The National Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Plan in Algeria: A Human Security and Development Perspective

المخطط الوطني لتهيئة الإقليم والتنمية المستدامة في الجزائر من منظور مقاربة الأمن الإنساني والتنمية

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الملخص:

سعت الجزائر في السنوات الأخيرة إلى تطوير نموذج إقليمي متوازن من خلال المخطط الوطني لتهيئة الإقليم والتنمية المستدامة. يهدف هذا المخطط إلى تنظيم توزيع السكان والأنشطة الاقتصادية والهياكل الأساسية والخدمات العمومية ضمن إطار التنمية المستدامة. تدرس هذه الورقة دوره في تعزيز التنمية والأمن الإنساني في الجزائر. وتبيّن أن المخطط يمثل أداة استراتيجية لإعادة تنظيم الإقليم الوطني، وتقليص الفوارق الجهوية، ودعم العدالة الإقليمية. وتشير النتائج إلى أنه يربط بين التهيئة الإقليمية والأمن الإنساني من خلال تحسين الوصول إلى فرص التنمية وإدماج الاعتبارات البيئية في السياسات العمومية. غير أن فعاليته تظل مرتبطة بتعزيز التنسيق المؤسساتي، وتوفير الموارد الكافية، وتفعيل اللامركزية، واعتماد التقييم المستمر، بما ينسجم مع رؤية الجزائر التخطيطية طويلة المدى في أفق 2030.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الأمن الإنساني؛ التنمية المستدامة؛ المخطط الوطني لتهيئة الإقليم؛ الجزائر ؛ التوازن الإقليمي.

Abstract:

In recent years, Algeria has sought to develop a balanced territorial model through the National Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Plan. This Plan organizes population distribution, economic activities, infrastructure, and public services within a sustainable development framework. This study examines its role in promoting development and human security in Algeria. It argues that the Plan is a strategic instrument for reorganizing the national territory, reducing regional disparities, and supporting territorial equity. The findings indicate that it links spatial planning with human security by improving access to development opportunities and integrating environmental considerations into public policy. However, its effectiveness depends on stronger institutional coordination, adequate resources, decentralization, and continuous evaluation, in line with Algeria's national long-term planning vision for 2030.

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KEY WORDS: Human security; sustainable development; National Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Plan; Algeria; territorial equity; regional balance.

Introduction:

To answer this question, the study employs an analytical methodology aimed at highlighting the importance of promoting coherent and sustainable development across the entire national territory. This includes the integration of economic efficiency, social equity, human capital advancement, and environmental protection.

Since the end of the Cold War, security and development have undergone major conceptual shifts. Security is no longer understood only through the protection of the state, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. It is increasingly approached through broader frameworks that place individuals, communities, and human well-being at the center of analysis. Within this context, the human security approach has emerged as a multidimensional perspective that links security to economic, social, political, and environmental conditions.

The concept of development has also evolved. Traditional views that equated development with economic growth and material progress have gradually given way to the broader model of sustainable development. This model emphasizes long-term balance between economic efficiency, social equity, environmental protection, and the rights of future generations. As a result, the relationship between security and development has become increasingly central in academic and policy debates. Development can contribute to stability, while insecurity can obstruct development efforts.

Like many developing countries, Algeria has adopted several development policies aimed at strengthening social cohesion, reducing regional disparities, and building a more diversified economy. These objectives are reflected in the National Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Plan, which seeks to organize the national territory in a more balanced and sustainable manner. The Plan aims to improve the distribution of population, economic activities, infrastructure, and public services across different regions.

This study examines the role of the National Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Plan in promoting spatial balance, territorial equity, and sustainable development in Algeria. It also analyzes the extent to which this Plan contributes to strengthening human security by addressing regional imbalances, improving access to development opportunities, and integrating environmental considerations into territorial planning. Although the Plan provides an important strategic framework, its implementation faces several challenges, including natural disparities, regional economic inequalities, institutional constraints, and changing national and international conditions.

