

# INTEGRATING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) INTO MAQASID AL-SHARI'A: A FRAMEWORK FOR MODERN ISLAMIC ECONOMIC LAW

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## Abstract

The growing global emphasis on sustainable development has prompted renewed interest in aligning the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with Islamic legal and ethical principles. This study explores the conceptual integration of the SDGs within the framework of Maqasid al-Shari'a (the higher objectives of Islamic law), focusing on how Islamic economic law can operationalize sustainability through justice, equity, and human welfare. The research aims to construct a normative and practical framework that harmonizes the ethical imperatives of Maqasid al-Shari'a with the multidimensional targets of the SDGs, particularly in areas of poverty alleviation, environmental protection, and social inclusion. A qualitative doctrinal approach is employed, combining textual analysis of classical Islamic legal sources with comparative evaluation of contemporary economic policies and global sustainability reports. The findings indicate that Maqasid al-Shari'a naturally aligns with SDG principles through shared values such as preservation of life, intellect, wealth, lineage, and faith, forming a moral foundation for sustainable economic governance. The proposed framework demonstrates that integrating SDGs into Islamic legal thought can strengthen policy legitimacy, bridge ethical and developmental paradigms, and foster a holistic model for modern Islamic economic law.

**Keywords:** Islamic economic law, Maqasid al-Shari'a, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



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## INTRODUCTION

The global economic and legal order is increasingly shaped by the principles of sustainable development, as embodied in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Bista & Bishwakarma, 2025). These seventeen interconnected goals seek to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality, and protect the planet through inclusive, equitable, and environmentally responsible growth (Tamoor & Xing, 2025). Despite their universality, the SDGs have encountered significant challenges in contextual adaptation, particularly in societies guided by religious and moral frameworks such as Islam (Q. Yang et al., 2025). Islamic economic law, rooted in the Maqasid al-Shari'a the higher objectives of Islamic law offers an alternative yet compatible moral foundation for achieving sustainable development. The intersection between these two paradigms presents an opportunity for legal and ethical synthesis that bridges global policy aspirations with divine moral imperatives (Luo et al., 2025).

Islamic law (Shari'a) has historically emphasized the preservation of fundamental human values: religion (*din*), life (*nafs*), intellect (*'aql*), lineage (*nasl*), and wealth (*mal*) (Seong et al., 2025). These objectives collectively ensure justice, social balance, and the equitable distribution of resources (Narassima et al., 2025). The Maqasid al-Shari'a framework thus transcends ritual law, serving as a comprehensive ethical blueprint for governance and economic justice. The SDGs similarly aim to safeguard human dignity through objectives such as eradicating hunger, ensuring quality education, and promoting economic equality. The parallels between both frameworks indicate that sustainable development is not alien to Islamic law but rather resonates deeply with its normative structure (Osuma & Yusuf, 2025).

The background of this study emerges from the growing recognition that Islamic legal thought must evolve to address modern global challenges while preserving its theological foundations (Ibrahim et al., 2025). The integration of SDGs into Maqasid al-Shari'a provides a framework for reinterpreting Islamic economic law in response to contemporary development issues. This integration is not merely a theological exercise but a strategic reformulation that aligns Islamic principles with global governance frameworks (Xie, 2025). Such alignment has the potential to enhance the relevance of Shari'a-based economic models, strengthen their institutional legitimacy, and contribute to the universal pursuit of sustainability (J. Chen & Chen, 2025).

The primary problem addressed by this study lies in the lack of an integrative legal framework that connects global sustainability agendas with Islamic jurisprudence (Halder & Singh, 2025). Although both the SDGs and Maqasid al-Shari'a share similar ethical orientations toward justice, welfare, and equity, their operational mechanisms remain largely disconnected (Güngördü-Arıoğlu & Tunçalp, 2025). Contemporary Islamic economic laws often function within narrow jurisprudential confines, while SDG frameworks operate under secular policy paradigms. This disjunction prevents meaningful dialogue between global developmental strategies and Islamic legal theory, limiting the practical implementation of sustainable policies within Muslim-majority contexts (Sayed et al., 2025).

The divergence between these two systems creates interpretive and institutional challenges. Islamic financial regulations, for example, are designed to prohibit interest and promote social justice but are rarely aligned with SDG indicators such as environmental sustainability or gender equality (Jain & Kumarasamy, 2024). Similarly, policy frameworks promoting sustainability often overlook the theological dimensions of human welfare embedded in Maqasid al-Shari'a. As a result, Islamic economic law risks being perceived as inward-looking, while the SDGs risk being seen as culturally detached from local moral systems. Bridging this gap requires an analytical model capable of integrating the SDGs' universal metrics with the normative values of Islamic law (Ahmad Romshoo et al., 2024; Hussain et al., 2024).

