local governments supposedly are more in tune with the needs of their constituents and can more promptly serve the people, who in turn could become more involved in decision-making.

**(4.5) Consensus orientation** ensures that the existing systems serve the best interests of society. This may be one of the most difficult principles, as any action or policy is likely to affect different groups in society in different and often opposing ways. Therefore, different viewpoints must be taken into account. To arrive at a compromise, there needs to be a strong, impartial, and flexible mediation structure so that the best interests of the whole community can be served. Public hearings, referendums, forums for debate, people's legal right to petition about policy, and consultation mechanisms are means to work towards achieving consensus or compromise.

**(4.6) Equity and inclusiveness** exist where everyone has opportunities to improve or maintain their well-being that all members of society, especially the most vulnerable, are taken into consideration in policymaking, and no one feels alienated, disenfranchised, or left behind. Good governance demands that preferential attention is given to the poor, marginalized, and needy by fairness principles, according to which the worst-off in society must receive a fair deal. According to Rawls (1971), the social and economic policy ought to satisfy two conditions: (1) offices, and positions are open to all under conditions of fair equality of opportunity, and (2) they provide the greatest benefit to the least-advantaged members of society. Progressive taxation, free medical care, and subsidized housing are examples of equity mechanisms.

**(4.7) Government effectiveness and efficiency** exist where processes and institutions make the best use of resources to produce results that meet the needs of society. Effectiveness and efficiency require the enhancement of quality and standardization of public service delivery, the professionalization of the bureaucracy, focusing government efforts on vital functions, and the elimination of redundancies or overlaps in functions and operations. For public service delivery, agencies must promptly and adequately cater to people's needs, simplifying government procedures and reducing red tape, using appropriate technology when feasible, and coordinating processes among various government agencies to eliminate redundant information requirements.

**(4.8) Accountability** is based on the principle that every person or group is responsible for their actions, especially when their acts affect the public interest. It refers to the answerability or responsibility for one's actions so that systems exist for decision-makers in the public-private sectors and civil society organizations to answer to the public and stakeholders. Accountability implies that checks and balances can and should be built into the constitutional architecture. Sometimes a distinction is made between horizontal accountability (checks and balances within

the public sector) and vertical accountability (accountability of governments towards their citizens) (Johnston, 2002). The mechanism of governance designed to promote accountability is a code of ethics or a code of conduct. Such codes are essential tools for promoting integrity, honesty, and responsibility among individuals and are recommended under article 8 of UNCAC that “*each State Party shall endeavor to apply, within its own institutional and legal systems, codes or standards of conduct for the correct, honorable and proper performance of public functions*”.

### **(5) Indicators for Measuring Good Governance**

It is a complex and challenging task to measure the extent to which different jurisdictions adhere to good governance principles. Some of these principles may conflict with each other. Effectiveness and efficiency may be compromised, to achieve equity and inclusion. Commonly used indicators give scores to the following group of proxies: (a) existence and quality of procedures, such as in the budget formulation and procurement, and clear job descriptions in the bureaucracy; (b) levels of capacity, such as average educational attainment, technical qualifications, and professionalism; (c) output, such as health and education outcomes and availability of services; and (d) estimates from direct observation. Some of the most popular indices related to good governance are the World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI), the Index of Public Integrity, and Freedom House's Freedom in the World report. There are also indices with a regional focus, such as the Ibrahim Index of Africa Governance. These indices measure good governance by examining different aspects of governance and their various indicators. For example, the World Bank's WGI, which is widely used around the world, attempts to quantify good governance by measuring the following six aspects of governance based on “*views of a large number of enterprise, citizen and expert survey respondents in industrial and developing countries*” (WGI website):

- (1) Voice and accountability: implies citizen participation and independent media, including political and media freedom as well as civil liberties
- (2) Political stability and absence of violence/terrorism: the threat of state coup
- (3) Government effectiveness: quality of civil service
- (4) Regulatory quality: market-friendly policies
- (5) Rule of law: perceptions of crime, an effective judiciary, enforceable contracts
- (6) Corruption: control of corruption, measured through composite survey instruments

The Index of Public Integrity (IPI) seeks to assess “*a society's capacity to control corruption and ensure that public resources are spent without corrupt practices to hold its government accountable*” (Mungiu-Pippidi et al., 2017). In this context, the IPI measures the following aspects: judicial independence, administrative burden, trade openness, budget transparency, e-citizenship, and freedom of the press. Given its holistic approach to assessing the integrity, the IPI provides useful data on governance issues. Another index that provides data on governance is the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index, which “*measures how the rule of law is experienced and perceived by the general public worldwide based on more than 120,000 household and 3,800 expert surveys*” (WJP website). An additional source for assessing good



governance is the World Values Survey which provides a worldwide ranking of countries based on how citizens perceive the governance quality in their own countries (Ivanyna & Shah, 2018). Furthermore, localized studies of specific situations provide considerable insight but are limited in their general applicability (Moore, 1993; Olken & Pande, 2012). However, the reliability of all the indices above has been criticized because of their subjective assessments and possible sampling biases due to the different willingness degrees of survey respondents to participate. Therefore, each of these measurements has its own limitations because every measurement of good governance is designed to detect certain things and ignore others. One major reason for the difficulty in defining and measuring good governance is that theoretical, methodological, and empirical approaches each conceptualize the term “governance” differently (Andrews, 2008). A possible solution is to use the term “quality of government” instead of good governance.

## 2.1.2 Concept and Theories of Sustainable Development

### (1) Definition and Principles of Sustainable Development

Sustainable development (SD) was generally defined as “a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs” (United Nations General Assembly, 1987: p. 43). This definition focused on the global situation of the population, food, species and genetic resources, energy, industry, human habitation, etc. Although many definitions abound, the most often used definition of sustainable development is that proposed by the Brundtland Commission (Cerin, 2006; Dernbach, 1998, 2003; Stoddart, 2011). However, the definitions touch on the importance of intergenerational equity. This concept of conserving resources for future generations is one of the major features that distinguish sustainable development policy from traditional environmental policy, which also seeks to internalize the externalities of environmental degradation. The overall goal of sustainable development (SD) is the long-term stability of the economy and environment; this is only achievable through the integration and acknowledgment of economic, environmental, and social concerns throughout the decision-making process.

In the application of this definition of sustainable development, one issue concerns the substitutability of capital. There are several types of capital: social, natural, and man-made. The definition of weak sustainable development explains that only the aggregate level of capital matters: man-made, or manufactured, capital is an adequate alternative to natural capital. Strong sustainability, on the other hand, recognizes the unique features of natural resources that cannot be replaced by manufactured capital. Most ecologists and environmentalists are proponents of the strong sustainability definition (Stoddart, 2011). In addition to substitutability, this definition of sustainability is also founded on several other important principles. Contained within the common definition of sustainable development, intergenerational equity recognizes the long-term scale of sustainability to address the needs of future generations (Dernbach, 1998; Stoddart, 2011). Also, the **polluter pays principle** states that “*governments should require polluting entities to bear the costs of their pollution rather than impose those costs on others or the environment*” (Dernbach,

1998, p. 58). Thus, government policy should ensure that environmental costs are internalized wherever possible; this also serves to minimize externalities.

The **precautionary principle** establishes that “*where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage; lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation*” (United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, 1992). Explicitly stated in the Rio Declaration, the notion of common but differentiated responsibilities recognizes that each nation must play its part in the issue of sustainable development. This principle also acknowledges the different contributions to environmental degradation by developed and developing nations, while appreciating the future development needs of these less developed countries (Brodhag & Taliere, 2006; Dernbach, 1998; United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, 1992). Developed nations, therefore, bear greater responsibility in light of the resources they require and the pressures they exert on the environment. The key principle of sustainable development underlying all others is the integration of environmental, social, and economic concerns into all aspects of decision-making. All other principles in the SD framework have integrated decision-making at their core (Dernbach, 2003; Stoddart, 2011). This deeply fixed concept of integration distinguishes sustainability from other forms of policy. Institutionally, government organizations are typically organized into sectorial ministries and departments. This works fairly well until the system encounters something very comprehensive and highly integrated with nature, such as sustainable development. In practice, sustainable development requires the integration of economic, environmental, and social objectives across sectors, territories, and generations.

## **(2) Historical Evolution of Sustainable Development**

The basic structure of international institutions was well established in the 19th century, with the League of Nations as the first general international organization involved in various forms of international policy-making for peace and security. Since 1945, the United Nations system has developed a policy based on a body of various universal principles and objectives to ensure the foundation of peace and security and the non-use of armed force, laid out in the UN Charter, as well as the mechanism of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It has advocated a culture of peace and security and a culture of conflict prevention with a view to being a center for harmonizing the actions of nations as envisaged in the UN Charter. The origin of sustainable development (SD), though SD thinking is widely recognized to have its origins in the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment, SD as a concept began to gather momentum following the 1987 Brundtland Report “**Our Common Future**”, and 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), or the Earth Summit. The Brundtland Report firstly introduced the need for the integration of economic development, environmental protection, and social justice. The main outcomes of the Earth Summit were (1) the Rio Declaration, which recognized the right of states to economic and social development and contained 27 principles of sustainable development, well-known precautionary and polluter pays principles; (2) Forest Principles recognized the importance of forests for economic and social development, indigenous

communities, biodiversity and maintaining ecological processes; (3) Convention on Biological Diversity and the Framework Convention on Climate Change; and (4) Agenda 21 was a voluntary SD plan of action, for implementation by national, regional and local levels.

In 1987, the Brundtland Commission published its report, **Our Common Future**, to link the issues of economic development and environmental stability. In doing so, this report provided the oft-cited definition of sustainable development as “*development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*” (United Nations General Assembly, 1987: p. 43). Albeit somewhat vague, this concept of sustainable development aims to maintain economic advancement and progress while protecting the long-term value of the environment and sustainable utilization of natural resources; it “*provides a framework for the integration of environmental policies and development strategies*” (United Nations General Assembly, 1987). However, long before the late 20th century, scholars argued that there need not be a trade-off between environmental sustainability and economic development. By utilizing economic tools, early theorists offered that policies to protect the environment could also promote innovation and turn a profit. In 1920, Arthur Pigou noted that the presence of incidental, uncharged services acts as a barrier to achieving equilibrium in the market. In his work “*The Economics of Welfare*”, Pigou noted that the divergence between marginal private costs and benefits and marginal social costs and benefits create what we now call “externalities” (Pigou, 1920). These externalities are conceived as transaction spillovers, or costs and benefits unaccounted for in the given price of a good or service. To correct the market failure, Pigou proposed a tax on those activities that produce negative externalities at a rate equal to those external costs. By levying this charge, called a Pigouvian tax, the market price will more accurately reflect the comprehensive costs and benefits of the activity.

Michael Porter and Claas van der Linde theorized that pollution is a sign of inefficient resource use. The win-win opportunities for the environment and economy can be captured through improvements that reduce pollution in production processes (Porter & van der Linde, 1999). Competitive advantages rely on the capacity for innovation; thus, “by stimulating innovation, strict environmental regulations can enhance competitiveness” (Porter & van der Linde, 1995, p. 98). As the Porter hypothesis states, properly designed environmental policies that make use of market incentives can encourage the introduction of new technologies and reduce production waste. The tests of this theory have yielded mixed results, but scholars generally agree that policy design and public support are crucial elements to the success of these incentives. Nonetheless, market-based environmental tools are generally perceived as more “business-friendly” than traditional command and control policies (Cooper & Vargas, 2004). The appreciation of our natural resource constraints is also in our best interest. Truly rational and “effective governance requires a nation to consider and protect the environment and natural resources on which its current and future development depend. Any other approach is self-defeating. The connections between the environment and development thus provide a powerful rationale for environmental protection: enlightened self-interest” (Dernbach, 1998, p.220). This inherent interdependence between the long-term stability of the environment and the economy is

the foundation of the field of sustainable development. Similar to Porter's win-win hypothesis that a trade-off isn't necessary, sustainable development policies look to tackle the sources of environmental degradation, not just the symptoms, while still providing opportunities and creating incentives for economic advancement (Porter & van der Linde, 1995). Components of a healthy environment, such as clean air and water, are considered public goods in that they are non-rivalrous and non-excludable. Thus, it is up to the public sector to maintain the provision of these goods and services. More recently, nations have moved towards the implementation of these market-based mechanisms to internalize the complete costs of pollution and ensure long-term stability of the environment; in other words, to ensure sustainable development.

**Agenda 21** that is an SD Plan of Action, contained a wide range of program areas focused on social and economic development, sustainable environment protection; enhancement, and encouraging participation from communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and groups identified by the UN as under-represented in decision-making, including women, children, and indigenous communities. Chapter 28 of Agenda 21 recognized that many of the issues that Agenda 21 sought to address were rooted in local activities, and required local authorities in every country to be involved in actions to address them. The UN Chapter suggested that local authorities in each country should enter into a dialogue with their citizens, local organizations, and private enterprises and adopt a "**Local Agenda 21**". Local Agenda 21 saw local authority strategies produced to enable the sustainable development of communities.

### **2.1.3 Concept of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

#### **(1) General Concept of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are part of the United Nations 2030 agenda comprising seventeen goals and one sixty-nine targets. These goals were developed in the Rio+20 conferences on sustainable development in the year 2012. The suggestions were incorporated in 2015 when these goals were officially adopted (Amin, 2019). A total of 193 states became a signatory to these sustainable development goals, pledging to incorporate these goals into the developmental framework of their respective states. Like other states, Afghanistan is a signatory to these goals, and Abdullah Abdullah signed as representative of the Afghan government in the United Nations. Afghanistan assigned the ministry of economy to lead all the activities for the fulfillment of sustainable development goals in Afghanistan. In the alignment phase, Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan aligned all SDG goals with National Strategic Plans and Policies - Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF) and National Priority Programs (NPPs). In 2017, Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan presented a Voluntary National Review (VNR) report at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) of the United Nations, indicating that nationalization was undertaken and could reach many of its milestones (Willemijn, 2013).

For SDGs' alignment Phase, GoIRA's Ministry of Economy published a report on the Alignment of SDGs with National Priority Programs. The report, after reviewing the alignment process, concluded in the following words: *"After a comparison of the specific themes and program components of NPPs against ASDG targets, it was found that most of the NPPs were partially aligned with SDGs."* In reviewing the concept of Good Governance for Sustainable development, the word "governance" applies to the mechanism by which members of democracy exert force, authority, & control to implement strategies and actions that affect the lives of other people and social empowerment (Shawn, 2014). The continuous supervision of the execution of existing strategies, as well as the balance of control between the participants, are essential components of strong management. The civilians' opinion is by far the most important in a country (Akand, 2011). The standard of administration is decided by strengthening the public's expression and addressing their desires. A strong administration follows Healey & Robinson's definition of strong administration, which is as follows: "It denotes an elevated degree of organizational success in policy planning and implementation, notably in the execution of monetary strategy and its connection to development, prosperity, and public welfare (Amin, 2019). Responsibility, accountability, engagement, transparency, and the legal system are all aspects of strong governance. It does not always mean a value judgment, such as healthy regard for constitutional and democratic rights, while good governance is also a precondition for democratic validation of the involvement of government in deciding a country's growth is important since a civilized country meets current needs without jeopardizing upcoming generation access to capital.

## **(2) United Nations System and the UN-SDGs Mechanism**

Since the Earth Summit in 1992, the United Nations System has created a wide range of mechanisms of programs, institutions, and agreements with the aim of achieving global sustainable development. A list of major agreements and conventions since 1992 is available on the UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. The most significant milestones in the journey of UN-SDGs Mechanism: (a) 1993 – the creation of the Commission for Sustainable Development to monitor and promote the implementation of Agenda 21; (b) 1997 – Earth Summit+5, which progressive reviewed and renewed commitment to the implementation of Agenda 21; (c) 2000 – Millennium Summit in New York, which resulted in the UN Millennium Declaration, a set of targets to be achieved by 2015 that included environmental sustainability, the eradication of extreme poverty and equality for women, now known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); (d) 2002 – World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, which renewed international commitment to the pursuit of SD with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI); and (e) 2012 – Rio+20, which resulted in an outcome document, The Future We Want, in which States reaffirmed commitments to all previous SD agreements, plans, and targets. They also committed to developing a suite of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) building on the priorities identified in Agenda 21 and the JPOI and decided to replace the Commission for Sustainable Development with a “high-level political forum” to progress implementation of Agenda 21 and the JPOI, and the achievement of the SDGs.

As known, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were born at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012. The objective was to produce a set of universal goals that meet the urgent environmental, political, and economic challenges facing our world. The SDGs replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which started a global effort in 2000 to tackle the indignity of poverty. The MDGs established measurable, universally-agreed objectives for tackling extreme poverty and hunger, preventing deadly diseases, and expanding primary education to all children, among other development priorities. For 15 years, the MDGs drove progress in several important areas: reducing income poverty, providing much-needed access to water and sanitation, driving down child mortality, and drastically improving maternal health. They also kick-started a global movement for free primary education, inspiring countries to invest in their future generations. Most significantly, the MDGs made huge strides in combatting HIV/AIDS and other treatable diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis. Key MDG achievements: (1) More than 1 billion people have been lifted out of extreme poverty (since 1990); (2) Child mortality dropped by more than half (since 1990); (3) The number of out-of-school children has dropped by more than half (since 1990); (4) HIV/AIDS infections fell by almost 40 percent (since 2000).

The legacy and achievements of the MDGs provide us with valuable lessons and experience to begin work on new goals. But for millions of people around the world, the job remains unfinished. We need to go the last mile to end hunger, achieve full gender equality, improve health services, and get every child into school beyond primary. The SDGs are also an urgent call to shift the world onto a more sustainable path. The SDGs are a bold commitment to finish what started and tackle some of the more pressing challenges facing today's world. All 17 Goals interconnect, meaning success in one affects success for others. Dealing with the threat of climate change impacts how we manage our fragile natural resources, achieving gender equality or better health helps eradicate poverty, and fostering peace and inclusive societies will reduce inequalities and help economies prosper. In short, this is the best chance to improve life for future generations. The SDGs coincided with another historic agreement reached in 2015 at the COP21 Paris Climate Conference. Together with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, signed in Japan in March 2015, these agreements provide a set of common standards and achievable targets to reduce carbon emissions, manage the risks of climate change and natural disasters, and build back better after a crisis. The SDGs are unique in that they cover issues that affect us all. They reaffirm our international commitment to end poverty permanently, everywhere. They are ambitious in making sure no one is left behind. More importantly, they involve all in building a more sustainable, safer, more prosperous planet for all humanity.

The Sustainable Development Goals Fund (SDG Fund) is the first development cooperation mechanism created to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With an initial contribution from the government of Spain, the SDG Fund was created in 2014 to support sustainable development activities through integrated and multidimensional joint programs. The SDG Fund has acted as a bridge in the transition from MDGs to SDGs, providing concrete experiences on how to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. As

for the MDG achievement fund and its joint programs, the SDG Fund builds on the experience, knowledge, lessons learned, and best practices of the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund. Established in 2007 through an agreement between the Government of Spain and UNDP, on behalf of the UN system, the MDG-F operated in 50 countries. It worked through more than 27 UN agencies in collaboration with citizens, civil society organizations, and local, regional, and national levels to target vulnerable groups and tackle multidimensional development challenges. The MDG-F was one of the world's largest and most comprehensive development cooperation mechanisms devised to support MDG attainment. With a total contribution of approximately USD 900 million, the MDG-F financed 130 joint programs in 50 countries around the world, in 8 areas: (1) Children, Food Security, and Nutrition; (2) Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment; (3) Environment and Climate Change; (4) Youth, Employment and Migration; (5) Democratic Economic Governance; (6) Development and the Private Sector; (7) Conflict Prevention and Peace-Building; and (8) Culture and Development. As a cooperation mechanism for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, SDG Fund incorporated several relevant changes: Greater participation of the private sector and improved public-private sector partnerships.

## 2.2 Related Research

Afghan aid (2020) studied in the article "Afghan aid and the Sustainable Development Goals" found that since 2015, the Government of Afghanistan has adopted the following three-step plan to match the SDGs: **1) Nationalization**, which involves a critical review by different stakeholders in the country with the realization of national context and circumstances. This process reshaped the government's SDG priorities to focus on 125 of 169 national targets and 190 of 304 national indicators; **2) Alignment**, this is the phase that aims to make sure national strategies, policies, and plans reflect and are geared toward the achievement of pre-existing national targets and indicators; **3) Implementation**, which has come into action in the past year, and, as the name suggests, is about the initiation of the national programmers, projects, and interventions required to achieve the targets and indicators. During the implementation period, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of the SDGs in Afghanistan are planned to be assessed and revised every three years until 2030 (Skandari, 2019).

Dhaoui (2019) studied in the article "Good Governance for Sustainable Development" found that for many decades there has been a growing concern about reducing poverty, reducing inequality, protecting the environment, promoting well-being, etc. These changes have shifted focus from the model of economic growth to the new model of sustainable development. Despite this new direction, the issue of how to achieve sustainable development goals remains. One of the most recognized tools to cope with the development agenda is good governance. Dhaoui gave an overview of the issues of sustainable development and outlined the link between good governance dimensions and selected indicators of development.

