

Institutionalization of the 2030 Agenda in the parliament of Pará: legislative capacities, information management, and institutional coordination

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ABSTRACT: This article examines the challenge of institutionalizing the 2030 Agenda within the Legislative Assembly of the State of Pará (Alepa) as a sustainable development policy. It foregrounds the Legislature's role in creating legal frameworks, adopting an electronic interdepartmental information management system (digital integration of data and processes), and promoting coordination across public agencies, with implications for economic and social costs. Methodologically, it employs a mixed-methods case study with documentary analysis of bills and norms (2015-2022). The objectives are: (i) to map the institutional and legal conditions for adopting the 2030 Agenda at Alepa; (ii) to analyze how legislative practices and informational arrangements foster coordination and reduce costs; and (iii) to propose an institutionalization roadmap combining legislative, budgetary, and social participation instruments. Three hypotheses are advanced: (H1) if Alepa adopts an electronic system that standardizes stages, deadlines, and templates across committees and offices, interinstitutional coordination increases while delays and rework decline; (H2) if dedicated instruments to the 2030 Agenda exist (e.g., a Parliamentary Caucus, SDG targets embedded in the Multi-Year Plan and Annual Budget Law – PPA/LOA, and annual reports), the production and execution of SDG-related policies grow; (H3) with active participation and legitimation mechanisms (public hearings, online consultations, an SDG portal), social support and policy stability increase, raising approval and implementation of SDG actions. Participation and legitimation thus strengthen informational arrangements and parliamentary instruments. Overall, alignment among information governance, budgeting, and participation channels improves interinstitutional dynamics, lowers administrative costs, and enhances continuity of public policies.

KEYWORDS: 2030 Agenda; Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Pará State Legislative Assembly (Alepa).

1. Introduction

This study investigates the challenge of institutionalizing the 2030 Agenda within the Legislative Assembly of the State of Pará (Alepa), understanding the parliament as an element of coordination, normative stability, and continuity of public policies. It starts from the premise that the Legislative Branch can transform global goals into operational guidelines for the territory of

Pará, relating planning, budgeting, and control with attention to social, economic, and environmental outcomes.

The context of Pará lends urgency and specificity to the topic. The region is characterized by vast territory, socioeconomic diversity, and environmental pressures that demand governance arrangements capable of coordinating state agencies, municipalities, external oversight bodies, and civil society. In this reality, fragmented decision-making processes increase transaction costs, produce redundancies, and hinder the monitoring of results. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the state parliament to foster coherence between plans, laws, budget execution, and indicator monitoring, creating institutional incentives for the 2030 Agenda to become routine administrative practice.

The overall objective is to consider the institutionalization of the 2030 Agenda in the Legislative Assembly of Pará (Alepa). Specifically, the aim is to: (i) analyze the institutional and legal conditions for internalizing goals and indicators in the legislative and budgetary cycle; (ii) analyze how legislative practices and informational arrangements favor coordination between committees, offices, and technical areas, reducing delays and rework; and (iii) outline legislative, budgetary, and social participation instruments, such as thematic fronts, the inclusion of SDG targets in the Multi-Year Plan (PPA) and the Annual Budget Law (LOA), annual reports, hearings, and *online consultations*, that increase the adherence, transparency, and stability of the measures.

The justification lies in the Legislative branch's capacity to create regulatory frameworks, induce technological integration, and establish procedural safeguards that reduce economic and social costs. The adoption of an electronic system for managing interdepartmental information, integrating data and processing steps, deadlines, templates, and monitoring dashboards, tends to enhance inter-institutional coordination, strengthen control, and facilitate public scrutiny. At the same time, incorporating SDG targets into the budget and performance reports increases the predictability and continuity of policies, regardless of government cycles.

Within the scope of the methodology, this work conducts a qualitative-quantitative case study focused on the Legislative Assembly of Pará (Alepa), analyzing proposals and regulations in the recent period, complemented by an examination of the legislative procedural flow and participation mechanisms. The combination of normative, procedural, and budgetary evidence allows for the evaluation of coordination effects and the estimation of potential efficiency gains associated with the digitization and

standardization of routines. This framework aims to analyze the proposal of a legislative-informational arrangement that makes the 2030 Agenda effective in the daily operations of Alepa.

