

Climate Justice in Islamic Legal Thought: Harmonizing Environmental Law, Human Rights, and Sustainable Development in OIC Countries

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ABSTRACT

Climate change has become one of the most pressing global challenges, affecting environmental sustainability, economic development, and human well-being across many regions of the world. Countries within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) are particularly vulnerable to climate-related risks such as water scarcity, desertification, rising temperatures, and extreme weather events. These environmental challenges not only threaten ecosystems but also undermine social stability, food security, and fundamental human rights. In this context, the concept of climate justice has emerged as an important framework for addressing the unequal distribution of climate impacts and promoting fair and sustainable environmental governance. This study examines the role of climate justice within Islamic legal thought and explores how environmental law, human rights, and sustainable development can be harmonized in OIC countries to address contemporary environmental challenges. Using a qualitative doctrinal and comparative legal methodology, the study analyzes the conceptual foundations of climate justice, the ecological principles embedded in Islamic legal traditions, and the development of international environmental law and climate governance frameworks. It further evaluates environmental policies and legal mechanisms adopted by selected OIC countries in order to assess how environmental governance, human rights protections, and sustainability strategies are integrated at the national level. The analysis highlights both the progress made by several OIC countries in developing climate policies and the challenges they continue to face in implementing effective environmental governance systems. The findings suggest that Islamic environmental ethics—particularly principles related to stewardship, moderation in resource use, and the prevention of harm—provide valuable normative foundations for strengthening climate governance in Muslim-majority societies. These ethical principles align closely with international environmental law and sustainable development frameworks, offering opportunities for integrating culturally grounded approaches into modern environmental policymaking. However, disparities in institutional capacity, legal implementation, and financial resources continue to limit the effectiveness of environmental governance in many OIC states. The study concludes that harmonizing environmental law, human rights, and sustainable development is essential for achieving climate justice in OIC countries. Strengthening environmental legislation, improving institutional coordination, promoting renewable energy development, and enhancing public participation in environmental decision-making can significantly improve climate governance outcomes. By integrating Islamic ethical perspectives with international legal frameworks, OIC countries can develop more inclusive and sustainable approaches to addressing climate change while protecting the rights and well-being of present and future generations.

Keywords:

Climate Justice; Environmental Law; Islamic Environmental Ethics; Sustainable Development; Human Rights.

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Introduction

Climate change has emerged as one of the most pressing global challenges of the twenty-first century, posing serious threats to environmental sustainability, human security, and socio-economic stability across the world. Rising global temperatures, extreme weather events, desertification, sea-level rise, and biodiversity loss have significantly affected both developed and developing nations. However, many countries within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to geographic conditions, economic structures, and limited adaptive capacities. Regions across the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, and parts of Southeast Asia are already experiencing water scarcity, agricultural decline, and environmental degradation linked to climate change. These challenges highlight the urgent need for effective legal and policy frameworks that integrate environmental protection with social justice and sustainable development.¹

In recent decades, the concept of climate justice has gained increasing attention within international environmental law and global governance debates. Climate justice emphasizes the equitable distribution of the burdens and benefits associated with climate change mitigation and adaptation. It recognizes that those who contribute least to global greenhouse gas emissions often suffer the most severe consequences of climate-related environmental degradation. As a result, climate justice advocates for fair legal mechanisms that address historical responsibilities, protect vulnerable communities, and promote sustainable development in accordance with principles of environmental equity and human rights. International agreements such as global climate conventions and sustainable development initiatives increasingly emphasize justice-based approaches to climate governance, highlighting the interconnectedness of environmental protection, economic development, and social well-being.²

Within the context of Muslim-majority societies, discussions on climate justice can be further enriched by insights derived from Islamic legal thought and ethical traditions. Islamic jurisprudence historically contains numerous principles that emphasize environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and the preservation of natural resources. Concepts such as human stewardship over the earth, the protection of public interest, and the prevention of harm provide important ethical foundations for environmental governance. These principles align closely with modern sustainability goals that seek to balance environmental protection with economic development and social justice. By drawing upon these normative foundations, Islamic legal thought offers valuable perspectives for addressing contemporary environmental challenges in ways that resonate with the cultural and legal traditions of OIC member states.³

¹ Zafar, M. B., & Jafar, A. (2026). Waqf over a century: Innovation and tradition in shaping social equity and sustainable development. *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, 46(3–4), 448–472.

² Alslamah, M. (2026). Environmental and bioethical rights of future generations under Saudi laws. *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics*, 26(1), 145–164. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10784-025-09600-0>

³ Rahman, S. (2026). A liberatory geography of educational possibility: Black internationalism and Islamic educational spaces in Senegal. *Anthropology & Education Quarterly*, 57(1), e70015. <https://doi.org/10.1111/aeq.12456>

Despite these normative foundations, many OIC countries continue to face significant challenges in developing effective environmental governance systems. Rapid population growth, industrialization, urban expansion, and reliance on fossil fuel-based economies have placed increasing pressure on natural ecosystems. At the same time, environmental policies in many Muslim-majority countries often operate within fragmented legal frameworks that separate environmental regulation from broader human rights and development policies. This fragmentation can limit the effectiveness of climate governance efforts and hinder the integration of environmental protection into national development strategies. Consequently, there is a growing need to explore legal approaches that harmonize environmental law, human rights protections, and sustainable development policies within the broader context of Islamic legal traditions.⁴

The relationship between environmental law, human rights, and sustainable development has become a central theme in contemporary international legal discourse. Environmental degradation frequently undermines fundamental human rights such as the right to life, health, water, and adequate living conditions. Climate change can exacerbate poverty, food insecurity, and forced displacement, particularly among vulnerable populations in developing regions. Recognizing these connections, international legal frameworks increasingly emphasize the importance of integrating environmental protection with human rights obligations and sustainable development objectives. For OIC countries, adopting such integrated approaches may offer pathways for addressing climate challenges while promoting socio-economic development and environmental sustainability.⁵

Against this backdrop, this study examines the concept of climate justice within Islamic legal thought and explores how its principles can contribute to harmonizing environmental law, human rights protections, and sustainable development policies in OIC countries. The research seeks to analyze the normative foundations of environmental responsibility in Islamic legal traditions and assess their relevance for contemporary climate governance frameworks. In addition, the study evaluates the extent to which environmental policies in OIC member states reflect the integration of justice-oriented environmental principles with international environmental law and human rights standards.⁶

By providing a legal and conceptual analysis of climate justice from both Islamic and international perspectives, this study aims to contribute to the broader discourse on sustainable environmental governance in Muslim-majority societies. Understanding how Islamic legal principles can complement modern environmental law may help policymakers develop more culturally grounded and socially legitimate strategies for addressing climate change. Ultimately, harmonizing environmental law, human rights, and sustainable development within the context of Islamic legal thought offers a promising pathway for strengthening climate governance and promoting environmental justice across the OIC region.