Glass and Newig (2019) studied “Governance for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: How important are participation, policy coherence, reflexivity, adaptation, and democratic institutions” and found that it is widely accepted that the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) depend on effective governance arrangements (Newig, 2019). However, it is less clear which modes and aspects of governance are important for which of the 17 goals. Until now, empirical research has mostly studied individual cases, with comparative studies largely missing. Here, we conduct a comparative analysis among 41 high and upper-middle-income countries for 2015, drawing on the Sustainable Governance Indicators, the Global SDG Indicators Database, and other official sources. Using multiple regressions, we test the influence of different aspects of governance, namely participation, policy coherence, reflexivity, adaptation, and democratic institutions, on SDG achievement at the national level, controlling for the effects of additional socio-economic conditions. Of the tested factors, democratic institutions and participation as well as an economic power, education, and geographic location serve to explain SDG achievement.

Biermann (2015) studied in Policy Brief#3 “Integrating Governance into the Sustainable Development Goals” and found that governance must be a crucial part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Biermann, 2015). However, there are also different ways of integrating key aspects of governance into the SDGs. Much of the discussions for the SDGs have revolved around either having a stand-alone governance goal or integrating governance into other goals on specific issues (e.g., goals on poverty reduction, water, and food). 2. Three aspects of governance need to be considered: good governance (the processes of decision-making and their institutional foundations), effective governance (the capacity of countries to pursue sustainable development), and equitable governance (distributive outcomes). While these three different aspects have several connections between them, the three aspects will require separate political efforts. To most fully integrate governance into the SDGs, it is important to take account of all three aspects of governance when shaping the goals and targets. 3. If governance was addressed as a stand-alone SDG, then this would offer the best opportunity to comprehensively incorporate all three aspects of governance into a post-2015 development agenda. However, because of existing indicators of governance and actor coalitions organized around specific issues, the risk remains that good governance might be privileged over effective governance or equitable governance. 4. Conversely, if governance is integrated into issue-specific goals, then this would offer opportunities to build from existing policy experience about how different governance arrangements shape relevant outcomes. While this strength is important, pursuing governance in this manner is less likely to be comprehensive. Awareness of this limitation will be important in spurring creative and ambitious governance targets on all issues in the SDGs.

Konstańczak (2014) studied in “Theory of Sustainable Development and Social Practice” and found that the hopes associated with globalization, which were also supposed to overcome the effects of the ecological crisis, have not been fulfilled. This situation is associated with the fact that nowadays, the biggest influence on the functioning of the global ecosystem is by the man himself, who exists simultaneously in two environments: social and cultural. According to the



author, all crises are global and embrace both environments in which man functions. Therefore, people are most at risk to pay for every crisis, including ecological ones. Human communities would be able to function in any environment if they accept and implement sustainable development, which includes the functioning of the anthroposphere and the biosphere at the same time. Communities that we're unable to do so collapsed and even disappeared. In conclusion, the author claims that even today, there is such a requirement. Today's advocated sustainable development ensues from our species' historical experiences. The implementation of sustainable development could provide the best optimal development conditions for both mankind and the natural environment.

Mensah (2021) studied "Sustainable development: Meaning, history, principles, pillars, and implications for human action: A literature review" and found that sustainable development (SD) has become a popular catchphrase in contemporary development discourse. However, despite its pervasiveness and the massive popularity it has garnered over the years, the concept still seems unclear as many people continue to ask questions about its meaning and history, as well as what it entails and implies for development theory and practice. The purpose of this paper is to contribute to the discourse on SD by further explaining the paradigm and its implications for human thinking and actions in the quest for sustainable development. This is done through an extensive literature review, combining aspects of the "Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines and the Recursive Content Abstraction (RCA) analytical approach. The paper finds and argues that the entire issue of sustainable development centers around inter-and intragenerational equity anchored essentially on three-dimensional distinct but interconnected pillars, namely the environment, economy, and society. Decision-makers need to be constantly mindful of the relationships, complementarities, and trade-offs among these pillars and ensure responsible human behavior and actions at the international, national, community, and individual levels to uphold and promote the tenets of this paradigm in the interest of human development. More needs to be done by the key players - particularly the United Nations (UN), governments, private sector, and civil society organizations - in terms of policies, education, and regulation on social, economic, and environmental resource management to ensure that everyone is sustainable development aware, conscious, cultured and compliant.

Klarin (2018) studied "The Concept of Sustainable Development: From its Beginning to the Contemporary Issues" and found that the concept of sustainable development has undergone various developmental phases since its introduction. The historical development of the concept saw the participation of various organizations and institutions, which nowadays work intensely on the implementation of its principles and objectives. The concept has experienced different critiques and interpretations over time while being accepted in different areas of human activity, and the definition of sustainable development has become one of the most cited definitions in the literature. In its development, the concept has been adapting to the contemporary requirements of a complex global environment. Still, the underlying principles and goals, as well as the problems of their implementation, remained almost unchanged. Still, some goals have been updated, and new goals were set. These goals are united in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals 2015, which outline the challenges that humanity has to fight not only to achieve sustainable development but to survive on Earth as well.

## CHAPTER 3

### **Application of Good Governance in Afghanistan**

In this chapter, the researcher reported the findings of the documentary research results on the second objective of this research which is to analyze patterns of governance application and best practices for the implementation of the UN SDGs: Goal #16 in Afghanistan in the context of

- 3.1 Historical Development and Evolution of Good Governance in Afghanistan;
- 3.2 Mechanism of Governance Application for Sustainable Development in Afghanistan;
- 3.3 Transforming Governance Application for Sustainable Development in Afghanistan; and
- 3.4 Evaluation of Governance Application for Sustainable Development in Afghanistan.

#### **3.1 Historical Development and Evolution of Good Governance in Afghanistan**

The historical origins of good governance can be traced to societies enjoying the rule of democracy regime. Western European and Northern American countries with a long history of exercising democracy and good governance, who have been able to successfully demonstrate great experiences of building sustainable democracies and accountable governments, can be called the cradle of the good governance concept (HadiAlami, 2012: p.7). Their experiences indicate that good governance in these countries was built by expanding democratic political parties, transparent elections, free media, independent judiciary systems that observed the rule of law and extension of citizenry values true education, and civil movements (Amjad, 2001: p.12). Therefore in comparative studies, the Northern American and Western European countries are mostly assessed as successful instances of good governance. In other words, while North America and Western Europe provide good governance, some countries in Eastern Europe and non-developed countries provide examples of the absence of good governance. In Bulgaria; for instance, non-development, lack of democratic experience, and consequently lack of democratic infrastructure to perform good governance have confronted the country with plenty of problems.

When global, regional, and bilateral institutions such as the World Bank, UNDP, OECD, ADB, EU, and ASEAN, among others, realized that effective governance is a citizen-friendly, citizen-caring, & citizen-responsive government, it became a strong concept (Chas, 2018). In the absence of competent administration, no growth strategy could enhance the residents' standard of living. On the contrary, if the government's authority is misused, the impoverished would further struggle the most, because poor management breeds as well as perpetuates corrupt practices, terrorist acts, and deprivation, among other things. As a result, it is critical to strengthen governance, which is also a necessary prerequisite for improving the livelihoods of the Afghan people. In today's administrative structure, the idea of good administration is crucial. Individuals are more conscious these days; therefore they are always informed of how the administration operates daily. As a result, the government must please the general public, and good governance facilitates this (Jackson, 2014). The democratic experience of Afghanistan over the last 20 years has strongly demonstrated that good administration should aspire to expand economic possibilities, equality, no terrorist acts, equity, openness, and poverty alleviation, as well as problems and

opportunities for the effective administration in Afghanistan. In a world of globalization and competitiveness, governance is critical for advancing the growth and lowering sociopolitical stigmas, especially in the world's emerging and impoverished nations. In keeping with this, strong governance enables prudent and effective resource administration for balanced and long-term development in Afghanistan.

Those factors cause “bad governance” in Bulgaria as well as reliance on utopian and untouchable ideologies against democracy (Alami, 2012: p. 7). The researchers indicate that since 1998, the governance and management of society in this country were not mostly democratic, and the governance patterns were not based on transparency, accountability, the rule of law, and capacity building of human resources (Alami, 2012: p. 8). Accordingly, the status of good governance in Afghanistan is more similar to the situation in Bulgaria than in any of the Western European or Northern American countries: good governance and other related concepts such as constitution, the rule of law, and democracy in Afghanistan are new and the country doesn't enjoy long historical and practical democratic and good governance experience. The public administration has studied good governance from two perspectives (Yaqubi, 2010: p.4): **(1) The general perspective**, which doesn't restrict the concept not only to government but also includes the private sector, civil society, and the systems and mechanism which affect the management, planning, and good governance; and **(2) The specific perspective**, which focuses on the mechanism of government. From this perspective, specific good governance means the transparent execution of duties and responsibilities by a government within the mechanism of existing laws and principles framework.

### **3.2 Mechanism of Governance Application for Sustainable Development in Afghanistan**

This thesis analyzes the mechanism of governance application in Afghanistan from a specific perspective and focused on the Afghan government, its possibilities, and problems of performing good governance based on four concepts, namely: the rule of law, transparency, capacity building, and reforms as the major indicators of good governance. The mechanism of these indicators evaluation concluded to what extent the Afghan government has been able to perform good governance and the weak and strong points to assess good governance not only in Afghanistan but also in other similar non-developed and post-civil war countries. These four indicators not only come out of Afghanistan's socio-economic and politico-cultural realities as a non-developed post-civil war country but also refer to the major international organizations that emphasize these concepts as the major indicators of good governance in developing countries. For instance, the “*United Nations Millennium Declaration*” emphasizes these four concepts as the major indicators of good governance in developing countries (Millennium Declaration, 2000). Moreover, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) introduces these indicators as the essential components of good governance (UNDP Report, 1997), and also the United States African Development Foundation (USADF) focuses on those four concepts as the indicators of good governance in developing countries (USADF Report, 1980). Through examining the four

indicators, we can explain good governance challenges and possible solutions in a non-developed and war-torn country such as Afghanistan, which can be analyzed the four indicators as follows:

### **3.2.1 Indicators for Application of Good Governance in Afghanistan**

**(1) The Rule of Law:** In public administration, the rule of law generally means all public duties to be done under the rule of law rather than the rule of man. In other words, it means that under the rule of law, we prevent the rule of man, which in most cases results in authoritarian regimes in which man rules the law and uses it as a personal instrument. In such societies, law functions against the public, while in a rule of the law society, it is vice versa. Therefore the rule of law means respecting the rights of others regardless of their social, political, economic, ethnic, and religious status (Hussaini, 2009: p. 27). In such societies, laws equally protect the fundamental rights, liberty, and equality of all citizens by defining the political systems and legal mechanisms to prevent chaos, instability, and tyranny of the government and other public authorities.

**(2) Transparency:** Financial and administrative corruption is one of the most negative elements affecting good governance. As the level of corruption in a government increases, the level of good governance will decrease. Corruption has its economic, cultural, and institutional effects on good governance and increases the social gap between rich and poor, culturally weakens social and moral values, and politically decreases government legitimacy and social distrust. Therefore all governments that wish to perform good governance are required: (a) to increase the level of accountability and allocate specific budgets to fight against corruption, and (b) to give the full power to the parliament to provide public budget, financial and administrative legislation. The laws drafted by the parliament must specifically describe administrative and financial corruption and define the boundaries of financial accountability (Salihi, 2009). When the government is democratically accountable to the parliament, the decisions are made based on a democratically drafted law. When any information concerning governmental affairs is accessible to the public and the media, the level of administrative and financial corruption decreases, and the level of transparency increases.

Eventually, gaining a transparent government requires four factors: (a) Making governmental-related information accessible to the public is one of the priority duties of the government. This information generally concerns; the reasons for policymaking, its consequences, costs, and the mechanisms of decision making and spending the budget; (b) All media and individuals can directly or indirectly access the data and information concerning the public sector. This access will be available through drafting a freedom of information law, which would require the government to provide any information necessary for the journalists, and for the public through media and opening the governmental archives; (c) Legislative and executive sessions, including central and provincial governments and other institutions that spend resources from the governmental budget, must be accessible for the media and citizens and; (d) Government must be in continuous dialogue with scholars and other professionals as well as civil society organizations

and interest groups concerning law and policy-making through conferences, academic discourse, hearings, and other participatory mechanisms.

**(3) Capacity Building of Human Resources:** in most studies and statistics ‘human resources is recognized as a major index to evaluate the level of development in countries. In those studies, the quality and quantity of expertise and educated population is specified as the independent variable for development. Governments that lack efficient expertise and an educated population are not able to properly use the existing resources to implement governmental projects and achieve governmental and societal goals. Therefore to perform good governance, the governments must undergo a permanent and continuous capacity building of their human resources. According to the UNDP capacity building is a mechanism by which individuals, groups, communities, institutions, and associations increase their capability to (a) Execute the duties, define and resolve the problems and define and achieve the goals; (b) understand the requirements of development (Jazani, 2009: 25).

**(4) Reforms in Public Sectors:** means to provide and motivate governmental institutions to conduct their duties effectively and achieve the defined goals. For instance, revitalizing the employment and salary mechanisms based on meritocracy, creating new governmental structures, and rationalizing governmental institutions to keep the public sector lively, consequently making them capable of specifying and conducting duties and defining new responsibilities and goals (ANDS/UNDP, 2008: 7). Reforming the public sector requires: (a) decentralization of decision making; (b) improving the employment mechanisms based on meritocracy; (c) evaluation of the public sector’s performance through user surveys and other mechanisms (Ezzat, 2010: 281). The concept of good governance in Afghanistan is new, and the country lacks a practical background in performing good governance. As mentioned, the concept of good governance for the first time entered into Afghan political literature after the fall of the Taliban. The Bonn Conference’s declaration holds the essential components of good governance, such as the concepts of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; but the declaration doesn’t introduce or describe any kind of structures, mechanisms, or ways that would show how it is practically possible to perform good governance in a war-torn country.

The Bonn Conference (22 December 2001) was held in Bonn, Germany, immediately after the fall of the Taliban. Its main goal was to form the foundations of an inclusive political regime in Afghanistan in which all sides of the 30 years of civil war are included. But despite its goal, the conference turned into a scene in which the warlords, forming the majority of the conference, mostly compromised to divide the political power. That’s why the conference was rather focused on political power than on how to build a transparent regime and how to tackle potential challenges to a democratic political system. In this phase, the international community playing a pivotal role in funding the post-Taliban government in Afghanistan made two major mistakes. **The first** mistake was to select the wrong partners. The International community, particularly the United States, selected its partners from uneducated war leaders, mostly involved in war crimes and human rights violations in Afghanistan. Such decisions disappointed the people who had wished

for a new era, new faces, and new political structures, and had accordingly welcomed the international community. **Second**, the international community ignored the fact that it is not possible to democratize society and implement democratic values such as human rights, civil rights, and the rule of law by leaders who don't believe in them and even see them as a threat to their undemocratic factional and sectarian political influence in the Afghan society. Consequently, such an approach by the international community can be considered an unfavorable beginning for performing good governance in Afghanistan. Historically the post-Taliban governance in Afghanistan can be assessed in three phases as follows: (1) interim administration (January-June 2002); (2) transitional government (06/2002-07/2004); (3) elected government (2004-present).

### 3.2.2 Challenges and Solutions of Good Governance in Afghanistan

As for the six factors of good governance indicators can be used to assess governance, according to the World Bank's interpretation, Dani Kaufmann, Aart Kraay, and Pablo Zoido-Lobaton released the world administration measures for the initial period in 1999 at the World Bank Institute (Dhaoui, 2019) as follows: (1) **Responsibility and Participation**: this indicator assesses whether inhabitants in a nation have independence of speech, organization, and access to a free press, as well as whether or not they are allowed to engage in the election of their administration; (2) **Democratic Peace and the Lack of Terrorism/Violence**: it assess how much unconstitutional tactics, such as violence and terrorism, have disrupted or destabilized the administration, and; (3) **Competence of the Administration**: it assesses the administration's ability to provide high-quality public services, as well as the administration's autonomy from ideological constraints and program development excellence; (4) **Regulatory Effectiveness**: This statistic assesses how well the government supports commercial sector growth by assessing the government's capacity to implement appropriate laws, guidelines, and rules; (5) **Respect for the law**: it assesses the government's capability to implement guidelines and restrictions in society, as well as the efficacy of the police and courts in combating criminality, as well as the formation of a calm social structure in which residents can exercise all of their rights; (6) **Corruption Prevention**: it assesses the administration's capability to combat corruption in all aspects of civilization. In a perverted culture, official authority is exploited for personal profit, i.e., leaders utilize government authority to serve their objectives. We could learn how a state may attain the objective of effective administration with the assistance of such measures.

Based on the above-selected criteria, the challenges in this field can be described in the historical review of governance in the last decade in Afghanistan indicates that the war-torn country has failed to perform good governance after the fall of the Taliban. The Interim Administration during January-June 2002 that was agreed upon by the members of the Bonn Conference seriously lacked the values and components of good governance. The factions that did not enjoy any experience or knowledge of performing good governance structurally formed this government. Except for a few Western-educated technocrats, the war leaders who in the past had never shown any experience or even tendency to govern the country peacefully filled most of the key positions. Also, the lower levels of administration and the bureaucracy, in general, were

formed by the figures directly or indirectly linked to the war leaders. In other words, both leadership and bureaucracy were given as political rewards to the winners of the war and consequently to the wrong hands. As a result of this trend, the huge amount of international support and resources came under the control of these people who didn't show any level of transparency and accountability with the result that a high level of corruption has evolved. This disappointed the exiled Afghan intellectuals and educated elite who were enthusiastic about returning to Afghanistan after the fall of the Taliban. On the other hand, the continuation of warlordism distrusted the people concerning the new era and establishment of a democratic regime. Accordingly, the other essential component of good governance, which is the moral and legal legitimacy of a regime, was seriously damaged in the first place.

The Transitional Government (06/2002-07/2004) was not much different than the Interim Administration. It was formed through a similar mechanism in which, again, the political power was divided through negotiations among the same factions. During this period, two major international conferences, the Tokyo Conference in January 2002 and the Berlin Conference in June 2004, concerning the development, reconstruction, and democratization of Afghanistan, were held. The declarations of both conferences emphasized an extension of good governance in Afghanistan. Both conferences recognized the financial and administrative corruption as a major challenge for building a democratic and accountable government in Afghanistan. Both declarations emphasized an extension of international funds to develop the Afghan public administration and expand the good governance in this country (Tokyo Declaration, 2002: 6 & Berlin Declaration 2004: 3). But, despite the emphasis on international documents, practically, the Transitional Government didn't create any mechanism and strategy to counter the existing corruption. As a result, the two documents didn't have any practical impact on the issue of good governance in Afghanistan. In addition, the level of corruption and organized crimes increased. Jean Mazurelle, the chief executive officer of the World Bank mentioned that he has never seen such a high level of corruption and organized crime during his 30 years of career, neither in Afghanistan nor in any other part of the world (Dailytimes 30/01/2006). The international funds were transferred into corrupt channels and therefore were not as useful as expected. Also, in this period, the corrupt political elite strengthened its connection with the drug mafia, so one can assess a direct relation between corruption and drug trafficking. The drug mafia bribed the governmental authorities, in return, the authorities provided them security and judicial exemption (Dailytimes 1/2006 and Gofaman 12/02/2007). Overall, the most important achievement of the transitional government was the approval and publication of the new constitution in January 2004, which emphasized an institutionalization of a democratic government directly elected by Afghan citizens. But again, constitutional emphasis on a democratic and legal regime could not take over the corrupt political elite who had already captured the key positions in Afghan central and provincial government.

The lack of educated and professional elite in ruling positions, increasing corruption and occupation of high ranking positions by former war leaders strongly. The elected government constituted by the presidential (2004) and parliamentary elections (2005) was the first experience of exercising democracy following the three decades of war. But problems were obvious from the

beginning: extensive corruption in elections, particularly the parliamentary election, and consequently the dominance of warlords in most of the constituencies again violated the trust of people in the elections and a new way of governance (Arwen/BBC, 2005). Since the inauguration of the elected government, weakness in both leadership and public management was visible. Accordingly, corruption grew very rapidly and reached the highest level ever assessed in Afghanistan (AHOOAC 09/02/2013). For instance, at the Paris Conference (June 2008), the donor countries defined transparency as a key element for building a sustainable and stable democracy in Afghanistan. At this conference, donors emphasized that international funds in the future will depend on the level of transparency and accountability of the Afghan government.

