

An Assessment of the Fundamental Principles of State Policy (FPSP) in the Constitution of Bangladesh: Examining Their Relevance to the Attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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Abstract: The Constitution of Bangladesh enumerates an underlying vision for national governance in the Fundamental Principles of State Policy (FPSP), located in its Part II. Despite not being enforceable, these principles reflect the state's ideological and developmental objectives, highlighting economic, social, and cultural rights as the essential foundation of a fair and just society. As the global development narrative has transformed towards the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030, a critical assessment of these constitutional mandates becomes pertinent. This study aims to portray how the constitutional principles represent a paradigm shift, shedding light on the intrinsic link between the ethos of achieving both these fundamental Principles and the goals outlined by sustainable development principles. Additionally, it examines the extent to which the fundamental principles of the Constitution of Bangladesh align with and help attain the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in stimulating a more inclusive, just and sustainable society by 2030. By examining the normative substance and policy implications of the principles, including the right to food, education, healthcare, and the right to environmental protection, this study underscores their viability as guiding standards for a welfare-oriented governance structure. The study comes to the conclusion that these constitutional directives, when implemented through effective governance and public accountability, subject to some reforms brought to the Constitution, can substantially enhance Bangladesh's ability to meet the interconnected objectives of sustainable development, emphasizing their coherence in building a resilient and progressive development trajectory.

Keywords: Fundamental Principles of State Policy, Sustainable Development Goals, The Constitution of Bangladesh, Governance and Public Accountability, Policy Implications

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1. Introduction:

The Constitution of Bangladesh, which was drafted in 1972, lays the foundation for the country's governance, development and gradual achievement of economic, social and cultural human rights as outlined in its 'Fundamental Principles of State Policy'¹. These principles, located in Part II of the Constitution, illustrate the aspiration for a fair, equal, and progressive society, highlighting the importance of economic, social, and cultural human rights. With the global focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set forth by the United Nations in 2015, it is essential to examine how the constitutional principles of Bangladesh correspond with and support the achievement of these goals. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) comprise 17 global goals adopted in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. They aspire to have integrated economic growth, social inclusion, and safeguarding the environment in a balanced and equitable manner by 2030. The United Nations approved the SDGs to address major global concerns like poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, climate change, peace, and justice. These were planned to have a wider application to all nations, both developed and developing states, so that a sustainable, inclusive and resilient world could be built through the attainment of the goals by the projected timeframe. This paper explores the core values embedded in the state policy directives and analyzes their importance and effectiveness in fostering sustainable development in economic, social, and environmental contexts. Additionally, this article examines the provisions of the fundamental principles of state policy included in the current constitution of Bangladesh and assesses their alignment with the country's efforts to achieve the SDGs by 2030. The Constitution of Bangladesh includes specific guidelines for the State in its part II, referring to them as 'Fundamental Principles of State Policy'. The Constitution designates these as 'Principles', rather than 'laws'.² In addition to establishing certain ideological goals, this part II also includes provisions related to essential needs, stating that "It shall be a fundamental responsibility of the State to achieve, through planned economic growth, a constant enhancement of productive forces and a gradual improvement in the material and cultural living standards of the people, aiming to ensure that its citizens have access to fundamental requirements and rights such as food, clothing, shelter, education, medical care, and the right to work etc."³ The United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030 introduces an ambitious framework aimed at eliminating poverty and hunger,

¹ As a term from the perspective of the Bangladesh Constitution, it refers mainly to those principles which are considered fundamental in the matters of policy formulating by the government and serves as fundamental guidelines for policy making across various domains including social, economic, administrative and international governance within the country.

² Muhammad Ekramul Haque, 'Legal and Constitutional Status of The Fundamental Principles of State Policy as Embodied in The Constitution of Bangladesh' (2005) XVI (1) The Dhaka University Studies, Part-F 45.

³ Ibid. See also Article 15 of the Constitution of Bangladesh.

ensuring that all individuals can enjoy a life of equality, safety, and security, establishing robust institutions, and protecting the planet from climate change and environmental harm. Containing 17 significant goals, the 2030 Agenda represents a transformative shift by committing to the principle of ‘leave no one behind,’ which fundamentally advocates for inclusivity in all facets of development.⁴ Sustainable development, as a notion, represents a comprehensive strategy for advancement that harmonizes the needs of current and future generations while respecting the boundaries of the Earth’s ecosystem. This is an evolving process that demands pliability, resilience, and an unwavering dedication to fairness and justice.⁵ The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, serve as a worldwide initiative to eliminate poverty, protect the environment, and ensure peace and prosperity for everyone. This initiative is a call to every nation, regardless of wealth, to promote well-being while caring for the planet. The SDGs emphasize that efforts to eradicate poverty should go hand in hand with initiatives that encourage economic growth and fulfil various social needs, such as education, healthcare, social protection, and job creation, while addressing climate change and protecting the environment. These 17 Goals are based on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals and also bring attention to new priorities such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace, and justice, along with other pressing issues. The goals are interlinked, meaning that achieving success in one area often requires addressing challenges typically associated with another. However, the term "Sustainable Development" encompasses alleviating poverty, advancing human development, which includes health and employment-focused education, as well as managing the environment sustainably. Given that all these elements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are significantly shaped by the policy choices made by the government and its institutions, this paper aims to align them with the fundamental principles of state policy incorporated in the Constitution of Bangladesh, which are understood as a representation of the welfare state concept. To quote one observation of an author: “These principles oblige the Government to create conditions in which the welfare of the common man could be achieved by the state”.⁶ These fundamental principles do not confer any enforceable rights, and violation by the state does not entitle a citizen to seek relief in a court of law.⁷ Since these principles have been recognized to be ‘fundamental to the governance of Bangladesh and central to the formation of the basis of the work of the state and of its citizens’⁸, a democratic government built on the popular vote can

⁴ Somaiya Khair, Shawkat Alom and Muhammad Ekramul Haque, ‘Reimagining Routes to Sustainability: Pathways, Obstacles and Innovations in the Global South’ in Somaiya Khair, Shawkat Alom and Muhammad Ekramul Haque (eds), *Implementation of Sustainable Development in the Global South: Strategies, Innovations and Challenges*, (Hart Publishing 2024) 3.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Justice Latifur Rahman, *The Constitution of The People’s Republic Of Bangladesh with Comments & Case-Laws*, (first published 2004, 2nd edn, Mullick Brothers 2005) 37.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ The Constitution of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, Article 8 (2).