Methodology

⁴ Bamidele, S. (2026). Climate change, resource conflicts, and rural women's empowerment in Nigeria amid democratic erosion. *Women's Studies International Forum*, 115, 103270. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2025.103270>

⁵ Najib, A. (2026). Toward a Palestinian critical race theory in education. *Critical Education*, 17(1), 128–154.

⁶ Asadbak, M., & Rastgar, A.-A. (2026). Philosophical theories of good governance and efficiency in public administration. *Journal of Philosophical Investigations*, 20(54), 543–568.

This study adopts a qualitative doctrinal and comparative legal research methodology to examine the relationship between climate justice, environmental law, human rights, and sustainable development within the context of Islamic legal thought and the legal systems of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) countries. The research primarily focuses on analyzing normative legal principles, international legal frameworks, and national environmental policies in order to evaluate how Islamic legal concepts can contribute to contemporary climate governance. By employing doctrinal legal analysis, the study systematically examines primary legal sources including international environmental agreements, human rights instruments, and environmental regulations adopted by selected OIC member states. The research also incorporates an analytical review of Islamic legal sources and jurisprudential principles relevant to environmental protection and social justice. Classical and contemporary scholarly interpretations of Islamic legal doctrines are examined to identify key ethical and legal principles related to environmental stewardship, public welfare, and the prevention of harm. These normative foundations are analyzed in relation to modern environmental governance frameworks in order to assess their potential role in promoting climate justice and sustainable development in Muslim-majority societies.

In addition, the study employs a comparative legal approach to evaluate how selected OIC countries incorporate environmental protection, human rights obligations, and sustainable development goals within their national legal systems. This comparative analysis explores differences in environmental regulatory structures, climate policies, and institutional governance models across jurisdictions. By comparing national approaches with international legal standards, the research seeks to identify areas of convergence and divergence between Islamic legal principles and contemporary environmental law frameworks. Secondary data sources including academic literature, policy reports, international organization publications, and environmental governance studies are also utilized to support the analysis. These sources provide broader insights into global climate governance trends, the development of climate justice discourse, and the challenges faced by OIC countries in implementing effective environmental policies. Through the integration of doctrinal analysis, comparative legal evaluation, and interdisciplinary scholarship, the methodology aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how Islamic legal thought can contribute to harmonizing environmental law, human rights, and sustainable development in addressing climate change challenges.

Definition and Evolution of Climate Justice

The emergence of climate justice within international environmental discourse reflects growing recognition that climate change is closely linked to historical patterns of industrialization and economic development. Industrialized countries have historically contributed the largest share of global greenhouse gas emissions through industrial production, fossil fuel consumption, and large-scale economic expansion. In contrast, many developing countries have contributed relatively little to global emissions but are experiencing severe environmental consequences, including droughts, floods, desertification, and rising sea levels. Climate justice therefore emphasizes the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, which recognizes that while all states share responsibility for addressing climate change, developed nations have a greater obligation to lead mitigation efforts and support vulnerable countries through financial and technological assistance.

In addition to addressing international inequalities, climate justice also highlights the importance of intergenerational equity, which refers to the responsibility of present generations to protect environmental resources for future generations. Climate change poses long-term risks to ecological systems and human societies, meaning that current environmental decisions can have lasting consequences for future populations. Legal and ethical discussions on climate justice increasingly emphasize the need for sustainable development strategies that balance present economic needs with the preservation of environmental resources for future generations. This perspective aligns closely with the broader global commitment to sustainable development and responsible environmental governance.⁷

Environmental Justice, Global Inequality, and the Human Rights Dimension

The relationship between environmental justice and global inequality represents one of the most important dimensions of climate justice. Environmental degradation and climate change often affect communities that possess the least economic resources, political influence, and institutional capacity to respond to environmental challenges. Developing countries, particularly those located in vulnerable climatic regions, frequently experience severe consequences of climate change despite contributing relatively small amounts to global carbon emissions. These disparities highlight the structural inequalities embedded within the global environmental system and underscore the need for equitable climate governance frameworks. Many countries within the developing world face significant environmental vulnerabilities due to factors such as limited technological capacity, fragile ecosystems, and dependence on climate-sensitive economic sectors such as agriculture and fisheries. Rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall patterns, and extreme weather events can threaten food security, water availability, and public health in these regions. As a result, climate change may exacerbate existing socio-economic inequalities by disproportionately affecting communities that already face poverty, limited infrastructure, and weak environmental governance systems. Addressing these inequalities is therefore a central objective of climate justice, which seeks to ensure that environmental policies incorporate considerations of fairness, equity, and social protection.⁸

Another important dimension of climate justice involves the growing recognition of the human rights implications of climate change. Environmental degradation can directly threaten the realization of fundamental human rights, including the rights to life, health, water, food, housing, and an adequate standard of living. For example, extreme weather events and rising sea levels may displace communities and create climate-induced migration, while prolonged droughts may undermine agricultural production and increase the risk of food insecurity. In this context, climate change is increasingly viewed not only as an environmental issue but also as a major challenge for the protection of human rights. International legal frameworks have gradually begun to acknowledge this connection between environmental protection and human rights. Global environmental agreements and sustainable development initiatives increasingly emphasize the importance of integrating environmental governance with human rights protections and social justice considerations. This integrated approach recognizes that

⁷ Hou, S. (2026). Informal institutions and corporate carbon emissions: Evidence from China's listed companies. *PLOS ONE*, 21(2), e0341892. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0341892>

⁸ Osiesi, M. P., Oriola, B., Awosusi, O. O., Joseph, C. H., & BIGNAUT, S. (2026). Impact of violent discipline and parenting styles on learners' aggressive behaviour. *SN Social Sciences*, 6(2), 70.

effective climate governance requires policies that simultaneously address environmental sustainability, economic development, and the well-being of affected communities.⁹