As far as good governance is concerned, this period's main achievement was the creation of the "Afghanistan National Development Strategy" in 2008. This strategy highlights three major components of good governance: the rule of law, security, and socioeconomic development with a special emphasis on the elimination of poverty (ANDS, 2008: 10). According to this strategy, some control units formed by Afghan and international professionals and experts must be constructed within the different levels of the Afghan government to observe and provide expertise very professional and great document for the state-building of Afghanistan, the implementation of this strategy was confronted with serious challenges. Due to a lack of professional knowledge and expertise, even some governmental authorities, administrators, and employees at different levels and different institutions have not been able to understand the meaning of most of the key concepts mentioned in the strategy (La'li, 2009: 18). Even though based on the strategy, some anti-corruption institutions were established by the government, we have not seen any high-ranking authorities be punished for committing corruption. Lack of coordination among the three bodies of the state (executive, legislative and judicial) in this period also threatened the performance of good governance in Afghanistan. The government is monopolized by an unaccountable executive team in the palace to the extent that all other institutions – legislative, judiciary, and civil society – seem to be reduced to mere symbolic functions. The government is almost accountable to no one. The government's authoritarianism performance is paradoxical in a country where constitutional documents and spirit clearly emphasize democracy. To explain the reasons why this failure happened, it is required to conceptualize and operationalize the main indicators of good governance and then separately examine the possible solutions to these challenges:

**(1) Lack of Capacity:** Most international institutions have considered the level of education, skills, and expertise of a nation as the main factor of development and prosperity. Therefore, claim that a lack of efficient educated, skilled, and technocrat personnel in the Afghan public sector is one of the major challenges to good governance and development. The mechanisms of employment and management are based on nepotism rather than meritocracy. Accordingly, these mechanisms prevent skilled and merit people without direct or indirect political connections to the management bodies and political leaders from entering the governmental system. Under such circumstances, human resources are managed more by personal taste rather than by principles. Lack of capacity and growing nepotism in Afghanistan has resulted in a low degree of services and consequently decreased the efficiency of the public sector. In terms of human



development, the UNDP ranks Afghanistan 173 out of 178 countries; lower than most of the African countries (UNDP/Afghanistan, 2004: 11).

The commission of “administrative reforms” was established through a presidential decree to enhance the capacity of human resources in Afghanistan’s public sector and to improve the administrative management, has failed to conduct its duties. Even in appointing the commission’s personnel, nepotism played its role and prevented the educated, skilled, and consequently the right people from ruling and managing the commission. Solving this specific challenge requires a capacity-building program. Generally speaking, capacity building means enhancing the capabilities and skills of personnel, institutions, and communities to enable them to conduct their duties, resolve potential problems and define and achieve their goals (Abbaspoor, 2010: 53). Considering this definition, educated, skilled and professional persons able to employ appropriate and merit individuals for Afghan governmental institutions and to train young cadres for the future must form the Afghan Administrative Reforms Commission. Also, the employment process must be professionalized and based on diversity. Including different social, political, and cultural groups and individuals in an administration diversifies the administrative experiences and makes the institution more lively and dynamic by bringing new experiences into the institution.

No one must be discriminated against because of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, or general identity, and the employment must merely be based on professionalism. The capacity of public administration not only depends on the skills and professionalism of its personnel but also on updating those professions. The Afghan government must provide a mechanism that incites employees to update their knowledge and skills to tackle the new challenges and define new objectives. Since May 2005, the UNDP has directly financed and supported Afghanistan’s Commission of Administrative Reforms (ACAR). The main objective of this project is to enhance the capacity of leadership and management of the Afghan public sector and to improve the Afghan public services. Since the beginning of this project, about 600 employees of the Afghan public service have been trained with international management and administration standards. Have learned about the modern ways of management and public services. Such attempts have been visible in the last few years but are not enough! On the other hand, despite the Afghan and international attempts to improve the capacity of the Afghan public sector, the capacity-building projects lack a national and broad strategic vision and fail to define long-term and short-term goals. Specifically speaking, the Afghan and the international organizations involved in capacity-building projects fail to clarify what kind of government or public sector they can imagine for Afghanistan, for instance, in 20 years. As we know today, without having a strategic vision for the future of an administration, it fails. In addition to the other conditions of capacity building for the Afghan public sector, both Afghan society and its donors must think of formulating a long-term strategic vision for the Afghan public sector.

**(2) Corruption** means deviation from legal approaches in administration and generally is a kind of ‘illegitimate usage of power in favor of personal interests. Many factors, including complexity and inefficiency of laws, unaccountable bureaucracy, lack of awareness among the

citizens regarding their rights, lack of access to governmental information, lack of accountability culture, and social irresponsibility regarding good governance, can be considered as the reasons for growing corruption in Afghanistan. According to the Transparency International Report of 2009, the Afghan people paid bribes as high as 650 million to 1 billion dollars to the Afghan public service only in 2009. According to this report, around 265 cases of corruption have been sent to the Afghan Attorney General, amongst them cases involving some high-ranking authorities (Payame-e-Aftab, 01/05/2010; 12508). Despite this high number of reported cases, no high-ranking Afghan authority has been convicted of corruption in the last ten years. Consequently, according to the latest Transparency International Report, Afghanistan ranks as the fourth most corrupt country in the world. In 2010, one out of seven Afghans paid a bribe to the Afghan public service (Payame-e-Aftab, 01/05/2010; 12508). Corruption is a serious challenge to good governance in Afghanistan. To cope with this challenge, the Afghan government must expand and develop transparency at different levels of administration.

Transparency means revealing any financial information and the mechanisms of budget expenditure on time as well as making them accessible to the public and the media (Faramarz, 2010). Considering this definition, first of all, public service employees and managers must have detailed knowledge about transparency and corruption. It means that they must be professionally trained and educated. Second, they must know to make their decisions, reports, and information easily understandable to the public. They also should know that they are responsible for explaining their responsibilities and duties as well as citizens' rights to their clients. Eventually, they must know that they are doing a job to serve the people, not to rule them. So they must be accountable for any decisions they make or any services they provide. Since revealing the information regarding governmental decision-making is the essential requirement of transparency, new laws that compel the governmental institutions to reveal information and be open to the public must be released by the parliament. Also, the decision-making and project implementation must be clearly described and understandable for the public service's employees and all the people. When the decision-making is clearly described, and easily understandable, and the information is accessible, the observation of governmental projects and plans will be very easy. When the control units can easily observe the projects and evaluate them, the level of transparency automatically increases. Since transparency and accountability are correlated to one another, enhancing transparency in Afghanistan also requires that the Afghan government, as defined in the new Afghan constitution, must become accountable to the people. According to the constitution, all levels of government are responsible for being accountable to the people and the control units. The constitutional responsibilities of different levels of the Afghan government for being accountable can be seen in **Table 3.1** as follows:

**Table 3.1** Accountability of President, Legislature, Government, and The Judiciary

<b>Possession</b>	<b>Accountable to</b>
President	Accountable to People (article 69) Accountable to Parliament (69) Accountable to the Nation (66)
Legislature	Accountable to People (81)

	Accountable to the Lower House (101)
Government (Executive Body)	Accountable to the Lower House (75) Accountable to the Judiciary (75)
The Judiciary	Accountable to the Parliament Accountable to the President (133)

Source: Faramarz, 2010

The above **Table 3.1** indicates that the Afghan constitution has very seriously emphasized the accountability of different governmental bodies on different levels. Therefore, the rule and practical implementation of the constitution and other codes can be very helpful for providing accountability and transparency and consequently could improve good governance. As a first step towards applying the law, governments will need to set in place the infrastructure necessary to facilitate information access. This will include establishing rules and procedures within each governmental department to receive and process applications and appeals, as well as guidance on how to interpret the exemption clauses under the law. To interpret and apply different aspects of the law, departments may want to consider issuing guidance notes, procedures manuals, and user guides for public authorities. Secondly, the government should teach people and citizen awareness about the laws and their rights since awareness of people can also facilitate the implementation of laws.

**(3) Lack of the Rule of Law** is not only restricted to Afghanistan but also is seen in most of the non-developed or developing countries as a serious challenge to good governance. Afghanistan as a non-developed country, also suffers from a lack of the rule of law (Beham and Bowel, 2000: 59). In Afghanistan, particularly culturally rooted beliefs challenge the rule of law and believe that the “**victor is the right** is the religious interpretation of law as well as the traditional belief that “*the status quo is eternally out of our control*”. Finally, the domination of warlords that prefer the rule of ethnicity to the rule of law and a historical lack of law-oriented regimes and experiences has seriously damaged the rule of law in Afghanistan (Husaini, 2010: 43). The rule of law requires that first, the law must be executed neutrally and just, and second that the law must protect the vulnerable groups and visible minorities and respect human rights. To enjoy a rule of law government, a country must have democratic and democratically approved laws, an independent judiciary, and neutral and lawful police. To provide a rule of law government, taking the three following steps in Afghanistan is crucial:

(3.1) improving the capacity of the Afghan judiciary: the judiciary institutions must be reformed and, to some extent, restructured. The law education system must be improved, and the government must show a zero-tolerance for corruption in the judiciary and courts. Furthermore, the judiciary services must be expanded and be accessible to all citizens;

(3.2) improving the coordination of the judiciary with other governmental bodies: judiciary must be coordinated with other governmental and civil society groups and work together to provide a rule of law government. Civil society and legal experts must have the opportunity to share their expertise, analysis, and knowledge in drafting the legal policies and decision-making during the

law-making. The government must extend the judicial services all over the country to ensure the people that the country is ruled by a single judiciary and ruled by law.

(3.3) improving the quality of justice: the existence of an independent and neutral judiciary not ruled by the government or any specific political vision improves the capacity of justice in a country. The government must protect human rights, citizenry rights, and other constitutional rights and make justice equally accessible for all its citizens. These all cannot be done if the justice departments and courts are not efficiently constructed. Accordingly, the Afghan government to increase the quality of justice requires improving the quantity and physical structures of the Afghan justice and judiciary system.

**(4) Failure in Administrative Reforms:** the conservative and traditional culture of administration does not welcome any kind of reforms in Afghan society and politics. The struggle between tradition and modernity has always been expressed as the struggle between the groups who support the status quo and the groups who favor reforms. In Afghan history, the winner of this struggle has always been the group who favors the tradition and status quo. Since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in different periods, traditionalists have always taken over. King Amanullah's reform projects in the 1920s stopped, and the religious groups who interpreted the King's programs as anti-Islamic overthrew the king. Also, the 1960s' democratization and reformation programs were stopped by the religious and ideological extremist groups, and after the fall of the Taliban, democratization and reformation of the Afghan state have been favoring the fundamentalist exMujahidin groups; playing ethnic cards that are now dominating the overall state. In this case, reforms traditionally and historically are a vulnerable phenomenon in Afghanistan. On the other hand, the lack of efficient experts and modern personnel in the Afghan public sector has favored the traditionalists who stand against any kind of reforms. Based on this background and culture, the mechanisms of employment and management have been influenced by the ethnic, religious, and political leaders who perform as parliamentarians or ministers and prefer political and ethnic ties to professionalism. Consequently, the traditional culture of administration and management, which is based on political and identity-based values, dominates the Afghan public sector, which prevents any type of reforms. Eventually, the public sector rules the citizens instead of providing services for the citizens. The Afghanistan Commission of Administrative Reforms (ACAR) administers the reform projects in Afghanistan.

According to ACAR's new report, it has been able to reform the codes and principles and the legal structures concerning the management of human resources in Afghanistan as a first step. Through its employment system, it has directly employed around 80 percent of the high-ranking officials and observed the employment of lower-ranking employees, including the schoolteachers. The ACAR has also arranged and revised the vision, strategies, duties, and structures of the Afghan public services during the last decade (ACAR report: 2011). But despite the activities of ACAR, the Afghan people still don't have access to high-quality services. The high degrees of discrimination in the Afghan public sector are very visible, and it is influenced mostly by political and ethnic tendencies. Therefore, the Afghan public sector must be reformed. The Afghan government, as its constitutional responsibility (Constitution, 2004: 50), must first establish a

sound administration and must be committed to continuous reforms in the future. Administrative reforms in Afghanistan, as it is described in the Afghan National Development Strategy and the Civil Services' Employees Law, must be based on meritocracy and build a sound and accountable administration, which is not affected by political, or identity-based influences. Accordingly, to materialize the administrative reforms described in Afghanistan's constitution and other national documents, the government must take the following steps: (1) Employment must be based only on professionalism; (2) Reforms must be done at different levels of administration: ministries provinces, and other levels of government, and; (3) An observation system must be created, through which the reforms and also the quality of services should be observed.

In conclusion, good governance is a new concept in Afghan political literature, and the country lacks any historical experience in performing good governance. But performing good governance in a war-torn country is crucial for building a sustainable democracy. On the one hand, it enhances the legitimacy of the newly established democracy, and on the other hand, it increases the trust of Afghan citizens in their government. This paper examines the state of good governance in Afghanistan by evaluating four indicators in detail (the rule of law, reforms, capacity building, and transparency). The initial examinations in this paper indicate that the lack of good governance in Afghanistan is caused by failures in all four sectors: lack of the rule of law, mismanagement of human resources, low administrative capacity, and financial and administrative corruption. Accordingly, the problems in the four named sectors can be considered serious challenges to good governance in Afghanistan. Consequently, the paper suggests that performing good governance in Afghanistan requires extensive improvement in these sectors. Eventually, if the Afghan government doesn't attempt to provide good governance to its citizens, it will risk the sustainability of democracy in this country.

### **3.2.3 Exploring the Application of Good Governance in Afghanistan**

Justice, liberation, work opportunities, and effective quality services are all examples of good democratic accountability. As a result, the Afghan administration must strive to strive for poverty eradication, lowering income and resource inequalities, removing bribery, and developing good governance measures (Lamb, 2012). Terrorism, on the contrary, poses a significant threat to a country's laws and restrictions, especially human protections, as well as the state's financial, democratic, and societal structures. Afghanistan is a difficult country to govern. With the help of global management markers, this paper attempts to continue providing a structure for effective governance in Afghanistan, identifying its essential features as well as the major obstacles it faces. This paper, in particular, identifies terrorism as a threat to Afghan governance. Hayek, a philosopher, believes that "Laws must be applied equally to all people". That involves the administration, whose activities should be responsive to those principles and appear to be committed to them. Since its independence, Afghanistan's parliamentary experiences have demonstrated that good government requires a focus on expanding social prospects and alleviating suffering (Cordesman, 2010).

More specifically, it entails ensuring justice, empowerment, employment, and efficient service delivery, among other things. The major problem facing good governance in Afghanistan is multi-faceted growth, including sociopolitical domains. Each country is led by specific ideals; in Afghanistan, these values include “nationalism, democracy, secularism, nonalignment, and a mixed economy”. Apart from these ideals, the government's principal job is to protect general peace as well as protection, which must be overlooked at any cost (Freeman, 2020). The provision of security, particularly the surveillance of life and properties, is by far the most fundamental public benefit. Protections of life and wealth, accessibility to justice, as well as the legal system are all interconnected facets of achieving justice. The definition of governance is a source of disagreement among Republicans and conservatives, as well as among capitalists and communists. The administration is considered an agency or mechanism that formulates, expresses, and implements the State's will (Irene, 2018). While the conventional separation between the country and the administration still exists, the responsibility of the administration, as well as the style of management, have shifted over the years, and even within a given period of time, there is significant variability depending on whether the government is democratic or not. In reality, the phrase governance has a wide variety of meanings, and it is described in a variety of ways by many authors and philosophers. The way authority is exerted as well as public activities are handled and managed in a state is referred to as governance. It is the exercising of financial, social, and bureaucratic power to administer the country's affairs on all levels and in all areas (Anne, 2009). Governance originated from the “Greek word Kubernao”, which means “to steer”, and was originally used metaphorically by “Greek Philosopher Plato”.

### **3.2.4 Analyzing Governance Trends in View of Sustainable Development Goals**

Afghanistan has a vast historical and regional complexity, as well as customs and beliefs practices that date back over 5000 years. Afghanistan's population belongs to a “multiracial, multireligious, multilingual, and multicultural society.” In this sort of civilization, putting the idea of effective management into practice is a difficult challenge. Effective administration can contribute to excellent politics. Transparency in governmental operations is one of the most critical aspects of effective administration. When a society's mechanisms are effective in the actual world, it could achieve prosperity. As a result, the successful construction of Afghanistan's parliamentary institutions is a prerequisite for successful governance. An effective organization entails the institution's ability to function freely and fairly in the pursuit of its goals. Presidents, C&AG, public service commissions, state and central election commissioners, higher civil services, police, and regulatory authorities are examples of Afghan governance structures (Heng, 2017). In recent years, the effective government has been applied in Afghanistan's society. The best guarantee of social fairness and order is an administration that is competent, successful, and democratic. Although the phrase “good governance” is not mentioned in the Afghan charter, the essential freedoms and state policy guidelines have taken altogether comprise all of the criteria of good governance.

### 3.2.5 Fulfillment Opportunities of Sustainable Development Goals in Afghanistan

Political criminality, fraud, and terrorism, among other issues, are serious obstacles to good government. The criminality of the electoral processes has an impact on the formation and implementation of public policies (Klinkenberger, 2014). As a result, the political elite is losing favor. Simple life and unselfish devotion to civic purposes are quickly fading values. In today's political environment, certain politicians of the state legislature and Parliament exploit their political positions for personal benefit. The administration is already facing considerable uncertainties and hardship in many scenarios in the age of coalition governments. Besides that, the unholy alliances or links that exist among lawmakers, government workers, and corporate leaders complicate the problem (Kelemen, 2010). Although the community and the press have their own voices, new tactics are invented to tamper with legal processes. Racial violence is a misfortune or a problem for Afghanistan's government. The major disintegration of the country that accompanied the Soviet intervention in December 1979 was perhaps the most significant structural contributor to the continuing warfare in Afghanistan (Biermann, 2015). This was concealed for a long time by the USSR's life-supporting help to its regional clients; however, when the communist rule fell apart, it became evident that the Afghanistan government had fallen apart as well.

In 1992, the Afghanistan opposition, and later the Taliban, found themselves in charge of state symbols instead of operating administrative instruments capable of penetrating society, mobilizing resources, regulating behaviors, as well as maintaining social order in general. In this situation, two interconnected issues emerged. One was that there's no longer a "state" competent to exercise command on legitimate forms of violence while simultaneously providing safety benefits to regular individuals going about their daily lives. The other was that several common Afghans' allegiances migrated far from the government and toward a variety of non-state actors who might better protect or aid them (Kelemen, 2010). Some onlookers saw a positive side regardless of what other people regarded as a gloomy cloud when the Taliban came, expressing hope that their arrival would provide stability to a war-torn region. This did not turn out to be the situation. The Taliban controlled more on the grounds of coercion than public authority; if they had enjoyed widespread ethical acceptance, their government would not have crumbled so quickly in 2001.

Much more importantly, because their practices had left them globally stranded, with just Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE recognizing them, they were more than prepared to welcome any friend who could provide them with the backing they so desperately needed (Irene, 2018). This was the environment in which Al Qaeda was able to establish itself in Afghanistan, with disastrous implications for the Taliban. Terrorism is defined as "the systematic use of violence to create a widespread environment of fear in a society to achieve a specific political goal". Terrorists paralyze public duty and stable life and also cause massive financial damages for the government as well as the nation overall. As a result of terrorism, growth is seriously compromised, as well as the sustainability of a country's government stays a problem. Terrorism does cast a pall over all elements of financial, societal, intellectual, as well as political systems. However, it generates

unpredictability and abolishes the peaceful and coexisting environment; it puts individuals' lives at risk as well as leads to all types of violence in society.

Since 1978, they have had a lot of unpleasant experiences with the direct effect and influence of terrorism in Afghanistan. Today, Afghanistan bears the brunt of terrorism's costs. Each day, Afghans, comprising military and intelligence professionals as well as civilians, are killed. According to official figures from the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), civilian casualties in 2015 totaled 9431 people, with 3129 killed and 6302 injured as a result of combat operations between the Anti-government Element (AGE) and the government forces. (Amin, 2019) "There were 4643 males, 776 females, 1116 youngsters, as well as 2899 people whose gender cannot be determined among the 9431 people killed/wounded. "Bomb blast (34.7 percent), land shelling (20.7%), assassination (15.6%), landmine cultivation (14.38 percent), missile shelling (12.98 percent), and air strike have all claimed their lives (1, 98 percent)". The AGE was responsible for 72 percent of civilians' fatalities, while governmental soldiers were responsible for 9%, an unknown cause for 19 percent, and foreign security forces were responsible for 2%. Another detrimental effect of terrorism in countries experiencing armed conflict is a decrease in governmental representation as well as a lack of legal system. AGE kidnapped 90 people in Afghanistan in 2015, with 22 of them being slain.

On the 7th of November 2017, civilians were thrown off a commercial bus by DAISH (ISIS) fighters on the route from Kabul to the Herat region, as well as the headless corpses of four men, two females, including one nine-year-old girl, were discovered on the motorway a few days back. Terrorism has complicated social efforts (Tha, 2020). ISIS troops abducted as well as killed 5 "Save the Children (NGO) workers on April 10, 2015". Likewise, assassinations or highway explosives have claimed the life of the "ICRC, Medical Sons Frontier, NGO medical workers, and NGO landmine cleaners". Terrorism creates a climate that makes it difficult for people to exercise their essential liberties. 2 AIHRC human rights activists were killed, and six employees were wounded after a roadside bomb exploded on Oct 25, 2015. On January 19, 2016, a suicide truck driver struck the staff bus of a private television station (TOLO TV) in Kabul, killing eight people, notably three women, and injuring 30 others (Chas, 2018). Throughout the period 2002-to 2015, the Organization for Defending Journalists in Afghanistan documented 679 cases of journalist abuse in Afghanistan, comprising 41 cases of murder, 47 occurrences of wounding, 23 instances of assault, 30 instances of kidnapping, and 86 cases of detention, and 239 cases of harassing (Jackson, 2014). Since this is the negative influence of terrorism which undermines the legal system as well as encourages anarchy, the majority of incidents of kidnapping, murdering, and hurting are perpetrated by anti-government individuals, while the rest are more or less perpetrated by federal officers.