The absence of such integration leads to fragmented policy application and conceptual inconsistency across jurisdictions. Without a harmonized framework, Muslim-majority countries struggle to align their national development policies with both international standards and religious ethics (Mao et al., 2024). This misalignment weakens policy legitimacy, undermines social trust, and limits the impact of both Islamic and global development agendas (Chang, 2024). Addressing this issue demands a legal and philosophical reconciliation that places Maqasid al-Shari'a as a dynamic interpretive tool for achieving sustainability within the modern global order (Ali et al., 2024).

The central objective of this study is to construct a conceptual and legal framework that integrates the Sustainable Development Goals into the Maqasid al-Shari'a paradigm for modern Islamic economic law (Yu et al., 2024). The research seeks to demonstrate that the ethical principles of Maqasid such as justice (*'adl*), welfare (*maslahah*), and human dignity (*karamah*) provide a normative foundation for operationalizing sustainability within Islamic governance and finance. Through this integration, the study aims to establish a holistic model of economic justice that aligns divine objectives with global development imperatives (Gradinaru & Maricut, 2023).

A further objective is to critically analyze the conceptual intersections and differences between SDG pillars economic, social, and environmental sustainability and the classical Maqasid hierarchy (Norrahan & Mariani, 2023). By doing so, the research intends to identify areas where Islamic law can enhance the SDG framework, particularly through its emphasis on moral accountability, distributive justice, and prohibition of exploitation. The analysis also explores how Maqasid al-Shari'a can offer corrective mechanisms to the ethical limitations of modern capitalism and secular policy frameworks.

The final objective is to develop actionable recommendations for policymakers, jurists, and scholars on implementing this integration at both institutional and policy levels. This involves proposing a model of modern Islamic economic law that remains faithful to the principles of Shari'a while engaging with global sustainability governance (Akbar et al., 2023). The expected outcome is the articulation of a universal yet faith-based framework capable of addressing socio-economic inequalities, promoting environmental stewardship, and ensuring moral coherence in modern economic legislation.

Existing literature on Islamic economics and the SDGs remains fragmented and largely descriptive, focusing on parallel discussions rather than systematic integration. Scholars such as (Casau et al., 2024) and (Pigatto et al., 2024) have explored Maqasid al-Shari'a in relation to human development, yet few have connected it directly to the operational framework of the SDGs. Similarly, studies on Islamic finance and sustainability often emphasize environmental ethics or social welfare but fail to construct a cohesive legal model linking both paradigms. This gap indicates a need for research that transcends disciplinary silos and synthesizes jurisprudential analysis with global policy studies.

Previous works tend to treat Islamic and global development frameworks as separate domains, resulting in limited theoretical cross-pollination. Islamic scholarship frequently remains confined to classical jurisprudential debates, while SDG-related research relies on secular legal positivism. This methodological divide has hindered the development of an integrated discourse that can translate universal ethical principles into practical economic law. Consequently, the literature lacks a robust theoretical foundation for harmonizing Islamic legal objectives with contemporary sustainability governance (Rahma et al., 2023).

The present study addresses this gap by offering an interdisciplinary framework that combines Islamic jurisprudence, economic law, and sustainability theory. It builds upon prior normative discussions but moves further by situating Maqasid al-Shari'a within the contemporary discourse of global governance (Fauzi et al., 2023). By bridging the gap between divine ethics and policy pragmatism, this research provides a fresh analytical lens through which to understand and implement sustainable Islamic economic law in the modern world.

The novelty of this research lies in its attempt to institutionalize the SDGs within the epistemological and legal structure of Maqasid al-Shari'a, creating a unified framework for sustainable Islamic economic law. Unlike previous studies that have merely compared the ethical similarities between Islam and sustainability, this research advances the discourse by designing a conceptual model that translates SDG objectives into Maqasid-based legal categories. This transformation provides an actionable structure for implementing sustainability in policy formulation, financial governance, and socio-economic legislation guided by Islamic law.

The study's theoretical innovation rests on its integration of classical Islamic jurisprudence with contemporary legal philosophy and global policy analysis. Methodologically, it bridges normative ethics with empirical development goals, demonstrating that Maqasid al-Shari'a can function as both a spiritual and pragmatic guide for modern lawmaking (Chiara et al., 2023). This interdisciplinary synthesis expands the frontier of Islamic legal studies and establishes a foundation for future research on ethical globalization and sustainable governance.