hardly overlook them. To quote an author's observation relating to sanctions behind the fundamental principles envisaged in the Constitution of Bangladesh: "If the government violates fundamental rights, it has to answer before the court, but if it neglects directives, it has to answer before the highest tribunal- the public opinion which will bring its ultimate fall in the next election".⁹ Consequently, the relevance of the fundamental principles of state policy adopted in the Constitution of Bangladesh can play a crucial role in fostering a consistently accountable government, which will, in turn, support the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. Nature and Rationale of the Fundamental Principles of State Policy of the Constitution of Bangladesh and Sustainable Development Goals:

2.1. They are principles in nature:

The Fundamental Principles enunciated in the Constitution of Bangladesh are termed as 'principles' in the Constitution. To quote one author: "These are described as 'beau ideal' in the constitution, i.e., the highest standard of excellence in the constitution. Because they embody the principles of high ideals like economic emancipation, eradication of poverty, illiteracy, etc".¹⁰ Additionally, these principles encompass the provisions concerning the liberation of peasants and laborers¹¹, provisions for essential needs¹², rural growth and agricultural advancement¹³, mandatory free education¹⁴, public health and ethical standards¹⁵, safeguarding and enhancing the environment and biodiversity¹⁶, equal opportunity for all¹⁷, responsibilities of citizens and government officials¹⁸, and the separation of the judicial body from the executive branch.¹⁹ All of these can be correlated with the essence and philosophy of the objectives established in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, the provisions relating to fundamental principles appear to be 'policy', not 'law', from the enforcement perspective under Article 8(2), which

makes it clear that they 'shall not be judicially enforceable'. Justice Mustofa Kamal rightly commented that these are not laws and to term it as laws will be unconstitutional as he says "it is the law of the Constitution itself that the

⁹ Md. Abdul Halim, *Constitution, Constitutional Law and politics: Bangladesh Perspective* (first published 1998, 22nd edn, Beacon Publications 2024) 80.

¹⁰ *Ibid*, P 76.

¹¹ The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Article 14

¹² *Ibid*, Article 15.

¹³ *Ibid*, Article 16.

¹⁴ *Ibid*, Article 17.

¹⁵ *Ibid*, Article 18.

¹⁶ *Ibid*, Article 18A.

¹⁷ *Ibid*, Article 19.

¹⁸ *Ibid*, Article 21.

¹⁹ *Ibid*, Article 22.

fundamental principles of state policy are not laws themselves but ‘principles’. To equate ‘principles’ with ‘laws’ is to go against the constitution itself.”²⁰ On the other hand, SDGs can also be described as principles as part of the general principle of international law, having no binding effect. To quote one author: “Voight and French have both argued that, rather than constituting a customary law norm, the legal significance of sustainable development is best characterized as a ‘general principle of law as set out in Article 38(1)(c) of the ICJ Statute. If sustainable development is recognised as a general principle, it would be unencumbered with demonstrating state practice and *opinio juris* to demonstrate international custom”.²¹

2.2. They are rights of a promotional nature:

To quote one author: “They are rights of promotional nature in the sense that their implementation and enforcement depend on the economic progress and availability of resources in the country”.²²

‘Rights of promotional nature’ refer to those which promote, establish, or accelerate particular social, economic, or moral goals rather than providing an instantly attainable legal obligation in a court. They are usually found in constitutional or policy frameworks where the state is supposed to gradually strive toward accomplishing specific objectives, including development, equality, or welfare. These rights are reflected in the Fundamental Principles of State Policy in the Constitution of Bangladesh. The framers of the constitution included them as normative commitments, requiring the state to use all of its resources to gradually and fully realise these goals, rather than as rights with explicit constitutional guarantee. Consequently, it seems that the implementation of these socio-economic rights cannot happen immediately; instead, it is a process that must be gradually enforced in accordance with the resources available to the state. To quote an observation of one author: “Part II of the Constitution narrates the fundamental principles of state policy. It translates into words the socialist society envisioned by the framers in the preamble and sets the economic, social and political goals which the government is required to strive for”.²³ Shahabuddin CJ in *Kudrat- E- Elahi Panir and Others V. Bangladesh* case²⁴ clarified why these Principles were not established as judicially enforceable. According to him: “The reason for not making these principles enforceable is obvious. They are in the nature of People’s programme for socio-economic development of the country in peaceful manner, not overnight, but gradually. Implementation of these Programmes requires resources, technical know-

²⁰ Supra note 2, P 47.

²³ Michelle Lim, ‘Sustainable Development Principles and the Global South in the Context of Planetary Change’ in Somaiya Khair, Shawkat Alom and Muhammad Ekramul Haque (eds), *Implementation of Sustainable Development in the Global South: Strategies, Innovations and Challenges*, (Hart Publishing 2024) 43, 55.

²² Supra note 9, P 78.

²³ Mahmudul Islam, *Constitutional Law of Bangladesh*, (first published 1995, 3rd edn, Mullick Brothers 2012) 71-72.

²⁴ 44 DLR (AD) 319.

how and many other things including mass-education. Whether all these prerequisites for a peaceful socio-economic revolution exist is for the State to decide”.²⁵ These principles can be viewed as both “a moral teaching on one side and as a declaration of goals and desires on the other,” as they encompass all principles related to economic, social, and cultural rights that are not expected to be realized immediately.²⁶ As a result, the underlying philosophy behind the incorporation of these principles will impose a moral and political obligation on the government in power to pursue progressive action aimed at advancing the welfare of the people, ultimately leading to the establishment of economic democracy. Thus, the progressive nature of the fundamental Principles of state policy is worthy of aligning with the nature of Sustainable Development Goals as both are principles and matters of realization gradually by well-planned socio-economic growth, institutional capacity building and effective policy making of the government. Seen holistically, the SDGs ‘epitomise a rights-based approach to a transformative, integrated and inclusive development paradigm built on economic, social and environmental pillars’.²⁷ In reality, the idea was initially recognized by the International Court of Justice in 1997, when Judge Weeramantry noted that sustainable development is a ‘principle with normative significance’ that forms a component of contemporary international law due to both its unavoidable logical imperative and its broad acceptance by the global community.²⁸ As a result, this concept has been integrated into numerous international and national legal frameworks, emphasizing issues that extend beyond mere economic expansion to include a broad spectrum of goals, such as safeguarding the natural environment, fostering sustainable economic development, and realizing social advancement.²⁹

2.3. They are not binding in nature:

The Fundamental Principles of State Policy (FPSP), detailed in Part II of the Constitution of Bangladesh (Articles 8–25), set forth the key objectives and guiding values intended to steer the governance and legislative framework of the State.