Terrorism is threatening Afghanistan's education system. Since 2002, the percentage of children enrolled in school has increased (Anne, 2009). Presently, nearly Nine million children are registered in schools around the country. Schools were either closed or put in flames by the Taliban. "Taliban destroyed 105 of 545 children's schools in Helmand province in 2015 and 140 of 242 schools in Zabul province". Terrorism has a detrimental impact on the economy of a



country. The administration's tax revenue is dwindling, particularly in hazardous regions. Businesses can't invest in unsafe places since their lives and possessions are at risk. That is why in Afghanistan, wealthy investors are required to travel with armed security. Terrorists wreak havoc on the economy's infrastructure. One instance is when the Taliban severed the electricity line that runs from "Uzbekistan to Kabul", leaving Kabul without power for most of the frigid winter of 2015. Decentralization of authority occurs as a result of the anti-terrorist operation in Afghanistan as well as the administration's lack of representation at the community scale, while nearby commanders have re-emerged. As a result, the administration is unable to execute discipline at the local level, especially in Taliban-controlled areas. As a result, people's accessibility to law has dwindled, including sufferers of human rights violations who are unable to receive justice. Democracy is always a challenge in conflict-torn countries (Nijat, 2014). According to Afghanistan's encounter, numerous citizens were unable to vote in the last three presidency as well as legislative assemblies' elections due to the unprotected circumstance in their living space, which resulted in no polling center being open on an electoral day, and on the contrary, militants advised individuals not to keep voting for anyone, mainly females, sometimes in semi-secure regions. In war or semi-conflict context, executing a legitimate election is constantly challenged since security difficulties make polling center supervision impossible, which is why fraud occurred throughout the last three campaigns in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan is a state that is riddled with intricacies. With such challenges, the nation must show stronger resolve and unwavering commitment to its legal mechanisms, democratic forces, and social stability pressures to overcome the components of terror, insurrection, racial conflict, and other forms of violence (Yalda Qazizada, 2015). These conflicts put the Afghanistan nation-responsibility government to defend the lives and properties of all citizens in jeopardy. Currently, terrorism or violence poses a threat to the country's decent governance.

The following varieties of terrorism can be encountered in Afghanistan: "ethnic-nationalist, religious, and left-wing terrorism". Illegal groups are posing challenges to the Afghan government's sovereignty (Heng, 2017). According to Dr. Hamdullah Mohib, National Security Advisor, the government is battling terrorism, and several terrorist cells are functioning in the country. Jihadi terrorist activity in any portion of the state, and its sporadic but regular expansion to other areas of the country, the conflict in the "Northeast, and the Taliban, ISIS, and Haqqani" Channel's quickly increasing bases in Afghanistan, pose a serious threat to democratic administration. These problems are not being addressed by legally appointed provincial administrations with full assistance from the federal administration. In all circumstances, the province must remain strong to fulfill its primary duty of defending the lives and properties of its residents.

The extent of combat activities in which the US is currently involved should be mirrored by commensurate civilian progress capable of producing realities on the ground. We present 10 concrete solutions for achieving this goal in a short period of time (Freeman, 2020). While many of the modifications might appear little, they are all important and transformative from the Afghan perspective. While none of them are panaceas and greatly strengthen the Afghan administration

by better meeting the demands of the Afghan individuals and strengthening the credibility of the Afghan national administration. These actions will help increase public trust, which is necessary for the country's long-term safety and geographical integration. The following are the initiatives' definitions: eliminate banditry, irresponsibility, and lawlessness to combat the insurgency while also instilling a concern for the administration of law (Akand, 2011). Recognize and enhance unofficial communal organizations in remote regions which engage with decision-making, resolution of disputes, and agreement formation. For term-limited durations, local managers and province governors must seek the approval of the governing through elections.

To better fulfill local demands, establish efficient governmental representations in Afghanistan's key cities outside of Kabul. Allow local managers and governors to earn revenue and spend it on government communities and developmental initiatives. Devolve local service delivery to provinces and cities, with Kabul ministries' responsibilities limited to providing finance, supervision, and policymaking. Sort all civilians' program suggestions into two categories: "life-changing" and "life-improving", with the former taking precedence (Deborah, 2016). Plan by area, and then carry out by the district. To strengthen Afghan civilian industry, create local technological institutions, colleges, and universities. Establish and sustain a broad public sphere that includes spiritual, secular, and conventional leadership. The civic sector of Afghanistan is the focal point of a popular anti-insurgency campaign. However, neither the Kabul administration nor its global partners have addressed the Afghan population on the responsibility it must serve in shaping the country's future. Rather, rebel groups have been given carte blanche to manipulate public spaces, sowing a climate of dread and despair to cripple their opponents.

Trust building requires an energized intra-Afghan national debate on problems targeted at transcending racial, linguistic, and governmental divides. This is accomplished by developing a democratic forum in which authentic indigenous leaders may present regionally and ethnically informed options for the country's future (Department, 2009). This discussion must take place at both the government and non-governmental levels, with recognized public officials, society organizations, private-sector, and spiritual organizations participating at both the regional as well as provincial levels. Bringing up Afghanistan's communal spaces from armed radicals, macro-politicians, as well as corrupted authorities is fundamentally important for the country's long-term peace. It provides powerful counter-narratives to the Taliban's usage of spiritual and ethnic elements to legitimize brutality towards regular Afghan people and government employees.

Religion is the basis of local culture in Afghanistan. It increases each Afghan's natural respect and value while fostering a sense of national unity. Its Western partners have given religious language to the fundamentalists because they're either liberal in their approaches to administration or are inexperienced with Afghan Islamic culture. They haven't taken advantage of the vast amount of knowledge that Afghanistan people have on how religion may help maintain social cohesion and promote effective administration (Cordesman, 2010). Religion, especially Islamic Sufism's precepts, has traditionally provided Afghanistan people with a private and public morals framework. Such political, intellectual, as well as religious practices, which have supported

societies for centuries, provide a fundamental moral foundation for reconciliation as well as peace. Involving all segments of Afghanistan's governance in an accessible civilian space provides a way for the state to heal from the harm caused by years of governmental failures, conflict, and terrorism. Combining authority with those who have never seen it simple, for those who currently have it, even if it is the only way to ensure ongoing security (Dahles & Pheakdey, 2017). Those who advocate a top strategy for state formation will undoubtedly argue that any authority decentralization would destabilize Afghanistan's weak administration. In the alternative, we suggest that Afghanistan's administration is weak since it runs along with the flow of effective Afghan administration practices (Cordesman, 2010). The present Afghanistan administration would grow stronger instead of less strong as power is devolved to people better placed to rule successfully and given the resources they require.

Students of Afghan politics will notice that these ideas mostly focus on policy reforms rather than legislation or laws, and constitutional authorities are not mentioned. The voting of regional and temporary administrators challenges ex-President Karzai's established practice of selecting all these individuals. The Afghanistan government is uncertain whether this is a particular federal authority or if the national assembly can amend the procedure. In any situation, prudence would be the greater part of valor for the president (Brick, 2008). His administration's reputation has been harmed by the disapproval of his province and local governorship selections, which have paid minimal electoral rewards. Providing more autonomy on this subject would aid in preserving the administration's existing stability and fending off those who want to completely change the law. Starting a discussion among Afghans about how to govern them effectively must be encouraged.

The effectiveness of administration could be enhanced if several aspects of governance, such as responsibility, fairness, openness, attentiveness, and the legal system, are properly applied. The administration must conduct detailed analyses of its operations and enhance them as needed. Despite its achievements on multiple fronts, Afghanistan's government system still faces numerous obstacles. One of them is terrorists (Anne, 2009). Transparency in government, a stronger national and foreign safety system, as well as the growth of awareness, can go a long way toward eradicating the terrorist issue. The United Nations Secretary-general is very pertinent in this regard. "Missiles may kill terrorists, but I am convinced that good governance will kill terrorism", UN Secretary-General Ban Kimoon said during the General Assembly's contextual discussion "Promoting Tolerance and Reconciliation: Fostering Peaceful, Inclusive Societies and Countering Violent Extremism on April 22, 2015, in New York".

### **3.3 Transforming Governance Application for Sustainable Development in Afghanistan**

#### **3.3.1 The Conceptualization of Good Governance System in Afghanistan**

In the governance domain, effective governance is important. Yet common theories about governance have widened the implications, implying that they have real interaction with a vast

number of tools designed to alter and coordinate the behavior of individuals and other members. A system of governance, as described by Anne (2009), refers to the entirety of elements and resources available for affecting social change in specified forms (Anne, 2009). Good governance is the activity of administering, the nonstop exercise of state authority over the populace it oversees. While governances in the created world are the unchallenged providers of administration to their nearby networks, this has not been the case generally in Afghanistan (Shawn, 2014). Here one finds satisfactory neighborhood administration without formal establishments. Likewise, Douglas Saltmarshe and Abhilash Medhi characterize administration as “the qualities, standards, and shows that distinctive social, political, and authoritative groupings apply to meet their organizational objectives, alongside the association among them” and note that administration “identifies with casual practices, religion, and the activity of common society just as formal governance” (Lamb, 2012).

Hamish Nixon says that administration “concerns methods of getting sorted out assets and obligations toward aggregate closures” and “includes inquiries of a cycle, interest, and accountability”. Refers to a definition that centers not on governances but rather on associations as a rule (Qaiser, 2009). Michael Shurkin, expounding on nearby governance in Afghanistan, sees that neighborhood administration is a more extensive idea that alludes to the plan execution of aggregate activity at the neighborhood levels and envelops the jobs of formal foundations of nearby governance orders, just as jobs of casual standards, organizations, local area associations, and neighborhood relationship in seeking after aggregate activity by characterizing the system for resident and resident state communications, aggregate dynamic, and conveyance of nearby open administrations (Skandari, 2019). A few authors present a broad conceptualization of Afghan administration only to devote the majority of their work to an investigation and recommendations focused on governance faults, frequently treating informal and mixed administration structures as something that should be uprooted by governance institutions.

For years, emerging nations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, collectively known as the “Third World”, were targets of weak administration resulting in a major decline in their developmental status Afghanistan is no oddity. The majority of Afghanistan's government-based authorized institutions are completely reliant on government choices and operate through an ineffective judiciary framework (Boon, 2011). Unlike many other developing Asian countries, Afghanistan's governance is not built on accountability, depriving citizens of the right to question the government. Inside the Afghan government's decision-making party, corruption is at an all-time high. As a result, the country cannot make key decisions in an orderly manner. Army actions in Afghanistan have been reported to have the upper hand in several situations, especially during times of emergency, weakening the administration's deep stabilization. Corruption and a lack of accountability are significant challenges to the country's general growth. According to the apparent opinion of Western legal institutions on post-2001 constitutional change measures to minimize the gap between change and execution prospects, Afghanistan's best opportunity for higher economic growth is the adoption of a more secure and improved governance structure. Ineffective management and compliance capacities have eroded trust in the current regulatory and policy framework, which, if correctly implemented, can considerably contribute to effective governance. Despite

the assumption that the legislation gives authority to neighborhood association units, the Afghan administration's centralized framework severely limits spending, financial planning, sub-national preparation, and judgment capacity. As a result, successful policy implementation at the local level is hindered. In addition, Afghanistan saw numerous achievements in legal, planning, and implementation aspects in 2013, showing promise for growth. However, challenges exist in implementing transition more consistently (Lamb, 2012).

### **3.3.2 The Transition of Good Governance from the MDGs to the SDGs**

The transition from the MDGs to the SDGs plan, which acknowledged the crucial role of democracy in achieving the SDGs by 2030, was managed by effective governance. Furthermore, when it comes to human resources development, the role of effective governance is even more important, owing to the fact that it ensures the effective and responsible usage of public resources, especially in the health sector. As per this, weak governance results in financial disfigurement as well as environmental damage (Suhrke, 2009). Moreover, some studies claim that public employees are increasing their private accountability. This can be viewed as yet more indication of the governance's dissatisfaction and loss. Several environmental specialists believe that the nature of administration, as well as the form of government, is a key determinant in the natural ecosystem; for example, dictatorships do not have public services like pollution protection. Many developed countries opt for the organic treatment method over the chance of environmental destruction. As a result of these countries' growth and development, ecological environments deteriorate. Grindle also mentions a World Bank-led investigation that found essential proof that effective governance is important for long-term development as measured by per person revenue. Even so, Rodrik uses the instances of bound countries such as China, Vietnam, and Cambodia, where financial growth is evident despite a lack of effective governance. Khan's investigation reveals an exceptionally weak positive relationship between governance standards and, in turn, economic development. According to this author, the positive relationship between these two variables is interdependent with the inclusion in the analysis check of a larger than normal array of industrialized countries with high costs of indicators of successful governance and thus several emerging countries with low financial development and indicators of strong governance.

### **3.3.3 Influential Factors of Good Governance Indicators for Afghanistan**

The term “good governance” refers to accountability in sustainable development strategy decisions and implementation by counting ecological handling (Shawn, 2014). It also reflects on the relationship between popular community and administration as well as the leaders and those who are governed. According to the World Bank, aspects of successful good governance involve (1) administration's efficiency; (2) legislative efficiency; (3) legal system; (4) speech and transparency; (5) democratic sustainability and no conflict; and (6) controlling corruption. To prove the correlation between successful governance and financial development, a huge proportion of prospective analyses and inquiries are performed (Stone, 2005). It is generally recognized that successful good governance is one of the most important aspects not just for the country's inclusive

development but also for long-term economic growth, social development, environment conservation, and UN sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Murshed and Ahmed dissected the effects of various governance indicators on health values in selected lower-middle-income countries across the South and geographical district, both conceivably and empirically (Brick, 2008). The research combined applicable annual information from 2000 to 2016 and formulated a conditional structure. Amongst them, key well-being markers were communicated as elements of five necessary pointers of governance. To check the quality of the discoveries, three-stage factual strategy (3SLS) board data estimation devices were acclimated. It was ensured that nearly all aspects of governance are attainable as a result of board members' well-being and measurable connections, a great deal or less, to verify the earlier speculations that were created in light of financial theory. Furthermore, the creators themselves remark that inadequate governance reduces the effectiveness of well-being consumption when the primary goal is to achieve positive well-being outcomes. These recommend that good governance could be a key issue once it comprises open governance conveyances, especially in a linkup with wellbeing area. Moreover, confirmation of negative relationships is thinly obvious in relation to monetary governance. However, there was an absence of evidence to assist that there is a great connection between compulsion and institutional governance (Amin, 2019). Curiosity differed with worldwide pressure, though fear-mongering influenced political, financial, and governance. Goren (2012) developed a model to forecast the long-term sustainability of domestic governance for 183 countries in the year 2060 (Goren, 2012). The hypothesis predicts global gains in stability, limitation, and integration, as well as timely and viable intercession that reinforces governance.

One of the restricted statehood settings in Afghanistan. Outside on-screen, characters from other countries have veto power over sections of Afghanistan's realm or approach zones, which has been described as a "modern protectorate." (Börzel & Risse, 2010). Afghanistan is one of the most unfortunate countries in the Central Asian region, with a population of 32.5 million people and an estimated GDP of \$19 billion in 2015. Just twenty-seven percent of Afghans have access to consumables, and only five percent have access to proper sanitation. The Afghan governance reports that about a third of Afghans get their electricity from matrix-based power, small-scale hydro, or solar-powered demonstration stations, with some major urban areas, such as Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif, have only recently gotten a significant amount of uninterrupted electricity supply for the first time in decades. A sovereign state should be capable of performing ten core functions, largely unaided: the establishment and maintenance of the rule of law; the maintenance of security; and the imposition of a business model for the legitimate use of force (Jackson, 2014). Any external and internal threat, as well as persons who break the law; body of the executives, involving, among other aspects, a governance founded on legality, involving, among other factors, legitimacy-based governance infrastructure and power that is accountable both within its own institutions (upward responsibility) and, most importantly, to the voters it is supposed to represent (descending responsibility); strong open fund governance; and participation in open funds, training (particularly gifted and better instruction) and general well-being; the use of typically similar approaches such as sexual identity, ethnicity, race, class, geographic location, and religion; the

availability of an appropriate physical base in all or any parts of the country; the creation of a free business economy that is subjected to balanced governance and in which the state's and market's employment are resolved inevitably with practical instead of ideological considerations; the long-term administrators of state resources, outstandingly daily properties, within the best advantages all things considered, and even the lodge's assurance and compelling open obtaining (Klinkenberger, 2014).

Governance is at the core of state strength. To create their credibility in the eyes of people, policymakers must be able to demonstrate that they are unmistakably accountable for and capable of overseeing their projects adequately and effectively (Qaiser, 2009). This is well illustrated within the common knowledge of improvement assistance, which holds that timely and high-quality governance conveyance, as well as the descending responsibility on which it is primarily based, are among the most important elements of good governance and natural procedure states. In demolished states like the Islamic State of Afghanistan, it's no less difficult for the state to be assumed to be doing everything possible to ensure the welfare of its voters than it is in elective offices; to establish a reasonable level of peace; and to communicate to citizens the governances that they have and wish Impediments to those ambitions that are common for Afghanistan epitomize, firstly, The nation's land area, in combination with the political philosophy interests of provincial and international forces, has been the source of protracted conflict, interference, and occupation, as well as flimsiness; second, deep ethnic schisms; and third, the nation's vast and ungrateful swath of land. As a result, vast swaths of the country no longer seem to be under state control, and warlords and a few governors openly mock state experts. Afghanistan's power has been weakened even further by the country's constant shortfalls and genuine dependence on a succession of outside powers for political, financial, and 'advancement' assistance. The Taliban and others have used this combination of factors to portray Afghanistan as a "toady state" incapable of asserting power over its territories or providing adequate security and governance to its citizens, that is, an express that is sovereign in the name of just(Lamb, 2012). Nonetheless, there was a clear connection between economic development and monetary transparency (Goren, 2012). Higher exposure to risk is associated with broader embeddedness in local markets, resulting in a lot more and more comprehensive commitment to governance processes and cross-segment alliances to affect these problems.

### **3.3.4 Transforming Good Governance for Afghan Sustainable Development**

The word "governance" applies to the mechanism by which members of democracy exert force, authority, & control to implement strategies and actions that affect the lives of other people and social empowerment (Shawn, 2014). The continuous supervision of the execution of existing strategies, as well as the balance of control between the participants, are essential components of strong management. The civilians' opinion is by far the most important in a country (Akand, 2011). The standard of administration is decided by strengthening the public's expression and addressing their desires. A strong administration follows Healey & Robinson's definition of strong administration, which is as follows: "It denotes an elevated degree of organizational success in

policy planning and implementation, notably in the execution of monetary strategy and its connection to development, prosperity, and public welfare (Amin, 2019). Responsibility, accountability, engagement, transparency, and the legal system are all aspects of strong governance. It does not always mean a value judgment, such as healthy regard for constitutional and democratic rights, while good governance is also a precondition for democratic validation of the involvement of government in deciding a country's growth is important since a civilized country meets current needs without jeopardizing upcoming generation access to capital.

In Afghanistan, security, unrest, and under-development are inextricably linked. Building the legitimacy and effectiveness of the state is, therefore, an important goal in and of itself. This focus on a stable and legitimate state reinforces the importance of advancing peace, building political consensus, and stabilizing security (Trent, 2016). Clarity of property rights is of particular importance, especially land, which is the principal physical asset for much of the population. The Afghanistan Independent Land Authority (ARAZI) is working to meet this challenge by developing the National Land Administration and Titling program (Len, 2020). Sustaining the gains made in basic services like health and education, especially for women and girls, requires that we ensure that people feel safe, have confidence in their elected representatives, and can generate enough income to sustain their families.

### **3.4 Evaluation of Governance Application for Sustainable Development in Afghanistan**

Afghanistan has been suffering from conflict, insecurity, and limited institutional capacity and access to justice for decades. According to the recent report of the Global Institute for Economics and Peace (Economic Value of Peace, 2021), the economic cost of violence for the most affected countries ranges from 23.5 to 59.1 percent of GDP. The economic cost of violence was estimated at 50.3 percent of GDP for Afghanistan in 2020. Afghanistan ranked 163rd on the Global Peace Index in 2020. According to Transparency International's Global Corruption Perception Index for 2020, Afghanistan ranked 165th out of 179 countries. Rule of law reforms has resulted in over 482 laws and regulations drafted, passed, or enacted to provide a governance framework for state functions and operations of the free market and civil society. The evaluation of good governance, its challenges, and possible solutions in Afghanistan shall be based on the formalization of decision-making and policy evaluation, implementation of projects, and plans based on democratic principles. Lack of good governance is considered one of Afghanistan's major challenges in the early 21st century. In addition to other major challenges such as instability, poverty, and underdevelopment that threaten the newly established democracy in Afghanistan, the lack of good governance can be considered another major threat that is unfortunately rarely evaluated in Afghanistan's academic community. To perform good governance, a government as the executive and administrative institution of a nation-state must provide social welfare, security, and justice for the citizens, strengthen the national sentiments and solidarity and protect civil society, individual rights, and the rule of law. But in contemporary Afghanistan, the governments have mostly failed to fulfill these essential tasks. Consequently, governance in Afghanistan has



not been based on administrative principles; and, therefore entirely failed to consolidate and promote the rule of law, transparency, accountability, national solidarity, and human rights values.