Based on this context, the study raises the following central research question: What

planning approach has been adopted by Algeria’s National Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Plan to achieve spatial balance and territorial justice among its regions?

To answer this question, the study adopts an analytical methodology. It examines the relationship between spatial planning, sustainable development, and human security, while highlighting the importance of coherent and balanced development across the national territory. The analysis focuses on the integration of economic efficiency, social equity, human capital development, and environmental protection.

The paper is structured around three main axes:

1. A conceptual exploration of human security and sustainable development;
2. An examination of the National Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Plan as an instrument of state policy;
3. An assessment of the Plan's role in enhancing development and security in Algeria.

1- Human Security and Sustainable Development – A Conceptual Approach

This section examines the concepts of security and human security, with particular attention to their treatment in Arab academic literature. It also traces the evolution of the concept of security, the emergence of sustainable development, and the relationship between the two frameworks.

Security has long been a central concern in security studies. Scholars have defined it in different ways, depending on its meaning, dimensions, and mechanisms of implementation. Despite these differences, there is broad agreement that security is essential for states, societies, and individuals, particularly in contexts marked by conflict, instability, and international competition.

1.1- Defining Security and Human Security

The English term security derives from the Latin *securitas*, which combines *sine* ("without") and *cura* ("care" or "concern"). This origin suggests that security does not refer only to a guaranteed state of safety. It also reflects awareness of vulnerability and the possible absence of protection[1].

Blackwell's Dictionary provides one of the commonly cited definitions of security. Although it treats the concept mainly within the field of foreign policy, it emphasizes its material dimension and the tangible conditions required to achieve it. This view shows that security concerns shape international relations and that the state has historically developed around the need to provide protection and maintain order.

Human security emerged as part of the broader transformation of security studies. Traditional approaches were largely state-centered and focused on sovereignty and territorial integrity. This perspective began to change with the rise of alternative approaches, particularly the Copenhagen School, which expanded the concept of security to include economic, societal, and environmental dimensions.

The human security approach is commonly associated with the 1994 United Nations Human Development Report. The report identified seven dimensions of human security: economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political security. This marked an important shift in both academic and policy debates. It moved the focus of security from territorial defense to the protection of individuals, and from military-centered responses to development-oriented solutions[2].

1.2- Defining Development and Sustainable Development

The concept of development was initially associated with economic theory. Over time, however, it evolved into a multidimensional concept that includes economic, social, environmental, and institutional dimensions. In early approaches, development was often equated with economic growth, industrialization, and increases in gross domestic product. This narrow view has gradually expanded to include improvements in living standards, access to basic services, social equity, and environmental sustainability. Development is now understood as a comprehensive transformation process through which societies mobilize natural, human, financial, and institutional resources to achieve sustained progress[3].

This transformation is not limited to quantitative growth. It also requires changes in social structures that promote inclusion, reduce poverty, and ensure equal opportunities. Effective development strategies should address disparities, empower marginalized groups, and improve human well-being. They also require capacity-building and institutional reforms that strengthen governance, transparency, and accountability. Development is therefore context-specific, as its indicators and outcomes differ according to each society's historical, cultural, and geopolitical conditions.

In contemporary frameworks, development is closely linked to long-term sustainability. It emphasizes resilience in the face of environmental degradation, social instability, and economic shocks. The United Nations has reinforced this shift through the Sustainable Development Goals, which promote a comprehensive understanding of progress. Development is therefore no longer viewed only as a path to economic prosperity. It is also seen as a means of advancing human dignity, social justice, and collective well-being.

Sustainable development emerged as a distinct concept through international debates on the limits of growth. After the Second World War, growth was often associated with intensive exploitation of natural resources to support economic expansion. This approach came under criticism in the 1980s, as international actors began to question its long-term environmental and social consequences. In response, global institutions, particularly the United Nations, promoted more rational and equitable models of resource use. These efforts contributed to the development of international programs and policies focused on sustainability[4].