According to Article 8(2)³⁰ of the Constitution, these principles, which have no binding force, are essential for the governance of Bangladesh and must be utilized by the state when creating laws and interpreting the Constitution and other existing laws in Bangladesh. To quote an observation of one author: “Thus, these principles place

²⁵ Ibid, PP 330-331; See also Muhammad Ekramul Haque (n 2), P 60.

²⁶ Supra note 9, P 77.

²⁷ Supra note 4, PP 8-9.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Article 8 (2) of the Constitution of Bangladesh states: The principles set out in this Part shall be fundamental to the governance of Bangladesh, shall be applied by the State in the making of laws, shall be a guide to the interpretation of the Constitution and of the other laws of Bangladesh, and shall form the basis of the work of the State and of its citizens, but shall not be judicially enforceable.

the government under obligation to achieve and maximise social welfare and basic values of life”.³¹ However, article 8(2) makes the nature of the Fundamental Principles of State Policy non-binding, specifically providing that these principles shall not be enforceable by the judiciary. To quote an observation of another author: “Thus, it appears that the implementation of FPSP of the Constitution was a matter of ‘constitutional deferral’, which would be dependent on the steps to be taken by the state in the future”.³² “Although not judicially enforceable, the fundamental Principles of state policy cast an obligation upon the government to act on them”.³³ Additionally, it is important to note that despite being non-binding, the Supreme Court of Bangladesh has employed them as interpretative tools when assessing the legality of laws and executive actions, linking them to the ‘right to life’³⁴ and implementing negative enforcement of these socio-economic rights through the interpretation of Article 7(2).³⁵ On the other hand, the non-binding nature of the fundamental principles of state policy aligns, to almost a similar extent, with that of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While these goals set out a thorough framework that requires the countries around the globe to ensure, *inter alia*, poverty alleviation, zero hunger, promotion of standard education, attainment of gender equality, securing affordable and clean energy, encouraging decent work, reducing inequality, taking urgent action to combat climate change and fostering peace, justice and robust institutions, they do not carry legal obligations. Rather, they depend on the political will, national institutional arrangements, governance, financial resources and voluntary reporting systems of countries to be put into action. However, this non-enforceable character envisioned in the FPSP and the SDGs highlights a common vision since both frameworks serve as moral and political guides that influence the creation of public policy, legislative actions, and national development strategies. In Bangladesh, many FPSP, such as those concerning education, environmental sustainability, gender equity, and social justice, strongly align with the targets set by the SDGs, indicating a continuity of both national and global goals. Nonetheless, in the absence of legal obligations, progress in these areas continues to depend on strong political

³¹ Supra note 23, P 74.

³² Muhammad Ekramul Hoque, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Transformation of Non-justiciable Constitutional Principles to Justiciable Rights in Bangladesh, in M Rafiqul Islam and Muhammad Ekramul Hoque (eds), *The Constitutional Law of Bangladesh: Progression and Transformation at its 50th Anniversary* (Springer 2023) 339.

³³ Supra note 23, P 75.

³⁴ It is one of the guaranteed fundamental rights under article 32 of part III of the constitution of Bangladesh which states that- “No person shall be deprived of life or personal liberty save in accordance with law.” Additionally, under article 44, the right to move the High Court Division in accordance with clause (1) of article 102, for the enforcement of the rights conferred by this part is guaranteed.

³⁵ Article 7(2) of the Constitution of Bangladesh is described as :

This Constitution is, as the solemn expression of the will of the people, the supreme law of the Republic, and if any other law is inconsistent with this Constitution that other law shall, to the extent of the inconsistency, be void.

commitment, effective administrative capacity, and active engagement from the public.

3. Convergence of the Fundamental Principles of State Policies and the Sustainable Development Goals:

While the Constitution of Bangladesh integrates the FPSPs forming the normative directives for state governance, legislation, and state obligations, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ratified globally under the United Nations' 2030 Agenda, offer a global platform for achieving sustainable, inclusive, and equitable development at the same time. Convergence is striking when compared to an analysis between constitutional mandates enshrined in the FPSP and goals outlined in the SDGs, since there is an inherent constitutional congruence with the world development agenda.³⁶

3.1. Economic justice:

Article 10 delineates the commitment of the State to socialism and economic justice through demanding a condition in society lacking exploitation. The commitment squarely interposes itself into SDG 1, where all forms of poverty are erased, and into SDG 10, which reduces inequality across and within societies. The tenet substantiates distributive justice as a standard of the Constitution, cementing the foundations of just economic advancement. These same goals also respond to the 2030 Agenda's strong affirmation of "leave no one behind" and to "reach the furthest behind first".³⁷

3.2. Robust and accountable institution:

Article 11 proclaims the Republic's character as a democracy under which basic human rights and freedoms and the rule of law are guaranteed. Article 11 is congruent with SDG 16, which requires attainment of peaceful and inclusive

societies, access to justice for all, and effective and accountable institutions.³⁸ The constitutional guarantee of democratic government constitutes a key ingredient of institutional legitimacy and sustainable development.³⁹

3.3. Inclusive society:

Article 12 of the Constitution enshrines secularism and religious freedom over communalism, political misuse of religion, and discrimination on a religious basis. This provision aids SDG 16's goal of targets regarding inclusive societies as well as

³⁶ United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' (21 October 2015) UN Doc A/RES/70/1, [2]-[3].

³⁷ *ibid* [4].

³⁸ SDG 16: 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions', UNGA A/RES/70/1, Goal 16, Targets 16.3, 16.6.