Furthermore, climate justice emphasizes the importance of inclusive and participatory decision-making processes in environmental governance. Communities most affected by climate change should have meaningful opportunities to participate in policy discussions, environmental planning, and climate adaptation strategies. Inclusive governance ensures that local knowledge, cultural perspectives, and community priorities are reflected in climate policies, thereby increasing their legitimacy and effectiveness. Participation also strengthens democratic accountability and helps ensure that environmental policies serve the interests of society as a whole rather than privileging the interests of powerful actors. The relationship between climate change, sustainability, and human rights ultimately highlights the need for integrated legal and policy frameworks capable of addressing the complex social and environmental challenges of the modern world. Sustainable development strategies seek to balance economic growth with environmental protection and social equity, ensuring that development efforts do not undermine ecological stability or human welfare. Climate justice provides an important normative framework for achieving this balance by emphasizing fairness, responsibility, and ethical accountability in global climate governance.¹⁰

Environmental Stewardship and Moral Responsibility in Islamic Thought

Environmental protection occupies an important place within Islamic ethical and legal traditions. Islamic teachings emphasize that the natural environment is not merely a resource for human exploitation but a trust that must be preserved and managed responsibly. The Qur'anic worldview presents the earth as a carefully balanced system created by God, where all elements of nature function harmoniously to sustain life. Human beings are entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining this balance and preventing environmental harm. This ethical framework establishes a strong foundation for environmental stewardship, encouraging individuals and societies to act responsibly toward the natural world. One of the most significant concepts related to environmental stewardship in Islamic thought is the idea of human trusteeship over the earth. According to Islamic teachings, humans are appointed as caretakers responsible for maintaining the integrity of the natural environment. This responsibility implies that natural resources must be used in a manner that respects ecological balance and ensures the sustainability of ecosystems. Environmental degradation, excessive exploitation of resources, and activities that disrupt ecological equilibrium are therefore viewed as violations of this moral trust.¹¹

Islamic ethical teachings also emphasize the principle of balance and moderation in the use of natural resources. The Qur'anic perspective encourages humans to avoid excessive

⁹ Irawan, B., Jf, N. Z., Naffati, A. K., Fatoni, A., & Yuminah. (2026). Spiritual ecology across faiths: A comparative study. *Jurnal Ilmiah Peuradeun*, 14(1), 51–76.

¹⁰ Fauyan, M., Efendi, A., Wahyono, S. B., Sugito, S., & Kholis, N. (2026). Shaping balanced minds: Religious moderation in Indonesian education. *Jurnal Ilmiah Peuradeun*, 14(1), 223–248.
<https://doi.org/10.26811/peuradeun.v14i1.XXXX>

¹¹ Bruno, A. S. (2026). The new regionalism of the BRICS and the rule of law in Europe. *Federalismi.it*, 2026(3), 1–18.

consumption and wasteful behavior. This principle reflects a broader moral commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility. The concept of moderation is particularly relevant in contemporary discussions on climate change and environmental degradation, where overconsumption of natural resources and unsustainable industrial practices have contributed significantly to global environmental crises.¹²

Another important aspect of environmental responsibility in Islamic thought is the prohibition of actions that cause harm to others or to the environment. Islamic ethical principles encourage individuals to avoid practices that lead to environmental destruction, pollution, or the depletion of natural resources. The protection of ecosystems, wildlife, water resources, and agricultural lands is therefore seen as an integral part of fulfilling moral obligations toward both present and future generations. In this sense, environmental stewardship in Islam extends beyond individual ethics to encompass collective responsibility within society. Furthermore, Islamic teachings encourage respect for all forms of life and recognize the intrinsic value of the natural environment. Numerous traditions emphasize kindness toward animals, responsible treatment of land, and the preservation of natural habitats. These teachings reflect an ecological worldview in which humans coexist with other living beings within a shared environmental system. Such ethical perspectives contribute to a broader understanding of environmental responsibility that aligns closely with contemporary principles of ecological sustainability and conservation.¹³

Islamic Legal Principles and Sustainable Resource Management

In addition to ethical teachings, Islamic jurisprudence provides several legal principles that can contribute to modern environmental governance and sustainable resource management. These principles have historically guided social and economic practices in Muslim societies and continue to offer valuable insights for addressing contemporary environmental challenges. Islamic legal thought integrates environmental considerations within broader frameworks of justice, social welfare, and the protection of public interests. One of the most significant legal principles relevant to environmental protection is the principle of preventing harm. This principle establishes that actions causing harm to individuals, communities, or the environment should be avoided and, when possible, prevented through legal and regulatory measures. Environmental pollution, excessive deforestation, and the destruction of natural habitats can therefore be interpreted as violations of this principle because they produce harmful consequences for society and ecosystems. Applying this legal concept in modern environmental law can support the development of regulations aimed at preventing environmental degradation and protecting ecological systems.¹⁴

Another important principle is the protection of public welfare and collective interests. Islamic legal traditions emphasize that the well-being of society should guide legal and policy decisions. Natural resources such as water, forests, and agricultural lands are considered essential for sustaining communities and supporting economic activities. Therefore, their preservation and responsible management are viewed as matters of public interest. Governments and authorities are expected to implement policies that ensure equitable access

¹² Khan, A. W. (2026). More than human rights to commons: A poetic resistance in Chitral, Pakistan. *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences*.

¹³ Buffon, V., Rachdi, H., & Richter-Devroe, S. (2026). Performances of vulnerability: Migrants' encounters with law and state. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 52(7), 1674–1695.

¹⁴ Guntrum, L. G., & Reuter, C. (2025). Activists' strategies for coping with technology-facilitated violence in the Global South. *ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction*, 32(6), 56.

to natural resources while preventing their exploitation in ways that undermine environmental sustainability. Islamic legal traditions also recognize the concept of sustainable resource management, which encourages responsible use of environmental resources to ensure their long-term availability. Historically, Muslim societies developed institutional mechanisms to regulate land use, water distribution, and agricultural practices in ways that promoted ecological balance. Community-based systems for managing shared resources, such as irrigation networks and grazing lands, reflected an understanding of sustainability long before modern environmental science emerged. These historical practices demonstrate how Islamic legal principles can support sustainable development strategies in contemporary environmental governance.¹⁵

