

Climate Change Accountability and Sustainable Development: Legal Challenges in Economic Policy Making

Dr. Vedansh Sharma

Assistant Professor, School of Law, Faculty of Law, Manipal University, Jaipur.
Ved.mps@gmail.com, 0000-0002-9955-3654

Dr. Pranita Choudhury

Associate Professor , Royal Global University. Pchoudhury808@gmail.com 0009-0001-3290-5790

Mr. Yogesh Chandra Gupta

Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Teerthanker Mahaveer College of Law & Legal Studies, Teerthanker Mahaveer University, Moradabad. Yogeshg.law@tmu.ac.in 0009-0008-3589-6827

Dr. Indra Daman Tiwari

Assistant Professor, School of Law, T.S. Mishra University, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
shivatiwari.lu@gmail.com

Prachi Srivastava

Research Scholar, Institute of Legal Studies, Shri Ramswaroop Memorial University.

Abstract

The enigmatic interaction between national economic policies, national and international legal frameworks, and the necessity to hold all actors accountable to climate change in order to establish sustainable development agendas is critically reviewed in this paper. It also explores the natural dissonances and synergistic possibilities of environmental mandate integration into conventional economic paradigms or models especially in the various geopolitical settings. The paper aims at finding the common legal issues that affect the successful application of sustainable economic policies, taking into account the peculiarities of both developed and developing countries and their potential. It discusses the role of divergent understanding of sustainable development which covers economic, human rights and environmental pillars and presents an obstacle to a cohesive policy. Moreover, the historical gap in contribution to greenhouse gas emissions contributes considerably to signification of negotiations fashioned between the Global North and South and makes the search of globalizing mechanisms of climate responsibility difficult to establish. The barriers to information that are helping to deepen this divergence include the impossibility of assigning responsibility to the state when transboundary environmental harm has occurred, which requires expert evaluation of the anthropogenic damages caused by greenhouse gas emissions, and varied routes of both exposure and vulnerability. The lack of globally binding obligations on sustainable development adds some more complexity to the formulation of the detailed modalities of its realization concerning climate action. In this review paper, the effectiveness of the existing legal and policy tools to promote climate accountability and sustainable development as part of economic systems will be assessed, with a specific focus on the issues of the inability to resolve a dispute through the existing methods and the inefficacy of enforcing environmentalization.

Key Words: Climate change, accountability, sustainable development, economic policy, environmental law, international cooperation.

Introduction

In the background of rising environmental challenges and the dire need to enhance sustainable development, it is important to note that the global governance rules do play a major role in informing economic policymaking on a global scale. This complex association requires a thorough knowledge of the legal frameworks on which climate change responsibility is based, and their effects on economic decision-making, considering the cross-boundary environment over which environmental issues may span. In particular, the notion of sustainable development, traditionally imagined as a compromise between economic, human rights, and environmental factors of consideration, encounters a critical interpretative problem of global integration of policies. This is further complicated by the tension that exists between short term economic needs and long term ecological sustainability which often results in policy trade-offs that are more focused in short term benefits than long term environmental health. The economic aspect of this equilibrium is commonly entrenched in to the rule of sovereignty whereby nations are free to follow their own economic benefits, but contemporary international legal frameworks very frequently lack extensive measures to consider the extraterritorial environmental effects of domestic endeavors.¹ This poses a critical loophole in accountability wherein the need to achieve national economic goals may unwillingly jeopardize international endeavors to achieve sustainable growth and mitigate climate change. Although many countries have given verbal promises to protect the environment, effective environmental policies are boots strangled, most of the time. Such delay is usually caused by structural constraints including inadequate money, lack of technological infrastructure and policy priorities which is mostly prevalent in developing economies aiming at achieving industrialization and alleviating poverty. Further, much of the discussion about accountability fails to take notice of the usefulness of accountability trap where high levels of procedural obliges and output indicators fail to have any relation to the intended environmental results, thus concealing the ongoing environmental decline in spite of the greater regulatory actions. It is also complicated by the issue of political economy of climate governance where various stakeholders are usually involved and where the implementation and accountability of policies needs very strong coordination systems, capacity building and clear monitoring. This review article will thus critically look at the legal issues that accompany the concepts of incorporating climate change responsibilities within economic policymaking systems with a particular emphasis to the breakdown in international environmental pledges and domestic economic policies.² It will also discuss how the available legal tools respond, or lack responsiveness, to, the problems of economic development side by side with environmental conservation in the wake of the demand of a radical societal shift in the environmental law. This discussion will include both an analysis of legal issues caused by the necessity to trade off between the economic development and climate goals, including energy security and decarbonization measures, as well as an evaluation of how new technocratic changes to national accounting would support green transition policies. These include questioning the effectiveness of

¹ David Hoda, "The Climate Change Convention and Evolving Legal Models of Sustainable Development," 13 *Pace Environmental Law Review* 75 (1995).