³⁹ UN Human Rights Council, 'Resolution 37/23: Promoting human rights and the SDGs' (2018) A/HRC/RES/37/23.

an end to all forms of discrimination, particularly Target 16.b.⁴⁰ the constitutional prescription secures a plural social order supportive of stability as well as peaceable cohabitation.

3.4. Productive economic growth and decent work:

Article 13 guarantees a tripartite ownership—state, private, and cooperative—of the means of production and distribution. This maxim promotes a middle-road economic organization and encapsulates the spirit of SDG 8 in supporting inclusive and productive economic growth, decent work, and SDG 10 for its interest to make economic opportunities and access as equitable.⁴¹

Under Article 14, the State pledges to free the working classes—the peasants, workers, and backward classes—from exploitation. This commitment supports the objectives of SDG 8 by guaranteeing labor rights and economic empowerment, as well as supporting SDG 1 and SDG 10 through the eradication of structural inequalities on the basis of class and occupational hierarchies.⁴²

3.5. Ensuring zero-poverty and hunger-free society, reduction of inequalities, good health and quality education:

Article 15 declares it to be a fundamental obligation of the State to provide for the basic necessities of life, including food, clothing, shelter, education, and health. This is quite in accord with the varied poverty reduction targets under SDG 1, SDG 2 (eradication of hunger), SDG 3 (good health and well-being), and SDG 4 (quality education). Whereas these rights are idealized in the Constitution, they lay the ground for a social welfare pledge that informs rights-based development policy. These pledges are also reinforced under international law, namely the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).⁴³

Constitution, under Article 16, prescribes rural development as the core State goal, with an objective of abolishing disparities in urban and rural areas. It incorporates SDG 1 and SDG 2 of combating rural poverty and hunger, and SDG 9 on resilient infrastructure growth and inclusive industrialization in rural economies.⁴⁴

Article 17 sets up the State duty to administer free and obligatory education on all levels, concentrating on literacy and moral education. This is a direct fulfilment of SDG 4, which promotes inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities, especially Target 4.1.⁴⁵ The constitutional mandate supports national educational policies to create human capital to promote sustainable development.

⁴⁰ UNGA A/RES/70/1, Target 16.b.

⁴¹ *ibid* Goals 8 and 10.

⁴² *ibid* Goals 1, 8 and 10.

⁴³ International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (adopted 16 December 1966, entered into force 3 January 1976) 993 UNTS 3 (ICESCR) art 11.

⁴⁴ UNGA A/RES/70/1, Goals 1, 2 and 9.

⁴⁵ *ibid* Goal 4, Target 4.1.

Article 18 generates a responsibility of the State to improve the level of nutrition and public health, and consequently, protect maternal and child health. This reflects the targets of SDG 3, specifically Targets 3.1 (maternal health) and 3.8 (universal health coverage). It also has its moral dimension, contributing towards SDG 5 in strengthening societal norms that can facilitate gender equality and public accountability in health.⁴⁶

3.6. Protection of natural environment:

The insertion of Article 18A by the Fifteenth Amendment made a constitutional commitment to protecting and improving the environment, natural resources, and biodiversity. This standard conforms to SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 15 (life on land), establishing constitutional recognition of the environmental pillars of sustainable development.⁴⁷ It also conforms to Bangladesh's commitments under the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

3.7. State responsibility for equality, social justice and decent work:

Under Article 19, it is the responsibility of the State to provide equal opportunity, eradicate economic or social disparities, and provide special advantages to the disadvantaged classes. Such commitments reflect SDG 5 directly for seeking gender equality and SDG 10, society's reduction in inequality. The notion enables positive

action policies to be made and inclusive development planning, as endowed by SDG Target 10.2 and CEDAW.⁴⁸

Article 20 recognizes work as both a right and a duty, and stresses the dignity of work. It enforces fair remuneration and against exploitation and thus supports the key provisions of SDG 8 on inclusive economic growth and decent work. Target 8.5 does explicitly demands equal pay and full employment and Target 8.8 guarantees labor rights.⁴⁹

3.8. Public integrity, justice, cultural preservation and partnership for achievement of the goals:

⁴⁶ *ibid* Goal 3, Targets 3.1 and 3.8.

⁴⁷ *ibid* Goals 13 and 15.

⁴⁸ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (adopted 18 December 1979, entered into force 3 September 1981) 1249 UNTS 13 (CEDAW); UNGA A/RES/70/1, Goals 5 and 10.

⁴⁹ UNGA A/RES/70/1, Goal 8, Targets 8.5 and 8.8.

Article 21 provides the obligations of citizens and public servants, in this case, the obligation to safeguard public property and uphold the Constitution and laws. This falls under SDG 16 because it imposes values of accountability, transparency, and public integrity.⁵⁰ Further, the cooperative spirit instilled here is also aligned with SDG 17, which imposes partnerships and shared obligations for the achievement of the goals.

Article 22 guarantees the independence of the judiciary from the executive, a constitutional requirement for upholding the rule of law. This is in keeping with SDG 16's emphasis on access to justice and institutions. Judicial independence is required to enforce constitutionalism and human rights and is accorded greater prominence in UN General Assembly Resolution 68/116.⁵¹

Articles 23 and 24 complement each other in promoting the preservation and development of national heritage and culture. These articles align with SDG 4.7 and SDG 11.4, which seek to mainstream cultural education in development and protect cultural and natural heritage, respectively. Constitutional establishment of cultural identity enhances sustainable development by grounding it in the local context and tradition.⁵²

Finally, Article 25 mandates the State to support disarmament, uphold international law, and contribute its share towards international peace and solidarity. This aligns with Bangladesh's international developmental agenda and is SDG 16 and SDG 17 compliant, both of which emphasize peaceful living, international cooperation, and the formation of global partnerships.⁵³

Taken as a whole, the Fundamental Principles of State Policy of the constitution of Bangladesh and the principles inherent in SDGs can be interpreted to demonstrate extraordinary normative similarity. The Constitution provides a founding legal and ethical paradigm that, although expressed years before the emergence of the SDGs, encapsulates enduring axioms that still remain vital towards actualizing sustainable development. Policymakers are faced with the challenge of advancing to further transplantation of such principles into legislation, policy, and institutions and thereby realizing constitutional ideals as measurable developmental outcomes in line with the SDGs.

