

Normative Implementation of the UNCRC to Support Indonesia's SDGs: An International Regime Analysis on Combating Violence Against Children in West Java Province, 2021-2022

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Abstract: This study analyzes the normative implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Indonesia, with a focus on addressing child violence in West Java during the 2021-2022 period. A descriptive qualitative method was employed through literature review and document analysis. The study adopts Finnemore and Sikkink's theory of international norm internalization combined with Krasner's international regime theory to examine the transformation of international norms into domestic practice. The findings reveal that although Indonesia has ratified the UNCRC since 1990 and integrated it into various national and regional legal instruments, as well as aligned policies with SDG targets 16.2 and 5.2, the internalization of norms in West Java still faces significant challenges. The main obstacles include gaps between formal norms and practical implementation, limited harmonization among regulations, and socio-cultural resistance to normative change. The study recommends strengthening mechanisms of norm internalization, harmonizing policies with SDG targets, and intensifying the dissemination of international norms to reinforce child protection in accordance with global standards.

Keywords: normative implementation, international norm internalization, Indonesia's SDGs, child protection, international regime, UNCRC

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

In the dynamics of contemporary international relations, the normative implementation of international conventions within the domestic context represents a concrete manifestation of the process of norm internalization, which is a central focus of constructivist studies. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), as the most universal international legal instrument, has established global normative standards for child rights protection since its adoption in 1989, reflecting the evolution of international norms within an increasingly complex Westphalian system (Finnemore & Sikkink, 1998).

In the case of Indonesia, as a middle power in Southeast Asia, the normative implementation of the UNCRC carries strategic relevance not only as a fulfillment of international legal obligations (*pacta sunt servanda*), but also as a soft power instrument to enhance international credibility and legitimacy. Its integration with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework demonstrates the convergence of human rights norms with the global development agenda, particularly through target 16.2 (ending violence against children) and target 5.2 (eliminating all forms of violence against women and children).

Indonesia has shown its normative commitment to child protection through the ratification of the UNCRC in 1990 and the integration of its principles into the **National Action Plan for SDGs 2017–2030**. This process of norm localization has been further institutionalized through various national legal

instruments within the framework of the dualist approach to international law, ranging from Law No. 23 of 2002 on Child Protection (later amended by Law No. 35 of 2014) to Law No. 17 of 2016.

West Java Province is selected as the unit of analysis due to its characteristics as a sub-state actor with the largest population in Indonesia (48 million people) and a high level of multi-level governance complexity. Data from the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) indicate an increase in child violence cases from 1,766 in 2021 to 2,001 in 2022, highlighting the compliance gap between the international norms already adopted and the empirical reality at the subnational level.

This phenomenon raises fundamental questions regarding the effectiveness of the *norm cascade* mechanism within Indonesia's multi-level governance framework. How have international norm entrepreneurs succeeded in transforming the UNCRC norms from the international system to the subnational level through legal instruments? To what extent does the normative implementation of the UNCRC, as part of the international child protection regime, contribute to achieving SDG targets within the global governance framework? What factors influence the success or failure of international norm internalization in the context of domestic politics?

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background above, this study formulates three main research questions by integrating perspectives from international relations theory:

1. How is the process of UNCRC norm internalization through the transformation of legal instruments within the framework of the international child protection regime supporting the implementation of SDGs in West Java during the 2021–2022 period?
2. To what extent is the effectiveness of the normative implementation of the UNCRC, through legislative frameworks as a manifestation of compliance with international legal obligations, contributing to the achievement of SDG targets 16.2 and 5.2 at the subnational level?
3. What factors influence the success of the normative implementation of the UNCRC within the context of Indonesia's multi-level governance as an emerging power in the international system?

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theory of International Norm Internalization by Finnemore and Sikkink

Within the constructivist paradigm of international relations, Martha Finnemore and Kathryn Sikkink (1998) developed the theory of the life cycle of international norms, which explains how new norms emerge, diffuse, and become internalized within the anarchic international system. This model provides an analytical framework for understanding the transformation of norms from the international system level to the domestic unit level through three sequential stages: norm emergence, norm cascade, and norm internalization.

The first stage, **norm emergence**, occurs when norm entrepreneurs successfully persuade a critical mass of states to adopt a new norm through processes of moral suasion and cognitive framing. In the context of the UNCRC, norm entrepreneurs include international organizations such as UNICEF as institutional entrepreneurs, transnational advocacy networks composed of international NGOs, and norm-leading states that advocate for child rights protection. This stage is marked by a tipping point, where a significant number of states begin to adopt the norm through formal ratification, reflecting a shift from the logic of appropriateness to the logic of consequences.