² Thijs Etty et al., "The Quest to Close the Accountability Gap in Environmental Law," 12 *Transnational Environmental Law* 461 (2023).

environmental policy incorporation in the economies, and evaluating the feasibility of the green growth policies.

2. Conceptual Framework: Climate Change Accountability

This section explores the complex issue of climate change accountability with its legal and ethical aspect of state and non-state action in policymaking in the economy. It addresses the application by different theoretical frameworks, such as multilevel governance and principal-agent theory, to explain the processes in which accountability is (or is not) realized in climate policy design and implementation.³ Full realization of climate change responsibility has to, thus, combine and harmonize the accords of the law, ethics, practicalized governance processes to close the divide between the commitments of policy and the action taken with regard to climate.

2.1. Defining Climate Change Accountability

In its simplest definition, climate change accountability is a state, corporate or other institution responsibility to explain their actions or lack of actions, in relation to climate change, and to take responsibility on their effect on human populations and the natural ecosystem. This does not just mean compliance with global and local environmental regulations but also reporting and sound supervision so that the strategies to be implemented on climate mitigation and adaptation are effective and fair. A superior and more encompassing infrastructure of accountability would go beyond the disclosure, entailing integrated mindset that underlines the mutual reliance of different interest groups and their functions in climate action. The view would demand a rethink of accountability that the top-down tradition defines and polycentric view that creates learning and adaptive institutional structures in dynamic multi actor contexts.⁴ This widened perspective helps realise that accountability is not only punitive but also formative in promoting ongoing betterment and shared responsibility in dealing with issues on climate. It also involves a critical assessment of the current economic paradigms, including green growth that, although having the aim to reconcile economic growth with environmental conservation still, can unwittingly reinforce the already existing unsustainable socio-material trajectories by not disrupting the deep-seated issues in the system.

2.2. Legal Bases for Accountability

Legal grounds of climate change responsibility lie within the delectable relationship of international provisions, national laws, and judicial interpretations of those laws which set forth the constraints and tools of enforcement altogether. These legal systems exist at different levels, such as global treaties such as the Paris Agreement, regional rules and national laws, all of which build up to a tiered environmental management system. Nevertheless, the problem of these frameworks is that they tend to be ineffective due to the absence of an integrated approach to accountability, which causes a fragmentation of efforts and the loss of connectivity between internal and external drivers of climate action. It is a form of fragmentation that is also commonly seen in matters pertaining to enforceability and uncertainty over articulated

³ K. Krishna Reddy, M Nani Babu and D.AJAY RATHAN, "Climate governance and political accountability: A theoretical inquiry into India's federal climate policy architecture," 7 *International Journal of Political Science and Governance* 94 (2025).

⁴ Nino David Jordan, "Global Environmental Governance and the Accountability Trap," 21 *Global Environmental Politics* 154 (2021).

standards, thus affecting the successful execution of environmental and social policies. Moreover, the issue of an implementation gap often engulfs governments, in which signed treaties and accords do not have the policies and resources needed to be successfully implemented, as seen when India scored insufficient on climate action plans despite its renewable energy progress.⁵ Such loopholes underscore the urgency of a more consistent accountability structure dissecting national boundaries and encompassing a variety of legal traditions with a view to adequately dealing with the global prevalence of the climate change issue. A framework of this nature would require the change of a voluntary disclosure system to a mandatory one, with strong institutions of an independent audit and the accessibility of information by common people.⁶

