

The 2030 Agenda and the Brazilian and Czech internalization

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Abstract. This article compares the internalization process of the 2030 Agenda in Brazil and the Czech Republic, pointing to both similarities and differences. The 2030 Agenda, globally adopted in 2015, aims to implement comprehensive and transformative policies through its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets. Brazil and the Czech Republic both adapted these global goals to their national contexts, establishing governmental bodies to oversee the internalization process. The article concludes that despite differences in economic and social development stages, the internalization strategies in Brazil and the Czech Republic share more similarities than differences.

Keywords. 2030 Agenda, Sustainable Development Goals, Global Development, United Nations.

1. Introduction

The 2030 Agenda, consisting of 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets, represents the primary global agreement aimed at implementing comprehensive, universal, and transformative policies. Its objectives range from eradicating poverty and fostering economic development to minimizing environmental harm (1).

Recognizing the immense challenge for sustainable development, the agenda highlights the current growth of inequality between countries and the number of people still living in poverty and without dignity. These challenges range from gender inequality to health threats and extreme climate events. It also points to a great opportunity, as technological advancements have brought development to previously disadvantaged regions, as well as expanded access to education and information (1).

This work intends to compare the process of internalization of the 2030 Agenda in Brazil and the Czech Republic, seeking similarities and differences.



Fig. 1 – The Sustainable Development Goals

2. Methods

The 2030 Agenda stipulates that the primary responsibility for its monitoring and review lies with governments at the global, national, and local levels, while also calling for unified support from the United Nations system, including the subsequent development of indicators (1).

For this analysis, we chose to conduct a study based on secondary literature sources relevant to the topic, drawing from articles in national and international journals, recent publications on the Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations guidelines and resolutions, Brazilian and Czech regulations, and the historical evolution of decision-making processes aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Brazilian internalization

Signing the 2030 Agenda in 2015, Brazil published Decree No. 8,892/2016 a year later, which established the National Commission for the Sustainable Development Goals (NCS DG) “with the purpose of internalizing, disseminating, and providing transparency to the process of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations” (2).

According to the decree, the Commission, linked to the Secretariat of Government of the Presidency of the Republic, is a consultative collegiate body. Among its responsibilities, as stated in Article 2, is the development of an Action Plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In 2017, the NCS DG published the 2017-2019 Action Plan, whose mission was “to create institutional mechanisms that establish the appropriate conditions for implementing the SDGs, including strategies for localization, the definition of targets and indicators, participatory processes, means of implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of the 2030 Agenda” (3).

Among various strategies for implementing the 2030 Agenda, the NCS DG outlined the mapping of current public policies in the ministries and in the 2016-2019 Multi-Year Plan (the elaboration of a multi-year plan is a constitutional obligation in Brazil), which was ongoing at the time, along with the goals and objectives described in the Agenda (3).

The Action Plan received permanent technical support from the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) and the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IAER), which had the respective roles of providing guidance, collecting, and producing data on global indicators and developing, defining, and monitoring national indicators (3).

In 2019, through a federal decree aimed at dissolving and limiting collegiate bodies within the federal public administration, the NCS DG was terminated (4).

In 2023, the decree that ended the activities of the Commission and other collegiate bodies was revoked (5), and the composition of the NCS DG was altered to reflect the new ministerial arrangement.

In the internalization process, the IAER indicated that of the 169 targets proposed by the 2030 Agenda, only two were identified as unsuitable for the Brazilian context. Of the 167 remaining targets, 39 were maintained in their original form, and 128 underwent adjustments, either in their description or quantification. Additionally, eight new purely national targets were proposed to monitor Brazilian priorities identified by interministerial working groups, bringing the total to 175 targets (6).

3.2 Czech internalization

The process of internalizing the 2030 Agenda in the Czech Republic was marked by several phases and government initiatives. The first significant step was the government’s decision to update its existing strategic framework to align with the 2030 Agenda. This included an analysis of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the determination of which would be applicable to the Czech national context. From this analysis, from 169 goals, 114 were identified as relevant to the country and 55 were not (7).