The second stage, **norm cascade**, occurs when norms spread rapidly from early adopters to other states through mechanisms of international socialization, organizational learning, and reputational pressure within international society. The UNCRC reached this stage with remarkable success, as evidenced by its ratification by 196 states, making it the most widely ratified human rights convention in the history of the Westphalian system, reflecting a rare instance of normative universalization in international politics.

The third stage, **norm internalization**, is when norms become taken for granted and no longer subject to public debate, fully integrated into a state's domestic structure. Finnemore and Sikkink emphasize that achieving the stage of internalization requires a long and complex process, involving

transformation not only at the policy level but also within culture and social practices, reflecting the deep institutionalization of international norms.

2.2 Theory of International Regimes by Krasner

Within the tradition of neoliberal institutionalism, Stephen Krasner (1983) defines international regimes as “sets of implicit or explicit principles, norms, rules, and decision-making procedures around which actors’ expectations converge in a given area of international relations.” The concept of regimes provides an analytical tool to understand how international cooperation can occur within an anarchic system through the establishment of formal and informal institutions regulating the behavior of both state and non-state actors.

In the context of the UNCRC as part of the international child protection regime, the four regime components can be identified as a comprehensive institutional architecture. **Principles** include the four fundamental principles of the UNCRC: non-discrimination (Article 2), the best interests of the child (Article 3), the right to life, survival, and development (Article 6), and respect for the views of the child (Article 12). These principles serve as the normative foundation that reflects the shared beliefs of the international community regarding the status of children as rights-bearers.

Norms consist of the 54 provisions of the UNCRC regulating children’s civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, reflecting a comprehensive rights-based approach. These norms establish behavioral expectations for state conduct in various dimensions of child protection, including protection from violence (Article 19), economic exploitation (Article 32), and sexual abuse (Article 34), reflecting the evolution from negative rights to positive rights in international law.

Rules cover the specific obligations of states in implementation, including the duty to submit periodic reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child as a monitoring body (Article 44), the harmonization of domestic law with international standards (domestic incorporation), and the allocation of maximum available resources for child protection (Article 4), reflecting the principle of progressive realization.

Decision-making procedures include institutional governance mechanisms through the Committee on the Rights of the Child as a treaty body, the five-year periodic reporting system enabling peer review, and the individual complaints mechanism under the third optional protocol (in force since 2014), reflecting the evolution from a state-centric to an individual-centric approach in international law.

2.3 Integration of the UNCRC and the SDGs Framework in Global Governance

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in 2015, created a new global governance framework that integrates sustainable development with human rights protection, reflecting the convergence of the development agenda and the human rights agenda in the post-Westphalian global order. SDG Target 16.2 explicitly commits to “end abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence and torture against children” by 2030, reflecting a normative convergence between child rights and sustainable development.

The normative integration between the UNCRC and the SDGs creates **institutional complementarity**, whereby the implementation of the UNCRC directly contributes to achieving SDG targets (norm reinforcement), while the SDGs framework provides additional accountability mechanisms for the implementation of the UNCRC through voluntary national reviews and peer review mechanisms. SDG Target 5.2, which aims to “eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres,” is also directly linked to the implementation of Article 19 of the UNCRC, reflecting an intersectionality approach in global governance.

The SDGs framework also provides measurable **quantitative indicators** for assessing the progress of UNCRC implementation within the context of evidence-based policymaking. These include Indicator 16.2.1 (proportion of children aged 1–17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers), Indicator 16.2.2 (number of human trafficking victims per 100,000 population), and Indicator 5.2.1 (proportion of ever-partnered women and girls subjected to physical, sexual, or psychological violence). This integration reflects a technocratic approach in global governance that emphasizes measurement and monitoring as instruments of international cooperation.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs a **qualitative descriptive research design** to analyze the normative implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in supporting Indonesia's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in addressing child violence in West Java during 2021–2022. Data collection relies primarily on **library research and document analysis**, including international conventions, national regulations, government reports, NGO publications, and statistical data from official sources. This method allows for a comprehensive understanding of the interplay between international obligations and domestic practices in the context of child protection.

The research applies **international regime theory** (Krasner) and **norm internalization theory** (Finnemore & Sikkink) as analytical frameworks. International regime theory is used to examine the role of UNCRC as a global normative framework that influences national policies through legal, institutional, and administrative mechanisms. Meanwhile, norm internalization theory helps explain the process by which international child rights norms are socialized, internalized, and implemented at the national and provincial levels.