2.3. Ethical Dimensions of Accountability

To fill this gap of implementation, a more thorough investigation of the ethical basics of climate responsibility, especially in terms of assigning responsibilities to various actors (both the sovereign states and multinational corporations and individual citizens) is required. This moral aspect also projects to intergenerational equity issues and climate justice and understanding the idea of common but differentiated responsibilities, which affects the policy and legal instruments mould. In addition, the new emphasis on corporate responsibility in international law highlights the move to making businesses internalize ecological costs and reduce environmental risks and minimize environmental and human rights risks throughout their supply chains. This includes re-assessing ethical duties, not simply adherence to minimum requirements in law, but now a positive role towards mitigating environmental harm and broader social equity in climate action. Nevertheless, there remain severe loopholes when it comes to holding corporations to account by the sheer nature of the diffuse nature of greenhouse gas emissions, and long-term environmental degradation to identify with certain corporate operations. The impossibility to create clear causal connections between the activities of corporations and climatic consequences, as well as the limited jurisdiction of the national courts in cases of transboundary environmental damages, complicates this challenge. It will require the creation of more comprehensive legal systems that can integrate climate science and human rights principles to make corporations more accountable and prove causation.⁷

3. Sustainable Development in Economic Policy Making

In this section, the author looks at ways and means in which the principles of sustainable development can be incorporated into economic policymaking, and especially the Sustainability dilemma in terms of balancing social equity, economic growth and environmental protection. It also examines the ways in which economic policies could be structured to facilitate sustainable practices as well as the multifaceted trade-offs associated with both developmental and ecological preservation goals. Such integration is very essential in solving global issues like global warming, loss of biodiversity and poverty, and the economic

⁵ Jahanvi Mishra and Dr Abhishek Verma, "Balancing Growth and Sustainability: Environmental Diplomacy as the Key to India's Climate Future," 12 *International Journal for Research in Applied Science and Engineering Technology* 1276 (2024).

⁶ Krishna N. Reddy, M Nani Babu and D.AJAY RATHAN, "Climate governance and political accountability: A theoretical inquiry into India's federal climate policy architecture" *SSRN Electronic Journal* (2025).

⁷ Paul Ebohsetale Atamewan, "Corporate Liability for Climate-Related Disasters: Emerging Trends in Global Environmental Litigation," 5 *Journal of Frontiers in Multidisciplinary Research* 108 (2024).

policies are critical in ensuring sustainability among the world population.⁸ To achieve sustainability, a larger field of law that goes beyond environmental law is required; it must include areas of law like land use, property law, tax, and governmental systems to properly manage resources and to have fair results.

3.1. Principles of Sustainable Development

Many global environmental policies and economical approaches have been based on the idea of sustainable development, which is usually readily summarized through the definition of the Brundtland Commission that current generation needs must not always come at the cost of the upcoming generations. This multi-dimensional model combines both economic, environmental and social factors, which suggests that an approach internalising both externalities and ecological constraints is a proper model moving towards inclusive development.⁹ In spite of the generally accepted definition, the real-life application of the principles of sustainable development is limited by a number of obstacles, such as inconsistencies in policies and ineffective institutional capacity, as well as economic limitations, mostly faced in developing countries. Moreover, the intrinsic conflict between economic growth necessities and environment conservation tend to create a tale of disenchantment where the sustainable development policies inadvertently accommodate exploitive economic practices that increase systemic inequities and environmental destruction. This interaction highlights the urgent need to re-appraise existing models of economy and transition to a more circular economy and green developmentalism that openly incorporate environmental and social goals as part of their central models.¹⁰

3.2. Integrating Sustainability into Economic Frameworks

Sustainable development, in the real sense, can only be accomplished through a radical re-examination of conventional economic paradigms because in most cases, the old systems do not provide adequate comprehensive sustainable results. This necessitates a paradigm shift towards more holistic policy frameworks which can take into account the complex area of trade-offs and synergies among various Sustainable Development Goals and look beyond a sectorally-siloed approach to integrated one.¹¹ This synthesis involves balancing the economic growth with ecological conservation, and this is an essential task of environmental economics. The modern world economic system, which is based on the material flow optimization in the marketplace, automatically supports a division between humans and nature that adds to the extensive environmental degradation and contradiction of sustainability. Therefore, policies of economic sustainability in the context of sustainability require a participatory, consistent development that offers the least harm to the environment and a fair allocation of benefits. This involves a shift to models that appreciate natural capital, consider environmental externalities and incorporate green technologies and eco-innovations into fundamental economic processes. Irrespective of these theoretical achievements, there are many obstacles

⁸ Minghao Duan, "Sustainable Development and Economic Policies: A Path Towards a Resilient Future" *Advances in economics, business and management research/Advances in Economics, Business and Management Research* 512 (Atlantis Press, 2024).

⁹ Shalini Chaturvedi, "The Economics of Sustainable Development: Challenges and Solutions" 9061 (2024).