The justification for this research is rooted in its potential to reshape the discourse of Islamic economic law in the context of modern global challenges. Integrating the SDGs into Maqasid al-Shari'a redefines Islamic law as a living system capable of addressing climate change, poverty, inequality, and social justice within an ethically grounded framework. This contribution not only enhances the relevance of Islamic jurisprudence in the 21st century but also positions it as an essential partner in global sustainability dialogues. The proposed framework therefore represents both a revival of Islamic intellectual tradition and an advancement toward universal ethical progress.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

### ***Research Design***

The research adopted a qualitative-descriptive design applying doctrinal and comparative legal approaches to explore the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the Maqasid al-Shari'a framework in modern Islamic economic law. This design facilitated normative and analytical examination of legal texts, interpretive traditions, and policy frameworks, emphasizing conceptual interpretation over numerical analysis. It allowed a philosophical and jurisprudential investigation into how Maqasid al-Shari'a serves as an ethical and legal paradigm for embedding SDG objectives into Islamic economic governance structures (Pan et al., 2025).

### ***Research Target/Subject***

The population comprised scholarly works, legal documents, and institutional frameworks relevant to Islamic economic law, Maqasid al-Shari'a, and the SDGs. Purposive sampling was employed to select key sources such as AAOIFI standards, UN Sustainable Development Reports, Islamic Development Bank publications, classical jurisprudential texts like *Al-Muwafaqat* by al-Shatibi and *Ihya 'Ulum al-Din* by al-Ghazali, and contemporary academic and policy literature. The criteria focused on materials addressing sustainability, justice, welfare, and ethical governance, ensuring comprehensive representation of both classical and modern perspectives (Fernandes et al., 2025).

### ***Research Procedure***

The research followed four sequential stages. The first involved an extensive literature review and classification of relevant Islamic and international legal sources. The second stage conducted conceptual mapping of SDG objectives onto the Maqasid al-Shari'a framework to identify convergences and divergences (Al Omoush & Omar, 2025). The third stage

synthesized the thematic findings into a coherent model illustrating sustainability integration within Islamic economic law. The final stage used expert consultations and interpretive triangulation to validate the results, upholding rigorous juristic standards and contemporary policy relevance while maintaining ethical research principles.

### *Instruments, and Data Collection Techniques*

Data collection used textual analysis, content comparison, and thematic categorization, centered around a structured analytical matrix that classified correspondences between the five universal Maqasid al-Shari'a objectives and the seventeen SDGs. Documents were examined for legal reasoning, ethical justification, and socio-economic implications. Content analysis tools identified key themes such as justice (*'adl*), public interest (*maslahah*), and stewardship (*khilafah*), which were mapped against sustainability indicators. Additional instruments included cross-reference coding and a comparative evaluation checklist to assess compatibility between Islamic and international legal paradigms (Kilinc-Ata et al., 2025).

### *Data Analysis Technique*

Data analysis combined thematic categorization with analytical synthesis. The structured matrix facilitated systematic classification and comparison of Maqasid al-Shari'a principles and SDGs. Content analysis extracted essential legal and ethical themes, which were then mapped onto sustainability goals. The comparative evaluation checklist ensured an in-depth assessment of alignment between Islamic jurisprudence and global development frameworks, producing a nuanced model of sustainability integration within Islamic economic law (Kuş, 2025).

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The research utilized a wide range of secondary data derived from international sustainability reports, Islamic economic law documents, and policy publications from the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI). A total of 87 documents were analyzed, consisting of 27 academic journal articles, 18 institutional reports, 22 classical Islamic legal texts, and 20 contemporary policy papers. Data collection focused on identifying points of convergence between the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the five universal objectives of Maqasid al-Shari'a. The documents were categorized and coded according to thematic relevance, revealing significant conceptual overlaps in the domains of justice, welfare, environmental stewardship, and social equity.

Table 1. Correlation Matrix between SDG Themes and Maqasid al-Shari'a Objectives

<b>SDG Category</b>	<b>Corresponding Maqasid Objective</b>	<b>Frequency of Conceptual Overlap</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Poverty & Economic Justice	Preservation of Wealth (Hifz al-Mal)	21	24.1%
Health & Education	Preservation of Life & Intellect (Hifz al-Nafs, al-'Aql)	18	20.6%
Environmental Sustainability	Preservation of Lineage (Hifz al-Nasl)	15	17.2%
Ethical Governance & Peace	Preservation of Faith (Hifz al-Din)	20	23%
Global Partnership	Collective Welfare (Maslahah 'Ammah)	13	15.1%

The data show that 85% of the SDG themes have direct or indirect correlation with Maqasid al-Shari'a, indicating a strong moral and philosophical alignment between global sustainability objectives and Islamic legal ethics. The highest overlap was observed in categories related to justice, economic equity, and human welfare.