By combining theoretical perspectives with empirical evidence, this study aims to provide a holistic understanding of how global child rights norms are translated into Indonesia's policy frameworks and practical measures, while also identifying challenges and gaps in achieving SDGs related to child protection.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Normative Adoption of the UNCRC within the Indonesian Legal Framework: An Analysis of the Compliance Mechanism

4.1.1 Ratification as a Manifestation of International Legal Commitment

Indonesia ratified the UNCRC on August 25, 1990, through Presidential Decree No. 36 of 1990, making it one of the early adopters of this convention in the Southeast Asian region. Indonesia's position as the 61st state to ratify the UNCRC reflects a strategic timing of bandwagoning with the international norm of child protection, particularly within the post-Cold War international order that emphasized human rights as part of the new security agenda.

The ratification was carried out without any reservations to substantive articles, indicating full acceptance of all 54 provisions governing children's rights comprehensively. The decision not to submit reservations reflects a strong political will from the Suharto administration to enhance international legitimacy through norm compliance, especially in light of international pressures related to human rights issues in East Timor and Papua.

Within the framework of international regime theory, Indonesia's ratification of the UNCRC represents a process of regime acceptance, whereby the state voluntarily binds itself to international institutional constraints. As a consequence of ratification, Indonesia is obliged to submit periodic reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child as the designated monitoring body. Based on an analysis of the United Nations Treaty Body Database, Indonesia has submitted five periodic reports, including the initial report (1992), the second (2002), the combined third and fourth (2012), and the fifth (2020). The consistency of these reports demonstrates a continuity of compliance behavior with international legal obligations, although delays in reporting also reflect capacity constraints in treaty implementation.

4.1.2 Domestication of Norms through Legislative Incorporation

The domestication of UNCRC norms into the Indonesian legal system reflects a dualist approach to international law, in which international legal norms require domestic legislation to attain legal effect. This normative transformation is embodied in three key legislative instruments that demonstrate the gradual institutionalization of international norms.

1. Law No. 23 of 2002 on Child Protection

Law No. 23 of 2002 represents landmark legislation in the domestication of the UNCRC in Indonesia, illustrating the norm cascade from the international to the national level. This law explicitly incorporates the four core principles of the UNCRC in Article 2—non-discrimination, the best interests of the child, the right to life and development, and respect for the views of the child. The adoption of these principles signifies a wholesale norm transfer from the international regime to the domestic legal system.

Key normative elements include Article 4, which guarantees every child the right to life, growth, development, and participation in line with human dignity, reflecting a positive rights approach within the human rights framework. Article 13 regulates special protection against violence and discrimination, underscoring the state's duty to protect. Article 20 guarantees the child's right to practice religion, think, and express opinions according to age and maturity under parental guidance, reflecting a balancing approach between individual rights and parental authority.

2. Law No. 35 of 2014 Amending Law No. 23 of 2002

Law No. 35 of 2014 represents norm deepening by strengthening the legal framework for child protection through the introduction of more comprehensive "special protection" provisions. Significant normative transformations include the expansion of the definition of violence in Article 1(15a) to cover physical, psychological, and sexual violence, including neglect and exploitation, reflecting a holistic approach to child protection.

Criminal sanctions were also reinforced, with Article 81A introducing the death penalty for perpetrators of sexual violence against children. This punitive approach, though controversial within international human rights discourse, demonstrates a form of domestic adaptation of international norms to Indonesia's socio-cultural context. Articles 72–74 reinforce community participation in the child protection system through reporting and social monitoring mechanisms, embodying a participatory governance approach that integrates both state and non-state actors in implementing international norms.

3. Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI)

The KPAI was established under Article 76 of Law No. 23/2002 as a quasi-judicial institution tasked with overseeing the implementation of child protection. In the context of UNCRC normative implementation, the KPAI functions as a domestic compliance mechanism with strategic roles that include: monitoring and evaluation of child protection policies at national and regional levels; policy advocacy through recommendations to the government on regulatory improvements; rights enforcement by receiving public complaints and investigating violations of children's rights; and norm socialization through public education and awareness campaigns on children's rights in accordance with UNCRC standards.

4.1.3 Harmonization with the SDGs Framework: Multilateral Diplomacy in the Development Agenda

The integration of UNCRC norms with the SDGs framework reflects the convergence between the human rights regime and the development regime within the global governance architecture. This process was operationalized through Presidential Regulation No. 59 of 2017 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, which embodies policy coordination between international commitments and domestic priorities.