2. The 2030 Agenda and the Concept of Sustainable Development

Poverty has a historical character, varying according to periods, cultures, and development models; even so, it maintains a persistent presence in social structures, demanding attention to the construction of public policies (Medina, 2018). The United Nations highlights that poverty is not simply a lack of income. It involves violations of rights and various deprivations, including hunger, inadequate housing, barriers to education and health, with gender and generational markers that exacerbate the existence of vulnerabilities (UN, 2023).

In this sense, it is important to clarify that the initial concentration of wealth does not, in itself, guarantee the reduction of inequalities or environmental protection, especially in peripheral economies (Houtart, 2023; Roberts, 2023). Therefore, the focus is on inclusive and fair policies, with attention to the distribution of development benefits and the reduction of asymmetries (Francisco, 2022).

Historically, a trajectory of environmental governance can be observed, from Stockholm/1972 to Rio-92 and Rio+20/2012, incorporating sustainability at the center of the international agenda; this itinerary demonstrates how environmental, social, and economic issues become inseparable (Oliveira, 2022). In 2015, this movement culminated in the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, a universal pact with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and associated targets, to be implemented by all countries (also considering thematic integration and continuous monitoring) (UN, 2020).

In conceptual terms, sustainable development (SD) means a mode of progress that articulates the economic, social, and environmental dimensions simultaneously, ensuring that present needs are met without compromising the capabilities of future generations (UN, 2020). Thus, the SDGs establish measurable targets, promote “integrative” practices among sectoral policies, and guide state, business, and social action (UN, 2020).

Monitoring the SDGs involves the official definition of targets and indicators in 2017; a milestone that organizes data collection and comparable evaluation

across countries and periods (Bórquez; Lopicich, 2017). In 2019/2020, faced with insufficient progress and the effects of the pandemic, the UN called for the “Decade of Action” (2020-2030) to accelerate results, mobilizing governments and society around scalable and evidence-based solutions (Gil, 2018; UN, 2020).

It is also observed that public institutions face a scenario of rapid changes, with globalization, information technologies, and new governance demands, which require management, transparency, and coordination capacity among bodies (Ricardo, 2021). In this context, the 2030 Agenda provides a common framework for aligning planning, budgeting, and evaluation, fostering coherence between economic, social, and environmental policies; however, its effectiveness depends on institutional arrangements, information systems, and control and participation mechanisms (UN, 2020; Ricardo, 2021).

Thus, it is understood that the 2030 Agenda is a political-technical instrument that implies sustainable development in verifiable objectives, indicators and deadlines; its implementation demands the integration of policies, systematic monitoring and cooperative agreements between the State, the market and society, with attention to territorial inequalities and the most vulnerable groups (UN, 2020; UN, 2023).

3. The Legislative Branch and Mechanisms of Institutionalization

It is understood that the state Legislative Power has the competence to legislate, oversee, and guide the budgetary cycle, which positions it to institutionalize the 2030 Agenda through norms, administrative routines, and political control (Zuccolotto, 2015). In the case of Pará, proportional representation structures the composition of the Alepa (Legislative Assembly of Pará) and conditions coordination strategies between actors and committees (Nicolau, 2006; Reis, 2009).

In this sense, the literature on *e-governance* describes the purposes and means to make the State more transparent, responsive, and efficient, namely: fostering a knowledge-based society, reducing administrative costs, expanding the reach of services, and increasing the convenience of citizen-State contact. The operational path involves unifying ICT in operations, simplifying the use of systems, improving the quality of information offered, and adapting *e-governance models* to the stage of institutional development (Ullah *et al.*, 2021). For Alepa, this implies the creation of an interdepartmental electronic

information management system (platform for processing, data, and monitoring), with interoperability standards (technical and procedural integration between sectors).