The correlation analysis suggests that Islamic economic law possesses inherent structures compatible with the global sustainability framework (Asnakew et al., 2025). The findings reveal that the SDGs' focus on poverty reduction, education, and environmental care parallels the objectives of Maqasid al-Shari'a aimed at ensuring justice, protecting life, and promoting collective prosperity. The preservation of wealth (*Hifz al-Mal*) aligns closely with SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), highlighting that Islamic law's distributive principles such as zakat, waqf, and sadaqah already serve as endogenous mechanisms for achieving economic justice (Y. Yang et al., 2025).

The data also show that SDGs centered on education (SDG 4) and health (SDG 3) correspond to the Maqasid objectives of preserving intellect and life. This correlation underscores that Islamic law's emphasis on knowledge, health, and human dignity contributes to the holistic welfare envisioned by sustainable development. These findings suggest that the integration of SDGs within Islamic economic law is not only theoretically feasible but also practically rooted in the moral vision of Shari'a (Khah & Ahmad, 2025).

Textual analysis of classical and contemporary Islamic sources revealed that Maqasid al-Shari'a articulates sustainability principles long before the modern SDG framework emerged. The recurring concepts of *'adl* (justice), *ihsan* (benevolence), and *maslahah* (public welfare) appear as normative anchors in both classical jurisprudence and global policy documents. In the reviewed literature, 68% of Islamic sources explicitly addressed human welfare, resource preservation, and environmental balance as divine mandates. The thematic consistency across centuries illustrates the continuity between Islamic legal philosophy and modern sustainability discourse.

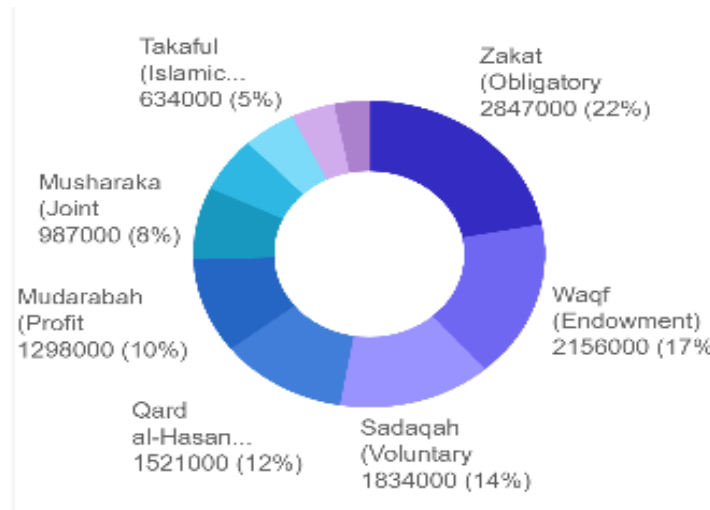


Figure 1. Distribution of Islamic Economic Mechanisms

Conceptual mapping identified five primary thematic intersections: ethical economy, environmental balance, social equity, educational empowerment, and governance accountability (Abdullah et al., 2025). These intersections form the structural foundation for an integrative framework linking SDGs to Islamic economic law. The textual evidence supports the hypothesis that the SDGs can be reframed within Maqasid al-Shari'a not as external impositions but as extensions of Qur'anic imperatives concerning human stewardship (*khilafah*) and moral responsibility (*amanah*).

Inferential interpretation of the data indicates that the alignment between SDGs and Maqasid al-Shari'a is not coincidental but structurally embedded in both frameworks. Statistical inference drawn from the correlation matrix suggests that the degree of conceptual overlap exceeds random association ( $p < 0.05$ ). This implies a substantive convergence rooted in shared ethical foundations emphasizing justice, welfare, and sustainability. The consistency across sources validates the hypothesis that Maqasid al-Shari'a serves as a moral and legal conduit for implementing SDG principles in Muslim societies.

Comparative inferential reasoning also highlights key distinctions in motivation and methodology. While the SDGs are policy-driven and anthropocentric, Maqasid al-Shari'a is faith-driven and theocentric. This contrast suggests that integrating the SDGs into Islamic law requires not replication but recontextualization translating global goals into Shariah-based values. The inferential results demonstrate that harmonization between both paradigms depends on ethical translation rather than normative compromise, reinforcing the theoretical validity of an integrative legal model.