¹⁰ Uwaga Monica Adanma and Emmanuel Olurotimi Ogunbiyi, "A comparative review of global environmental policies for promoting sustainable development and economic growth" *International Journal of Applied Research in Social Sciences* 954 (Fair East Publishers, 2024).

¹¹ Mohammed Basheer et al., "Balancing national economic policy outcomes for sustainable development," *13 Nature Communications* 5041 (2022).

to the real implementation of the principles of sustainable development, as shown by the continued loss of the sustainability of the exploitation of natural resources, the overwhelming volume of emissions of greenhouse gases, and ever-increasing environmental demands.

3.3. Indicators and Metrics for Sustainable Economic Policy

The formulation and implementation of sound indicators and measures, are important in a successful evaluation of the goals towards sustainable economic development and in informing policy interventions especially due to the complexity of the concept. These measures should not just be based on the traditional economic measures such as the GDP, which underestimates the cost of the environment and social equality, but include overall measures of natural wealth, resource degradation, and the effects on socio-environmental factors. This will require the inclusion of non-market valuation methods and interdisciplinary methods of giving a better representation of the actual well-being of the society and environmental health. Nonetheless, the complexity of sustainable development, being an issue with multiple facets and viewpoints renders it vulnerable to multiple interpretations by multiple stakeholders, which can lead to superficial change as opposed to a substantive change. Moreover, the endemic lack of sustainability issues in the basic economic education of future policymakers and business executives is an obstacle in the way to the shift to the new economic paradigm towards sustainability. In its turn, the fact that a significant gap remains with respect to systematized integration of environmental and social externalities into mainstream economic theories demonstrates that most of them place gross domestic product as a key indicator of economic well-being, yet overlook that it is somewhat deficient in its ability to capture the actual societal development and environmental effects.

4. Legal Challenges in Climate Change Accountability

The above paragraphs have provided the background context of the complex interaction between sustainable development and economic policymaking; this paragraph now moves on exploring the particular legal constraints and opportunities to implement accountability in the climate change mitigation and adaptation context in the policy process. This will involve examining the effectiveness of the current international environmental law, domestic law and developing jurisprudential strategies of assigning responsibility to climate damages and ensuring adherence to climate agreements.

4.1. International Climate Law and National Sovereignty

The issue of balancing between collective action against climate change and the principle of national sovereignty is a critical challenge in the international climate law system because states usually prefer promoting national economic interests against international environmental commitments. Such tension is often presented in the challenges of forming legally binding commitments and enforcement mechanisms which cross-national boundaries, complicated by the existence of different socio-economic agendas and different capabilities of countries. In addition, fragmented international climate policies coupled with the absence of a strong institutional coordination between various governance levels are usually barriers to effective legislative response to the climate change. This creates a huge gap in forceful compliance, particularly around the reduction targets of emissions and monetary contributions to climate funds and this creates a complicated dance between the political motive, the law, and the economic viability. This is even complicated by the fact that the developing and developed countries have varied capacities and historical liabilities, and must

be approached differently when taking climate action, acknowledging the socio-economic reality.

4.2. Enforcement Mechanisms and Compliance Issues

Lack of powerful enforcement mechanisms tends to undermine the effectiveness of international agreements, which in turn promotes problems of ensuring the signatory states respect their commitments to climate agreements especially due to the disparity in national priorities and capabilities.¹² These complexities are further evidenced by the intricate nature of the difficulties that may be encountered by developing countries like Nigeria in adopting ecologically friendly policies, which are usually compounded by historical gap of greenhouse gas emissions and continual negotiations of the North-South negotiations. Nevertheless, in spite of these difficulties, numerous countries have started to conclude bills to control and reduce climate change, but these bills often use various approaches based on specific country conditions and prospects. This jurisdictional variety highlights why there is a vital struggle in balancing International environmental law with domestic legal frameworks particularly in relation to liability on cross-border environmental damage. As an example, international agreements such as the UNFCCC have broad-based frameworks, but individual countries would have the responsibility of ensuring that these global pledges are translated to local instruments of law and policy such as the Climate Change Act of 2021 in Nigeria.