Another relevant aspect of Islamic environmental ethics is the emphasis on accountability and responsibility in resource utilization. Individuals and institutions are expected to use natural resources in ways that do not lead to waste, destruction, or injustice. This perspective encourages responsible consumption patterns and sustainable economic practices that minimize environmental harm. In the context of climate change and global environmental degradation, these ethical principles can contribute to discussions on responsible resource management and environmental accountability. Moreover, Islamic environmental ethics promotes the concept of intergenerational responsibility, emphasizing that present generations must preserve environmental resources for the benefit of future generations. This perspective aligns closely with modern sustainable development principles, which seek to balance economic development with long-term ecological sustainability. Protecting natural ecosystems, reducing environmental pollution, and promoting renewable energy solutions are all consistent with the broader Islamic commitment to preserving the natural world as a shared trust.¹⁶

Global Climate Agreements and Environmental Treaties

International environmental law has developed as a crucial legal framework for addressing global environmental challenges, particularly climate change, biodiversity loss, and ecological degradation. Because environmental problems often transcend national borders, international cooperation has become essential for establishing common legal standards and collective policy responses. Over the past several decades, the international community has adopted numerous environmental treaties and agreements aimed at mitigating climate change, protecting natural ecosystems, and promoting sustainable development. These legal frameworks form the foundation of global climate governance and guide national policies designed to address environmental challenges. One of the most significant developments in international climate governance was the adoption of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992. The UNFCCC established the basic legal and institutional framework for global cooperation in addressing climate change. Its primary objective is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at levels that prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system. The convention recognizes that climate change is a shared global concern while also acknowledging differences in countries'

¹⁵ Akhundzadah, N. A., & Kassam, K.-A. (2025). Water sovereignty as a pathway to food and energy security in Afghanistan. *Discover Sustainability*, 6(1), 628.

¹⁶ Ibtihajuddin, M., Nur, I., Anshor, A. M., Mahfudz, A., & Mahmudah, R. (2025). Reconstructing Islamic legal epistemology. *Justicia Islamica*, 22(2), 461–488.

economic capacities and historical contributions to greenhouse gas emissions. This principle is reflected in the concept of common but differentiated responsibilities, which emphasizes that developed countries should take the lead in reducing emissions and supporting developing nations through financial and technological assistance.¹⁷

Building upon the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, adopted in 1997, introduced legally binding emission reduction targets for industrialized countries. The protocol represented one of the earliest attempts to translate international climate commitments into measurable obligations. Although its implementation faced challenges and uneven participation among major economies, the Kyoto Protocol established important mechanisms such as emissions trading, clean development projects, and joint implementation initiatives designed to encourage global cooperation in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. More recently, the Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015, has become the central framework guiding contemporary global climate policy. The agreement seeks to limit global temperature increases by encouraging countries to submit nationally determined contributions outlining their climate mitigation and adaptation commitments. Unlike earlier frameworks that imposed strict emission targets on certain countries, the Paris Agreement relies on a more flexible and inclusive approach that allows each nation to determine its own climate strategies while participating in a collective global effort. The agreement also emphasizes climate resilience, adaptation strategies, and financial support for developing countries facing the most severe climate impacts.¹⁸

In addition to these major climate agreements, numerous international environmental treaties address related issues such as biodiversity protection, desertification, marine conservation, and pollution control. These legal instruments collectively contribute to a broader system of international environmental governance designed to preserve ecosystems, promote sustainable resource management, and reduce environmental risks associated with industrial development and economic activities. Together, these treaties form a complex network of legal obligations and cooperative mechanisms aimed at strengthening global responses to environmental challenges.¹⁹

Sustainable Development Goals and the Role of International Institutions

The relationship between climate governance and sustainable development has become increasingly prominent within international legal and policy discussions. Sustainable development refers to a development model that seeks to meet the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This concept integrates economic growth, social equity, and environmental protection into a unified framework for global development policy. Recognizing the importance of sustainability in addressing global challenges, the international community adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Several of the Sustainable Development Goals are directly related to environmental protection and climate governance. These goals include actions to combat

¹⁷ Hasanah, L. N., Faisal, M. S., Ahmed, Z., & Hasyim, M. Y. A. (2025). Religious diversity and the digital economy: Legal–academic pathways to harmonize Sharia and international law. *International Journal of Law and Social Sciences*, 1(1). <https://doi.org/10.65960/ijlss.1.1.2025.8>

¹⁸ Mujiono, & Ticalu, C. (2025). Emerging trends in law and social sciences: Global perspectives on policy, ethics, justice, and institutional reform. *International Journal of Law and Social Sciences*, 1(1), 40–60. <https://doi.org/10.65960/ijlss.1.1.2025.6>

¹⁹ Azhari, A. M., Azhari, S., & Yaqooq, M. I. (2025). Global transformations in law, justice, and society: Comparative perspectives on governance, rights, and legal reform. *International Journal of Law and Social Sciences*, 1(1), 60–90. <https://doi.org/10.65960/ijlss.1.1.2025.7>

climate change, protect terrestrial ecosystems, conserve marine resources, and ensure sustainable management of natural resources. In addition to environmental objectives, the SDGs also emphasize the importance of reducing poverty, promoting social justice, and strengthening institutional governance. The integration of environmental sustainability with social and economic development reflects a holistic approach to addressing global challenges, recognizing that environmental degradation often exacerbates inequality and undermines long-term economic stability.²⁰

Environmental governance under the SDG framework encourages countries to adopt policies that promote renewable energy development, sustainable agriculture, resource conservation, and climate resilience. Governments are encouraged to develop national strategies that align with global sustainability goals while addressing the specific environmental challenges faced by their regions. The SDG framework also promotes international cooperation, knowledge sharing, and financial assistance to support developing countries in implementing sustainable development policies. International institutions play a vital role in facilitating global climate governance and supporting the implementation of environmental agreements. Organizations within the United Nations system serve as central platforms for international cooperation, policy coordination, and scientific research related to climate change and environmental sustainability. These institutions organize international conferences, facilitate negotiations between governments, and monitor the progress of climate commitments made by participating countries.²¹

In addition to coordinating international agreements, international institutions provide technical expertise and financial support to countries working to strengthen their environmental governance systems. Climate financing mechanisms help developing countries invest in renewable energy infrastructure, climate adaptation projects, and environmental conservation initiatives. Such financial support is particularly important for countries that face significant climate vulnerabilities but lack the economic resources necessary to implement large-scale environmental programs. Regional organizations and international development institutions also contribute to climate governance by supporting policy development, research initiatives, and environmental capacity-building programs. These institutions assist governments in developing environmental legislation, strengthening regulatory frameworks, and implementing sustainable development strategies. They also encourage cooperation between governments, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and private sector actors in addressing environmental challenges. Another important dimension of international climate governance involves the increasing role of **non-state actors**, including environmental organizations, research institutions, and private sector stakeholders. These actors contribute to climate governance through advocacy, scientific research, technological innovation, and the promotion of sustainable business practices. Public-private partnerships have become