This shift was shaped by major international conferences and reports, including the Stockholm Conference, the Brundtland Report, the Earth Summit, the Johannesburg Summit, the Copenhagen Summit, and the Paris Agreement. These events helped establish sustainable

development as a normative framework based on resource conservation and intergenerational equity. Achieving these objectives requires international cooperation, particularly to help developing countries access technology and participate in the global economy in ways that support basic needs and human well-being.

Many scholars continue to rely on the Brundtland Report's definition of sustainable development. This definition presents sustainable development as a process that meets present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It emphasizes continuity, responsible resource use, and the alignment of investment, technological innovation, and institutional change with present and future societal needs[5].

1.3- The Relationship Between Human Security and Sustainable Development

The relationship between human security and sustainable development can be understood by examining the main components of each concept. Human security focuses on protecting individuals from physical, economic, social, and environmental threats. Sustainable development seeks to reduce deprivation by ensuring long-term access to resources, services, and opportunities. Both frameworks therefore share a common objective: protecting people from fear and want.

In both approaches, the individual occupies a central position. This shared focus creates several areas of overlap, including good governance, human rights, political development, and environmental security. These concepts link the objectives of human security with those of sustainable development.

Human security and sustainable development should not be treated as separate fields. Poor development conditions can weaken domestic and international security, while instability and declining public safety can obstruct development. The relationship between the two concepts is therefore reciprocal. Development contributes to security, and a secure environment supports sustainable development[6].

In this sense, human security and sustainable development are closely connected. Both aim to improve the well-being of individuals and societies. Their interaction also shows that sustainable development cannot be achieved without security, and that lasting security requires inclusive and sustainable development[7].

2- The National Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Plan as a Tool for Implementing and Supporting State Policy

Algeria's development strategy, reflected in the slogan "Algeria of Today and Tomorrow," is based on a forward-looking approach to urban and environmental challenges. It aims to reduce spatial and socio-economic imbalances by turning territorial constraints into opportunities for development. This strategy also seeks to strengthen Algeria's position within the Maghreb region and the wider international context. The National Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Plan represents one of the main instruments through which this

vision is implemented[8].

2.1- Nature of the National Spatial Planning Plan

The National Spatial Planning Plan is not explicitly defined in Algerian law. Its purpose, however, is presented within a long-term strategic vision for spatial planning and sustainable development. Article 5 of Law No. 01/20 of 12 December 2001 states that national policy in this field contributes to strengthening national unity. It also integrates economic, social, cultural, and development objectives with the requirements of national sovereignty and territorial defense. Article 7 of the same law identifies the NSPSDP as one of the main instruments for achieving spatial planning and sustainable development across the national territory. It therefore translates the strategic orientations of Algeria's national planning policy into an operational framework.

The NSPSDP is a key tool for implementing state policy on national spatial planning. It provides a framework for balanced and sustainable territorial development and guides public authorities in accordance with the needs and characteristics of each region. It also reflects the state's commitment to regional balance, environmental protection, and intergenerational equity.

The NSPSDP can therefore be understood as an expression of the state's long-term approach to territorial governance. It promotes inclusive development by mobilizing local potential and encouraging cooperation between central government, local authorities, experts, and citizens[9].

2.2- Objectives and Guidelines of the National Plan

The NSPSDP aims to:

- Foster coherence between sectors and regions;
- Redefine Algeria's demographic and economic map, supported by all necessary tools to organize spatial development;
- Bridge gaps and address imbalances between various parts of the country;
- Optimize resource utilization by ensuring sustainable development across all national spaces.

Additional goals include:

- Ensuring social equity and economic efficiency;
- Promoting ecological preservation and support within a 20-year sustainable development framework.

The Plan is regarded as both a strategic roadmap and a reference document, requiring the participation of all national and local actors. It advocates for a unified, collective vision to

achieve spatial sustainability.