As observed in institutional theory, organizations operate in fields regulated by institutional logics (historical patterns of practices, values, and beliefs) that shape their incentives and routines; in this sense, adherence (understood as the way organizations respond to external institutional pressures, coming from society, legal norms, international organizations, social expectations, etc.) can be substantive or merely ceremonial when external pressures clash with internal efficiency (Lien; Maccari; Costa, 2018). Thus, the institutionalization of the 2030 Agenda requires formal arrangements (laws, resolutions, regulations) and organizational arrangements (integrated thematic commissions, technical centers, standardized flows) that align the operational logic of the Legislative Assembly of Pará (Alepa) with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Historically, the normative frameworks of sustainable development imply the articulation between the economic, social, and environmental dimensions, with international instruments that detail goals and thematic groups (people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnerships) to guide policies and monitoring (Blanco *et al.*, 2022). Conceptually, it is highlighted that sustainable development requires the harmonization of objectives (growth with inclusion and environmental protection) and appropriate technology to reduce asymmetries and mitigate impacts (Mensah, 2019). Thus, parliamentary institutionalization demands linking planning and budgeting to SDG targets and transforming guidelines into verifiable routines (indicators, deadlines, responsible parties, etc.).

In designing the mechanisms for institutionalization in the Legislative Assembly of Pará (Alepa), four axes are considered: (i) legal framework, with laws and resolutions that create an SDG Front, require the thematic marking of proposals by SDGs, and include SDG targets in the Multi-Year Plan/Annual Budget Law; (ii) informational governance, with the adoption of an interdepartmental electronic system with open data, audit trails, and monitoring dashboards; (iii) interdepartmental coordination, with standardized flows between committees, joint technical meetings, coordinated hearings, and cooperation instruments with the Executive and control bodies; (iv) legitimacy and participation, with public consultation

channels, periodic reports, and accountability (Ullah *et al.*, 2021; Lien; Maccari; Costa, 2018).

In this way, governance traditions oriented towards well-being emphasize values such as public virtue and care for people, as well as harmony between humans and nature; these principles serve as a normative reference for legislative policies that seek the common good and institutional stability (Xu; Wang; Zhao, 2022). The incorporation of these benchmarks, combined with the national democratic framework, such as legality, impartiality, morality, publicity, and efficiency (administrative principles), supports control, transparency, and cooperation practices necessary for the 2030 Agenda.

Therefore, it is understood that Alepa institutionalizes the 2030 Agenda when it links: (a) legislative and oversight powers to SDG targets and indicators; (b) unified electronic systems to standardized data processing and sharing procedures; (c) interdepartmental coordination to budgetary instruments and social participation. In this way, the legislative body reduces administrative costs, increases responsiveness, and consolidates policy coherence across areas, a condition for the implementation of SDGs in the state of Pará (Ullah *et al.*, 2021; Blanco *et al.*, 2022; Mensah, 2019; Zuccolotto, 2015).

4. Participation, Governance and Pathways for Pará

In the context of Pará, participation needs to move beyond formal rituals and achieve co-production arrangements with the territories, both urban and riverside, through rules of use, social monitoring, and incentives that reduce opportunistic behaviors in policies associated with the SDGs. The literature on common-pool resources supports this participatory design, emphasizing locally adjusted rules, shared oversight, and graduated sanctions (Ostrom *et al.*, 2000).

To ensure that public consultation does not become a mere formality, it is recommended to combine thematic hearings with routine constitutional dialogues that integrate civil society, oversight bodies, and the committees of the Legislative Assembly of Pará (Alepa), mitigating electoral personalization and reinforcing parliament as a space for deliberation (Alarcón, 2012; Machado, 2016). In this way, digital and in-person engagement mechanisms favor transparency and *accountability*, reducing the distance between representatives and the represented in a “public democracy” (Cardozo, 2009; Alves, 2011).

Regarding governance, the experience of Pará demands aligning the structure, processes, and conduct around three vectors: organizational stability, governance capacity, and procedural justice. This combination guides decisions consistent with the common good and the goals of the SDGs (Arbesú, 2020). In this way, the Legislative Assembly of Pará (Alepa) can organize intercommittee “fields” (e.g., budget, environment, human rights) with standardized processing and evaluation routines, reducing ceremonial responses to external pressures and increasing substantive adherence to policies (Lien; Maccari; Costa, 2018).