4. Recommendations for Implementation of Fundamental Principles of State Policy (FPSP) in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

It is important to highlight that a thorough and unified approach is essential for the successful execution of the Fundamental Principles of State Policy (FPSP) and for

⁵⁰ UNGA, 'Resolution 68/116: The rule of law at the national and international levels' (2013) A/RES/68/116.

⁵¹ *ibid* Goal 16, Targets 16.5 and 16.6.

⁵² UNGA A/RES/70/1, Targets 4.7 and 11.4.

⁵³ *ibid* Goals 16 and 17.

aligning them with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The fundamental principles of state policy adopted in the constitution of Bangladesh serve as a mechanism for governing and administering the state, guiding the formulation of national laws, and aiding in the interpretation of constitutional provisions and principles of national law.⁵⁴ A closer examination of the text of the principles indicates that customary international law norms have influenced the development of several principles, including the assurance of public participation in governance, the provision of equal opportunities for all citizens, the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of indigenous populations, the enhancement and protection of a healthy environment, and the right to employment.⁵⁵ The essence and ethos of these principles or constitutional commitments may largely coincide with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the United Nations, as they offer a tangible framework for the progressive realisation of these objectives through measurable and time-bound targets. It should be mentioned here that no specific time frame was considered regarding the implementation of the fundamental principles by the framers of the constitution, whereas SDGs considered 15 years target to achieve its goals. The rationale for not imposing a fixed timeline for implementing these principles was articulated by Dr. Kamal Hossain during the Constituent Assembly debate, as he responded to Suranjit Sengupta's proposal 'to adopt the right to education up to class ten within a specified time frame in article 17, similar to what is

done in the Indian constitution.' He replied that 'the scope of free and compulsory education wouldn't be explicitly stated in the constitution; rather, such decisions would be made by future parliaments through the legislation they enact, which we have assured in our constitution.'⁵⁶ Therefore, the fundamental principles of state policy and their implementation strategies can align with both the current and future global development discourses, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), owing to their ingrained characteristics and the underlying intent of the constitutional framers in adopting them. Nevertheless, we can explore the following suggestions for realising these principles specified in Part II of the Constitution of Bangladesh, linking them with the essence of the global development narrative found in the SDGs:

4.1. Implementation through legislation and policy framing:

The fundamental principles contained in the constitution of Bangladesh may be prescribed into several categories: guidelines for administration, adherence to universal human rights principles, economic, social, and cultural rights,

⁵⁴ Nakib M Nasrullah, 'Constitutional Recognition of Customary International Law in Bangladesh' in M Rafiqul Islam and Muhammad Ekramul Hoque (eds), *The Constitutional Law of Bangladesh: Progression and Transformation at its 50th Anniversary* (Springer 2023) 95.

⁵⁵ Ibid 95-96.

⁵⁶ Bangladesh Constituent Assembly Debate (Gonoporishader Bitorka, Sarkari Biboroni), vol 2, P 473-7. It is written in Bangla and English translation is my own.

responsibilities of citizens and government officials, and foreign policy. There are some FPSP which are general types of declarations or general policy formulation and involve different types of administrative actions to be taken.⁵⁷ The framers of the Constitution had elaborate discussions during the Constituent Assembly (CA) debate about the implementation of these principles. According to an author: “It was repeatedly asserted in the CA that the next elected government must take measures and make laws for the implementation of these principles”.⁵⁸ The debate highlighted the urgent need to implement socialism and the pertinent articles of the constitution. It made clear that realizing the objectives of socialism is the highest priority, and legislation would be created to guarantee economic rights for the people and equitable distribution of wealth, even if it means superseding fundamental rights like private property.⁵⁹ Most members of the Constituent Assembly favored the non-enforceability of socialism, especially regarding economic rights, and anticipated a gradual approach for their implementation.⁶⁰ Tajuddin Ahmed, the former prime minister and one of the architects of the constitution, argued that fundamental principles are subject to be implemented over time. He justified this position in the following words:

“The provisions contained in part II [principles] can be viewed as political programs that are unlikely to be achieved within one to five years; instead, it would make sense for them to be put into effect through laws enacted by the future parliament soon after the elections, reflecting the will of the people as guaranteed in the constitution by the sovereign Constituent Assembly.”⁶¹

According to an author, “His point of view was not that these principles would never be put into practice; instead, he highlighted how the framers intended for the state to automatically and steadily uphold the FPSP over time”.⁶² Dr. Kamal Hossain, in his role as chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee, clearly indicates that the Constituent Assembly based its decision on the concept of constitutive intention, highlighting the duty of elected representatives, chosen by the populace, to actualize the complete potential of these fundamental principles.⁶³ Therefore, it can be asserted

⁵⁷ Dr. Muhammad Ekramul Hoque, ‘Does Part II of the Constitution of Bangladesh Contain Only Economic and Social Rights?’ (2012) 23 (1), Dhaka University Law Journal 45, 46.

⁵⁸ Md Nazrul Islam, ‘Constituent Assembly Debates on the Bangladesh Constitution: Intentions, Insight, and Implementation’ in M Rafiqul Islam and Muhammad Ekramul Hoque (eds), *The Constitutional Law of Bangladesh: Progression and Transformation at its 50th Anniversary*, (Springer 2023) 48.

⁵⁹ Ibid 48-49.

⁶⁰ Ibid 50.

⁶¹ Asif Nazrul, Shongbidhan Bitorko 1972: Gonoporishoder Rashtrorbhabna, the book is written in Bangla with the English translation being my own (Prothoma Prokashon 2022) 73-74.

⁶² Muhammad Ekramul Hoque, ‘Environmental Constitutionalism for Sustainable Development in the Global South’ in Somaiya Khair, Shawkat Alom and Muhammad Ekramul Haque (eds), *Implementation of Sustainable Development in the Global South: Strategies, Innovations and Challenges* (Hart Publishing 2024) 103, 108.

⁶³ Ibid

that putting these principles into action inherently lies within the responsibilities of the executive and legislative branches, as it requires actions like strategic planning, policy formulation, allocation of funds, and organisational restructuring to uphold economic, social, and cultural rights.