According to Article 9 of Law 01/20, the fundamental orientations of the NSPSDP include:

- Rational utilization of national territory, particularly in terms of population distribution and economic activities;
- Sustainable management and valorization of natural resources;
- Spatial reorganization of urban settlements by controlling urban growth, establishing balanced urban structures, and tailoring economic activities to regional characteristics;
- Protection, enhancement, and sustainable use of the national ecological heritage;
- Restoration and promotion of historical and cultural heritage;
- Harmonization of national policy choices with regional integration projects.

Additionally, as outlined in Article 11 of Law 01/20, the NSPSDP addresses spatial organization principles related to:

- Natural areas, protected zones, and historical-cultural heritage sites;
- Water resource mobilization, distribution, and transfer, along with agricultural reclamation and irrigation programs;
- Major infrastructure for transportation, telecommunications, energy distribution, and fuel transportation;
- Tourism infrastructure, industrial zones, and economic activities;
- Public service distribution in health, culture, and sports;
- Infrastructure for education, training, and research[10].

To ensure the realization of its objectives, the Plan is supported by several institutional, organizational, and procedural mechanisms:

- **Institutionally**, the establishment of the National Council for Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development;
- **Organizationally**, by enacting regulatory frameworks to ensure its proper implementation;
- **Procedurally**, by developing tools to assess the territorial impact of investments, infrastructure, and public facilities.

The drafting of the NSPSDP is initiated by the state, specifically through the central administration responsible for urban planning and regional sustainable development, as stipulated in Article 19 of Law 01/20. Article 20 further mandates that the Plan must be

ratified by law for a 20-year duration and be subject to periodic evaluations and updates every five years, following the same procedures[11].

2.3- The Four Strategic Guidelines and the Twenty Regional Action Programs

The four strategic guidelines structuring Algeria's National Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Plan (NSPSDP) are designed to address the core challenges of national territorial development. These guidelines represent the fundamental options and overarching national objectives for development, as identified through diagnostic studies and articulated across various planning scenarios. They are detailed as follows:

Guideline 1: Toward a Sustainable Territory

This first strategic orientation emphasizes the integration of environmental concerns within both continental and regional dimensions. It combines two essential dimensions: territorial planning, which encompasses both physical and non-physical achievements; and sustainability, which entails the timely and spatially appropriate implementation of measures to preserve natural resources[12].

Guideline 2: Creating Regional Rebalancing Dynamics

At the heart of spatial planning efforts, this guideline seeks to generate new spatial divisions and forms of territorial polarization that promote reorganization and renewed spatial coherence. It envisions a more hierarchical and interconnected urban system that strengthens links between distinct territorial zones and fosters rural-urban integration. To achieve this, the Plan introduces multiple restructuring and ambitious development strategies aimed at enhancing cohesion and spatial equity.

Guideline 3: Enhancing Regional Attractiveness and Competitiveness

Operating on a dual front, this guideline promotes the creation of conditions conducive to competitiveness and attractiveness at the regional level. It reinforces each region's capacity for production and exchange according to the principles of a modern economy. Simultaneously, it encourages the attraction of talent, technologies, and foreign investment to strengthen both regional competitiveness and overall economic dynamism.

Guideline 4: Achieving Territorial Equity

Complementing the previous guideline, this orientation responds to the potential risk that sustainable development may disproportionately benefit certain regions while deepening inequalities in others. As such, it functions as a safeguard to ensure regional balance and solidarity, fostering both sustainability and social cohesion. This guideline seeks to reconcile national unity and social harmony with regional competitiveness, positioning the national territory as a shared space that guarantees equitable participation and regional solidarity.

Together, these four strategic guidelines form a cohesive and integrated operational framework characterized by complementarity. They articulate the four pillars of Algeria's

spatial planning and development strategy for the 2030 horizon: *sustainability*, *rebalancing*, *attractiveness*, and *territorial equity*. Anchored in the realities of Algeria's regional landscape and aligned with ongoing sectoral and territorial policies, the NSPSDP integrates a multitude of existing arrangements and projects while adapting them to the specific challenges of regional development. These strategic guidelines are implemented through a comprehensive set of twenty regional action programs, serving as operational tools to bring the Plan's vision into practice[13].