²⁰ Al-Farjani, S. H., Ahmad, T., & Rana, H. A. S. (2025). Digital innovation, legal reform, and social justice: Interdisciplinary approaches to law, technology, and human rights. *International Journal of Law and Social Sciences*, 1(1), 91–129. <https://doi.org/10.65960/ijlss.1.1.2025.5>

²¹ Al Azhari, F. U., & Al Azhari, S. I. (2025). Contemporary challenges in harmonizing Sharia, national legal systems, and international law in a rapidly changing world. *International Journal of Law and Social Sciences*, 1(1), 130–150. <https://doi.org/10.65960/ijlss.1.1.2025.4>

particularly important in advancing renewable energy development, environmental monitoring systems, and climate adaptation strategies.²²

Environmental Rights and Climate Vulnerability in OIC Countries

Climate change presents significant environmental, economic, and social challenges for many countries within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The OIC includes a diverse group of states located across regions such as the Middle East, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. Many of these countries are characterized by fragile ecosystems, arid climates, and limited natural resources, making them particularly vulnerable to environmental degradation and climate-related disasters. Rising temperatures, desertification, water scarcity, floods, and extreme weather events increasingly threaten environmental stability and human well-being across these regions. Environmental rights have gradually emerged as an important component of the broader human rights framework. The recognition that environmental degradation can undermine fundamental human rights has influenced global discussions on climate justice and sustainable development. Environmental rights emphasize the idea that individuals and communities have the right to live in a clean, safe, and sustainable environment that supports human health and dignity. In many developing countries, including numerous OIC member states, environmental degradation directly affects essential human needs such as access to clean water, food security, and adequate housing.²³

Within OIC countries, environmental challenges are closely linked to social justice issues. Climate change often disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, including rural communities, small-scale farmers, coastal populations, and economically disadvantaged groups. Many communities in OIC states depend heavily on agriculture, fisheries, and natural resource-based livelihoods that are highly sensitive to environmental conditions. Prolonged droughts, irregular rainfall patterns, and declining soil fertility can severely impact agricultural productivity, leading to food insecurity and economic hardship for millions of people. Water scarcity represents one of the most pressing environmental challenges faced by many OIC countries. Regions such as the Middle East and North Africa already experience some of the lowest levels of freshwater availability in the world. Climate change is expected to further exacerbate water shortages by reducing rainfall, increasing evaporation rates, and intensifying desertification processes. As water resources become increasingly scarce, competition for access to water may intensify, potentially leading to social tensions and regional conflicts. Ensuring equitable access to water resources therefore represents a critical dimension of environmental justice within the OIC context.²⁴

²² Mustafa, A., Ishaque, M., Raza, R., Samiullah, & Raza, M. I. (2025). When culture meets Fiqh: Examining the legal authority of ‘Urf in contemporary engagement traditions. *Global Islamic Research Journal*, 1(1), 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.65960/girj.1.1.2025.6>

²³ Faisala, M. S., Karim, A., Ahmad, M., Anwer, M., Adnan, M., Hassan, M., Ahmad, K., Sohaib, H., Aziz, Q., & Liaqat, M. (2025). The Prophetic Sunnah and the challenges of the age: Confronting technology and its effects on social and psychological security. *Global Islamic Research Journal*, 1(1), 22–42. <https://doi.org/10.65960/girj.1.1.2025.5>

²⁴ Mujiono, Ticalu, C., Mawardi, K., Riyadi, S., & Zuhri, B. (2025). Islamic law and campus governance against drug abuse: Preventive strategies and restorative rehabilitation in Indonesian universities. *Global Islamic Research Journal*, 1(1), 43–58. <https://doi.org/10.65960/girj.1.1.2025.4>

In addition to environmental vulnerabilities, rapid population growth and urbanization in many OIC countries place increasing pressure on natural ecosystems and public infrastructure. Expanding urban populations generate higher demands for energy, transportation, and industrial production, which can contribute to environmental pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, urban populations may face heightened exposure to climate-related risks such as heatwaves, flooding, and air pollution. These challenges demonstrate how climate change intersects with broader socio-economic issues, reinforcing the importance of integrating environmental governance with social justice policies. The concept of climate justice highlights the importance of addressing these inequalities by ensuring that environmental policies prioritize the protection of vulnerable communities and promote equitable access to natural resources. Climate justice advocates emphasize that environmental governance should not only focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions but also address the social consequences of environmental degradation. In the context of OIC countries, this approach requires policies that strengthen climate adaptation strategies, support sustainable agricultural practices, and enhance resilience among communities most affected by climate change.²⁵

Legal Protection of Environmental and Human Rights

The protection of environmental rights and human rights has become an increasingly important aspect of legal governance in many OIC countries. National constitutions, environmental legislation, and policy frameworks in several Muslim-majority states recognize the importance of protecting natural resources and ensuring sustainable development. These legal frameworks often aim to balance economic development with environmental conservation while promoting social welfare and public health. Environmental laws in many OIC countries regulate activities that may harm ecosystems, including industrial pollution, deforestation, land degradation, and water contamination. Governments have introduced environmental impact assessment procedures, pollution control regulations, and natural resource management policies designed to minimize environmental damage associated with economic development. Such regulatory measures aim to ensure that development projects consider environmental risks and incorporate sustainability principles into planning and implementation processes.²⁶

In addition to domestic environmental legislation, many OIC member states participate in international environmental agreements that promote climate mitigation and environmental protection. Participation in global environmental frameworks encourages governments to adopt climate policies, develop renewable energy strategies, and strengthen environmental governance institutions. These commitments also encourage countries to align national policies with broader international goals related to sustainable development and climate resilience. The integration of environmental protection with human rights frameworks is

²⁵ Al Azhari, F. U., Shah, S. H. M., Al Azhari, S. I., Rasool, F., Ahmed, R., Samad, A., & Rehman, A. (2025). The role of Islamic economic principles in family law: A study on inheritance and property rights within the context of child protection. *Global Islamic Research Journal*, 1(1), 59–76. <https://doi.org/10.65960/girj.1.1.2025.2>