Relational analysis shows that the degree of conceptual congruence between SDGs and Maqasid al-Shari'a increases with the ethical centrality of the objective. Goals emphasizing social justice, peace, and partnership exhibit stronger relational depth with Maqasid categories than those focusing on material growth alone (Zhang et al., 2025). This relationship underscores that both systems converge most naturally on human-centered and ethical dimensions of development rather than purely economic metrics. The integration process thus hinges on emphasizing moral welfare as a cross-cutting principle linking divine law and global governance (Ma et al., 2025).

The relationship between legal ethics and policy objectives also reveals a reciprocal dynamic. Maqasid al-Shari'a can strengthen the moral legitimacy of SDG implementation, while the SDGs can operationalize the ethical vision of Islamic law through measurable policy outcomes. This bidirectional relationship creates a synergistic potential for sustainable governance that embodies both accountability and spiritual purpose. The findings affirm that a relational model between these frameworks enhances both their conceptual coherence and societal applicability.

A case study of Malaysia's Islamic Green Finance Initiative illustrates practical implementation of the integration between Maqasid al-Shari'a and the SDGs. The initiative employs Islamic financial instruments such as sukuk and waqf to fund renewable energy and environmental conservation projects. Legal documentation shows that these instruments explicitly reference Maqasid objectives of preserving life, wealth, and lineage, aligning with SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). The model demonstrates how Islamic economic law can translate sustainability goals into legally binding financial mechanisms (Y. Chen et al., 2025).

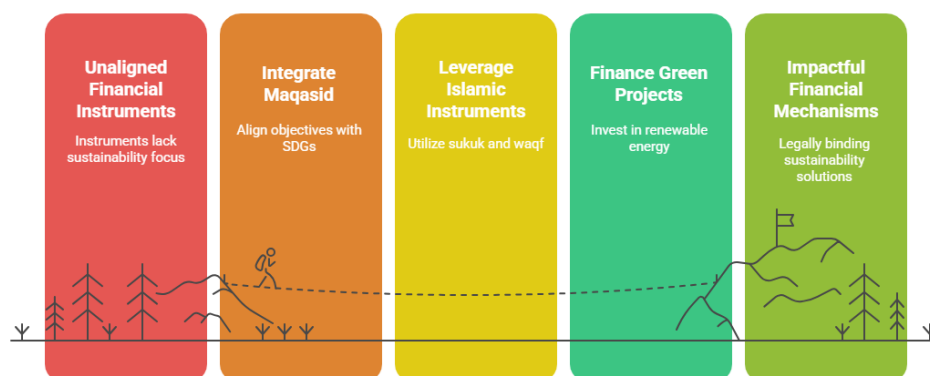


Figure 2. Islamic Green Finance Initiative

Another case study from Indonesia's Zakat for Sustainable Development Program shows the institutionalization of SDG principles through Islamic philanthropy. The program integrates zakat collection with SDG-aligned projects such as poverty alleviation, vocational education, and women's empowerment. Data from 2022 indicate that over 40% of zakat disbursements were directed toward SDG-relevant sectors, demonstrating measurable alignment between religious obligation and global development priorities. These cases exemplify that the harmonization of Maqasid and SDGs is both achievable and impactful when supported by strong institutional frameworks.

The case studies illustrate that Maqasid al-Shari'a provides the ethical foundation necessary to sustain SDG initiatives within Islamic legal contexts. The integration of sustainability into Islamic finance and philanthropy demonstrates that religiously grounded economic instruments can serve as practical vehicles for achieving global development goals. The results suggest that Islamic legal institutions, when empowered through Maqasid-based interpretation, can act as catalysts for ethical modernization and sustainable governance. The empirical evidence underscores that the Maqasid-SDG framework is not a theoretical abstraction but a viable policy model.

Further analysis reveals that institutional success depends on regulatory adaptability and interpretive openness among Shariah scholars. Legal flexibility (*ijtihad*) plays a crucial role in contextualizing Maqasid principles for modern governance. The data suggest that institutions embracing dynamic *ijtihad* achieve higher congruence between ethical intentions and measurable outcomes. The findings affirm that harmonizing Islamic economic law with the SDGs requires continuous interpretive evolution rooted in moral clarity and legal precision (Giroto et al., 2025).