3- The Role of the National Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Plan in Promoting Development and Security in Algeria

Algerian authorities view the protection of national territory as an essential condition for both state sovereignty and individual well-being. In this context, security is not limited to political or military concerns. It also includes the social, environmental, and developmental conditions that support stability and human development.

This broader understanding of security is relevant to Algeria's approach to spatial planning. National planning strategies seek to connect environmental protection, regional equity, and socio-economic development. They also aim to reduce territorial vulnerabilities that may affect social cohesion and public stability.

The National Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Plan therefore functions not only as a framework for territorial management, but also as a tool that can contribute to human security. By integrating security concerns into planning policy, the Plan reflects a shift from a narrow defense-centered view of security toward a multidimensional approach to stability. It highlights the connection between space, society, and sustainability, especially in addressing challenges such as environmental degradation, unequal regional development, and territorial exclusion.

3.1- Key Features of the National Spatial Planning Plan

An overview of Algeria's experience in regional planning reveals that systematic attention to the organization of national territory began in earnest following independence. Early efforts materialized through a series of urban planning documents, legal instruments, and technical tools. The conceptual foundation of the National Spatial Planning Plan (NSPSDP) can be traced back to 1982, when the National Agency for Territorial Planning was tasked with initiating foundational research. This led to a preliminary report in 1984, followed by a set of priority guidelines and actions presented in 1988. By 1989, a comprehensive draft of the NSPSDP had been prepared, with further refinements continuing into the 2000s.

The finalized version—*Plan d'Aménagement du Territoire National 2025*[14]—was officially adopted in 2010 through Law No. 10-2, dated June 29, 2010. Designed for a 20-year period, the Plan is scheduled to conclude in 2030. It is anchored in data from the 2008 General Census on Population and Housing and serves as a platform for announcing Algeria's

major regional projects. Fundamentally, the NSPSDP represents a gateway into modernization and articulates a forward-looking vision[15], characterized by the following elements:

- It presents a desired image of Algeria's future based on the three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental.
- It provides strategic responses to the major challenges facing national territory in a globalized context.
- It offers a platform for public engagement, including dialogue, consultation, partnership, and consensus-building on the future of Algeria[16].
- It serves as a strategic planning tool for the future economic and social development of the national territory[17].
- It incorporates participatory approaches during the phases of preparation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation—recognizing this as essential to success and ensuring synergy between the public and private sectors in mobilizing all regional resources[18].
- It aligns with the country's five-year plans, which provide the operational framework for implementing the strategies envisioned in the NSPSDP.
- It is coordinated with regional plans developed in parallel, ensuring temporal consistency across national and sub-national levels.
- It is grounded in the principle of *territorial foresight*—a planning philosophy based on anticipating future scenarios through a series of hypotheses and scenario modeling exercises.

The NSPSDP encompasses:

- 21 sectoral master plans;
- 20 regional development programs;
- 4 metropolitan spatial master plans;
- 9 regional spatial development plans;
- 48 provincial territorial development programs.

Overall, the NSPSDP reflects a set of strategic choices intended to guide Algeria's territorial development. These choices are based on the principles of spatial planning and supported by sustainable development tools. However, their implementation faces environmental, economic, and institutional constraints. In practice, the Plan has not fully bridged the gap between strategic vision and territorial realities. This gap reflects a degree of misalignment between the Plan's objectives and Algeria's actual capacities, challenges, risks, and structural limitations. The following section examines these implementation gaps in greater detail.