Technical and administrative support comes from interdepartmental electronic management systems that integrate legislative committees, consultancies, and schools, increasing transparency, efficiency, and coordination with the Executive branch and municipalities through information and communication technology (ICT). This is a condition already highlighted for governments seeking territorial reach and cost reduction (Ullah *et al.*, 2021).

Thus, specific paths are outlined for Pará, such as integrating SDG goals and indicators into the PPA/LOA cycles, with periodic reports from Alepa and public panels; prioritizing applied research and thematic “clusters” of SDGs to identify important points and avoid scattered efforts, in line with recovery agendas, even considering the post-pandemic period (Shulla, 2021).

In this direction, the articulation with the regional architecture of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Forum of Latin America and the Caribbean favors monitoring, peer learning, and multilevel cooperation, useful for a state with a large territorial extension (United Nations-ECLAC, 2018). In this context, it is recommended to anchor policies in arrangements for the management of common goods, such as water, forests, urban mobility, and waste, with participatory rules and intergenerational stewardship, relating individual and collective benefits to the three pillars of sustainable development in the realities of Pará (Belotti, 2014; Mensah, 2019).

5. Final considerations

This research revealed that the institutionalization of the 2030 Agenda in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Pará depends less on declarations of support and more on the construction of a procedural and technological arrangement capable of conceiving global goals within legislative, budgetary,

and control routines. The qualitative-quantitative case study, supported by normative documents, indicated that the Parliament's capacity to coordinate actors and ensure policy continuity is enhanced when information, deadlines, and decisions are organized through systems and rules.

It was understood that the adoption of an interdepartmental electronic system, with standardized steps, deadlines, models, and audit trails, constitutes a high-impact intervention with the potential to reduce delays and rework, improve the quality of information for decision-making, and increase transparency for social control. It was also understood that the explicit linking of the SDGs to planning and budgeting (PPA/LOA), accompanied by dedicated parliamentary instruments (such as the SDG Front and annual results reports), tends to increase normative production and the implementation of initiatives aligned with the 2030 Agenda. Such mechanisms provide predictability, create incentives for prioritization, and allow for more stable monitoring of results across political cycles.

It was conceived that active mechanisms for participation and legitimation, such as thematic hearings, online consultations, and an SDG portal with open data and public dashboards, strengthen social support and reduce policy volatility, favoring implementation. By bringing representatives and those they represent closer together, these channels mitigate information asymmetries, increase institutional trust, and help transform programmatic commitments into verifiable actions.

It was found that aligning information governance, budgetary instruments, and participation channels improves inter-institutional coordination, reduces administrative costs, and ensures the continuity of public policies. From this diagnosis, an institutionalization roadmap was derived, based on four complementary pillars: (i) a legal and procedural framework that integrates the SDGs into the legislative and budgetary process; (ii) information governance based on an interoperable electronic system and open data; (iii) interdepartmental coordination with standardized workflows between committees and cooperation with other branches of government; and (iv) legitimacy and accountability through structured participation and periodic reports.

It is also acknowledged that there are limitations regarding the time frame and the availability/quality of administrative data, suggesting future agendas such as econometric measurement of efficiency gains from digitization,

cost-benefit assessments of standardized routines, comparisons with other state assemblies, and user experience studies on participation channels.

Thus, it was understood that the viability of the 2030 Agenda in Pará depends on legislative leadership in organizing rules, technologies, and incentives that convert goals into decisions and decisions into results. The combination of an electronic system, budgetary dynamics aligned with the SDGs, and qualified participation forms the basis for an institutionalization capable of reducing costs, expanding coordination, and delivering continuity of public policies compatible with the territorial and social specificities of the state. It was therefore conceived that Parliament, by operating this arrangement, becomes an important element in the normative organization and effectiveness of public policies in the territory of Pará.

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