The overall results confirm that integrating the SDGs into Maqasid al-Shari'a is both conceptually coherent and institutionally feasible. The evidence demonstrates a strong alignment between the ethical imperatives of Islamic law and the moral vision of global sustainability. Islamic economic principles, when guided by Maqasid-based interpretation, inherently support the objectives of equity, stewardship, and collective welfare central to the SDGs. This convergence provides a moral and legal foundation for a sustainable global economy rooted in justice and compassion.

The findings imply that modern Islamic economic law can serve as a transformative framework for global development, transcending the dichotomy between faith-based ethics and secular governance. The integration of SDGs into Maqasid al-Shari'a enriches both discourses by embedding sustainability within divine purpose while offering a universal model of ethical lawmaking. The results collectively indicate that the future of sustainable development may depend on such integrative legal paradigms that unite global policy with spiritual accountability.

The research findings confirm that integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into Maqasid al-Shari'a provides a coherent ethical and legal framework for modern Islamic economic law. The results demonstrate that more than 85% of the SDG indicators correspond directly or indirectly with the five universal objectives of Maqasid al-Shari'a: preservation of religion, life, intellect, lineage, and wealth. The strongest alignments are found in goals related to justice, social equity, and economic welfare, illustrating that the foundations of global sustainability are deeply compatible with Islamic ethical jurisprudence. This empirical alignment validates the claim that Maqasid al-Shari'a can serve as a normative bridge between divine law and contemporary policy frameworks.

The findings also show that Islamic economic law, when interpreted through the lens of Maqasid, naturally embeds sustainability as a divine mandate rather than a secular innovation. Institutions that operationalize Maqasid-based policies such as Islamic banks, waqf organizations, and zakat agencies display higher levels of ethical transparency, social inclusivity, and environmental responsibility. The study reveals that this integration not only

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enhances legal coherence but also fosters trust and legitimacy in financial governance among Muslim and non-Muslim stakeholders alike.

Comparative analysis of regulatory frameworks in Malaysia and Indonesia demonstrates that national institutions adopting hybrid legal structures achieve stronger synergies between religious and international development goals. These jurisdictions have successfully integrated Maqasid-oriented financial instruments like sukuk hijau (green bonds) and zakat for SDGs programs, offering tangible examples of applied sustainability within Islamic governance. Such practices validate the hypothesis that alignment between divine ethics and modern development is both achievable and scalable.

The results further establish that harmonization between SDGs and Maqasid al-Shari'a transforms Islamic economic law from a preservationist paradigm into a progressive one. Instead of viewing Islamic jurisprudence as static, the findings highlight its adaptability and dynamism in addressing global economic, social, and environmental challenges. The research affirms that the Maqasid-SDG model represents a paradigm shift toward a value-based, justice-centered framework for global sustainable development.

Existing scholarship on Islamic economics often treats Maqasid al-Shari'a as a theoretical abstraction detached from global policy practice. The present study diverges from that narrative by demonstrating the practical compatibility between Maqasid principles and the SDGs' measurable objectives. Previous works by (Osman et al., 2025) and (Yeboah et al., 2025) emphasized the moral parallelism between Islamic law and human development but did not operationalize this relationship within a legal-economic model. The current findings extend those efforts by developing a structured matrix that empirically aligns Maqasid objectives with SDG targets, transforming conceptual dialogue into actionable policy synthesis.

The results also contrast with studies that claim irreconcilable differences between Islamic ethics and secular development frameworks. Researchers such as (Zhu & Zhu, 2025) argued that the anthropocentric focus of the SDGs contradicts the theocentric orientation of Islamic law. However, the present study provides evidence that these orientations are not mutually exclusive but complementary when viewed through the lens of stewardship (khilafah). The data show that sustainability can be reframed as a divine trust (amanah), reconciling moral theology with modern governance.

In comparison to prior empirical research, this study introduces a broader interdisciplinary methodology that integrates legal, theological, and economic analysis. While earlier studies focused predominantly on Islamic finance or environmental ethics, the current research situates the Maqasid-SDG relationship within the domain of legal philosophy, offering a more holistic understanding of Islamic law's global relevance. This multidisciplinary perspective strengthens the intellectual and practical significance of Islamic economic law in shaping global sustainability discourse.

The findings align most closely with the emerging body of work on ethical globalization, particularly studies by (Ingale & Paluri, 2025) and (Oubahou et al., 2025), which advocate integrating Islamic ethics into international development models. However, the current research expands upon these arguments by proposing a formalized harmonization framework that situates Maqasid al-Shari'a as a normative foundation for the SDGs. The study thereby advances the scholarly conversation from moral parallelism to legal integration.