Considering the definition and indicators of good governance, there are numerous research and analyses conducted on good governance in different countries, either by scholars or by governmental and non-governmental organizations (Kumssa & Isaac, 2004). Since the Western concept of good governance only entered Afghan political literature after the fall of the Taliban in 2001, there has been no in-depth academic research conducted by Afghans on good governance in Afghanistan. Considering the lack of academic research on good governance in Afghanistan, this paper evaluates good governance in Afghanistan based on four indicators: the rule of law, transparency, administrative reforms, and capacity building. Taking Afghanistan's socioeconomic and politico-cultural structures into account, good governance in Afghanistan can be described very clearly by these four indicators: (1) securing rule of law, (2) extending transparency, (3) administrative reforms, and (4) enhancing the capacity of human resources that will provide a high-quality public administration and enhance the legitimacy of Afghanistan's new-born democracy. In this thesis, the researcher investigates what challenges good governance in Afghanistan and its provision face and what are the possible solutions to cope with the existing challenges. Answering the research question, this thesis will develop the hypothesis that "expanding good governance in Afghanistan requires securing the rule of law, transparency, administrative reforms, and extensive capacity-building". Since I have mostly access to the library database, this paper is mainly library-based research. The paper consists of two chapters: the first chapter mostly focuses on the definition of good governance and its indicators and components, and the second chapter assesses the challenges and the possible solutions of good governance in Afghanistan.

The UN-SDG # Goal 16 - comprising ten targets and two sub-targets - recognizes that efforts to advance sustainable development can only be effective when there are also efforts to promote global peace. The goal outlines that by 2030, there should be an international effort to end all forms of violence, promote the rule of law, reduce corruption, and ensure equal access to justice, decision-making and institutions. With conflict having impacted Afghanistan enduring for over 40 years, there are few countries in the world where the realization of # SDG 16 is more salient than in Afghanistan. Persistent violence has huge impacts on all aspects of society, devastating economies as well as health and education systems, impeding human rights and gender equality, hindering climate resilience, and causing poverty, displacement, and poor governance (Afghanaid, 2021) as follows: **(1) Poverty:** Conflict causes poverty that destroys infrastructure, weakens institutions, causes the breakdown of community networks and damages economic growth, resulting in higher unemployment rates, inflation and a reduced capacity for investment in social welfare. Rural communities are hit the hardest as goods, services, justice, and security provisions are diverted to urban areas as part of the war economy. In Afghanistan, it is estimated that in 2021, 72% of the population will live below the poverty line, and 74% of the population will live in rural areas; **(2) Displacement:** Conflict in Afghanistan causes millions of people to flee their homes each year. Almost three of the four million internally displaced people in the

country are displaced as a result of the conflict. Displaced people are far more likely to fall into poverty as a result of conflict, due to their loss of networks, shelter, and other basic needs; **(3) Governance:** Enduring conflict creates a dearth of accountability mechanisms that are vital for building good governance apparatus and institutions. Despite progress since 2001, widespread corruption ensures that there remains ample distrust of institutions and governance bodies among the population in Afghanistan; **(4) Climate-Conflict Relationship:** Developing robust community preparedness for natural disasters and extreme weather events is becoming increasingly vital in Afghanistan, where the devastating impact of rising global temperatures is already creating a volatile mix of extreme environmental conditions.

Afghanistan is ranked 176 out of 181 countries on the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative Index, which measures readiness and adaptability to climate change. Notably, 12 of the 20 countries lowest-ranked on this ND-GAIN Index are in conflict - in other words, conflict increases vulnerability to the climate crisis. This is because land and ecosystems, as well as institutions, essential services, infrastructure, and governance - which are keys to helping people adapt to climate change - are weakened and destroyed in conflict situations. Alongside this, extreme environmental conditions caused by the climate crisis may be acting as a “**threat multiplier**”. Extreme conditions, such as drought or flash floods, damage and destroy essential resources (e.g., food, water, and plants) for livelihoods, and this resource scarcity may exacerbate existing factors that cause conflict. As well as the devastating public health impact, COVID-19 has inflicted significant harm on social and economic problems in Afghanistan as a result of a conflict (Afghanaid, 2021) as follows: (1) Afghanistan's poverty level increased by as much as 17% during the pandemic, with projections estimating that the unemployment rate reached around 37% at the end of 2020; (2) Lockdown measures in the country have considerably reduced the resilience of people who have been displaced by conflict, who tend to rely on the informal economy to get by; There is no social safety net - in October 2020, and 74% of the Afghan population said that they had not received any government support during the first wave of the pandemic; (3) The rising cost of essentials and food shortages have exacerbated pre-existing struggles with access to resources, with 13.15 million people facing acute levels of food insecurity by the end of March 2021. Conflict mitigation, peace-building, and community-led development have a considerable impact on the sustainable progress that can be achieved, emphasizing the critical role of # Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions plays in delivering other SDGs. The ongoing violence is at the root of underdevelopment, conflict mitigation underpins all of the workforce, deep understanding of local, cultural, and ethnic issues, and natural resource management, ensure very well positioned to manage and reduce conflict and meaningfully contribute to peace-building, support the peaceful integration of different groups within communities, and support the formation and development of strong, trustworthy institutions. Strengthening institutions, infrastructure, and accountability:

In 2017, partnered with the Afghan Government's Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) to support the implementation of their Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Program (CCAP). The CCAP was created to contribute to sustainable development, poverty

reduction, and a deepened relationship between citizens and state whilst promoting accountability and the inclusion of vulnerable voices such as women, people uprooted by conflict, and people with disabilities. Over 3 years, worked alongside rural communities to strengthen local governance, establish and reinforce relationships between communities and local authorities, put citizens at the forefront of decisions over the development of their communities, and oversee the delivery of basic services, such as access to clean water, electricity, roads and irrigation, healthcare, and education (Afghanaid, 2021). Building community capacity for natural resource management by working to mitigate the impacts of the climate-conflict relationship with a two-pronged approach: (1) by restoring degraded land, revitalizing ecosystems, and strengthening livelihoods. Through partnership with the HALO Trust, helped over 3,000 men and women by restoring previously dangerous, mine-contaminated land to productive use. Similarly, we have recently launched a reforestation project, through which we're working with communities in rural Afghanistan where there is no remaining forest. Projects like these build communities' resilience and repair conflict- and poverty-induced destruction in a climate-smart way, decreasing community exposure to natural hazards whilst offering families new livelihood options; (2) through establishing community-based Natural Resource Management Associations, our projects reduce conflict over resource scarcity - such as limited access to water, rangeland, and forests - and foster collaboration with relevant governmental ministries. In a recently completed project, these associations helped 13,500 families gain more equal access to better managed natural resources, reduce the incidence of landslides and flash floods and increase household income.

Employment opportunities and emergency support for rural men and women, supporting livelihood diversification and helping displaced people to integrate into their communities, strengthening cohesion through interaction and collaboration. Moreover, our emergency response programming directly aids populations affected by disasters as they occur, and the possible spill-over into injustice, violence, and conflict. To respond to the devastating secondary impacts of the pandemic, have been supporting families to fulfill their basic needs in partnership with the World Food Program and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Qiam Rahmani never planned to leave his home, but when violence erupted in his village, the 27-year-old was forced to flee with his family. *"We lived in a war zone. I couldn't bear for my children to hear the gunfire, and I was worried that one day it would take our lives. It's hard to start over again, but at least we are safe"* (Afghanaid, 2021). Then, as the family was beginning to adjust to their new circumstances, the pandemic hit, meaning Qiam was out of work for weeks and was starting to feel desperate. Qiam then found out about our cash-for-work scheme, through which he has been working alongside other people in his community to build trenches and set up what will be almond tree plantations and irrigation systems that are vital for bolstering the climate resilience of the entire community. Now more than ever, men, women, and children across Afghanistan need your support to build lasting peace. Do something amazing today and set up a monthly gift so that communities across the country can lift themselves out of poverty, develop strong institutions, prepare for and become resilient to climate change, and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

## CHAPTER 4

### Implementation Process of UN-SDGs: Goal #16 in Afghanistan

In this chapter, the researcher analyzed the findings of the documentary research results concerning the second objective of this research in order to analyze the patterns of governance application and best practices for the implementation of the UN-SDGs: Goal #16 in Afghanistan in the context of

- 4.1 Overview of Implementation of UN-SDGs Application in Afghanistan;
- 4.2 Implementation Process of UN-SDGs: Goal #16 in Afghanistan
  - 4.2.1 Implementation Process of Sustainable Peace and Justice;
  - 4.2.2 Implementation Process of Rule of Law and Human Rights;
  - 4.2.3 Implementation Process of Strong Institutions and Governance; and
  - 4.2.4 Implementation Process of Democracy and Foreign Interference.

#### 4.1 Overview of Implementation of UN-SDG Application in Afghanistan

Afghanistan is a part of the 2021 voluntary national review of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The HLPF is the core United Nations platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The meeting of the HLPF in 2021 was held from Tuesday, 6 July, to Thursday, 15 July 2021, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. This included the three-day ministerial meeting of the forum from Tuesday, 13 July, to Thursday, 15 July 2021. The HLPF discussed ways to ensure a sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19 that track to realize the 2030 Agenda. The theme was “*Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*” (ECOSOC, 2021). The HLPF in 2021 discussed Sustainable Development Goals 1 on no poverty, 2 on zero hunger, 3 on good health and well-being, 8 on decent work and economic growth, 10 on reduced inequalities, 12 on responsible consumption and production, 13 on climate action, 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions, and 17 on partnerships in depth. The Forum also considered the integrated, indivisible, and interlinked nature of the Sustainable Development Goals. Ministers and other participants were able to explore various aspects of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts. Discussed the kind of policies and international cooperation that can control the pandemic and its impacts and put the world back on track to achieve the SDGs by 2030, within the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development. 42 countries carried out voluntary national reviews (VNRs) of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The HLPF adopted the Ministerial Declaration as the outcome of its session. The President of ECOSOC will also prepare a summary to capture the key messages of the discussions.

Afghanistan has presented its 2nd Voluntary National Review (VNR) report on progress toward the SDGs 2021. Since the adoption of the SDGs, the Afghan government has committed to the attainment of this global development agenda. To demonstrate political will and promote national ownership, Afghanistan integrated the SDGs into its national development framework, created an institutional mechanism to enable an environment for policy and technical innovation, and successfully developed national SDGs through robust consultations with all stakeholders (ECOSOC, 2021). Alongside government efforts to achieve the targeted economic, social, and environmental goals, Afghanistan faced significant existing and emerging challenges, which affected Afghanistan's development efforts on SDGs achievement. The COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic consequences, a decrease in economic growth, the prolongation of the peace process and the associated increase in civilian and military casualties, the negative impact of the withdrawal of the international coalition forces and the government's increased security burden, and the impact of climate change have all directly impacted Afghanistan's socio-economic and environmental progress, including the achievement of the SDGs.

The Afghan government launched the second National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDFII) in July 2020 to continue the agenda of eradicating poverty, developing the country into a self-reliant and productive economy connected with the region and the world, investing in strong institutions while continuing our endeavors to address the risks imposed by COVID-19. Our development focus for the next five years will be on peace-building, state-building, and market-building. At the core of our vision lies the principle of state response to citizens' demands, especially those of women and the most vulnerable, in a direct, accountable, and transparent manner. The Government has taken concrete steps since its last VNR in 2017. These steps include but are not limited to (Najafizada, 2017):

- (1) Nationalizing the SDGs with 16 goals, 110 targets, and 177 indicators;
- (2) To further improve the political and technical enabling environment, a new institutional setup under the chairmanship of the Chief Executive with four thematic committees was established to provide a sustained high-level platform to engage various stakeholders, including the government, the private sector, civil society organizations, academia, and development partners;
- (3) The National SDGs aligned with the national development plan (ANPDF), which is now being aligned with the second version (ANPDF II);
- (4) The national Afghanistan SDGs (A-SDGs) were aligned with 10 national priority programs (NPPs);
- (5) Prioritization of the A-SDGs using the Multi-Criteria Analysis methodology, which scored all SDG targets based on a weighted linear average of the level of urgency, the systemic impact, and the policy gap analysis indicators; and
- (6) Completion of the Data Gap Analysis on the A-SDGs.

In this connection, Afghanistan has initiated a three-phase process to implement SDGs (Najafizada, 2017): **(1) Nationalization:** nationalization entails contextualizing targets and indicators based on the national settings, establishing country baselines, and setting annual targets

for the indicators; **(2) Alignment:** the process of alignment aims to make sure national strategies, policies, and plans reflect and achieve the national targets and indicators. This is expected to be finished by the end of 2017; **(3) Implementation:** the implementation phase, commencing in 2018, will be mainly about the initiation of the national programs, projects, and interventions to achieve the targets and indicators. Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of the Afghanistan SDGs are planned to be assessed and revised every three years until 2030.

The Computable General Equilibrium Model for the SDGs was developed. The SDGs Dashboard and M&E framework, SDGs financing strategy, and SDG costing are under process. The COVID-19 pandemic had a substantial negative impact on Afghanistan's accelerated efforts to achieve the planned economic, social, and environmental targets and overall SDGs. The government quickly recognized the seriousness of the COVID-19 pandemic and mapped its trajectory into five phases; acknowledgment, diffusion, adversity, relief, and recovery phases, and organized a whole-of-state response, delegating unprecedented authority to the Ministry of Public Health and the provincial governors. The Afghan government, considering fiscal realities, undertook a restructuring of its existing programs, closed non-performing projects, and aligned all resources to help meet the immediate needs of citizens, relief, response, recovery, and resilience objectives related to COVID-19. Given the vast impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Afghanistan will be unable to meet all financing needs from domestic revenue sources and attach much importance to meaningful international cooperation for attaining the SDGs. Global partnership is required for countries in special situations to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs and the realization of its core philosophy of leaving no one behind (ECOSOC, 2021). Successful implementation of the SDGs complements the endeavors to achieve the national aspiration for granting lasting peace, self-reliance, and economic growth to move into the second half of Afghanistan's decade of transformation from 2021 to 2025.

## **4.2 Implementation Process of UN-SDGs: Goal #16 in Afghanistan**

The UN-SDGs: Goal #16, comprising ten targets and two sub-targets - recognizes that efforts to advance sustainable development can only be effective when there are also efforts to promote global peace and justice. This SDG goal outlines that by 2030, there should be an international effort to end all forms of violence, promote the rule of law, reduce corruption, and ensure equal access to justice, decision-making, and strong institutions. Six years on from their initial implementation, questions are being raised about the applicability of the Sustainable Development Goals in Afghanistan, particularly the implementation of the UN-SDGs: Goal #16.

### **4.2.1 Implementation Process of Sustainable Peace and Justice**

In the past years, Afghanistan has been suffering from conflict, insecurity, and limited institutional capacity and access to peace and justice over the past decades. These challenges remain an impediment to sustainable growth and development for implementing the UN-SDGs: Goal #16. According to a recent report by the Global Institute for Economics and Peace 54, the

economic cost of violence for the most affected countries ranges from 23.5 to 59.1 percent of their GDP. The cost is associated with high levels of armed conflict, large numbers of IDPs, high levels of interpersonal violence, and large militaries. The economic cost of violence is estimated at 50.3 percent of GDP for Afghanistan in 2020 per the Global Peace Index 2020 (Economic Value of Peace, 2021). As UNAMA recently noted, there has been a sharp increase in violence since the start of the Afghanistan Peace Negotiations in September 2020. As a result, the conflict has undermined the progress of the peace and justice process by reducing productive capacity and weakened governance application for sustainable development under the UN-SDGs: Goal #16. It has constrained market opportunities as well as the outreach of the Afghan government to implement good governance and strong institutions across the whole country.

With Afghan conflicts enduring for over 40 years, there are few countries in the world where the realization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), particularly SDG # Goal 16, is more salient than in Afghanistan. Persistent conflicts and violence have huge impacts on implementing SDG # Goal 16 on all aspects of society, devastating economies as well as health and education systems, impeding human rights and gender equality, hindering climate resilience, and causing poverty, displacement, and poor governance (Afghanaid, 2020). In Afghanistan, it is estimated that in 2021, 72% of the population will live below the poverty line, and 74% of the population will live in rural areas (Afghanaid, 2020). Conflicts in Afghanistan both cause and compound poverty: it destroys infrastructure, weakens institutions, causes the breakdown of community networks, and damages economic growth, resulting in higher unemployment rates, inflation, and a reduced capacity for investment in social welfare. Rural communities, many of which are already living below the poverty line, are typically hit the hardest, as goods, services, and justice and security provisions are diverted to urban areas as part of the war economy. Furthermore, conflicts in Afghanistan have caused millions of people to flee their homes each year: almost three of the four million internally displaced people in the country are displaced as a result of the conflict. Displaced people are far more likely to fall into poverty as a result of conflicts, due to their loss of networks, shelter, and other basic needs.

Moreover, the compounding impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis have also obstructed the implementation process of sustainable peace and justice in Afghanistan. As well as the devastating public health impacts, COVID-19 has inflicted significant harm on the myriad social and economic problems Afghanistan was already facing alongside and as a result of conflicts. Afghanistan's poverty level increased by as much as 17% during the pandemic, with projections estimating that the unemployment rate will reach around 37% at the end of 2020. Lockdown measures in the country have considerably reduced the resilience of people who have been displaced by conflicts and who tend to rely on the informal economy to get by. There is no social safety net - in October 2020, as many as 74% of the Afghan population said that they had not received any government support during the first wave of the pandemic; The rising cost of essentials and food shortages have exacerbated pre-existing struggles with access to resources, with 13.15 million people facing acute levels of food insecurity by the end of March 2021 (Economic Value of Peace, 2021). As a result, the COVID-19 pandemic crisis has considerably

aggravated the implementation process of sustainable peace and justice for the effective application of the UN-SDG # Goal 16 in Afghanistan.

Last but not least, conflict mitigation, peace-building, and community-led development have considerable impacts on the sustainable progress that can be achieved in Afghanistan, emphasizing the critical role UN-SDGs # Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions plays in delivering other SDGs. In recognition of the fact that ongoing violence is at the root of underdevelopment in the country, conflict mitigation underpins all of our work (Afghanaid, 2020). Afghan community-led approach, combined with years of experience, majority team, for deep understanding of local, cultural, and ethnic issues, and our ever-growing expertise in natural resource management, ensures are very well positioned to manage and reduce conflict and meaningfully contribute to peace-building, support the peaceful integration of different groups within communities, and support the formation and development of strong, trustworthy strong institutions.

For strengthening institutions, infrastructure, and accountability, AFGHANAID, as a non-governmental organization (NGO), partnered with the Afghan Government's Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) in 2017 to support the implementation process of their Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Programme (CCAP). The CCAP was created to contribute to sustainable development, poverty reduction, and a deepened relationship between citizens and state whilst promoting accountability and the inclusion of vulnerable voices such as women, people uprooted by conflict, and people with disabilities. Over three years, the AFGHANAID worked alongside rural communities to strengthen local governance, establish and reinforce relationships between communities and local authorities, put citizens at the forefront of decisions over the development of their communities, and oversee the delivery of basic services, such as access to clean water, electricity, roads and irrigation, healthcare, and education. Last year alone, worked with over 1,430 Community Development Councils to this end, reaching around 1,486,760 people (Afghanaid, 2020). With the strong cooperation with AFGHANAID, the progressive implementation of Goal 16 of the UN-SDGs could be realized in this regard.

#### **4.2.2 Implementation Process of Rule of Law and Human Rights**

The rule of law in Afghanistan is relatively weak, especially in rural areas. According to the Global Corruption Perception Index 2020, Afghanistan ranked 165th out of 179 countries. Opinion polls taken in 2019 showed a lack of confidence in judicial institutions. Only 66 percent of respondents found state courts to be fair and trusted, and only 53 percent found them to be effective in delivering justice 55. The population's trust in the informal justice system is significantly higher 56, with 81 percent of respondents saying they trust local Shuras and Jirgas and 74 percent saying these mechanisms are more effective in delivering justice (Afghanaid, 2020). The Conciliation Law seeks to connect informal and formal justice sectors. The rule of law reforms has resulted in over 482 laws and regulations drafted, passed, or promoted to provide a governance framework for state functions and operations of the market and civil society.



Substantial reforms have been made within the judicial branch regarding corruption. Women's empowerment and gender equality have advanced substantially through joint efforts between the government, the international community, and civil society. The government has taken important steps to prevent violence against women including the establishment of special courts.

In terms of children's rights, the Afghan government has taken proactive steps to promote the rights of children and build a national child protection system. However, violence (42 percent of children between the age of 2 to 14 years have experienced violent discipline), abuse (children are involved in cultivating and smuggling illicit narcotics, 7 percent of children in juvenile rehabilitation centers in 2010 were detained on drug-related charges), neglect, and exploitation remain serious concerns (Economic Value of Peace, 2021). Under-five mortality rates are the highest in the region, as Kuchi children are highly vulnerable and close to half of them are performing child labor, while child victims of human trafficking are routinely prosecuted and convicted of crimes. The Afghan government is aware of the harmful practices which persist across the country and adversely affect the lives of Afghan children, especially girls. Meanwhile, advocacy is underway to include child protection concerns into the agenda of the current process of peace negotiations in Afghanistan.