4.3. Jurisdictional Complexities and Transboundary Impacts

The transboundary character of the effects of climate change requires complex legal frameworks to traverse across the national jurisdictions and workers of mutual vulnerability, especially in areas such as sub-Saharan Africa. This usually entails tackling issues like the uncertainties that are inherent in international treaties and inconsistencies in implementation of international environmental laws into domestic laws. Adding to these are the institutional fragility, including bureaucratic inefficiencies and divided mandates, that are common in most developing countries and contribute to poor enforcement of the regulations and compliance. In addition, in many areas, there is no effective system of data gathering and reporting; this spells a serious challenge in measuring emissions and in checking whether climate pledges are being fulfilled or not. Lack of strong legal systems addressing climate change usually creates huge challenges towards proper environmental governance as seen in the developing countries.¹³

5. Economic Policy Making and Climate Action

This part examines the interaction between economic policies and climate action how fiscal, monetary and trade policies may contribute to and/or impede climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. In particular, it discusses the ways the national economic policy frameworks can be restructured so that the social cost of carbon can be internalized, green investments encouraged, and the just transition to a low-carbon economy facilitated.

5.1. Carbon Pricing Mechanisms and Their Effectiveness

Carbon pricing, such as via carbon taxes or a cap-and-trade regime, is the most popular way to encourage the internalization of the external costs of greenhouse gas emissions, and, by

¹² Ashwani Kumar and Ashwani Kumar Dwivedi, "The Development and Effects of Environmental Law on Green Governance," 11 *Journal of Law and Sustainable Development* (2023).

¹³ Abdul Rozzaq, "International Environmental Law Enforcement: Challenges and Strategies," 10 *KnE Social Sciences* 182 (2025).

extension, to encourage a transition to cleaner production and consumption behaviors. The utility of these mechanisms, however, depends on how they are modeled and how far-reaching they are and the overall political and economic environment in which they will be executed usually attracts opposition based on the competitiveness and equity issues. In addition, these mechanisms usually require sensitive weighing of their distributional implications, especially on the vulnerable and energy-substantive sectors, to be facilitated to implement a just transition and not to increase the current inequalities.

5.2. Green Finance and Investment Strategies

Placing resources in more sustainable projects and initiatives related to the environment is central to the rapid conversion to the low-carbon economy, and innovative financial tools and policy support are needed to de-risk green investments and generate private capital. This involves coming up with strong green bonds, sound banking policies and new financial instruments that combine economic development with environmental conservation. An important part of these plans is the adjusting of accounting structures to reflect embodied emissions more precisely, thus enabling effective pricing of carbon and border adjustments of carbon, particularly of Scope 2 and 3 emissions. In addition, the measurement of the effect of the tools of green financing on the reduction of emissions will be of great importance to illustrate the actual economic benefits of the environmental activities and help establish a paradigm shift in the integration of the economic development with environmental objectives.¹⁴

5.3. Sectoral Policies for Decarbonization

Targeted regulations and financial incentives may be sector-specific policies that stimulate the decarbonization efforts in high-emitting sectors, including promotion of technological innovation and creating sustainable practices. This involves coming up with sound policy frameworks of renewable energy implementation, improvement of the building and industrial energy efficiency standards, and ensuring sustainable land-use procedures in agriculture and forestry. These measures may involve diverse policy tools, like carbon pricing tools, energy saving efforts, and carbon content cuts, which may alter economic rewards in stringing down emissions. An overhaul decarbonization plan should thus include all the carbon-intensive sectors and deploy a panoplied arsenal of fiscal, technological, and regulatory policy incentives that will accomplish a steady and effective transition.

6. Intersections of Law, Economics, and Sustainability

This part will explore the mutually supportive nature of law, economic tools, and sustainability demands and how a combined strategy can be used to form long-term environmental sustainability and socio-economic well-being. This kind of integration usually entails implementation of green finance and decentralization of environmental governance to facilitate and bolster the efficiency of low-carbon transitions.

6.1. Regulatory Frameworks for Sustainable Economic Development

As a means of incorporating environmental considerations in economic practices, good regulatory frameworks are indispensable and therefore require a complex set of legal tools, which require all environment-related impact assessment procedures, systems of pollution

¹⁴ Vihav Vijay and Sathish A.S., "Advancing Towards a Sustainable Future: A Systematic Review of Sustainable Net Zero Economy Implementation Studies" *Qubahan Academic Journal*, 2024.

control, and resource efficiency in all sectors of the economy. Upon such frameworks, there would be decoupling of economic growth with deterioration of the environment and thus low-carbon economy. This involves establishment of creative judicial designs that encourage the implementation of mitigation technologies and creation of harmonious normative transfer of policy talk into enforcement measures thus eliminating legal gridlocks between enterprises and laws enforcers. Moreover, designing environmental courts and tribunals can contribute greatly to the efficiency of environmental justice and encourage green innovation by raising the cost of illegal corporate environmental actions.¹⁵