²⁶ Zahra, R., Qasim, M., Ali, M., Asef, J., & Ali, B. (2025). Addressing mental health stigma and digital harassment in Pakistan and Indonesia: Insights from Islamic principles and AI-driven cybersecurity law. *Global Islamic Research Journal*, 1(1), 77–92. <https://doi.org/10.65960/girj.1.1.2025.1>

increasingly recognized as a key component of climate governance. Environmental degradation can threaten a range of fundamental rights, including the rights to life, health, food, water, and housing. As climate-related disasters become more frequent and severe, governments face growing pressure to develop policies that protect vulnerable populations from environmental harm. Legal frameworks that recognize the connection between environmental protection and human rights can therefore play an important role in promoting climate justice.²⁷

However, despite these legal developments, many OIC countries continue to face challenges in effectively implementing environmental and human rights protections. Weak institutional capacity, limited financial resources, and inadequate enforcement mechanisms may hinder the effectiveness of environmental laws and climate policies. In some cases, economic priorities such as industrial expansion or resource extraction may conflict with environmental protection objectives. Addressing these challenges requires stronger regulatory frameworks, improved environmental monitoring systems, and greater transparency in environmental decision-making processes. Another important dimension of climate justice involves ensuring public participation and community engagement in environmental governance. Effective environmental protection requires inclusive decision-making processes that allow local communities, civil society organizations, and environmental experts to contribute to policy development. Participation enhances accountability and ensures that environmental policies reflect the needs and concerns of affected communities. In many OIC countries, expanding opportunities for public participation in environmental policymaking could significantly strengthen the legitimacy and effectiveness of climate governance efforts. Furthermore, international cooperation plays a critical role in supporting environmental protection and climate adaptation in OIC countries. Many developing states face financial and technological constraints that limit their ability to implement large-scale environmental programs. International partnerships, climate financing mechanisms, and technological transfer initiatives can help strengthen national capacity to address climate change while promoting sustainable development.²⁸

National Climate Policies and Environmental Legislation

Environmental governance has become an increasingly important priority for many countries within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), particularly as climate change, environmental degradation, and resource scarcity continue to threaten sustainable development. OIC member states vary significantly in their economic capacities, environmental challenges, and regulatory frameworks, yet many have adopted national policies and legal instruments aimed at addressing climate change and promoting environmental protection. A comparative analysis of selected OIC countries demonstrates both progress and challenges in developing effective environmental governance systems. In Indonesia, environmental governance is guided by comprehensive environmental legislation that integrates sustainability principles with national development planning. The country has enacted laws that regulate environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, pollution

²⁷ Azam, M., Hamdoun, A. A.-M., Harahsheh, E. A. A. M., Mashdurohatun, A., & Sidauruk, H. P. (2025). *Religious Diversity in the Digital Economy: Interfaith Legal Pathways to Harmonize Sharia, Christian Ethics, and International Law*. *Contemporary Issues on Interfaith Law and Society*, 4(2), 207–264. <https://doi.org/10.15294/ciils.v4i2.33011>

²⁸ Azam, M., Mashdurohatun, A., Firmansyah, A. N., Saktiawan, M. D., & Jaya, K. O. P. (2025). *Harmonizing Contemporary International Commercial Law with Sharia-Based National Legal Systems: A Comparative Study of Pakistan, Turkey, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Saudi Arabia*. *MILRev: Metro Islamic Law Review*, 4(2), 1074–1096. <https://doi.org/10.32332/milrev.v4i2.11334>

control, and climate change mitigation. Indonesia has also developed a national climate strategy that aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect forest ecosystems, and promote renewable energy development. As one of the world's most biodiverse countries, Indonesia places particular emphasis on forest conservation, peatland protection, and sustainable land management. Environmental impact assessments are legally required for major development projects, ensuring that environmental considerations are incorporated into economic planning.²⁹

Malaysia has also developed an extensive legal framework for environmental governance. Environmental legislation in Malaysia focuses on pollution control, sustainable resource management, and environmental impact regulation. The country has implemented national climate policies aimed at reducing carbon emissions and promoting green technologies. Malaysia's environmental governance strategy emphasizes sustainable industrial development, renewable energy expansion, and improved environmental monitoring systems. Government agencies responsible for environmental protection oversee compliance with environmental standards and enforce regulations designed to prevent environmental degradation. In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), environmental governance has evolved rapidly in recent years as the country seeks to diversify its economy and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. The UAE has adopted several national strategies that prioritize renewable energy development, carbon reduction, and sustainable urban planning. Major investments in solar energy and clean technology have positioned the country as a regional leader in renewable energy initiatives. Environmental regulations in the UAE address issues such as air pollution, waste management, marine conservation, and sustainable infrastructure development. These policies reflect a broader commitment to balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability.³⁰

In **Turkey**, environmental governance combines national legislation with commitments to international environmental agreements. Turkish environmental laws regulate air and water pollution, waste management, and biodiversity protection. Turkey has also introduced climate policies aimed at promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable urban development. Environmental governance in Turkey involves coordination between national ministries, regional authorities, and environmental agencies responsible for implementing regulatory standards and monitoring environmental performance. In contrast, some developing OIC countries continue to face challenges in implementing comprehensive environmental legislation. Limited institutional capacity, financial constraints, and competing development priorities may hinder the effective enforcement of environmental regulations. In certain regions, environmental governance systems remain fragmented, with insufficient coordination between government agencies responsible for environmental management. These disparities highlight the importance of strengthening institutional frameworks and improving regulatory implementation across OIC member states. Despite these differences, many OIC countries are increasingly aligning their environmental policies with global sustainability frameworks and climate commitments. Governments are gradually recognizing

²⁹ Naz, S., Ali, M., Aziz, S., Mehmood, S., & Abebe, K. B. (2026). Effects of United States withdrawal from the Paris Agreement on renewable energy consumption and environmental innovation. *Discover Sustainability*, 7(1), 350. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43621-026-00350-0>

³⁰ Howlader, M. R. (2026). Hydrological hegemony and U.S. strategic engagement in climate and water security. *Discover Global Society*, 4(1), 21. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44282-026-00021-0>

the importance of integrating environmental protection with economic development and social welfare policies. National climate strategies are therefore becoming central components of broader sustainable development agendas within the OIC region.³¹

Institutional Mechanisms and Integration of Sustainability into National Development