Fighting corruption is the top priority of the Afghan government, particularly in the face of the current fiscal situation. The new panel code criminalized corruption offenses, a fresh start for assets disclosures of all higher officials, access to information law, a whistleblower protection law, an anti-corruption law, and several other legislations, among other initiatives. The Office of Ombudsmen has been created with authority to receive and investigate complaints of corruption or abuse of office by high-ranking officials. Women play a significant role in the judicial branch of government, with 265 judges and 476 prosecutors (Afghanaid, 2020). Every province now has a woman heading the office of prevention of violence against women. Several new anti-corruption institutions were established to further improve accountability and transparency and prevent corruption. The High Council on Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption is the main policy-making forum, the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat oversees the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption activities and ensures coordination of efforts, the Asset Declaration Office and the Ombudsperson Office address corruption complaints regarding high-level officials, and the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC) provides independent assessments of policies and programs.

According to paragraph 4.3, the Department of Justice and Public Safety of the Justice Sector in Afghanistan includes the Afghan National Police (ANP), the Attorney General's Office, the Judiciary and Courts, and the Ministry of Justice. Non-criminal offenses are handled by the American Government Office (AGO), whereas criminal investigations and prosecutions are handled by the American National Police (ANP) (alone). It is up to the courts to deal with any concerns that may develop as a result of voluntary court orders. Once elected, provincial governors must be given the authority to improve their financial management abilities. A pool of five candidates is selected by provincial councils from which the President must choose one to

represent the people at the subnational level. In 2007, the 60-foot yacht Mansoor KII was launched. You can gain a better grasp of DCCs' organizational and functional components by examining the DCC Terms that have been authorized. 63 According to state law, governors are required to appoint mayors. Regardless of the outcome of the election, the President will pick them at random. The legal system's institutions can be categorized in a variety of ways, each of which has its own set of pros and disadvantages. Despite its importance to the Afghan legal system, the Afghan National Police are not mandated by the country's constitution to conduct criminal investigations. Single-Screen Overview of the Organization's Structure Afghanistan's 2014 administration is examined in this article. This government organization, known as Homeland Security (DHS), is responsible for protecting our borders against illegal immigration (Afghan National Police)

Afghan police officers from the country's national security forces Detection and identification of criminal activities is a task assigned to ANP under Article 134 of the Constitution and the Ministry of Interior's mission. In accordance with the Constitution's Articles 56, 75, and 134, the 2005 Police Legislation governs this obligation in accordance with the law. The National Police (NP) of Afghanistan is responsible for maintaining public safety and order throughout the country. The Attorney General's Office may be found at latitude and longitude (OAG). Under Article 134 of the Constitution, the Attorney General's Office (AGO) is obligated to conduct its criminal investigation and prosecution duties in complete secrecy. There are regional offices around Afghanistan for the Afghan Government Office, which is based in Kabul. The Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and District Court make up the fourth and third parts of the judicial branch, respectively. Ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court According to Chapter 7 of the Constitution, the judiciary includes four appeals courts and one main court, as well as government agencies, including the General Directorate and the Central Department. When the Philippines passed its constitution in 2005, this article established the organization and authority of the judiciary. An Act to Regulate the Courts' Organization and Authority All questions presented to the court are to be heard and decided on under Article 116 of the Constitution (civil or criminal, depending on the term used by your state). An administrative agency within the judiciary is called the Judiciary Administration Directorate General. The Supreme Court of the United States is entrusted with supreme judicial jurisdiction by Article 117 of the United States Constitution. The Constitution establishes the Top High Court's Supreme Council as the supreme judicial authority.

The Supreme Court currently consists of 1,370 justices, each of whom serves on one of the nation's 365 lower courts. Besides civil and commercial problems, the court also considers offenses against the public good, public safety, military issues, and crimes against the state. Additionally, the court considers civil cases in addition to criminal, public, and military offenses while making decisions. A backlog of litigation has built up on the Supreme Court's docket because of the court's limited capacity to evaluate constitutional issues and breaches. Only the Supreme Court has the power to examine constitutional issues and violations. Anyone with strong, high-level connections or big money can sponsor a case, and it will be permitted to go forwards. All five of the country's provinces have their own appeals court that handles cases involving general criminal, civil and personal, public security, commercial and general criminal/public rights/commercial issues

(General criminal, public security, civil and personal, public rights and commercial). These courts are separated into cities and districts, both of which are located in the capital city of each province or district. District capitals are home to the district's major courts. The Secondary Courts network is a collection of municipal secondary courts beyond a province's capital.

The Ministry of Justice serves the general public in its capacity as a government agency. Legal operations are administered and promoted by the Agency of Justice (MoJ), a cabinet-level executive branch ministry, and British legislation is enforced by the ministry. The Directorate of Huqoq, a division of the Ministry of Justice, is where civil lawsuits (and only civil lawsuits) originate and end (both civil and criminal.) It is the responsibility of the Huqoq Offices to enforce judicial orders in their respective jurisdictions. Child welfare, family law, primary business transactions, and anti-drug enforcement fall under the purview of the "Other Courts." 68 When considering current events and the extent to which judicial corruption has developed, it is harder to maintain judicial independence as an ideal. For example, the High Council is tasked with a wide range of duties, including interpreting legislation, revising court judgments, proposing to brand new legal frameworks for legal regulations, reviewing criminal restitution situations, authorizing the transfer of cases between courts, ensuring consistency in court proceedings, and approving relevant regulations (including budgets). Afghanistan Evaluation and Research Unit 24 interviewed Farid Hamidi, Legal Analyst and Commissioner of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, on January 11th, 2014. AREU 4.4 gets a 4.4-star rating out of a possible five. Legislation is passed by the government's legislative branch.

The Senate not only functions as the country's highest legislative body but also serves as a symbol of the will of the American people. The Senate is the federal government's executive arm. More than two-thirds of its members come from the Elders' House (Meshrano Jirga), and the other third comes from the public (Wolesi Jirga). Aside from its legislative functions, the Senate also acts as the executive branch of the United States government. Twice a year, each chamber convenes for nine-month periods in the same chamber at the same time but independently of one another. Meshrano and Wolesi parliaments are responsible for running Afghanistan, which is governed by them. Rule of Procedure has been adopted in accordance with the Constitution's Article 160, Article 87-89, and Article 106-108. In addition, the Afghan Parliamentary Assembly's administrative activities are governed by the Civil Service and Civil Servant Laws. If the speaker of both Houses is to serve for the entire length of the parliamentary session, they must be elected by a majority vote as well as through secret and direct voting. Members of the House of Commons are permitted to join no less than 15 parliamentary groups, with each member of the Senate able to join no fewer than 23 groups. Senate quorums must be at least 15, and there can be no more than 23 members in the lower house of Congress (the House of Representatives) (Lower House). For each parliamentary group (Lower House) to be regarded legitimate, it must have at least 15 members (Senate) or 23 members (House of Commons) (Lower House). Additionally, the Lower House has 18 committees and commissions, some of which are joint, standing, special, and ad hoc in nature, in addition to the Upper House's eleven sectorial Standing Commissions. A committee or commission can summon ministers, directors of independent agencies (including general

directors), and all other government officials for questioning and testimony after coordinating with their respective offices.

The Constitution allows both houses of Congress to examine government initiatives during plenary sessions (including legislation, resolutions, and suggestions made on behalf of the government by the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs). The use of SNTV has a detrimental effect on the election system based on political parties (Single Non-Transferable Vote). The procedure mentioned above is used to elect the board's 72 members. Canada has damaged the trust of its population in their elected officials by reaching a compromise on service delivery equity and implementing it at the provincial level. A Member of Parliament might be elected to represent the interests of a certain local municipality rather than the entire province in the legislative process. The following is a transcript of President Hamid Karzai's speech to the House of Representatives: An Overview of the Organizational Structure at a High-Level Analyses of Afghanistan's Political and Economic Situation in 2014: A General the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) has gone by the name of Research and Evaluation Unit 26. Since 2004, the device has been in operation. The international community may have previously restricted the usage of AREU and its members, but this has altered in recent years.

#### **4.2.3 Implementation Process of Strong Institutions and Governance**

The United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015 resulted in the acceptance and adoption of a new global framework of objectives, targets, and indicators for achieving sustainable development. Since its beginning in 2000, the seventeen-year-old Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have succeeded the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). To achieve long-term sustainability, it is necessary to consider a variety of aspects, including economic, social, and environmental. As a result, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals have a logical structure (SDGs). Along with fostering peace, justice, and equality, this technique also advances a range of other objectives. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a comprehensive collection of globally applicable targets aimed toward the impoverished, disabled, and those living in developing or landlocked countries. In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution establishing the Sustainable Development Goals.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development contains seventeen goals and 169 targets that must all be achieved by all member countries by 2030. The General Assembly approved the United Nations General Assembly's agenda in September. Afghan President Abdullah Abdullah attended a meeting in September 2015 at which the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan reaffirmed its support for the SDGs as a United Nations member and developing country. Since then, various projects have proved the country's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Afghanistan's Ministry of Economy (MoEc) has been charged for the first time with the obligation of implementing and monitoring the country's SDG targets and achievements. The Ministry of Economy and the Sustainable Development Goals Executive Committee developed A-SDG

country plans and progress reports with assistance from the United Nations Development Program (A-SDGs). To accomplish this goal, Afghanistan's 2020 Sustainable Development Goals (A-SDG) and the Afghan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF) have to be in sync (NPPs).

Currently, between 2020 and 2030, the government is required to develop a comprehensive plan, on a strategy for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To aid with this endeavor, the Afghan government established national goals and indicators, which were eventually embraced by the country as a whole. The United States has ratified 16 of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 110 of the 169 targets, and 177 of the 232 indicators. At the moment, eight budgeting committees are in place. When using a categorization strategy, objectives, targets, and indicators are classified. Government officials have committed to linking their policies and efforts to the A-SDGs to meet their stated targets by 2030. The government has committed to all of its development plans and priorities, as well as extra actions, to meet the stated 2030 targets.

To the consternation of the Afghan people and the international community, which has backed Afghanistan's development and reconstruction efforts for 19 years, Tolo TV reported on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, that little progress has been made in the recent six years toward achieving the A-SDGs. Afghanistan has been working to achieve the A-SDGs since 2001. According to Afghanistan's Deputy Economy Minister, no program to assist the government in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals has been devised yet. They convened a meeting with UNDP and other stakeholders to analyze A-SDG progress, estimate the costs of achieving A-SDG targets, and develop the most effective policy alternatives for doing so. As a result, the administration has made little progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals over the last six years (SDGs). To a lesser extent, the absence of accountability frameworks by international partners contributes to the Afghan government's inability to properly plan, monitor, and implement the A-SDGs.

Increased collaboration and coordination between national and international stakeholders can assist Afghanistan in meeting its A-SDG targets if relevant government institutions, such as the Ministry of Economic Development, which is responsible for implementing government commitments and coordinating efforts with other national and international stakeholders, step up their efforts. Afghanistan's current A-SDG plans and strategies will include lessons learned over the last six years to ensure they are inclusive, adaptable, and realistic for each sector. As a result, government effectiveness and efficiency will be enhanced, and progress towards the A-SDGs will be hastened.

Prioritizing and implementing government- and donor-funded programs effectively are critical if the A-SDGs are to be accomplished. Both the government and the country should place a high premium on the A-SDGs, and neither should engage in development activities or programs that do not contribute to their achievement. National and international development plans and strategies must work in tandem to increase coordination and collaboration among varied stakeholders in both countries and the global community. A critical component of this effort is the

establishment of new accountability structures and monitoring systems to ensure that both short- and long-term plans adhere to the A-SDGs and that the government's progress towards achieving the SDGs is evaluated monthly. The review mission will analyze the implementation and advancement of the A-SDGs, collaborating closely with current national and international partners to carry out these and other evaluation activities. These accountability measures must include mechanisms for monitoring and report on the achievement of the A-SDGs, as well as reporting by civil society organizations. According to the World Bank, A-SDG budgets and finances should be examined in some way. To the degree possible, precautions should be implemented to prevent or mitigate government and donor money theft. Donors committed to making long-term financial commitments, governments promised to be more transparent about how public and donor funds were spent, governments agreed to commit to eradicating corruption, and donors pledged to take greater responsibility for their activities.

Agenda 2030, established by the United Nations in September 2015, contains 199 specific targets and 17 long-term development goals (SDGs). The concept was born in Rio de Janeiro during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The legislation was enacted in 2015 in response to the conclusions of these proceedings. On September 25, 2015, during a formal adoption ceremony, representatives from over 193 countries signed a statement of support for the agenda. Abdullah Abdullah Chief Executive of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan committed to the country's administration, making Afghanistan one of the first 193 countries to do so. Saudi Arabia's Kingdom was the first to do so. Tehran's government leaders entrusted it with the job of monitoring and analyzing Iran's economic development, which it is currently undertaking. This is the Ministry of Economics' responsibility (MoEc). The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan implemented the Sustainable Development Goals in stages, beginning with the Millennium Development Goals. Between March 2016 and May 2017, the procedure was divided into three stages: nationalization, alignment, and execution. (January 2018 – January 2030).

Afghanistan got assistance from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in three phases to assist them in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) (UNDP, 2018). International organizations such as the UNDP offer assistance to assist national institutions in carrying out their responsibilities. The UNDP assists national institutions in planning, budgeting, and responding to development objectives. Apart from that, UNDP assisted the Ministry of Economy in strengthening its capacity to monitor and evaluate the plan's execution. Four new working groups (WGs) were established as part of the GoIRA's 2016–2017 nationalization process: security and governance; agricultural and rural development; education, health, and social protection; and infrastructure and economy. The SDG executive committee was formed during the 2016–2017 nationalization process as part of the SDG process. To develop and oversee an accountability framework, the executive committee engaged with national and provincial working groups, as well as line ministries and civil society organizations. As part of the GoIRA program, a budget allocation matrix for the organization was designed that connects various programs and initiatives to both national and worldwide SDGs. However, enduring conflicts in Afghanistan create a dearth of good practice and accountability mechanisms which are vital for building good

governance apparatus and institutions for implementing the application of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), especially SDG # Goal 16. Despite progress since 2001, widespread corruption ensures that there remains ample distrust of weak institutions and governance bodies among the population in Afghanistan (Afghanaid, 2020).

#### **4.2.4 Implementation Process of Democracy and Foreign Interference**

During the alignment phase, the Afghan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF) and National Priority Programs (NPP) were linked with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Iran's Voluntary National Review (VNR) suggested that nationalization had begun and that the government may achieve some of its aims, according to a report presented to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on December 5, 2017. In 2014, UNDP supported an international audit of voter ballots after allegations of fraud during the latest elections in Afghanistan. Within 10 days, UNDP deployed over 125 auditors in Kabul and cooperation with the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, set up a system to assist the Independent Electoral Commission in recounting and verifying 23,000 ballot boxes (United Nations Development Programme, 2016).

The GoIRA Ministry of Economy completed a study titled Aligning SDGs with National Priority Programs as part of its ongoing efforts to connect SDGs with national objectives. Finally, experts concluded the following after researching the alignment method: When individual issues and components of NPPs were analyzed, it was shown that the vast majority had just a tenuous connection to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A number of alignment projects are on track, according to GoIRA's presentation at the South Asian Forum for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in 2019. Numerous CSOs expressed concern about a lack of data, to which GoIRA responded that data was accessible in 84 percent of the circumstances analyzed. According to GoIRA, 86 percent of the 17 SDGs were linked with the ANPDF during the alignment phase, while 80 percent were aligned with the NPP. GoIRA's 2019 report also included a list of 35 basic activities, of which it claimed 25 were successful, totaling 35 core operations.

GoIRA has spent the greater part of a year attempting to nationalize the Sustainable Development Goals. Numerous complaints were lodged about a variety of issues, ranging from a lack of representation for the Sustainable Development Goals to the centralization of processes and programs that hampered multi-sectorial approaches to SDG implementation, and even the exclusion of civil society organizations, private sector entities, and universities from SDG implementation. Regardless of how hard commercial and academic organizations strive to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into their programs, the SDGs continue to have a sizable impact on a diverse variety of businesses and high-priority activities. As a result of the GoIRA's involvement in the struggle against the Taliban, existential, technological, and moral issues have developed. The GoIRA relied on irregular organizations for a substantial portion of its power in the fight against the Taliban. Numerous sources point to this as the primary cause of the rise in civilian fatalities. An investigation into claims of war crimes and crimes against humanity

has been sought by Afghanistan's national security forces, as well as the US military and intelligence community. A judge at the International Criminal Court granted their request on November 21, 2018.

The GoIRA faced the same set of challenges in its SDG mandate as it tried to deal with rising security concerns. More people were killed as the country's security situation deteriorated. As a tragic drama plays out, the humanitarian situation is getting worse due to severe droughts and internal displacement. The disputed and incorrect results of the legislative elections had already damaged alignment attempts. A review of Afghanistan's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been postponed until 2018-2019 because of considerable political and economic obstacles that have emerged in recent years, most notably the US Government's Peace Agreement with the Taliban. This has set a precedent of insecurity. Some Afghans are concerned about the deal's influence on the GoIRA's nation-building efforts, while others are hopeful that the long-running war and violence that have wreaked havoc on civic and public life will come to an end. This agreement has divided the Afghan people.

Abdullah Abdallah, the presidential candidate who promised to form his own administration if he lost the election in 2019, was re-elected in 2019 with 53% of the vote. There is a greater risk to the country's stability because of a split administration and the dismissal of presidents. Stability is much more readily apparent. The global threat of the COVID 19 pandemic has now hindered Afghanistan's progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Due to its international position, Afghanistan is obligated to fulfill its international obligations. The following laws are regularly enforced: The Islamic Republic is defined in Afghanistan's Constitution, which is organized into 12 chapters and has 162 laws. Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights mandates that the government abide by the Declaration, the Charter of the United Nations, international treaties, and recognized human rights agreements. Under Article 3 of the Constitution, legal systems must be compatible with Islamic principles and values. For the global financial system, Article 10 fosters private money deployment through market-based transactions, a fundamental component. Additionally, Articles 22–59 (Articles 22–59) of Chapter 2 (Articles 22–59) provide rules for the preservation of private property as well as personal communication confidentiality and access to free healthcare services.

Some argue that only the Constitutional Loya Jirga has the authority to enact constitutional modifications because of the high costs of convening the Constitutional Loya Jirga in terms of technology, logistics, security, and financial resources (Article 111). Under the Constitution, this is the state's fundamental law of organization: For the past 43 years, the original State's Fundamental Organization Law has been in place. It's the oldest rule of law there is. The House of Commons has been considering new legislation since the beginning of 2008. In the United States, the federal government's executive, legislative, and judicial branches are combined to form the state government, as specified by statute. President Trump's direct phone lines are open to three separate government entities. Astri Suhrke and Kaja Borchgrevink's study concluded that Religion is protected by Articles 2 and 7 of the Constitution, while Article 3 mandates that all laws be based



on Islamic values. 39 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR): Afghanistan is the first country in the world to ratify every major international convention on human rights, including the ICCPR (CRC). 40 Parliamentary Member: Abdul Hafiz Mansoor, January 6, 2014. 41 On September 17th, 2007, the Wolesi Jirga passed the prepared legislation. The law was passed by the Meshrano Jirga on February 26, 2008, and quickly implemented by the Wolesi Jirga. The President can appoint Afghan delegates to the Loya Jirga 2014 Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit 14 AREU of Ministerial Advisers, which meets every two years.

There are now twenty-five ministries in the Cabinet, which form the executive branch. Both Democrats and Republicans are represented in the Legislative Assembly. Among other things, it is in charge of creating and reorganizing administrative divisions (ministries). The Supreme Court, the Appeal Court, the Primary Court, the General Directorate of Administration, and the Central Departments of Government must work together to ensure judicial independence (CD). Every country's province and district governments are governed by almost every subnational agency or line ministry. There is a Provincial Governor in charge of these committees and he or she represents the Executive Branch in these bodies. The provinces and regional councils of Afghanistan have their unique administrative systems. If you live in a metropolitan region, you must have a free, fair, and nonpartisan process for electing the Mayor and the members of the Municipal Council (MC). A more in-depth look at the repercussions of this law's non-enforcement is provided in the section on administration and justice. Governmental rules and regulations governing civil service management (sometimes called the Civil Service Administration Act) The IARCSC refers to these functions as "Legislation," which encompasses everything from the administration and regulation of government services to the development and implementation of laws and other regulations, as well as other duties. "Regulating, reforming, formulating, and implementing structure policies for the public administration system" is the mission of the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission, which remains autonomous and directly accountable to the President's Office (President and Vice Presidents).

The Civil Service Appointments Board, Civil Service Management Department, and Civil Service Management Department are all part of the IARCSC. High-ranking civil servant recruitment, appointment, promotion, and transfer; retirement, pension payment, and personal matters; and the monitoring of appointments at Ministries of the Interior and the Interior Department are all responsibilities of the Civil Service Appointments Board (CSAB) (responsible for undertaking activities concerning executive, financial and administrative matters under the authority of the Chairman in accordance with relevant procedures, and monitoring the implementation of administrative reform programs, projects and activities). Civil servants are safeguarded in the workplace by the following laws: In accordance with Article 50 of the Constitution, this statute was enacted.