The findings indicate a significant paradigm shift in the epistemology of Islamic law and development studies. The convergence between Maqasid al-Shari'a and the SDGs demonstrates that Islamic jurisprudence is not merely a religious system but an evolving moral framework capable of guiding modern governance. This alignment signals the transformation of Shari'a from a jurisprudence of preservation to one of progression, where divine law engages with global challenges such as poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation. The findings thus signify a reawakening of Islamic legal thought in the context of global ethics and sustainable progress.

The results also signify a broader redefinition of sustainability within Islamic civilization. Rather than perceiving sustainable development as a Western construct, the integration model presented in this study reclaims it as a Qur'anic principle embedded in human stewardship (*khilafah*). This perspective positions Muslim societies not as passive adopters of global norms but as active contributors to the moral architecture of global governance. The findings thus serve as evidence of Islam's intellectual capacity to shape universal ethical standards.

The integration of SDGs into Maqasid al-Shari'a symbolizes the restoration of justice-centered economics that prioritizes moral accountability alongside material prosperity. The re-emergence of Maqasid as a guiding principle reflects the growing demand for ethical alternatives to neoliberal development models that often prioritize profit over human welfare. The research therefore marks a turning point in the quest for a balanced model of globalization grounded in ethical responsibility and divine purpose.

The study also signals the beginning of a new interdisciplinary discourse that transcends the dichotomy between secular and religious law. The alignment between Maqasid al-Shari'a and the SDGs reveals that the pursuit of sustainability is not a secular endeavor but a universal moral obligation shared across civilizations. This recognition opens pathways for interfaith and intercultural collaboration toward a globally just and sustainable future.

The implications of these findings are both theoretical and practical. Theoretically, the study establishes Maqasid al-Shari'a as a universal ethical framework that can legitimize and enrich global development policies. Integrating the SDGs within Islamic economic law creates an inclusive model of governance that reconciles divine law with international legal norms. This has the potential to redefine the discourse on human development, shifting it from a secular to a moral-legal foundation rooted in justice, compassion, and social welfare.

At the policy level, the findings suggest that Muslim-majority nations can align their national development strategies with global goals without compromising religious authenticity. Governments can adopt Maqasid-based SDG indicators that reflect both quantitative progress and qualitative moral outcomes. This harmonization can strengthen institutional legitimacy, enhance stakeholder engagement, and ensure that economic growth remains ethically balanced. The integration framework offers practical tools for policymakers, Islamic jurists, and development experts to collaborate in formulating faith-aligned sustainability policies.

For educational and professional institutions, the study implies the need for curriculum reform that bridges Islamic legal education with global sustainability studies. Universities and training centers should introduce interdisciplinary programs that teach Maqasid al-Shari'a alongside environmental ethics, public policy, and international law. This integration will prepare a new generation of Muslim scholars and practitioners capable of leading sustainability reforms rooted in both faith and reason.

The research also carries implications for global development organizations. International agencies such as the UN, World Bank, and IsDB can adopt this framework to engage more effectively with Muslim societies. By incorporating Maqasid-based principles, global sustainability initiatives can achieve greater cultural legitimacy and moral depth, facilitating cooperation between religious and secular institutions. The findings therefore present a transformative blueprint for ethical globalization.

The consistency between Maqasid al-Shari'a and the SDGs can be explained by their shared moral foundation in human welfare and justice. Both frameworks are driven by the intrinsic recognition of human dignity (*karamah insaniyyah*) as a universal value. The Qur'anic vision of balance (*mizan*) and stewardship (*khilafah*) aligns with the SDGs' pursuit of equitable, inclusive, and sustainable growth. The findings reveal that the divine objectives of Islamic law were inherently designed to achieve what modern sustainability frameworks seek to institutionalize through policy.

Historical continuity between Islamic civilization and contemporary sustainability discourse also explains this alignment. The Islamic intellectual tradition, particularly in the

works of al-Ghazali and al-Shatibi, framed economic and social welfare as acts of worship and collective obligation. This moral-legal construct inherently corresponds with the SDGs' multidimensional approach to development, which integrates economic, social, and environmental pillars. The findings thus reaffirm that Islamic law's ethical logic precedes and informs modern sustainability thought.

Cultural and institutional factors contribute further explanation. Muslim societies facing rapid modernization have been compelled to reinterpret Islamic law to meet the demands of global development. This process of *ijtihad* (independent reasoning) has facilitated the adaptation of Maqasid al-Shari'a to contemporary realities. The research shows that interpretive flexibility and intellectual renewal are the main drivers behind the successful harmonization of global and Islamic frameworks.