The ways in which constitutional fundamental principles are put into action, through governmental policy development, lawmaking, political commitment, and institutional frameworks, can be seen as harmonizing with the pursuit of sustainable development, as they seem to supplement one another in fostering social transformation, guaranteeing a welfare state, and promoting economic democracy. The primary strategies currently in place to achieve the SDGs can be categorized into two main areas: providing financial assistance to developing nations and establishing a mechanism for review and reporting.⁶⁴ The Agenda acknowledged that, because of financial disparities, developing nations will need some financial aid to meet their commitments to the SDGs.⁶⁵

Crucially, the agenda acknowledged that achieving the SDGs will depend on each country's commitment and will hinge on their individual sustainable development policies, plans, and programs, with leadership coming from the countries themselves. As a result, the SDGs will function merely as a guide to align national strategies with their international obligations.⁶⁶ Thus, this global pledge to attain SDGs can be more effectively addressed by integrating them into the scope of the constitutional framework, incorporating them into the constitutional structure, which includes the nation's progressive development agenda. This approach aligns closely with the fundamental principles of state policy, which have significant compatibility with the SDGs, as discussed earlier in this study. As per the provisions set out in the part of fundamental principles of state policy in Bangladesh constitution, the state is committed to ensuring, *inter alia*, basic necessities including food, clothing, shelter, education and medical care; standard of living through agricultural revolution, rural electrification, communications and public health; free and compulsory education; protection of environment and biodiversity; equality of opportunity with special emphasis of women's participation in national life; work as a right and duty; promotion of local government institutions; strong judicial institutions and respect for international law through promotion of international peace, security and solidarity which are mostly aligned with the pursuit of global development commitment inherent in SDGs.

4.2. Implementation through reforms brought to FPSPs:

⁶⁴ Paolo Galizzi, 'Promises Unkept: From Words to Actions to Ensure Implementation and Compliance with Agenda 2030 and the SDGs' in Somaiya Khair, Shawkat Alom and Muhammad Ekramul Haque (eds), *Implementation of Sustainable Development in the Global South: Strategies, Innovations and Challenges* (Hart Publishing 2024) 147, 162.

⁶⁵ Ibid

⁶⁶ Ibid 163.

Since the present constitution of Bangladesh was framed and enforced 54 years ago, it is essential to consider necessary reforms to the fundamental principles of state policy to integrate them with the principles of Sustainable Development Goals, fostering a welfare-oriented state through a more strengthened constitutional framework. It is also noteworthy that the framers of the constitution stressed on the gradual enforcement of these principles due to the significant resource constraints existing at that time. However, the context has evolved with the swift advancement of industrialization and urbanization, giving rise to climate change and other environmental challenges, which underscores the pressing need to reform the rights-based provisions including economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights within the constitution. Therefore, it can, emphatically, be mentioned that the Report of the Constitutional Reform Commission of Bangladesh recommends that economic, social, cultural and environmental rights adopted in part II of the present Constitution along with the fundamental rights located in part III should be revised and merged into a cohesive charter of rights, which will be titled as 'Fundamental Rights and Freedoms'.⁶⁷ As such, the following reforms may be introduced to the fundamental principles of state policy of the existing constitution:

4.2.1. Reforms should be brought to the right to education:

'Right to compulsory and free education' stated in Article 17 of the current constitution can be transformed into an enforceable right so that quality education can be ensured for all citizens, corresponding to SDG 4. The Constitutional Reform Commission's report regarding the right to education suggested that 'the right to education be transformed into an enforceable fundamental right for all citizens, emphasising that the state shall ensure free and compulsory education to all citizens to such stage determined by law. Additionally, the state shall facilitate opportunities for higher education based on individual capacity and an inclusive system of education for children with disabilities, ensuring that education fosters equal opportunities for all.'⁶⁸ Therefore, judicial enforcement will facilitate the realisation of the right to education for all citizens.

4.2.2. Reforms should be brought to the right to health:

⁶⁷ The Report of the Constitutional Reform Commission (2025) V 1, Para 1, P 77.

The report reiterates in para 2 that these principles carry such significance that they should not be left beyond the enforcement mechanism this time within the Constitution; otherwise, the state may evade accountability. Given that the Constitution is the supreme law of the Republic, it should not contain any provision which cannot be implemented. Therefore, these principles should be revisited in a way that will promote their progressive realisation in the future. Instead of being restrained to a mere statements of intent, a robust system should be introduced for their gradual attainment subject to judicial review. This method aligns with the progressive development of constitutional law observed in South Africa and numerous other nations globally. The report is originally written in Bangla, and the English translation is my own.

⁶⁸ Ibid, 80.

Furthermore, the ‘right to health’ should be incorporated into the constitution as a guaranteed right, stipulating that the state is obligated to provide emergency medical care to all citizens that corresponds with SDG 3. The current state of vulnerability in the health sector and the government’s inaction in addressing this issue highlight the need to recognize the right to health as an enforceable fundamental right. It is important to note that healthcare is vital as it pertains to the right to life as has been acknowledged by the Supreme Court of Bangladesh in *Dr. Mohiuddin Farooque V. Government of Bangladesh (Radioactive Milk Case)*⁶⁹, embracing a wider interpretation of right to life under Articles 31 and 32 of the Constitution integrating protection of health as outlined in Article 18 (1), which underscores the paramount significance on maintenance and improvement of public health by establishing and sustaining conditions conducive to good health and ensuring a quality of life that upholds human dignity. The court held regarding the scope of right to life analyzing a number of Indian cases, that:

“it appears that right to life is not only limited to the protection of life and limbs but extends to the protection of health and strength of workers their means of livelihood, enjoyment of pollution free water and air, bare necessities of life, facilities for education, development of children, maternity benefit, free movement,

maintenance and improvement of public health by creating and sustaining conditions congenial to good health and ensuring quality of life consistent with human dignity.”⁷⁰

Moreover, the constitution of South Africa recognised the right to healthcare as an enforceable fundamental right.⁷¹ Like South Africa, similar provisions relating to the right to health care are inserted in the constitution of Tunisia⁷² and Fizi⁷³. Therefore, the right to health care should be incorporated in the constitution of Bangladesh as an enforceable fundamental right through reforms brought to it.