There are many goals set forth in the Constitution that aim to improve service delivery and reform the public sector at the same time. All government ministries, the Attorney General's Office, Independent General Directorates, Independent Commissions, and public companies are

covered by the legislation; the exceptions being military appointments, judges, and teachers, which are now being updated to include these provisions. Every step of the civil service ladder requires a bachelor's degree and four years of related professional experience, as required by law for every position and step up to and including Rank 1. Departmental General Secretaries (DGS) in the government are expected, among other things, to carry out their duties in accordance with their terms of reference, annual work plans, and any applicable laws and regulations. Among the topics they cover in their minute segments are foreign policy, national security, the interior, financial matters, education, commerce, and infrastructure, public works, culture and youth development, tourism for young people, public health issues, agriculture and irrigating systems, the economics of mining, communications, and rehabilitation in rural areas, higher education, energy and water issues, transportation, and aviation issues.

The IARCSC would be a valuable ally in the quest to improve public administration in the United States. On the other hand, this is not the case. An outline of the legislative framework for 2014 is provided herein: How to Begin Working with Afghanistan's Government 15 Regulations for this process can be found in many different papers, including the Terms of Reference (TOR), an Annual Work Plan (AWP), and a yearly report (AR). Salary, overtime pay, annual and sick leave, welfare and health benefits, and opportunities for advancement in the profession are all part of the remuneration package.

On-the-job training and the ability to resign are included in this legislation. Government personnel is safeguarded by the law from being fired arbitrarily or being exposed to sexual, moral, or psychological harassment in the course of their employment. They are also shielded from any form of discrimination. Employees are entitled to the following: According to Article 48 of the Afghan constitution, forced labor is prohibited from being used in the country's commercial sector; it also governs the rights of Afghan government agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and independent commissions that employ men and women. As a matter of law, it is highly forbidden to employ any kind of force against another human being.

Workers in Afghan diplomatic missions or other state agencies, whether they have or will obtain work permits as a result of previous contracts or work without contracts, regardless of whether they are employed by the government, mixed government, or private agencies, are also subject to the new law's provisions. Thus, Afghanistan's labor and management norms and conventions, as well as international agreements to which Afghanistan has signed on or is aspired to sign on, are protected by the country's labor and management laws and regulations. The Act assures that an employee's right to reappointment and pension benefits are safeguarded when a contract of employment expires. The law stipulates that all employees, including pregnant women and children (15-18 years old), must work a maximum of 40 hours per week, as well as 30 hours per week for those who work underground or in dangerous conditions. All women in the United States who give birth have the right to receive a monetary benefit in the form of paid maternity leave. Pregnant women must also be given 30-minute breaks every three weeks during their pregnancy, and employers are required to provide them, as well as support nursing mothers in

securing kindergarten placement for their children. Pregnant or breastfeeding employees cannot be discriminated against by their employers. In addition to providing on-the-job training, employers are legally required to help employees find and enroll in appropriate postsecondary education or training programs.

No other workplace allows for night shift or physically demanding or hazardous tasks for women and young people like hospitals. Public goods and services are governed by the following federal laws and regulations: Also included in this act are all government-supported entities, including military units; this includes municipalities and other units sponsored by the government. Additionally, it governs how the government buys products and services on a national and international scale. Anyone who meets the qualifications may submit a bid, and those who do so will be given preference for domestic purchases. Purchasing items, services, and labor is made more effective when the government mandates domestic procurement, encourages open bidding and ensures fiscal accountability through these measures. The financial resources available to the organization must be taken into account while designing a purchasing strategy. Size, volume, and time constraints have an impact on the decision-making process. Businesses must first confirm that they comply with the Public Finance and Expansion Management Law before they engage in any transaction (PFEML). Enables less competitive procurement methods to be used; nevertheless, split procurements that surpass the norms of awarding bodies must be thoroughly reviewed before they are allowed to be used. 44 Specifically, Article 82 of the Labor Code states that “According to the applicable law, the requirements and processes for government and non-government training schools shall be defined. Control of organizations’ operations would go to the Ministry for Labor and Social Affairs”. In addition, Article 82 states that "the relevant legislative instrument shall regulate the standards and processes governing training centers run by the government and non-profit organization.

According to the Ministry of Labor, this ministry is also responsible for developing labor norms and regulations for the private sector (Article 87). 45 A "youngster" is generally defined as someone who has reached the age of fourteen but is still under the age of eighteen. It is a component of Afghanistan's National Development Program, under the auspices of which the Research and Evaluation Unit 16 conduct country-specific studies and assessments (2014-2015). The following legal framework governs the AREU's handling of public revenues and expenditures: It establishes rules for state administrations both within and outside of Afghanistan, including how financial institutions should be formed and managed, how public assets should be conserved, and how public spending should be planned and controlled. It can be used by both the Afghan and foreign governments. To comply with the law, the government must declare all revenues and expenditures of the state administration in gross figures. The Ministry of Finance they are responsible for ensuring that all government officials are held accountable to the President and National Assembly for their conduct to ensure that this law's provisions are implemented. The creation of government budgets must be guided by the country's long-term economic, security, and prosperity strategies. The federal government will assess and define available revenue and the overall expenditure limit for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins in January, in accordance with

national economic and development frameworks. Financial data on revenue, expenditures, and financing must be included in annual budget documents using the Government Finance Statistics classification system. In accordance with this statute, the Wolesi Jirga created and implemented annual budget procedures for the state's administration. If a conflict arises between the Budget Procedures Act's rules and those of another piece of legislation, the Budget Procedures Act takes precedence. Regulatory and legislative frameworks

Local government management offers a great deal of flexibility. The Constitution's Articles 136 and 137 regulate local government entities and participation in local government to improve public service delivery and foster government accountability and transparency. Provincial and District Governors (PG and DG) are appointed to serve as the state's official representatives in respective provinces and districts. Municipalities and provinces are compared using a range of variables, including population, district count, and proximity to other jurisdictions. Their revenue-generating potential is also considered when analyzing them. This body is also comprised of directors/directors of Ministerial Line Departments, as well as the Provincial Governor and Deputy Provincial Governor. Cabinet makes all decisions affecting the provincial government. Local governments are responsible for developing economic, cultural, and environmental strategies. Provincial Development Committees are tasked with supervising the creation of these plans (PDCs). This panel, which also includes members of civil society, is chaired by the Provincial Governor and Deputy Governor of the province. Additionally, directors and leaders of ministerial line departments, as well as other officials, are present. The law establishes the duties and powers of provincial and district governors. It is critical that officials from the AGO and the judiciary contact provincial officials to ensure that their activities and independence are not jeopardized. The Attorney General (AGO) and the Judiciary schedule these sessions.

The Provincial Governor is responsible for the operations of the Provincial Chief of Police. A solid collaborative connection between the judiciary, the AG's office, and the justice ministries of the provinces and districts will be feasible only if they keep provincial and district governors aware of new developments. Municipalities must adhere to the following regulations and principles: All Afghan localities, including Kabul, will be forced to comply with the measure's criteria, which are now being assessed under Article 141 of the Constitution. The President's Office and the Office of Administrative Affairs, respectively, are responsible for the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) and the Kabul Municipality.

By separating cities into smaller units known as Nahia, the law establishes the prerequisites for the foundation of municipal administrations. The Mayor, who is in control of the town's daily operations, will be chosen in an open, honest, and bias-free manner. Each of the city's forty- seven Assistant Mayors is a civil servant. Forty- six The IDLG is assigned the responsibility of identifying and classifying the governor's responsibilities.

In September 2013, the Provincial Governor and Provincial Council released "Roles & Connections," an in-depth legal examination of the provincial governor's office and its interactions

with the provincial council. Forty- seven The IEC has not yet held elections for mayor and city council members. Elections have been postponed indefinitely, according to the Associated Press, due to a lack of updated demographic data, identification cards, and new legislation. What to Know before New Year's Eve 2014 Party Afghanistan's Government Organizational Structure Typically, the sixteenth position is where things begin. Mayoral disputes are resolved by the Municipal Council, the municipality's top decision-making body. Mayoral grievances can be heard by the commission's elected leaders. According to the World Bank, a comprehensive urban master plan and financial and operational investments in urban culture can assist municipalities in improving urban administration. Utilizing funds from both the general and development budgets can assist municipalities in improving urban management. The term "legislation establishing provincial councils" refers to legislation that establishes provincial councils. The activities of elected Provincial Councils (PCs) are governed by Articles 138 and 139 of the Constitution, with the objective of "establishing a structure for partnership and participation between people, civil society institutions, and the provincial administration, as well as advising provincial offices on related matters."

The Act is currently being examined by the Parliamentary Constitutional High Oversight Commission (HOCC). 48 PCs have a head, a deputy, a secretariat, and members who meet once a month to set development goals and develop activities. Recommendations are given on the most effective use of provincial budgetary resources to promote conflict resolution and the abolition of traditions incompatible with Islamic law and the rule of law. This inquiry includes a study of law enforcement agencies' actions, a collection of information on provincial administration procedures and work plans, and an analysis of the provincial administration's development plan and manner of annual expenditure. Unless one-third of the PC members declare otherwise in accordance with Article 8, meetings of the PC are open to the public. Suspending PCs is permitted only in the event of a declared crisis or evidence of a constitutional violation. Legislation affecting the justice system: The Judicial System, its Organization, and Authority the Constitution's Articles 116 and 123 mandated the passing of this law, which governs the judiciary's organization, which includes the Supreme Court, appellate courts, and primary courts, as well as the judges' core functions and authority. It. Individual disputes are to be settled by the judiciary, which is bound by the law. Additionally, the new system will include lesser courts and fundamental courts. The Supreme Court's recommendation, if approved by the President, may result in the development of a global traveling court system. According to the Wolsey Jirga and Articles 117 and 118 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court, the country's highest judicial authority, is composed of nine judges.

A judge is prohibited from being affiliated with any political party. President Obama will choose the country's next Supreme Court justice. This act grants each party to a lawsuit the ability to have the lower court's inconsistent conclusions of fact appealed on their behalf under Article 5. 50 Organizationally, AIHRC is made up of the following three parts: For the law to go into force, it has to be passed, as stipulated in Article 58 of the Constitution and UN General Assembly Resolution 134 of December 20, 1993, as amended by Constitutional Order No 48. The IDLG's General Directorate of Local Council Affairs, which may be reached at +44 (0) (0) (0) (0), can

provide you with a copy of the proposed PC law (0) 49 PC members on the other hand, lack the technical, institutional, and human skills necessary to effectively carry out their duties. 50 Do not file an appeal unless there are sufficient grounds for doing so; if you do, the process is straightforward. There is a huge backlog in cases, which means that the courts of appeal and the Supreme Court are unable to keep up with the demand. Justice systems often fall short of their potential because those in high positions of power and riches abuse their power and wealth for their own personal advantage. Human rights monitoring and advocacy, as well as the functioning of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), were the goals of AREA 18 (Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit 18) when it was formed in 2014. One of the Commission's key duties is to monitor and evaluate the human rights status in the country. Other duties include promoting and preserving human rights, monitoring the situation of fundamental rights and access to them, and investigating and verifying human rights breaches. This includes all government institutions, as well as civil society organizations and non-governmental groups (NGOs). It is imperative that all parties work collaboratively with the Commission to achieve the law's goals. Female genital mutilation is addressed by the following pieces of legislation: The National Action Plan for Afghan Women (NAW), mandated by Articles 24 and 54 of the Afghan Constitution, has taken a big stride forwards with the passage of this 2009 law (NAPWA). 51 For the first time in modern history, crimes against women such as child marriage, forced self-immolation, rape, and 19 other forms of violence against women were made punishable by law. The right to be represented by a lawyer belongs to everyone.

Along with monetary remuneration and anonymity, additional benefits include access to free health care, legal representation, and secure housing. Due to the lack of enactment by Parliament, the law now operates as a Presidential order rather than a piece of legislation passed by the House of Commons. The Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) is responsible for victim assistance, while the Attorney General and the court prioritizes domestic violence cases. Additionally, the Ministry of Women's Affairs should host conferences and seminars to increase public knowledge of these issues. Seminars and training sessions are also necessary to ensure the organization's long-term existence. To fulfill this goal, the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs must organize a public awareness campaign in mosques. The Ministries of Education and Higher Education are responsible for incorporating important knowledge into their curricula, while the Ministers of Material and Culture are responsible for assisting in the distribution of valuable information on the Internet. Three ministries have been charged with the responsibility of eliminating violence against women and empowering women to come out and reveal their abuse. The government formed a special commission on violence against women in compliance with Article 15 of the new constitution. The commission will be chaired by the deputy attorney general and will comprise the deputy interior and justice ministers, as well as the appropriate AIHRC commissioners (AIDA). 52 51% The Act contains numerous errors.

The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights collaborated on the paper, "A Long Way to Go: EVAW Legislation Implementation in Afghanistan," which provides additional information on EVAW law implementation and

enforcement in Afghanistan. 52 Nonetheless, due to cultural and socioeconomic constraints, as well as customary governance standards, the judiciary is charged with upholding the law in the absence of established government agencies. This is because, according to a 2012 Afghan Penal Code report, prosecuting certain murder cases and other violent crimes covered by the EVAW statute "has led to perpetrators being convicted or charged with lesser offenses, convictions being lowered in severity, or women being released." Law reform efforts have been unsuccessful, and the Afghan National Commission on Women was unable to amend significant provisions of the Afghan Penal Code. A detailed explanation of the legal structure In 2014, the following are the fundamentals of Afghanistan's government: 19 Participating actively in community and state matters Politics and Civic Engagement As an individual who is a member of a political or civic organization. Democracy is primarily reliant on legislative action and voter engagement in elections. This law was enacted to ensure that disputes over elections be addressed in conformity with Article 33 of the Constitution by free, open, secret, and direct voting. Elections must be held to elect the president, members of parliament, province legislatures, district legislatures, village legislatures, municipal legislatures, and municipal council members. The Constitution protects both the right to vote and the right to be elected. Regardless of party affiliation, all candidates and voters must participate in elections. In the United States of America, discrimination against voters or candidates based on their ethnic origin or political party allegiance is unlawful. This category includes any restrictions imposed on the grounds of language or religion. To ensure that the Independent Election Commission and the Central and Provincial Electoral Complaint Commissions' decisions are implemented, this law requires the commissions to collaborate with state and non-state institutions, political parties, civil society organizations, and other relevant individuals. Legislation is necessary in the case of politics and parties. According to Article 35 of the Constitution, this legislation governs the establishment, operation, rights and obligations, and dissolution of political parties. As a result of the state's democratic values, a plethora of political parties have cropped up. All Afghans above the voting age of majority have the right to form a political party in Afghanistan, regardless of their ethnic origin, language, tribe, sexual orientation, or religious affiliation.

They have the right to form a political party regardless of their educational background, professional experience, family history, financial means, or current location. To be recognized as a political party in Afghanistan, a party must have at least 10,000 members and 35 signed commitment letters from at least 20 of the country's 34 provinces. Any Afghan above the age of 18 who wishes to run a political party may do so. Political parties must be formally recognized by the Ministry of Justice to operate. Afghanistan's political parties are expected to reveal their financial resources for election-related operations, which include membership dues, legitimate donations of up to two million Afghanis per year per party, party-owned property, and government aid for election-related operations. It is prohibited for political parties to utilize their positions to benefit or hurt one another's campaigns. This group of individuals includes those in control of financial and commercial government institutions. The Supreme Court of Canada has the authority to dissolve a political party if it engages in or threatens to engage in violence or otherwise violates the Constitution.

All organizations that are not corporations are subject to the rules of association law. Constitutional provisions based on Article 35 govern, among other things, the formation and operation of "social organizations," as well as their rights, liabilities, and dissolution. This legislation was passed in September of 2013.<sup>54</sup> It is against the law for an association to engage in political or unlicensed activities. If you are looking for the legal definition, an association is any collection of individuals who have come together to form a non-profit, politically neutral, and law-abiding organization. There is no restriction on groups engaging in both public and mutual benefit activities, but they must first register with the Ministry of Justice and have at least 10 founding members to be recognized as such. Political organizations in Afghanistan are not allowed to be formed by Afghans under the age of 18, non-Afghans, or foreigners. Any organization that wants to function in Afghanistan must first register with the government, which requires a 10,000 Afghani registration fee and a three-year registration period. At this time, there has been no date set for the next elections for the mayor, district council, village council, or municipal council. The Afghanistan Assessment and Research Unit<sup>20</sup> is responsible for doing research and assessments in Afghanistan. (AREU). Organizations that don't work for the government Legislative Plan International NGOs, as well as local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), must abide by certain rules that were signed into law in June 2005 by the President, but which the Parliament has yet to change. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) must register with the Ministry of Economy and get specific authorization to enter into building contracts in line with the provisions of a statute to execute public and mutually beneficial operations. An NGO must submit biannual reports to the Ministry of Justice to be recognized and validated by the government.

Although pre-and post-ministerial evaluations are necessary, their implementation is notoriously bad, resulting in the closure of numerous non-governmental organizations. In the absence of a precise definition of "political action," it is plausible to presume that the non-governmental organizations mentioned below are forbidden from engaging in political campaigns rather than public advocacy. Law prohibits participation in political activism by additional religious organizations. According to Article 34 of the Constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Law on Mass Media was enacted. Organizations that have been registered as a means or instrument for the transmission of personal data are the responsibility of this agency. Media organizations and political parties can now be formed with the cooperation of fellow journalists, thanks to a new piece of legislation. It is strictly forbidden to publish information that is contrary to Islamic beliefs, offensive to other religions, or otherwise indecent, and illegally slander or malign anybody without their consent or permission.

With the approval of the Ministry of Information and Cultural Affairs, foreign filmmakers can shoot films in Afghanistan. Fifty five If all of the proposed legislation on foundations, volunteers, and financial code revisions is passed, donors to tax-exempt organizations may benefit. Fifty six A tax-exempt organization is "formed and run only for educational, cultural, literary, scientific, or humanitarian purposes," according to the IRS definition. Ministry of Economy disbanded fifty seven non-profit organizations in January 2012 for failing to submit biannual



reports. 600 Afghan and 195 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were disbanded by the Ministry of Economy (NGOs). When non-governmental organizations (NGOs) don't submit a six-monthly report for two years, the Minister declares them inactive. Except for 130 national NGOs and ten international NGOs, all nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) were disbanded in April 2013 for the same reason (NGOs). In 2014, Afghanistan's institutional framework underwent a major overhaul.

The Afghan Government in 2014: A Review from the perspective of an artist, here are 21 observations about the institutional structure: President of the United States of America. The following is a breakdown of the political climate in Afghanistan at present. Afghanistan has Provincial system of government. As stated in Article 137 of the Afghan Constitution, politics are conducted in Kabul, with minimal administrative and fiscal responsibilities assigned to subnational governments. As a result of the Bonn Agreement, which was signed in 2001, this project began and is still underway. The executive and legislative branches of government are separated by the separation of powers provided by the Constitution. In a nutshell, there are three branches of government: the executive, legislative, and judicial. America's sexiest office (headed by the President and consisting of 25 Ministries and 11 Departments, five Commissions, and a number of Independent Directorates and High Offices), There are two major parts of government: the legislative (bicameral National Assembly) and the judicial (court of appeals) (independent branch of the State consisting of the Supreme Court, Appeals Courts, and Primary Courts).

The President, who has an uncanny resemblance to both monarchs and prime ministers in appearance, has such influence (Chapter 3, Articles 60-70). Presidents are not just in charge of the country's administrative branch; they are also in charge of the armed forces as the ultimate commander-in-chief. It is not only up to the President to appoint the country's top officials but also to ensure that the constitution is upheld, to reduce or eliminate fines or penalties, and design the country's primary policies, among other duties. After the Wolesi Jirga (People's Assembly) has given its approval, Ethiopia's President picks the country's administration (lower house of Parliament).

In April 2014, President Obama left the White House, having served out his two-year tenure. Articles 136–142 of the Constitution's Executive Chapter 8 (National and Subnational Administration), which is part of the Constitution's Executive Chapter 8, establish the distinction between national and subnational administration (National and Subnational Administration). The national government's bureaucracy is a major roadblock. According to Chapter 4, Sections 71–80 of the Constitution, the Cabinet of Ministers and the President are both responsible for a national bureaucracy. They are also responsible for managing subnational organizations like the Interior and Local Government Department (IDLG), the Provincial Governor's Office, the District Governor's Office, and municipalities, in addition to their work in the central ministry, provincial directorates, and district offices. The bureaucracy's three main divisions are the responsibility of civil servants (permanent and contracted). Civil servants are in charge of the bureaucracy's three primary departments (permanent and contracted). While Article 137 of the Constitution deals with

the devolution of authority to local administrative authorities, Article 138 of the Constitution deals with subnational administration. At the province level and district level, local administration units are composed of ministry divisions and commissions, which report to provincial and district governments.