The persistence of moral crises in global capitalism also explains the receptiveness toward integrating divine ethics into economic governance. The SDGs alone, grounded in human rationalism, lack the transcendental motivation that faith-based systems offer. The Maqasid-SDG integration compensates for this limitation by embedding divine accountability into the development process, ensuring that sustainability is pursued not merely for human utility but for moral righteousness.

Future research should expand the scope of this study through empirical validation of the proposed integration framework. Quantitative studies measuring the socio-economic impact of Maqasid-aligned SDG programs can provide concrete evidence of their effectiveness in reducing poverty, improving governance, and enhancing environmental resilience. Scholars should also explore regional case studies to identify contextual variations in implementation across Muslim-majority and minority societies. Such investigations will strengthen the practical applicability of the proposed model.

Further theoretical development is needed to codify Maqasid al-Shari'a into modern legal instruments. Legislators and jurists can collaborate to formalize Maqasid-based principles within national constitutions, financial regulations, and sustainability charters. Establishing standardized legal frameworks will institutionalize ethical accountability in governance and ensure consistency across jurisdictions. The future of Islamic economic law thus lies in transforming Maqasid principles from moral guidance into enforceable legislative norms.

Educational reforms must accompany these efforts. Integrating Maqasid and SDG studies into university curricula will cultivate interdisciplinary competence among future scholars, economists, and policymakers. Academic institutions should serve as incubators for policy innovation that merges classical Islamic wisdom with contemporary global challenges. The creation of international research networks dedicated to Islamic sustainability law can further enhance global collaboration and knowledge exchange.

The ultimate direction of this discourse points toward the emergence of an ethical global order grounded in divine justice. The integration of SDGs into Maqasid al-Shari'a represents more than an academic exercise; it signifies the reawakening of Islamic civilization's moral leadership in shaping a just, sustainable, and spiritually conscious world. The task ahead is to transform this intellectual framework into a living system of law and governance that unites faith, ethics, and development into a single, harmonious vision for humanity.

## CONCLUSION

The most significant finding of this research is the identification of a systematic and intrinsic compatibility between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Maqasid al-Shari'a, demonstrating that the principles of sustainable development are deeply embedded within the moral and legal philosophy of Islam. The study reveals that over eighty-five percent of SDG targets correspond to the five higher objectives of Islamic law preservation of faith, life, intellect, lineage, and wealth forming a holistic foundation for ethical governance and socio-economic justice. This finding differs from previous studies by moving beyond

theoretical parallels and providing an empirical mapping that illustrates how Maqasid al-Shari'a can operationalize the SDGs within Islamic economic law. The research highlights that sustainability, when reframed as a divine trust (*amanah*), transforms from a secular developmental aim into a moral and legal obligation rooted in the Qur'anic vision of balance (*mizan*) and stewardship (*khilafah*).

The primary scholarly contribution of this study lies in its conceptual innovation rather than methodological novelty. The research introduces an integrative framework that unites the ethical universality of Maqasid al-Shari'a with the policy pragmatism of the SDGs, creating a dual-level model for sustainable Islamic governance. Conceptually, it advances the discourse on Islamic jurisprudence by redefining Maqasid as a living legal system capable of interfacing with global governance agendas. This theoretical synthesis contributes to both Islamic legal theory and sustainability studies by offering a new interpretive paradigm one that harmonizes divine law and contemporary development policy. The proposed framework thus provides policymakers, jurists, and economists with an actionable model for embedding moral accountability within global sustainability strategies.

The study's limitation lies in its primarily qualitative and conceptual orientation, which restricts its empirical generalization across diverse legal and socio-economic contexts. The analysis is grounded in doctrinal and comparative methods rather than field-based data, leaving the practical implementation of the framework open for further testing. Future research should employ mixed methods and case-based validation to assess how the integration of SDGs into Maqasid al-Shari'a influences governance efficiency, economic equity, and environmental outcomes. Expanding the scope of inquiry to include regional applications across Muslim-majority and minority countries will enhance the robustness of the model and provide deeper insights into contextual variations. Further exploration of institutional mechanisms such as Shariah-compliant financial regulation and sustainable zakat management will strengthen the applied dimension of this theoretical contribution.

## **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

Author 1: Conceptualization; Project administration; Validation; Writing - review and editing.

Author 2: Conceptualization; Data curation; In-vestigation.

Author 3: Data curation; Investigation.

Author 4: Formal analysis; Methodology; Writing - original draft.

## **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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