⁶⁹ 48 DLR (HCD) (1996) 438.

⁷⁰ *Ibid*, paragraph 16.

⁷¹ Section 27 (1) of the Constitution of South Africa states that: Everyone has the right to have access to— (a) health care services, including reproductive health care.

⁷² Article 38 of the Constitution of Tunisia states:

Health is a right for every human being.

The state shall guarantee preventative health care and treatment for every citizen and provide the means necessary to ensure the safety and quality of health services.

The state shall ensure free health care for those without means and those with limited income. It shall guarantee the right to social assistance in accordance with the law.

⁷³ Article 38 of the Constitution of Fizi provides:

(1) The State must take reasonable measures within its available resources to achieve the progressive realisation of the right of every person to health, and to the conditions and facilities necessary to good health, and to health care services, including reproductive health care.

(2) A person must not be denied emergency medical treatment.

(3) In applying any right under this section, if the State claims that it does not have the resources to implement the right, it is the responsibility of the State to show that the resources are not available

4.2.3. **Transformation of the right to healthy environment into fundamental rights:**

To quote one observation of an author: “Sustainable development has been described as ‘the dominant global environmental policy’ since the 1980s, and more than half a century has passed since the emergence of the term within international discourse”.⁷⁴ In *Gabčíkovo*, the ICJ acknowledged sustainable development as an international legal principle that pertains to the necessity of balancing economic growth with environmental protection.⁷⁵ Especially since that time, many countries around the world have started adopting environmental provisions in their constitutions, influenced by international law, human rights law and global environmental concern and climate change. This adjustment aligns with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which strive to foster a more equitable and sustainable society by the year 2030.⁷⁶ By integrating sustainable development practices with environmental protection, environmental constitution facilitates the achievement of the objectives encapsulated in the SDGs.⁷⁷ However, the constitution of Bangladesh also incorporated environmental provisions in Article 18A by 15th Amendment in 2011 as fundamental principles making it not enforceable by the court. Since environmental constitutionalism is considered central to accelerating the realisation of the goals uplifted in SDGs, the Bangladesh constitution should transform fundamental principles containing environmental provisions into enforceable fundamental rights through an amendatory process. For instance, the Constitution of South Africa in its Bill of Rights provides that: “Everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being”.⁷⁸ Likewise, Similar provisions are incorporated in the constitutions of many other countries.⁷⁹

4.2.4. **Reforms should be brought to the right to food, water, sanitation and social security:**

The rights to food and social security, as well as public assistance for those facing undeserved hardships due to unemployment, illness, or disability, or for widows and orphans, the elderly, or in other similar circumstances, are explicitly acknowledged as unenforceable rights within the fundamental principles stated in Article 15 of the Constitution of Bangladesh. Conversely, while the rights to water and sanitation are not explicitly inserted, they may be implicitly included as essential needs under

⁷⁴ Supra note 21, P 52.

⁷⁵ Ibid 52-53.

⁷⁶ Supra note 62, 104.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Section 24 of the Constitution of South Africa.

⁷⁹ Section 45 (1) of the Constitution of Spain 1978 states: ‘Everyone has the right to enjoy an environment suitable for the development of the person, as well as the duty to preserve it.’

Article 34 of the Constitution of El Salvador 1983 delineates: ‘Every child has the right to live in familial and environmental conditions that permit his integral development, for which he shall have the protection of the State.’ Article 37 (1) of the Constitution of Moldova 1994 states that ‘Every individual has the right to live in an ecologically safe and healthy environment.’

Article 15, public health as outlined in Article 18, and environmental considerations under Article 18A. The aforementioned unenforceable rights corresponding to SDGs 1,2, and 6 are vital to the usual development and dignity of human beings. Consequently, these rights should be included in the constitution as enforceable rights, stating that- the state shall take effective measures by way of legislation, along with other effective means, within its capacity of available resources, to attain progressive realisation of each of these rights. Similar provisions are incorporated in the Constitution of South Africa.⁸⁰ Accordingly, the Constitutional Reform

Commission of Bangladesh, in its report, suggests that the rights to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food, access to clean drinking water, and sanitation should be included in the Constitution as enforceable rights, to be fulfilled within the State's capabilities and the constraints of its available resources.⁸¹ Additionally, the Commission recommends that the right to social security in the conditions of unemployment, maternity, illness, disability, old age and being parentless should be acknowledged as justiciable rights in the Constitution to be ensured within the state's capacity and available resources.⁸²

4.3. Inclusion of new article:

Right to development in line with the pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other contemporary global development narratives can be included in the chapter of fundamental principles of state policy of the constitution of Bangladesh. It will ensure poverty alleviation, inequality reduction, a sustainable environment, and create an inclusive development base.⁸³ This right will be executed through proficient administration subject to state's available resources. Therefore, the right to development should be incorporated as a socio-economic right by the addition of a new Article 25A in Part II of the Constitution, stating that:

‘The state shall, subject to its available resources, strive to undertake a development plan that promotes social inclusiveness, economic advancement, and environmental sustainability for both the current and future generations and shall consolidate sustainable development principles into national policies, plans, and steps. It shall also aim to attain international commitments, such as the Sustainable

⁸⁰ Section 27 of the Constitution of South Africa states:

1. Everyone has the right to have access to
 - a. health care services, including reproductive health care;
 - b. sufficient food and water; and
 - c. social security, including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependants, appropriate social assistance.
2. The state must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of each of these rights.

⁸¹ Supra note 67, (para 21) P 81. The report is originally written in Bangla and English translation is my own.

⁸² Ibid, (Para 24).

⁸³ Ibid, (para 31) 82.

Development Goals (SDGs), and other global development agendas countersigned by the member States.’

It is worth mentioning here that even the Constitutional Reform Commission of Bangladesh recommended in its report that, through transforming the right to development into binding fundamental rights, all economic, social and cultural rights can be ensured, and by doing so, all fundamental human rights and freedoms can be attained.⁸⁴ Probably the commission was influenced by the Constitution of South Africa, which contained both socio-economic rights and civil and political rights in a single chapter named ‘Bill of Rights’ that are binding in nature. Therefore, the reform commission of Bangladesh stressed in its report to contain both fundamental principles and fundamental rights in a single chapter named ‘fundamental rights and freedoms’ that will be binding fundamental rights.