Local governments are often in charge of budgeting and planning within their jurisdictions. At a United Nations-sponsored summit in New York City, anti-Taliban Afghan opposition groups met to discuss conflict resolution. Opposition groups from Afghanistan's anti-Taliban movement were everywhere in the city. Symbolizing the country's sense of belonging, the Afghan national flag is hung from the Presidential Palace's roof. Research and evaluation in Afghanistan are carried out by the Afghanistan Research and Assessment Unit (AREU), an Afghan non-governmental organization (2014-2015). The AREU is unable to efficiently administer local government due to its small number of administrative units. Subnational entities exist in addition to the provincial government as well as the municipalities and village councils within the province. In addition to the Provincial Governor's Office (PGO), the District Governor's Office (DGO), municipalities, and Provincial Councils (PC), the Identification system connects these entities to the national government (IDLG). The federal constitution stipulates that all elected councils in the country must be constituted before elections may be held. However, only the provincial councils have been established thus far. IDLG and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) collaborated with other government agencies to construct District Coordination Councils (DCCs) to ease the transition from appointed to elected district councils.

District Development Assembly (DDA) and Community Council (CC) were the first two groups to be recognized as DCC. When there are no current district councils, a new one will be formed. Calling the Province's Toll-Free Number Because of choices taken at the national level, the status of each ministry's subnational office, which serves as a spokesperson and is responsible for the ministry's execution, has diminished. Local governments (33 provincial and 120 district municipalities) that lack the authority to create or spend money can be an exception. If the Municipal Law is implemented and municipal elections are held, municipalities will be better able to deliver urban services to the general population. There is only a small amount of stuff gathered and dispersed in Kabul according to national policy. Afghan officials allege that the Sub-National Administration Policy (SNGP), which was launched in 2010 to enhance local governance, has had only a limited impact. However, although the legislation limiting post-policy development has been on the books for more than three years, it has proved to be a considerable obstacle. Provincial governments have suffered as a result of PRTs' preference for distributing resources inequitabl

## CHAPTER 5

### Conclusion, Discussion, and Recommendations

#### 5.1 Conclusion and Discussion

For years, emerging nations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, collectively known as “Third World” developing countries, were targets of weak administration resulting in a major decline in their sustainable development status, especially in Afghanistan. Most Afghan government-authorized institutions completely rely on government choices and operate through an ineffective rule of law and judiciary framework. Unlike many growing states in Asia, good governance in Afghanistan is not based on accountability and transparency, denying people the right to challenge the existing administration. Corruption is at an all-time high inside the Afghan governance’s political party that makes decisions. As a result, the country cannot make important choices in a straightforward manner. Army actions in Afghanistan have been reported to have the upper hand in several situations, especially during times of emergency, weakening the administration's deep stabilization. Corruption and a lack of accountability are significant challenges to the country's general growth. The Afghan good governance system in Afghanistan’s main opportunity for greater economic growth is the visible perception of strong legal institutions on post-2001 constitutional change efforts to close the distance between chance and execution prospects.

There are numerous challenges, opportunities, and possibilities inherent in establishing an effective Afghan government. Afghanistan's good governance, according to an assessment of the country's administration during the last decade, has been in ruins since the Taliban were expelled from power and with the Taliban return to power again. It is significant to analyze the good governance and structures of strong institutions as per the sustainable development goals, especially Goal #16. The Interim Administration in Afghanistan failed to meet the good governance objectives and components of the Bonn Conference on Effective Management. Had to start from scratch since they lacked the skills and ability necessary to successfully govern an administration of good governance for implementing the United Nations’ sustainable development goals, especially Goal#16. Despite their lack of prior experience and willingness to lead peacefully, only a few well-educated technocrats can be promoted to senior positions in the Afghan administration. As a result, individuals with a direct or indirect link with military leaders had a considerable influence on the lower administration and corruptive bureaucracy in general.

Corruption has increased significantly as a result of foreign interference backing and resources being controlled by those who lack openness, transparency, accountability, and people participation. Civilians were and still are fearful of the country's impending democratic transition and the formation of an effective democratic administration in the shape of a constitutional monarchy. This adds another layer of complexity to the matter. As a result, the government's moral and legal reputation has suffered, impairing its ability to rule Afghanistan by the process of democracy under the rule of law. The Interim Administration (06/2002–07/2004) and the

Transitional Government (06/2002-07/2004) shared many of the characteristics listed below. Similarly, the same political parties were given power, and this process of democracy was instrumental in the establishment of these organizations at all levels. Between January 2002 and June 2004, two significant international conferences, the Tokyo Conference in January 2002 and the Berlin Conference in June 2004, both focused on Afghanistan's progress, reconstruction, and democratization. Afghanistan's financial and administrative sectors, as highlighted at both summits, appear to be a significant impediment to the development of a legitimate administration. Both remarks emphasized the critical nature of foreign assistance to the country's public administration and democracy, as well as the critical nature of international assistance to Afghanistan's progress (Tokyo Declaration, 2002: 6 & Berlin Declaration 2004: 3).

Despite worldwide attention, the Transitional Government has been unable to establish a credible system of good governance or plan to combat corruption in the near future. Due to the articles' publication in Afghanistan, the concept of good government had a limited impact. Additionally, there has been an upsurge in corruption and organized crime. According to Jean Mazurelle, no other country in the world is more adversely affected by corruption and organized crime than Afghanistan (Daily times, 2006). International funds have been squandered and made ineffective as a result of corruption. Drug trafficking has historically been associated with corruption, which has resulted in an increase in recent years in the linkages between corrupt politicians and criminal organizations. The drug cartels bribed government officials to ensure their own safety and avoid prosecution (Gateman, 2002). The transitional administration's most notable achievement was the adoption of a new constitution in January 2004 that placed a premium on the establishment of an elected government in Afghanistan. The constitution requires a democratic and the rule of law system, yet it has been difficult to remove corrupt political leaders and civil servant officers who have risen to prominence in Afghanistan's central and provincial governments. The absence of an educated and competent administrative elite, growing corruption, and the nomination of former war leaders to high-ranking government positions exacerbated the difficulties faced by the Afghan administration during this period. The 2004 and 2005 presidential and congressional elections resulted in the establishment of the country's first democratically elected administration in nearly three decades.

In 2005, as allegedly corrupt election officials and warlords strengthened their influence, a new style of government came under attack (BBC, 2005). Since the new government took office, a number of shortcomings in public administration and leadership have come to light. As a result, Afghanistan's corruption has reached historic proportions (AHOOAC, 2013). In light of this, international gatherings on Afghanistan placed a premium on its significance. At a Paris Conference on Democracy in Afghanistan, donor countries' willingness to support a long-term, stable democracy in Afghanistan must be acknowledged. According to the conference declaration, Afghanistan's future ability to demonstrate accountability and transparency in government operations will be a requirement for receiving additional assistance. Since then, little has changed, other than a presidential pronouncement condemning corruption. According to analysts, the 2008 "Afghanistan National Development Strategy" was the period's most significant achievement in

the area of good governance. The implementation of the United Nations' sustainable development goals, especially goal#16 in this research will place a premium on poverty alleviation through the process of the strong institution and good governance in Afghanistan. Its success will be determined by the process of rule of law, democracy, human rights, law and order, as well as public safety. As part of this strategy, experts from Afghanistan and throughout the world will monitor closely the situation in Afghanistan and give constructive recommendations to the Afghan government. Implementing the United Nations' sustainable development goals, especially goal#16 has proven difficult, although the Afghan government profits from it. Certain government officials were unable to recognize the need of comprehending a plethora of critical strategic issues at all levels of the Afghan government and institutions due to corruption. Although anti-corruption organizations have been established in Afghanistan, no high-ranking officials have been prosecuted or convicted for their wrongdoings to date. The Afghan government was unable to carry out its duties and responsibilities efficiently as a result of insufficient communication and coordination among Afghanistan's three key institutions of government in executive, legislative, and judicial powers.

Due to the concentration of administrative authority in the Afghan government, it appears as though other institutions like the legislature, judiciary, and civil society are only symbolic. Apart from how money is spent and how it is spent, numerous other aspects of government operations remain opaque. Even in a country with a constitution and cultural traditions that encourage democracy and free expression, authoritarianism endures. The first step toward determining what went wrong is to establish national and international standards for effective good governance. To determine what went wrong, must go through each possible cause in order. A significant amount of storage space is at stake in this case. The overwhelming majority of international organizations and strong institutions regard education and training, as well as ensuring access to knowledge, as the most critical components of a country's sustainable development and prosperity. Afghanistan's public sector suffers severely from a shortage of highly qualified, educated, and technologically savvy government officers. In the workplace management of the Afghan government, the system of nepotism has trumped meritocracy in central and local administrations. Only qualified and deserving persons who are not affiliated with management organizations or political leaders are eligible to engage in the government system under these ways, as outlined in the Constitution. Increased corruption and inefficiency in Afghanistan's governmental sector are a result of nepotism. Afghanistan is ranked 173rd out of 178 countries on the Human Development Index, lagging far behind the rest of Africa and its neighboring countries.

The standard of administration is decided by strengthening the public's expression and addressing their desires. A strong administration follows Healey and Robinson's definition of strong administration which is as follows: "It denotes an elevated degree of organizational success in policy planning and implementation notably in the execution of monetary strategy and its connection to development, prosperity, and public welfare (Amin, 2019)." Responsibility, accountability, transparency, predictability, participation, and the rule of law are all aspects of a strong institution of good governance. It does not always mean a value judgment, such as healthy

regard for constitutional and democratic rights although effective governance is a prerequisite for democratic legitimacy. Governance's role in determining a country's prosperity is critical because a civilized nation serves current needs without endangering future generations' access to capital. . The Administrative Reform Committee, established by presidential decree, has failed to achieve its stated objective of growing the public sector and strengthening public administration in Afghanistan. To overcome this stumbling barrier, extensive capacity-building measures are required. Individuals, organizations, and communities of all sizes can benefit from a strategy known as “capacity building”. There must be more access to talent and resources to enable people at all levels of society to carry out their obligations, overcome hurdles, and accomplish goals, among other things (Abbaspoor, 2010). A commission for administrative reform in Afghanistan must be established with well-educated, knowledgeable, and professional staff to recruit personnel who are qualified and deserving of positions within Afghan government institutions, as defined by the commission. Improved application and interviewing procedures should be adopted to ensure that all qualified job applicants receive equal treatment. An organization's long-term viability and activity are ensured when its administrative experiences are broadened to encompass persons and groups from diverse social, political, and cultural backgrounds. Employers should make recruiting decisions without regard for a candidate's gender, ethnic origin, religious affiliation, or any other non-job-related part of their identity. There is a clear association between the government's ability to stay relevant with technological advancements and its personnel’s abilities and talents. Afghan workers must have the opportunity to acquire new skills and broaden their knowledge base to confront new challenges and achieve their goals and career path.

The Commission for Administrative Reforms in Afghanistan (ACAR) was established in May 2005 with assistance from the United Nations Development Program and other donors. The fundamental objectives of this endeavor are to strengthen Afghanistan’s public sector leadership and management capabilities, as well as the overall quality of government services provided by the country. Since the project began six years ago, about 600 Afghan public service employees have received training in international management and administration standards, as well as a better understanding of contemporary public service practices. According to the World Bank, even though these initiatives have garnered considerable attention, they fall short of addressing the primary issue. Despite the Afghan and foreign governments’ best efforts, Afghanistan's capacity-building programs confront huge difficulties as a result of the country's lack of a clear national plan and long-term objectives. The Afghan government and international capacity-building organizations operating in Afghanistan, for example, lack a long-term vision for the Afghan government and public sector. We already know that the administration will fail if it lacks a clear vision for the future. While establishing a long-term strategic vision for Afghanistan's public sector, Afghan society and donors must also consider a number of additional aspects. Many people use the term “corruption” to shift attention away from more serious issues, such as the promotion of democratic principles.

Numerous factors contribute to Afghanistan's corruption, including the difficulty and slowness with which laws and justice processes are implemented, lack of accountable bureaucracy, people's ignorance of their rights, limited access to government information, and lack of social accountability. According to Transparency International, bribery of government officials was documented in Afghanistan in 2009. Bribes totaled between \$650 million and \$1 billion, according to the inquiry. According to an Afghan official publication, Payame-e-Aftab, the ex-Afghan Attorney General has been presented with 265 cases of corruption. Previously, similar events involving senior government officials occurred. According to insider sources, there have been no high-level corruption trials in Afghanistan in the recent decade. According to Transparency International, Afghanistan is now the world's most corrupt country. Payame-e-Aftab claims, that as many as one in seven Afghans paid bribes in 2010. Corruption substantially impairs Afghanistan's ability to run its government efficiently. Afghanistan's government must first increase and promote transparency throughout the country to succeed. To ensure transparency and honesty, the public and the media must have access to all financial information and budgeting techniques (Faramarz, 2017). To carry out this plan effectively, public employees and management must fully comprehend the concepts of transparency and anti-corruption.

To be successful in SDGs#Goal16 implementation, individuals and Afghan people must receive specialized education and training in their area of competence. All the people will eventually understand that serving the public is more vital than serving the government. As a result, they are entirely responsible for their actions and the services they deliver to their clients. When Parliament passes a law requiring the release of information and the transparency of government institutions, it will empower citizens and public sector employees to have a greater say in the decision-making and project implementation processes of their respective jurisdictions. When decision-making methods are simple to comprehend, and information is easily available to individuals who participate, government programs and objectives become second nature. As control units develop the capability to monitor and evaluate projects on a more frequent basis, the need for enhanced transparency will arise. Afghan officials must be held more accountable to their constituents under the country's new constitutional framework. Governments at all levels, regardless of political party affiliation, must be held accountable to the people they serve and the units under their command. According to the Afghan Constitution, the Afghan government is expected to carry out a variety of transparency, accountability, and responsibilities. When it comes to a country's ability to maintain good governance, there might be considerable disparities in how well its constitution and other laws are enforced effectively.

The rule of law ensures that marginalized groups and visible minorities have their rights safeguarded because all persons, regardless of their position, are treated equally under the law. To establish a government founded on the rule of law, an impartial police force and an independent court are required. Three actions must be taken in Afghanistan to establish a rule of law-based administration. All the people include the following: Afghan courts must be reevaluated and, to some extent, reformed to better serve the Afghan people. Promoting legal education and enforcing the government's zero-tolerance stance against corruption are critical components of the battle

against corruption in the courts and judiciary. Expanding access to justice entails, among other things, making the courts more accessible to people from all walks of life. It is critical to improve communication and cooperation among government departments, especially the courts, if we are to achieve our efficiency goals. To maintain the rule of law, all levels of government and non-governmental organizations must work cooperatively. To be as effective as feasible, civil society organizations and legal experts must be permitted to contribute their experience, analysis, and information throughout the legislative process. To reassure citizens that the country is controlled by a single judiciary and that the rule of law is being upheld, the administration must expand access to judicial services throughout the country. If the judiciary is made up of independent justices who are not beholden to the government or any political party, justice will be delivered more quickly.

The government must completely protect human rights, citizens' rights, and other constitutional values for the benefit of all citizens. The most major hindrance to advancement and performance in the legal system is a lack of effort. The Afghan legal system may be strengthened in two ways: by increasing the number of lawyers available and reforming the courts. The burden of government red tape reduction is huge. All the people have made it abundantly clear that the Afghan established and conservative elite is opposed to any form of political reform. Modernism and traditionalism are not mutually exclusive, contrary to popular belief. Throughout Afghan history, those who value tradition and preserve the status quo have consistently prevailed over those who do not. For the majority of the twentieth century, it was the conservative movement that seized control of the government and the nation's educational institutions. Throughout the 1920s, religious organizations deemed the reforms to be anti-Islamic, necessitating their suspension. This resulted in the monarchy's abdication. It is a practice that dates back to the 1960s, long before the Taliban were deposed, and has persisted following their defeat in 2001 at the hands of religious and ideological militants. Afghanistan's reform initiatives have always been risky due to the country's uncertain political position at the time of reform. Those opposed to reform have reaped the benefits of Afghanistan's shortage of skilled experts and technologically advanced staff.

The leaders of this group place a higher premium on their political, racial, and religious allegiances than on their professional accomplishments and successes. This indicates that any attempt to reform the Afghan public sector will be difficult to accomplish and sustain due to the existing administrative and managerial culture. At the moment, the emphasis is shifting away from service provision and towards enforcing government control over the populace. Afghanistan's reform efforts will be evaluated in accordance with international standards by the Commission for Administrative Reform (ACAR), a government-sponsored organization. According to a recent study conducted by the ACAR, the organization was able to implement for the first time Afghan human resource management norms and principles. For example, government employment systems employed teachers, while the vast majority of high-ranking officials were appointed under the government's direction. Additionally, it's worth noting that the ACAR has significantly improved in each of these areas over the last decade (ACAR, 2011). Despite ACAR's best efforts, the Afghan people's quest for high-quality services faces significant obstacles. At the highest levels of government in Afghanistan, discrimination is heavily influenced by political and ethnic



ideology. As a result, Afghanistan's public sector is in desperate need of change. A functional government is required under the Afghan constitution, which also mandates additional reforms (Constitution, 2004: 50). According to the Afghan National Establishment Strategy and the Civil Service Employees Law, administrative changes in Afghanistan must attempt to build a government free of political or ethnic pressures.

According to Afghan law, the following adjustments must be made to ensure compliance with the Afghan constitution and other laws: Professional competence should be the sole factor in determining a person's employment. Reforms must be implemented at all levels of government, including the provinces and municipal. To conclude, Afghanistan has made efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals, especially goal#16 but instability within political structures prevented the targets from being achieved. Now, with the Taliban in power again, the governance of Afghanistan has become more significant than ever. As per Sustainable development goal number 16, good governance indicators need to be incorporated, and the rule of law needs to be established with democracy. This thesis tries to suggest a few mechanisms through which corruption can be eliminated and the rule of law, transparency, and accountability can be attained.

## **5.2. Recommendations**

### **5.2.1 Recommendations from This Research**

(1) To solve corruption problems, this research recommends that the Afghan government shall mobilize funds for training Afghan public and private sectors' personnel skills on the application of good governance for implementing the UN-SDGs#16 to fight against corruption.

(2) To strengthen good governance, this research recommends that Afghanistan shall cooperate closely with all stakeholders to implement best practices for the effective implementation of the UN-SDGs, especially Goal#16.

(3) To achieve sustainable peace and justice, the rule of law, and human rights, Afghanistan shall establish and enforce strong Afghan institutions and a good governance network linking all sectors concerned to implement best practices for the implementation of the UN-SDGs, especially Goal#16 efficiently and effectively.

(4) To stabilize democracy and peace in Afghan politics, Afghanistan shall make a strong effort to prevent interference of foreign powers in its internal affairs to achieve the UN-SDGs, particularly Goal #16, in a progressive manner.

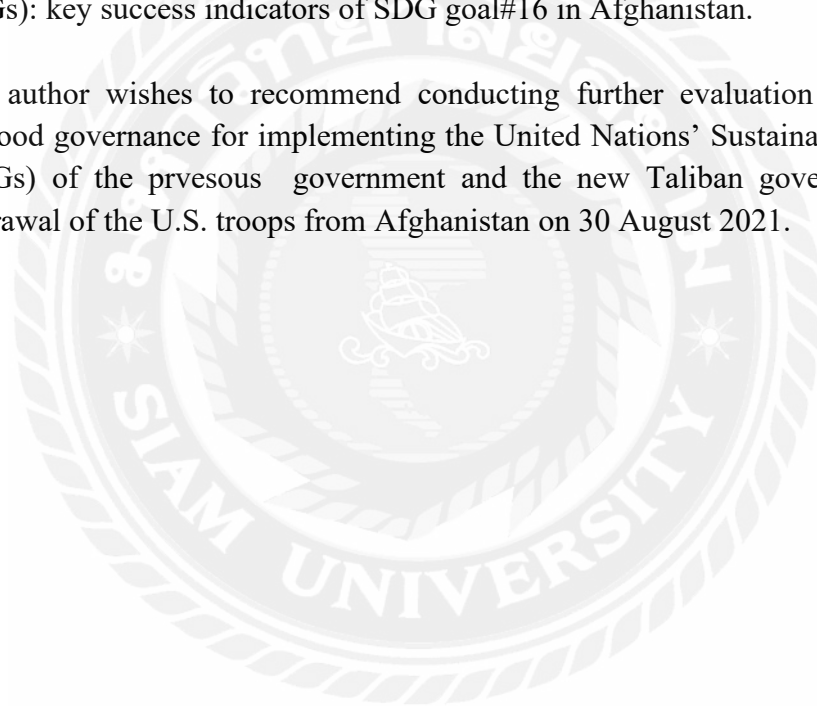
### **5.2.2 Recommendations for Future Research**

(1) The author would like to recommend doing further research on the application of good governance for implementing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDGs) under the new government of the Taliban, established after the complete withdrawal of the U.S. troops from Afghanistan on 30 August 2021.

(2) The author wishes to recommend conducting further comparative research between the previous government and the new Taliban government on the application of good governance for implementing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDGs) after the complete withdrawal of the U.S. troops from Afghanistan on 30 August 2021.

(3) The author would like to recommend doing further quantitative research on the application of good governance for implementing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDGs): key success indicators of SDG goal#16 in Afghanistan.

(4) The author wishes to recommend conducting further evaluation research on the application of good governance for implementing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDGs) of the previous government and the new Taliban government after the complete withdrawal of the U.S. troops from Afghanistan on 30 August 2021.



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