3.2-Outcomes and Paradoxes of Algeria's National Spatial Planning Plan

The regional diagnostic underpinning Algeria's National Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Plan (NSPSDP) was largely sectoral in nature, failing to account for the dynamic interrelations between demographic transitions, social transformations, economic developments, and environmental imperatives that shape territorial evolution. A comprehensive final diagnosis should have been based on a strategic assessment, enabling the formulation of a holistic picture of territorial conditions, urban coordination, and priority activities that address functional imbalances and regional fragmentation. This should be followed by a diagnostic partagé (shared diagnostic), which integrates findings from strategic planning with consensus-based outcomes. This approach allows strategic urban development priorities to be aligned with the collective vision of local stakeholders—including municipalities, associations, elected officials, and socio-economic actors[19].

Moreover, the NSPSDP envisages a territorial planning process that fundamentally requires a high degree of decentralization. Decentralization is expected to serve as a key instrument in preparing comprehensive regional development plans. However, in Algeria, decentralization remains limited, and the role of local authorities continues to be underdeveloped.

In terms of urban expansion, particularly around Algiers and Blida, the strategy of promoting new cities or regional competitiveness has raised concerns. While it relieves pressure on the capital's core, it simultaneously leads to the destruction of fertile agricultural land—most notably in the Mitidja Plain, one of Algeria's richest farming regions—due to unchecked concrete expansion.

As for global openness, if liberalization proceeds as anticipated, it will likely concentrate economic activity along the coastal strip. This intensifies the vulnerability of coastal zones, which are already overburdened and saturated, while also marginalizing inland and border regions such as El Tarf. This calls for a comprehensive restructuring of the national production system, enhanced innovation and research capacities, revitalization of the financial sector, and more robust foreign investment facilitation mechanisms.

The regional action programs established under the National Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Plan are ambitious in scope. They aim to support balanced territorial development, promote economic diversification, and strengthen regional equity through targeted interventions. They also respond to the growing importance of environmental challenges in territorial planning.

However, turning these strategic objectives into concrete results remains difficult. Implementation is constrained by financial costs, limited human resources, and uneven technical capacity[20]. Without sustained investment, effective institutional coordination, and adequate administrative support, several initiatives may remain at the planning stage. Differences in local governance and administrative efficiency can also widen implementation gaps.

These challenges highlight the need for stronger multi-level governance, more effective public-private partnerships, and selective international cooperation. Long-term commitment from both central and local authorities is essential to move from strategic planning to measurable territorial outcomes.

3.3- Territorial Planning and Sustainable Development as a Mechanism for Restoring Security in Algeria

Since the early 2000s, Algeria has entered a new phase of state reform in which sustainable development became a central policy priority. To support this orientation, the state introduced a set of legal, institutional, financial, and strategic measures.

Between 2000 and 2007, Algeria undertook an important legal reform process to align national policy with sustainable development principles. During this period, 15 laws and more than 210 executive decrees were enacted. These measures reflected a stronger commitment to environmental governance and territorial equity. The Law on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development was one of the main legal instruments adopted during this phase. It provided a framework for integrating environmental concerns into territorial policies. Other important laws included the Environmental Protection Law, the Coastal Protection and Enhancement Law, and the Protected Areas Law. Together, these texts established a legal framework that placed sustainable development at the center of national planning and clarified the state's role in regulating natural and spatial resources. They also supported the strategic objectives of the National Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Plan.

At the institutional level, the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment was established in 2000. Decentralized state institutions were also strengthened through the creation of 48 provincial directorates and four regional environmental inspectorates[21]. Several oversight and specialized bodies were established, including the National Observatory for the Sustainable Environment, the National Observatory for Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development, the National Waste Agency, the National Council for Urban Planning and Sustainable Development, the Coastal Surveillance Authority, the Delegation for Major Risks and Sustainable Development, and the Desert and Arid Zones Monitoring Observatory[22].