4.4. Incorporation of constitutional provisions to strengthen judicial activism:

Even though the fundamental principles of state policy (FPSP) in the Constitution of Bangladesh are apparently manifested as unenforceable, the Supreme Court has addressed these principles in a few cases related to specific socio-economic rights by broadly interpreting and harmonising them with the fundamental rights to life and personal liberty provided in Part III of the Constitution. Hence, the Constitution of Bangladesh affirms that every citizen has the inalienable right to enjoy the protection of the law, and to be treated in accordance with law, and only in accordance with the law and further reiterates that no step that might harm someone’s life, liberty, body, reputation or property shall be taken unless it is permitted by law.⁸⁵ Additionally, Article 32 provides specific provisions in asserting the right to life and personal liberty which is previously pointed out in this study. In *Dr. Mohiuddin Farooque Vs Bangladesh* (1996), the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh defined the right to a habitable and secure environment as an essential aspect of the right to life.⁸⁶ The Court observed:

“...articles 31 and 32 of our Constitution protect right to life as a fundamental right. It encompasses within its ambit, the protection and preservation of environment, ecological balance free from pollution of air and water, sanitation without which life can hardly be enjoyed. Any act or omission contrary thereto will be violative of the said right to life”.⁸⁷

Another instance of judicial enforcement of fundamental principles is found in a recent case⁸⁸ where the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, upholding the decision of the High Court Division, enforced the right to health care

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ See Article 31 of the Constitution of Bangladesh.

⁸⁶ Supra note 62, 118.

⁸⁷ Ibid 118-19.

⁸⁸ The Chairman, National Board of Revenue (NBR) Vs. Advocate Zulhas Uddin Ahmed and Ors. [2010] 39 CLC (AD).

under Article 18 as the fundamental right of every citizen corresponding it to the right to life guaranteed by Article 32 of the constitution. Rejecting the petition for leave to appeal, the court held:

“...Article 32 of the Constitution provides for protection providing not to deprive a citizen’s life and personal liberty except in accordance with law. Providing thereby that a citizen is to be allowed to maintain a smooth health care and peaceful life and assist maintenance thereof providing all the amenities including health and medical services in the society. Thus, the imposition of VAT on “medical clinics, dental treatment centre and pathological laboratory” is definitely contrary to the

provision of the Constitution regarding the protection providing not to deprive a citizen’s life and personal liberty and as such, are void and liable to be declared as unconstitutional.”⁸⁹

However, since the scope of judicial activism for implementation of fundamental principles is very limited, it will be hard to attain constitutional principles linking them to goals set out in SDGs. Therefore, separate provisions can be added in the constitutional principles so that judiciary will be directly empowered to assess the state capacity to enforce fundamental principles synchronizing with the sustainable development goals and other global development agenda compatible with the progressive development of Bangladesh. South African Constitutional provisions empowering the judiciary in this regard are unique in the world, which we can follow by bringing necessary amendments into the Constitution of Bangladesh. Hence, the legislature of Bangladesh, as per constitutional mandate, can be obligated to enact necessary legal instruments giving effect to the realisation of these rights, and as such, the law so made ‘must provide for the review of administrative action by a court or, where appropriate, an independent and impartial tribunal’⁹⁰. It should also be elucidated that the comprehensive attainment of these rights is contingent upon time and available resources, and the constitution will ensure progressive realisation of these rights based on the state's capacity within its available resources.⁹¹ If the state claims financial incapacity in attaining these rights, the court shall take into consideration the following guidelines:

- (a) The burden of proof shall lie on the state that it has a scarcity of available resources;
- (b) The state must, during allocation of resources, consider the prevailing circumstances and conditions of a particular group or individual and shall give priority to the maximum enjoyment of these rights;
- (c) The court shall not interfere in the disbursement of resources solely on the basis that the state might have utilized the resources otherwise.⁹²

⁸⁹ Ibid, Judgment by Mohammad Fazlul Karim, C.J. Paragraph 4.

⁹⁰ Similar provision is contained in Section 33 (3) (a), the Constitution of South Africa.

⁹¹ Supra note 67, (Para 40) 84.

⁹² Ibid.

5. Conclusion:

To sum up, it may be opined from the above analysis that Fundamental Principles of State Policy (FPSP) enumerating in the Constitution provide a strong political commitment, moral and ideological underpinning and are still relevant even though they were incorporated fifty-four years ago. Hence, the nation may be guided by these principles, though not justiciable, towards an inclusive and sustainable growth bringing some reforms to the constitution providing an intrinsic link with the contemporary global development agendas like Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Thus, the inbuilt alignment between FPSPs reiterating rights to food, healthcare, education, employment, environmental protection etc. and the diverse targets of SDGs reinforces the coherence of Bangladesh's Constitutional philosophy steering the nation towards resilient and equitable progress. In doing so, the Constitution must strike a balance between just administration and strengthened judicial activism, exemplified in the Constitution of South Africa and the Report of the Constitutional Reform Commission of Bangladesh, as outlined earlier in this research. The commitment of the state, explicitly expressed in the preamble of the Bangladesh Constitution, is noteworthy and articulated as follows:

‘..it shall be a fundamental aim of the State to realise through the democratic process a socialist society, free from exploitation- a society in which the rule of law, fundamental human rights and freedom, equality and justice, political, economic and social, will be secured for all citizens.’⁹³

Therefore, the sincere commitment reflected in the preamble reveals that the state is morally obligated to take strategic plans towards national development in all aspects to uphold people's dignity and standard of living sustainably, adjusting to the changing circumstances, ideas, concepts, benchmarks or array of policies set out by both Constitutional principles and global sustainable development themes. However, these principles must be implemented through proficient administrators, robust institutional frameworks, accountable governance, and crafting a conducive political and regulatory landscape to truly direct national development. If properly utilized, the FPSPs can serve as the cornerstones of a welfare-oriented state, leading Bangladesh to accomplish its SDGs obligations by 2030 while simultaneously preserving the rights, welfare, and dignity of its people for future generations.

⁹³ See Paragraph 3 of the preamble of the Constitution of Bangladesh.

