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For scientists, scientists, students, graduate students, representatives of business and public organizations and higher education institutions and a wide range of readers.

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THE IMPACT OF DEMOCRACY ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: A CASE OF THE EU

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Democracy provides opportunities for citizens to participate in decision-making processes related to sustainable development. Through voting, public consultations, and participation in civil society organizations, citizens can voice their concerns, advocate for environmental protection, and influence policy decisions that promote sustainability.

Democratic systems emphasize transparency and accountability, which are crucial for sustainable development. Democratic institutions, such as independent judiciaries and media, can help expose corruption, ensure compliance with environmental regulations, and hold governments and businesses accountable for their actions [1, 4]. This transparency helps prevent environmental degradation and promotes responsible resource management.

Such kind of a political regime often engage in long-term planning and policy formulation, taking into account the needs of current and future generations. Sustainable development requires strategic thinking and the consideration of environmental, social, and economic factors [2]. In a democratic system, different stakeholders can engage in open debates, leading to more inclusive and well-informed decision-making processes that prioritize sustainable practices.

Democracy promotes the protection of human rights, including environmental rights. People living in democracies have the freedom to express their concerns about environmental issues and seek remedies through legal channels. Strong human rights protections also ensure that marginalized communities are not disproportionately affected by unsustainable development practices.

Democratic societies often foster innovation and knowledge sharing, which are essential for sustainable development. Freedom of expression, academic freedom, and access to information facilitate the exchange of ideas and the development of sustainable technologies, practices, and policies [3]. Additionally, democratic societies are more likely to invest in research and development, promoting scientific advancements in environmental conservation and renewable energy.

While democracy generally has a positive impact on sustainable development, there are also potential negative impacts that can arise in certain situations. In democratic systems, politicians may prioritize short-term gains and popular policies to secure electoral support. This can lead to neglect of long-term sustainable development goals, as politicians focus on immediate economic benefits or appeasing certain interest groups. For example, governments may

prioritize projects that have short-term economic benefits but have negative environmental consequences in the long run.

Democratic systems often involve a multiplicity of stakeholders with diverse interests and viewpoints [1]. This can lead to policy gridlock and instability, making it difficult to implement coherent and consistent sustainable development policies. Frequent changes in government or political party shifts can disrupt long-term planning and hinder the implementation of sustainable policies.

This political regime places importance on public opinion and majority rule. In some instances, public opinion may be resistant to necessary changes or reforms that are crucial for sustainable development [2]. For example, there may be resistance to environmental regulations or policies that require significant economic adjustments, particularly if they are perceived as negatively impacting jobs or economic growth.

It is important to note that these negative impacts are not inherent to democracy itself but can arise due to specific circumstances, systemic issues, or failures in governance. Overcoming these challenges requires strengthening democratic institutions, fostering citizen engagement, promoting long-term thinking, and addressing socioeconomic inequalities to ensure that sustainable development remains a priority.

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