In 2017, the Czech Republic formalized the “Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030,” which became the main document for implementing the 2030 Agenda in the country. This document did not replace other sectoral strategies from the ministries but was developed to be compatible with those policies, ensuring that all levels of government considered sustainable development goals in their actions. In 2018, the Strategic Framework was succeeded by a more comprehensive implementation plan, which detailed the steps to be taken concerning each of the strategic objectives and SDG (8).

The implementation of the process was assigned to the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic with the assistance of the Government Council for Sustainable Development. This body was instrumental in achieving the coordination between ministries and civil society actors. The implementation plan established 277 measures, and 322 recommendations aimed at ensuring policy coherence and coordination across various sectors of public administration (9) (7).

A participatory approach played a crucial role in drafting these documents. The preparation of the Strategic Framework involved broad public consultations, including roundtable discussions with more than 100 organizations from different sectors and 500 experts. Additionally, public hearings and consultations in Parliament were held, demonstrating the Czech government’s efforts to involve civil society in the process (7).

In the Czech Republic, the Czech Statistical Office was the leading agency for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs and prepared a set of national indicators for this purpose. In 2020, the first pilot version of the assessment report was published, which investigated the progress made so far, and the issues that remained unaddressed. While certain generic SDG sub-goals deterred from direct applicability to the country, nonetheless the Czech Republic domesticized such goals with their needs and environment giving preference to the most relevant ones to their internal development and foreign policy. (7).

The concept of governance also figured prominently in the internalization of the 2030 Agenda, with the Czech government placing emphasis on good governance as a prerequisite to long term

sustainability. The Strategic Framework made known its intention to develop inclusive and evidence-based public policies, and also aimed at enhancing public engagements in policy formulation (7).

The Czech Republic's implementation of the 2030 Agenda has also had an external aspect. The state regarded itself as one of the international leaders in the promotion of sustainable development and contributed to the dissemination of these values both in the European Union. The Czech Republic also attempted to pursue its goals in line with national objectives of the SDGs and participated in efforts to realize these goals at home and abroad (7).

3.3 Similarities and differences

Although at very different stages of economic and social development, the strategies for internalizing the 2030 Agenda between Brazil and the Czech Republic have more similarities than differences. Both Brazil and the Czech Republic established government-led bodies to oversee the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In Brazil, the National Commission for Sustainable Development Goals (NCSDG) was created while in the Czech Republic, the Ministry of the Environment Coordinated the process, backed up by the Government Council for Sustainable development. These bodies played crucial roles in ensuring integration of the SDGs into national policy.

Both countries developed national frameworks for the internalization of the 2030 Agenda following the United Nations orientation. In Brazil, the NCSDG developed an Action Plan, while the Czech Republic created the "Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030." These frameworks ensured that SDG implementation aligned with national priorities and facilitated coordination between various government sectors. Public consultations and engagement with civil society were central to the internalization process in both countries. In Brazil, this was done through interministerial working groups, while the Czech Republic held broad public consultations, roundtable discussions, and parliamentary hearings involving multiple stakeholders and experts from various sectors.

Brazil and the Czech Republic adapted the global SDG targets to their national contexts. Brazil adjusted 128 of the 169 targets and even created eight new national targets, while the Czech Republic identified 114 relevant targets, dismissing 55 that were not applicable to its national context. Both countries utilized their national statistical agencies to monitor the implementation of the SDGs. In Brazil, the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) and the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IAER) played key roles, while in the Czech Republic, the Czech Statistical Office was responsible for developing national indicators and monitoring progress.

As the main difference, the NCSDG was dissolved in

2019 as part of broader federal reforms but reinstated in 2023 while the Czech Republic maintained continuous coordination under the Ministry of Environment and the Government Council for Sustainable Development without similar interruptions.

4. Conclusion

Ambitious and comprehensive, the 2030 Agenda is the main guiding instrument for formulating public policies at a global level that aims to implement a sustainable and inclusive development model.

Brazil and Czech Republic followed similar paths in terms of government leadership, public participation, and adaptation of SDG targets, but they differed in terms of institutional continuity which directly affects the outcomes of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Both countries used national bodies with extensive statistical experience as support structures for internalization, which made the process more assertive and targeted.

An accelerated effort to resume policies is necessary, involving public agents, civil society and academia, so that the second half of the time frame for implementing the 2030 Agenda is more assertive and achieves the proposed objectives and goals, without effectively leaving anyone to back.

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