6.2. Litigation as a Tool for Climate Accountability

Lawsuits on climate have become an effective tool to force governments and businesses to comply with climate obligations, promote environmental laws, and demand compensation due to climate-related harm. This changing legal environment which includes not only national but also international law is instrumental in defining the policy, affecting the corporate conduct, and the responsibility of entities to contribute to climate change and compliance with sustainability requirements. Such strategy facilitates policy change and motivates sustainable practices but also makes the legal responsibility of the climate change more clear, and it tends to take into account different legal traditions and local peculiarities. Besides, the accumulated history of climate litigation, such as by human rights, corporate social responsibility, and the doctrine of trust litigations, are actively developing and reaffirming the accepted principles of law to hold both state and non-state actors to account on the basis of failure to act to established standards of conduct.

6.3. Policy Coherence and Conflict Resolution

Policy coherence is the main instrument to address the possible contradictions between economic development and environmental protection, demanding strong instruments of stakeholder communication and inter-agencies coordination. This integration is not only in bringing the regulatory standards into harmony, but also creating clear decision-making mechanisms that windows the multiple interests and counterbalances against possible conflicts of economic and environmental priorities. These structures require adaptive models of governance because environmental laws should not only be promulgated, but also implemented practically so as to achieve the desired results amid the shortfalls in governance that most of the time prevent the execution of the results in actuality. Moreover, the rising cases of climate-related litigation around the world, led by diverse government agencies, business organizations and civil societies further emphasize the need to have effective climate governance and strong implementation of environmental laws. This multiplication of climate legal cases only underlines the necessity to make governments ready to take decisive steps in enforcement measures to hold the organizations to account the breach of the environment and clean up adverse consequences. The growth of domestic laws should be shaped with the ratio of the international commitments such as the Paris Agreement which guarantees a unified response to climate governance with special procedural laws to be applied in both mitigation and adaptation work.¹⁶

¹⁵ Jiachao Peng, Hui Wang and Le Wen, "Editorial: Advancing carbon reduction and pollution control policies management: theoretical, application, and future impacts," 13 *Frontiers in Environmental Science* (2025).

¹⁶ Yedong Zhang, "Developing a Climate Litigation Framework: China's Contribution to International Environmental Law" arXiv (Cornell University) (2025).



7. Conclusion

The article has discussed how legal frameworks, economic policies and the overall need of sustainable development interact with each other in the face of climate change. It has illustrated the need to align national environmental laws with international sustainability objectives in order to effectively address emergent environmental issues and make the policies effective. One key aspect in this alignment is the ability of the dialogue of environmental laws which are usually problematic because of poor regulation and insufficiency in the provision of legal concern on environmental destruction. As a matter of fact, proper governance and sound policy execution and enforcement are essential in meeting the goal of attaining sustainable development. In addition, active and efficient adherence to rules and regulations with corresponding penalties in cases of environmental breaches is imperative in creating accountability and motivating environmental protection efforts. Moreover, the role of the rule of law is a pillar upon which there is a stable and transparent legal system that must be practiced by both economic prosperity and the fair implementation of environmental protection. It is systematically proven that strong governance systems, where there is transparency and accountability, support the forces of environmental development and the overall performance of sustainability. Empowerment of legal systems has also become a celebrated importance factor in maintaining governmental and corporate responsibility on environmental regulation. This involves considering environmental concerns in every aspect of legal and economic policymaking and not just responsibility, but sustainable development. This entails balancing the environmental and human rights laws with the aim of enhancing climate justice and protecting the rights of the communities who are particularly vulnerable to climate change. This sort of an integrated endeavor, which is supported by a robust quality of regulations and the rule of law, is decisive in promoting sustainable economic growth and building adaptive resilience to the effects of climate change. This requires multidisciplinary intervention as the concept of climate policy is intricately interconnected with other components of sustainable development such as human rights, food security, and displacement. As such, further studies are needed in which there should be a formulation of holistic legal and policy frameworks that would combine these inter-linked dimensions clearly to form more sustainable and fair societies. Finally, the effectiveness of these frameworks also depends on their ability to enable adaptive governance systems that are capable of dynamically responding to the changes in the environment and bringing together interdisciplinary knowledge in motion.