At the financial level, Algeria created several special-purpose funds to support sustainable development. These included the National Environmental Fund, the Coastal and Beaches Protection Fund, the National Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Fund, the Southern Regions Development Fund, the Highlands Development Fund, and the Desertification and Rangeland Development Fund. The Southern Regions Development Fund was financed by 2% of oil tax revenues, while the Highlands Development Fund received 3% of oil tax revenues[23]. These were supplemented by the creation of a green tax system and ambitious public investment programs, such as:

- The Five-Year Development Plan (2010–2014), with a budget exceeding $300 billion;

- The Economic Growth Support Program (2004–2009), valued at $155 billion;

- The Economic Recovery Program (1999–2003), with nearly $60 billion in public investment.

Territorial Planning Tools: Recognizing that harmonizing territorial development across homogeneous zones is critical for overcoming inherited regional disparities, Algeria developed a range of specialized territorial and spatial plans within the framework of the NSPSDP. These plans aim to rationalize the use of national space, valorize natural resources, and distribute populations and economic activities equitably across all regions. They also serve to strengthen Algeria's national security by promoting spatial cohesion and territorial justice.

- The spatial distribution of urban settlements is addressed through mechanisms that control urban growth and promote balanced urban structures.

- Eighteen (18) sectoral master plans were established to guide infrastructure development—considered essential for integrated national development—including water, transport (roads, highways, railways, ports, and airports).

- A revised definition of regional planning was introduced, focusing on defining sustainable development priorities across Algeria's nine planning regions, including the addition of the far south. These plans are supported by mapping documents that visualize development projects and serve as forward-looking analytical tools.

- New, more specialized urban planning instruments were also introduced, such as master plans for major metropolitan areas, heritage site protection and restoration plans, and general plans for the management of national parks[24].

Conclusion:

This study has shown that Algeria's National Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Plan represents an attempt to address the limitations of earlier territorial development policies. Previous approaches often relied on uniform planning tools that did not sufficiently reflect Algeria's territorial diversity. This limited their ability to respond to the specific needs of coastal areas, high plateaus, steppe zones, desert regions, southern provinces, and rural communities.

The revised National Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Plan provides a more differentiated framework for territorial development. It seeks to promote balanced growth by taking into account the specific features and comparative advantages of each region. Its main objective is to combine economic efficiency with social equity by improving access to investment, employment, infrastructure, and public services across the national territory.

The Plan also aims to reduce pressure on coastal and urban centers by encouraging development in less advantaged regions. In this regard, it seeks to limit regional disparities, regulate urban expansion, and support a more equitable distribution of economic activities. These objectives are closely linked to the broader goals of human security and sustainable

development, particularly through the reduction of territorial exclusion and unequal access to opportunities.

The NSPSDP, established under Law No. 01/20 and adopted in 2010, therefore constitutes an important framework for Algeria's long-term territorial organization. It connects spatial planning with economic stability, social cohesion, environmental protection, and regional equity. However, its effectiveness depends on the quality of implementation, the availability of financial and human resources, and the capacity of institutions to adapt to changing national and international conditions.

Based on the findings of this study, several recommendations can be proposed:

- Develop a green economic policy based on sustainable resource use, environmental protection, and intergenerational equity.
- Provide the financial, technical, and human resources required to implement the objectives of the Plan effectively.
- Strengthen decentralization by granting local and regional authorities greater decision-making capacity, financial autonomy, and planning responsibilities.
- Establish specialized administrative and monitoring bodies to facilitate investment, coordinate sectoral policies, and evaluate the implementation of the NSPSDP.
- Introduce regular policy evaluation mechanisms, including independent assessments, territorial impact studies, and stakeholder feedback.
- Improve coordination between ministries responsible for environment, infrastructure, housing, industry, education, and regional development.
- Promote public participation throughout the planning process, particularly by involving local communities, civil society organizations, and marginalized regions.
- Align national spatial planning policies with international sustainability frameworks, including the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, and the African Union's Agenda 2063.
- Invest in digital and geospatial tools to improve data collection, land-use monitoring, and evidence-based territorial planning.

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