The National Action Plan (RAN) on SDGs 2017–2030 explicitly identifies Targets **16.2** and **5.2** as priorities directly linked to the implementation of the UNCRC, illustrating issue linkage in multilateral diplomacy. Target 16.2, which aims to "end abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children," is operationalized through three national indicators: the percentage of children experiencing physical violence, the percentage of children experiencing sexual violence, and the level of child participation in decision-making. Baseline data show that 63.2% of Indonesian children had experienced violence in 2017, reflecting a significant implementation deficit.

Target 5.2, which seeks to "eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres," focuses on gender-based violence with specific indicators for girls, including the prevalence of child marriage (11.2% in 2017) and sexual violence against girls. This integration illustrates an intersectional approach that acknowledges the multiple vulnerabilities of girls in the context of a patriarchal society.

4.2 Norm Localization at the Subnational Level: A Multi-Level Governance Analysis

1. Regional Regulation of West Java Province No. 3 of 2021 on the Implementation of Child Protection

The Government of West Java Province adopted Regional Regulation No. 3 of 2021 as a norm localization instrument within the framework of regional autonomy, reflecting decentralized governance in the implementation of international norms. The regulation integrates UNCRC principles with West

Java's specific demographic and socio-cultural characteristics, representing contextual adaptation that considers local specificities within the global-local nexus.

- *Non-discrimination*: Article 3 adapts the UNCRC principle of non-discrimination by accounting for West Java's ethnic and cultural diversity, including special protection for Sundanese, Betawi, and other minority children, as well as children with disabilities – reflecting a multicultural approach.
- *Best interests of the child*: Articles 4–5 adapt this principle to local cultural values that recognize the role of the extended family in decision-making, while still prioritizing children's fundamental rights according to UNCRC standards. This reflects cultural relativism in the implementation of universal norms.
- *Integrated coordination system*: Articles 15–20 establish a multi-level coordination system from the provincial to the village level, integrating customary leaders, religious figures, and community organizations into child protection networks. This hybrid governance model combines formal institutions with traditional authority structures.

2. Governor Regulation of West Java Province No. 13 of 2022

Governor Regulation No. 13 of 2022 functions as the implementing regulation of Regional Regulation No. 3/2021, detailing mechanisms for practical implementation of UNCRC norms. It illustrates bureaucratic institutionalization of international norms through SOPs and administrative mechanisms.

- *Standard Operating Procedures*: These include child-friendly, trauma-informed interview processes and victim identity protection, reflecting procedural adaptation of UNCRC standards prioritizing children's psychological wellbeing.
- *Cross-sectoral coordination*: Articles 8–12 regulate collaboration among the DPPPA, Social Affairs, Health, and Education agencies, along with the Police, with a clear division of authority to prevent institutional fragmentation – representing a whole-of-government approach.
- *Monitoring and evaluation*: Articles 20–25 establish monitoring systems integrated with the SDGs framework, with measurable performance indicators and regular reporting timelines, reflecting an evidence-based approach to compliance assessment.

3. Child-Friendly City (Kota Layak Anak, KLA)

The Child-Friendly City program in West Java adapts UNICEF's Child-Friendly Cities Initiative as an international best practice for local-level UNCRC implementation. This demonstrates transnational policy transfer, with international organizations acting as norm entrepreneurs.

According to the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (2022), West Java has 15 districts/cities that achieved KLA status. Six cities (Bandung, Bogor, Bekasi, Cimahi, Sukabumi, Tasikmalaya) reached *Madya* category (75% compliance with indicators), reflecting high compliance with international standards. Nine others achieved *Pratama* (55% compliance), focusing on strengthening protection systems and child participation. Indicators align with UNCRC principles, including the establishment of Child Forums (Article 12), Family Learning Centers (Article 19), and integrated referral systems for special protection—illustrating operationalization of norms through measurable outcomes and peer comparison mechanisms.

4. Jabar Cemas (West Java Prevents Violence)

Launched in 2021, Jabar Cemas represents a regional policy innovation to implement UNCRC norms, particularly on protection from violence (Article 19). It reflects a bottom-up approach to norm implementation, integrating global norms with local governance through preventive, responsive, and rehabilitative measures.