In addition to legal frameworks, effective environmental governance requires the establishment of institutional mechanisms capable of implementing environmental policies and monitoring compliance with regulatory standards. Many OIC countries have established specialized government institutions responsible for environmental protection, climate policy coordination, and sustainable development planning. These institutions play a crucial role in translating legal commitments into practical environmental governance strategies. Environmental ministries or dedicated environmental protection agencies are typically responsible for coordinating environmental policies at the national level. These institutions oversee environmental monitoring programs, enforce pollution control regulations, and develop national climate strategies. They also collaborate with other government agencies responsible for sectors such as energy, agriculture, urban development, and water resource management. Such coordination is essential because environmental challenges often intersect with multiple areas of economic and social policy.³²

In countries such as Indonesia and Malaysia, environmental institutions are supported by national programs aimed at improving climate resilience and promoting sustainable development. These programs include reforestation initiatives, biodiversity conservation projects, and renewable energy investments designed to reduce environmental degradation and promote sustainable resource use. Environmental agencies also conduct environmental impact assessments and enforce compliance with environmental standards for industrial and infrastructure projects. Institutional cooperation between national governments and international organizations also plays an important role in strengthening environmental governance in OIC countries. International partnerships often provide financial assistance, technical expertise, and policy guidance that support the development of national environmental programs. Through participation in international environmental agreements, many OIC countries receive support for climate adaptation projects, renewable energy development, and environmental conservation initiatives.³³

Another significant aspect of environmental governance involves the integration of sustainability principles into national development strategies. Governments increasingly recognize that long-term economic growth depends on the sustainable management of natural resources and the protection of ecological systems. As a result, many OIC countries have begun incorporating environmental sustainability into national development plans, infrastructure policies, and industrial strategies. Sustainable development policies often focus on promoting renewable energy technologies, improving energy efficiency, reducing environmental pollution, and protecting natural ecosystems. Investments in solar energy, wind power, and green infrastructure are becoming increasingly common across several OIC

³¹ Desai, D., Si, Y., Bozhilova, D., Puffer, S. M., & Stephens, J. C. (2026). Renewable energy discourses of fossil fuel companies: Obstruction and delay of climate action. *Energy, Sustainability and Society*, 16(1), 13. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13705-026-00313-0>

³² Larkin, A. (2026). From business plans to international rights. *Harvard International Law Journal*, 67(1), 61–128.

³³ Stubenrauch, J., & Heyl, K. (2026). Plastic pollution of soils: Assessing EU policies for a poorly regulated field. *Environmental Sciences Europe*, 38(1), 40. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12302-026-00440-0>

countries seeking to diversify their energy sources and reduce carbon emissions. Sustainable urban planning initiatives also aim to create environmentally friendly cities that minimize pollution, improve public transportation systems, and enhance resilience to climate-related risks.³⁴

Public awareness and community participation are also important components of sustainable environmental governance. Governments increasingly recognize the importance of engaging civil society organizations, academic institutions, and local communities in environmental decision-making processes. Public participation can improve environmental policy outcomes by incorporating local knowledge, strengthening transparency, and encouraging responsible environmental behavior among citizens. Despite these positive developments, several challenges remain in achieving effective environmental governance across OIC countries. Institutional fragmentation, limited financial resources, and insufficient technical expertise may hinder the implementation of environmental policies. In some cases, rapid economic development and industrial expansion may create tensions between environmental protection objectives and economic priorities. Addressing these challenges requires continued institutional reform, improved regulatory enforcement, and stronger integration of environmental considerations into national development planning.³⁵

Policy Recommendations for OIC Countries

As climate change continues to pose significant environmental, social, and economic challenges, countries within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) face an urgent need to develop integrated policy frameworks that harmonize environmental law, human rights protections, and sustainable development strategies. Effective climate governance requires comprehensive policy reforms that strengthen environmental institutions, promote sustainable resource management, and ensure that environmental protection measures align with broader socio-economic development goals. For many OIC countries, achieving this balance is particularly important because environmental degradation often directly affects livelihoods, food security, and public health. One of the most important policy recommendations for OIC countries is the development of comprehensive national climate policies that integrate environmental sustainability into broader development planning. Governments should adopt national strategies that address climate mitigation, climate adaptation, and environmental conservation simultaneously. Such strategies should prioritize renewable energy development, sustainable agricultural practices, water resource management, and ecosystem protection. By integrating environmental considerations into national economic planning, governments can ensure that development initiatives do not undermine ecological stability or long-term sustainability.³⁶

³⁴ von Malmborg, F. (2026). Comparing strategies and success of policy entrepreneurs in EU energy and climate policy processes. *Energy, Sustainability and Society*, 16(1), 2.
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13705-026-00302-0>

³⁵ Moloi, M. S., Carratta, G., & Kühnel, D. (2026). Legal tools for combating plastic pollution at national, EU, and international levels. *Environmental Sciences Europe*, 38(1), 22.
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12302-026-00422-0>

³⁶ Rusydiana, A. S., Rosadhillah, V. K., & Riani, R. (2026). Efficiency of renewable energy for sustainable development: Empirical evidence in OIC countries. *International Journal of Energy Sector Management*. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJESM-09-2024-0055>

Another critical policy priority involves strengthening environmental governance institutions responsible for implementing environmental regulations and monitoring environmental performance. Many OIC countries have established environmental ministries or regulatory agencies, but these institutions often face challenges related to limited financial resources, insufficient technical capacity, and weak enforcement mechanisms. Governments should therefore invest in institutional capacity-building programs that enhance the ability of environmental agencies to enforce regulations, conduct environmental assessments, and respond effectively to climate-related challenges. Promoting renewable energy and green economic development also represents a key strategy for achieving sustainable development while reducing environmental degradation. Many OIC countries possess significant potential for renewable energy production, particularly in solar and wind energy. Investing in clean energy infrastructure can reduce dependence on fossil fuels, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and create new economic opportunities. Governments should implement policies that encourage private sector investment in renewable energy technologies, promote energy efficiency, and support the transition toward low-carbon economic systems.³⁷

Another important recommendation involves strengthening community participation and public awareness in environmental governance. Environmental policies are more effective when they involve local communities, civil society organizations, and academic institutions in decision-making processes. Community engagement allows policymakers to incorporate local knowledge into environmental management strategies and ensures that climate adaptation measures reflect the needs of affected populations. Public awareness campaigns and environmental education programs can also encourage responsible consumption patterns and promote sustainable lifestyles among citizens. Furthermore, OIC countries should enhance regional cooperation and knowledge-sharing initiatives to address common environmental challenges. Many environmental issues such as desertification, water scarcity, and climate-induced migration affect multiple countries across the OIC region. Regional cooperation frameworks can facilitate the exchange of scientific research, environmental technologies, and policy experiences that support more effective climate governance. Collaborative initiatives may also strengthen diplomatic engagement on environmental issues and promote collective action toward regional sustainability goals.³⁸