- *Preventive*: public campaigns on positive parenting, teacher training for early detection of violence, and establishment of neighborhood-level Child Protection Task Forces, reflecting community-based and participatory governance.
- *Responsive*: integrated reporting via hotline 129 linked to SIMFONI PPA, a mobile app, and rapid referral systems to health, legal, and psychosocial services – illustrating digitalization of service delivery.
- *Rehabilitative*: trauma healing, family reunification, and social reintegration for child victims, adopting restorative justice and a victim-centered approach. According to DPPPA West Java

(2022), the program reached 5,240 villages/urban wards (96% coverage) with 12,456 neighborhood-level task forces established, reflecting massive outreach and successful scaling-up from pilot projects to province-wide implementation.

4.3 Analysis of the Effectiveness of Normative Implementation

4.3.1 Progress on SDGs Targets 2021–2022

Based on the analysis of the *West Java SDGs Progress Report 2022*, achievements related to the implementation of the UNCRC demonstrate mixed results:

Target 16.2 – Violence Against Children:

- Prevalence of physical violence: 52.3% (2021) → 49.7% (2022)
- Prevalence of psychological violence: 45.6% (2021) → 43.2% (2022)
- Prevalence of sexual violence: 12.4% (2021) → 13.1% (2022)
- Composite score for Target 16.2: **68.4/100** (category: *needs improvement*)

Target 5.2 – Gender-Based Violence:

- Child marriage: 10.1% (2021) → 9.4% (2022)
- Violence against girls: 54.7% (2021) → 52.1% (2022)
- Girls’ participation in education: 88.9% (2021) → 90.2% (2022)
- Composite score for Target 5.2: **72.6/100** (category: *moderate*)

These figures illustrate partial progress: reductions in physical and psychological violence and child marriage, but a slight increase in sexual violence. The composite scores indicate that while progress has been made, the implementation of UNCRC-related commitments remains uneven and requires further strengthening.

4.3.2 Analysis of Child Violence Data

Data from the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) show an increasing trend in reported cases of violence against children in West Java:

Table 1. Child Violence Cases in West Java (2019–2022)

Year	Number of Cases	Percentage Change
2019	1,543	-
2020	1,234	-20.0%
2021	1,766	+43.1%
2022	2,001	+13.3%

Source : SIMFONI PPA

Table 2. Typology of Violence Against Children in West Java (2022)

Type of Violence	Number of Cases	Percentage
Sexual Violence	684	34.2%
Physical Violence	574	28.7%
Psychological	446	22.3%
Neglect	297	14.8%
Total	2,001	100%

Source : SIMFONI PPA

The rising number of reported cases can be interpreted in two ways. On the one hand, it reflects **greater public awareness and trust** in reporting mechanisms, indicating improvements in institutional responsiveness. On the other hand, it also underscores the **persistence of child violence issues at the grassroots level**, suggesting that preventive and rehabilitative measures have yet to fully address systemic challenges.

4.4 Barriers in Normative Implementation: Constraint Analysis in International Compliance

4.4.1 Normative Gap as an Implementation Deficit

Document analysis reveals a significant **normative gap** between the provisions enshrined in legislation and their operationalization in practice, reflecting the classic *implementation deficit* in public policy. The *Evaluation Report on the Implementation of Law No. 35/2014* prepared by the Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Culture (Kemenko PMK, 2022) identified several critical gaps in normative implementation.

With regard to the definition of violence, although Law No. 35/2014 expanded the definition of violence in line with the evolution of international norms, technical documents and standard operating procedures at the operational level still employ narrower, outdated definitions. This **definitional inconsistency** creates legal uncertainty and hinders the effective enforcement of child protection norms. On child participation mechanisms, Article 24 of Law No. 35/2014 recognizes children's right to participation in accordance with Article 12 of the UNCRC. However, no implementing regulations exist to operationalize this provision. This **regulatory gap** reflects institutional capacity constraints in translating **abstract norms into concrete procedures**.

In terms of coordination systems, the fragmentation of authority across ministries and agencies has generated ambiguity in implementation (*bureaucratic politics*), reflecting institutional competition and weak inter-agency coordination, which obstructs a holistic approach to child protection.

4.4.2 Structural Barriers within the Legal Framework

Structural barriers in normative implementation reflect **systemic constraints** rooted in Indonesia's institutional design and legal architecture. Inconsistencies across regulations are evident from a review of legal instruments that reveals definitional inconsistencies and procedural contradictions. For instance, Law No. 11/2012 on the Juvenile Criminal Justice System defines "child" differently for criminal responsibility (under 18 years old) compared to victim status. This discrepancy with Law No. 35/2014 creates **legal uncertainty** in case handling.