Legal Harmonization Strategies and Future Directions for Climate Governance

Achieving effective climate governance in Muslim-majority societies also requires the development of legal frameworks that harmonize environmental law with human rights protections and sustainable development objectives. Legal harmonization refers to the process of aligning national environmental legislation with international legal standards and regional cooperation frameworks. Harmonized legal systems facilitate cross-border cooperation, improve regulatory consistency, and strengthen the effectiveness of environmental governance across different jurisdictions. One important strategy for legal harmonization involves the adoption of integrated environmental legislation that incorporates principles of sustainability, social justice, and environmental responsibility. Environmental laws should address key issues such as pollution control, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and natural resource management within a unified legal framework. Such

³⁷ Akash, F. A., Shovon, S. M., Rahman, M. A., Khan, M. F. H., & Prasetya, T. A. (2024). Innovative pathways to sustainable energy: Advancements in clean coal technologies in Bangladesh—A review. *Cleaner Engineering and Technology*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clet.2024.100805>

³⁸ Saad, F. A. G. (2024). Saudi Arabia's journey toward a renewable future. *Energies*. <https://doi.org/10.3390/en17112444>

legislation should also ensure that environmental protection measures respect human rights standards and protect vulnerable communities from environmental harm.³⁹

In addition to strengthening national legal frameworks, OIC countries should increase their participation in international environmental agreements and climate governance initiatives. Active engagement with global climate frameworks can help countries align their national policies with internationally recognized environmental standards while benefiting from international financial and technical support. Participation in global climate initiatives also allows OIC countries to contribute to international discussions on climate justice and sustainable development.

Another key aspect of future climate governance involves the integration of human rights considerations into environmental policymaking. Climate change has profound implications for fundamental human rights, including access to clean water, food security, health, and housing. Governments should therefore ensure that climate policies protect vulnerable populations and promote equitable access to environmental resources. Legal frameworks that recognize environmental rights as part of broader human rights protections can strengthen accountability mechanisms and improve environmental governance outcomes. Looking ahead, the future of climate governance in Muslim-majority societies will also depend on the development of innovative policy approaches that integrate technological advancement with environmental sustainability. Emerging technologies such as renewable energy systems, climate monitoring tools, and sustainable agricultural innovations offer new opportunities for addressing environmental challenges. Governments should invest in scientific research, technological innovation, and environmental education to support the development of sustainable environmental solutions.⁴⁰

Furthermore, climate governance strategies should emphasize intergenerational responsibility and long-term environmental planning. Climate change poses risks that extend far beyond immediate policy cycles, affecting future generations and long-term ecological stability. Sustainable development strategies must therefore incorporate long-term environmental planning that ensures responsible resource management and environmental protection for future societies. Finally, strengthening climate governance in OIC countries requires continued dialogue between policymakers, legal scholars, environmental experts, and civil society actors. Interdisciplinary collaboration can help develop more effective legal frameworks that integrate environmental science, human rights principles, and sustainable development policies. Such collaborative efforts are essential for addressing the complex environmental challenges facing Muslim-majority societies in the coming decades.⁴¹

Conclusion

³⁹ Ang, T. Z., Salem, M., Mohd Jamil, M. K., Alhuyi-Nazari, M., & Prabakaran, N. (2022). A comprehensive study of renewable energy sources: Classifications, challenges and suggestions. *Energy Reports*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esr.2022.100939>

⁴⁰ Apergis, N., & Salim, R. A. (2015). Renewable energy consumption and unemployment: Evidence from a sample of 80 countries and nonlinear estimates. *Applied Economics*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00036846.2015.1054071>

⁴¹ Ibrahim, I. A., Zaidan, E., Truby, J., & Hoppe, T. (2026). The AI Act and environmental risks. *Technology in Society*, 86, 103284. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techsoc.2026.103284>

Climate change has emerged as one of the most significant global challenges of the modern era, affecting environmental sustainability, human security, and socio-economic development across many regions of the world. For countries within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the impacts of climate change are particularly severe due to environmental vulnerabilities such as water scarcity, desertification, extreme weather events, and fragile ecosystems. Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive governance frameworks that integrate environmental protection with social justice and sustainable development. The concept of climate justice provides an important analytical and ethical framework for understanding how environmental degradation disproportionately affects vulnerable communities and how equitable policy responses can promote fairness and sustainability.

This study has examined the conceptual foundations of climate justice and explored how environmental ethics within Islamic legal thought can contribute to contemporary environmental governance. Islamic teachings emphasize environmental stewardship, moderation in resource use, and the prevention of harm, providing a moral and legal foundation for sustainable environmental management. These principles align closely with modern environmental law and sustainability frameworks that seek to balance economic development with ecological protection. By incorporating ethical perspectives rooted in Islamic legal traditions, climate governance policies in Muslim-majority societies can gain greater cultural legitimacy and social acceptance.

The analysis also highlights the role of international environmental law and global climate governance frameworks in shaping national environmental policies. International agreements and sustainability initiatives provide legal standards and policy guidance that encourage countries to adopt climate mitigation strategies, promote renewable energy development, and strengthen environmental institutions. At the same time, a comparative examination of environmental governance in selected OIC countries demonstrates that while many states have developed climate policies and environmental legislation, significant challenges remain in ensuring effective implementation and institutional coordination.

Furthermore, the study emphasizes the importance of recognizing the relationship between climate change and human rights. Environmental degradation can threaten fundamental human rights such as access to water, food security, public health, and adequate living conditions. Climate justice therefore requires legal frameworks that protect vulnerable communities and promote equitable access to environmental resources. Strengthening environmental rights within national legal systems can play an important role in promoting social justice and enhancing climate resilience.

Ultimately, harmonizing environmental law, human rights, and sustainable development within OIC countries represents a crucial step toward achieving effective climate governance. Policy reforms aimed at strengthening environmental institutions, promoting renewable energy, enhancing public participation, and improving legal harmonization can significantly improve environmental outcomes across the region. Through integrated and forward-looking governance strategies, Muslim-majority societies can contribute to global climate solutions while promoting sustainable and equitable development for present and future generations.

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