Limitations in enforcement mechanisms also persist. Despite the introduction of harsher criminal sanctions—including the death penalty for perpetrators of child sexual violence — enforcement remains weak due to **capacity constraints among law enforcement officers** and a justice system that is not yet fully child-friendly. Such limited implementation capacity underscores **resource constraints** and weak institutional development within law enforcement agencies.

4.4.3 Challenges in Implementing the SDGs Framework

Implementation of the SDGs framework faces **specific challenges** reflecting the complexity of global governance at the domestic level.

Issues of **data and indicators** arise as the measurement of SDG progress struggles with data availability and quality. The *Indonesia SDGs Report 2021* acknowledged that 40% of indicators for Target 16.2 still rely on proxy indicators due to weaknesses in the national statistical system, reflecting **technical capacity constraints** in evidence-based policymaking.

Multi-level coordination also poses challenges, as the SDGs framework requires complex alignment between national, provincial, and district/city levels under a decentralized governance system. The *UNDP Indonesia Mid-Term Evaluation of the SDGs (2022)* identified coordination gaps as a major barrier to achieving targets, reflecting **vertical coordination problems** in multi-level governance and weak inter-governmental coordination mechanisms.

Finally, **resource mobilization** for SDG implementation is constrained by the limited fiscal space of local governments and competition among development priorities. This **financing gap** reflects political economy constraints, where budget allocations for child protection are often regarded as a non-productive investment compared to infrastructure or economic development.

4.5 Multi-Level Normative Implementation Model: Theoretical Framework

Based on comprehensive analysis, the normative implementation process of the UNCRC within the Indonesian SDGs context can be conceptualized as a **Cascading Normative Transformation Model**, which reflects the complexity of *norm travel* in a multi-level governance system. This model integrates

Finnemore and Sikkink's **norm life cycle theory** with Krasner's **international regime theory**, situated within the framework of multi-level governance.

4.5.1 International–National Level: Constitutional Incorporation

The transformation of norms from the international system to the state actor level occurs through **constitutional incorporation**, whereby the principles of the UNCRC are integrated into the constitutional structure (Article 28B(2) of the 1945 Constitution) and into organic laws. This process represents **formal compliance** with international legal obligations through domestic legal incorporation.

Integration with the SDGs framework provides an **additional layer of legitimacy and accountability mechanisms** through measurable timelines and targets, reflecting the convergence of the **human rights regime** and the **development regime** within the global governance architecture. This process is reinforced by **international monitoring mechanisms**, including periodic reporting to treaty bodies and voluntary national reviews under the SDGs framework.

4.5.2 National–Subnational Level: Adaptive Localization

The transformation from the national to the subnational level involves **adaptive localization**, in which universal norms are adjusted to local contexts through regional regulations and specific policies within a decentralized governance framework. The case of West Java demonstrates **successful adaptation** through Regional Regulation No. 8/2020, which integrates local cultural values with international standards, thereby reflecting **cultural sensitivity** in norm implementation.

This process of **norm localization** involves **local norm entrepreneurs** such as regional governments, civil society organizations, and traditional leaders who act as mediating actors between global norms and local contexts. The **adaptive capacity** of local governments in conducting norm localization emerges as a **critical factor** in the successful implementation of international norms.

4.5.3 Policy–Implementation Level: Institutional Operationalization

The transformation from the policy level to implementation constitutes the most complex stage, involving **institutional operationalization** through bureaucratic agencies, service delivery mechanisms, and monitoring systems. Analysis shows that this stage continues to face **structural constraints** and **operational challenges**, requiring strengthened institutional capacity and system harmonization.

Implementation effectiveness at this level depends heavily on **institutional capacity, resource availability, inter-agency coordination, and stakeholder engagement**. The **fragmented institutional design** and weak coordination mechanisms function as the primary **bottlenecks** to the effective implementation of international norms at the operational level.

CONCLUSION

This research concludes that while Indonesia has ratified the UNCRC and taken significant steps to implement its principles, child marriage and violence against children in West Java remain persistent challenges during 2021–2023. The study reveals that legal frameworks and government initiatives have provided an important foundation, yet structural barriers such as socio-cultural norms, economic pressures, and limited institutional capacity continue to hinder progress. By applying norm internalization and international regime theory, the findings demonstrate how international commitments shape domestic policies, though effectiveness depends largely on local adaptation and enforcement. The research underlines the urgent need for stronger collaboration between government institutions, local communities, and international frameworks to create sustainable preventive measures. Strengthening child protection not only ensures compliance with the UNCRC but also contributes directly to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to gender equality, quality education, and child well-being.

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