

ENHANCING THE ROLE OF POLICY RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY OF THE VIETNAM ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 66-NQ/TW

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ABSTRACT

Based on affirming the fundamental research and policy advisory functions of the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (hereinafter referred to as the Academy). This particularly highlights the practical contributions of the Academy in providing scientific arguments for strategic decisions, critically reviewing, and advising on legal policies at both central and local levels. This article points out the outstanding achievements the Academy has garnered in its research, forecasting, and policy analysis activities, as well as in the advisory reports submitted to the Party and the State. Furthermore, the article analyzes and clarifies the central, core role of the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences in the process of implementing Resolution No. 66-NQ/TW dated April 30th, 2025, of the Politburo on renovating the work of law-making and law enforcement to meet the requirements of national development in the new era. From these analyses, the article proposes orientations for institutional innovation, organizational models, and coordination mechanisms aimed at further enhancing the effectiveness of the Academy's policy and legal advisory activities in the new period, thereby fostering the Academy's role as a pioneering force in transforming knowledge into policy action for a modern, synchronous, effective, and efficient legislative system.

Keywords: Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences; policy research and consultancy; Resolution No. 66-NQ/TW.

1. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (hereinafter referred to as the Academy) holds a leading central position in theoretical and practical research in social sciences and humanities, serving the process of policy formulation and legal improvement. Accordingly, with its function of researching fundamental issues in social sciences and humanities, and concurrently providing policy advice to the Party and the State, the Academy makes significant contributions by providing scientific bases for strategic decisions, especially in the context of implementing Resolution No. 66-NQ/TW on reforming the work of law-making and law enforcement. It can be asserted that, in the context of implementing Resolution No. 66-NQ/TW, the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences has been effectively participating in the process of reviewing and evaluating the current legal system; forecasting social development trends to propose appropriate legal reform directions; providing comments and critiques on draft laws, decrees, and legal strategies; and concurrently undertaking research projects at the state, ministerial, and sectoral levels to serve the endeavor of institutional reform and the improvement of the national governance model. Specifically, in recent times, the Academy and its units have conducted 76 national-level projects, 3 protocol projects, 157 Nafosted

fund projects, 961 independent projects/ministerial-level scientific tasks, 2,074 grassroots-level projects, and 236 other projects (VASS, 2025); and participated in critical review of major draft laws and advised on legal reform policies such as the Land Law and the Law on Science, Technology and Innovation, etc. Besides, the Academy actively cooperates with relevant agencies in policy consultation and evaluation, making practical contributions to the process of institutional reform and the refinement of the legal system. Specifically, the Academy has submitted 331 policy advisory reports to the Party and State agencies concerning important and urgent issues. Notably, these include the summary report titled "Theory and Practice Over 40 Years of Innovation and Issues Arising in the New Period"; reports on the global and regional situations and specific countries; and analytical and forecast reports on domestic and international socio-economic situations (VASS, 2025). The Academy and its affiliated units also focus on providing policy advice and critical reviews for numerous localities, contributing to the formulation of socio-economic development strategies, master plans, and action plans. The number of policy advisory reports has increased more than threefold compared to five years prior. Particularly, since March 2024, the Academy has regularly provided monthly analytical and forecast reports on the situation and policy advice for socio-economic development, serving as official documents for the Government's regular meetings. These contributions not only demonstrate interdisciplinary research capabilities but also affirm the Academy's strategic advisory position vis-à-vis the Party and the State.

Therefore, with its functions, strengths, and achievements, the Academy holds a pivotal role in transforming scientific research outcomes into legal arguments, serving the process of developing and perfecting legal policies. Through this, the Academy actively contributes to the effective implementation of Resolution 66-NQ/TW, thereby fostering the development of a synchronous, unified, effective, and efficient legal system, meeting the requirements for rapid and sustainable national development in the new context.

2. RESEARCH OVERVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

2.1. Research Overview

Domestic and international scholarship on the relationship between social sciences, law, and policy-making has produced a rich theoretical and empirical foundation. Nevertheless, significant gaps remain when this body of knowledge is situated within Vietnam's specific context and the imperatives of implementing Resolution No. 66-NQ/TW.

In recent years, numerous domestic studies have examined the Party's leadership in legislative development and the institutionalization of guidelines and policies, notably those by Tran Ngoc Duong (2021) and Nguyen Dang Dung (2020). These scholars affirm that the Party's leadership is a prerequisite for ensuring political orientation, yet also highlight that in Vietnam, the relationship between scientific research institutions and the legislature has not been established as a mandatory mechanism. Consequently, scientific evidence rarely becomes an organic component of policy.

Moreover, several recent studies on institutional reform (Legislative Research Institute, 2023) have proposed promoting interdisciplinary research and advancing digital transformation in legal governance. However, such proposals remain at a broad, recommendatory level and are not directly linked to the organizational model or operational mechanisms of the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS).

To date, there has been little in-depth analysis of the specific demands that Resolution No. 66-NQ/TW imposes on VASS—particularly in the following aspects: (i) renewing legal thinking towards openness and evidence-based approaches; (ii) establishing strategic policy coordination and commissioning mechanisms; (iii) integrating research into the legislative, enforcement, and

oversight cycles; and (iv) developing digital capabilities and interdisciplinary legal research. This gap underscores the urgent need for a systematic study that not only elucidates the theoretical foundations but also addresses practical challenges and proposes feasible solutions to enhance VASS's policy advisory capacity in the new period.

2.2. Research Methodology

This study is grounded in a synthesis of theoretical and empirical foundations, ensuring a multidimensional and comprehensive approach to the contents of Resolution No. 66-NQ/TW and its implications for the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences. First, it employs analytical and theoretical synthesis methods, drawing upon theories of the socialist rule-of-law state, institutional innovation, and knowledge governance to analyze the structure, substance, and normative value of the Resolution.

Theoretical sources are derived from Party documents, legal normative acts, political reports, and relevant domestic and international scholarly works on national governance, institutional reform, and comparative law. In parallel, the study applies qualitative, evidence-based analysis, making use of reports, statistics, socio-legal surveys, and data from VASS's activities in oversight and policy critique. This approach dissects the interrelationship between "scientific evidence, policy decisions, and implementation outcomes," thereby measuring the actual contribution of research to the policy cycle.

3. CORE CONTENT OF RESOLUTION 66-NQ/TW AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ACADEMY'S POLICY RESEARCH AND CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

First, affirming the Party's leading core role throughout the entire process of lawmaking and law enforcement.

Resolution No. 66-NQ/TW reaffirms the foundational principle that the Party's comprehensive, direct, and absolute leadership is a prerequisite for ensuring the socialist orientation, political effectiveness, and practical efficacy in lawmaking and law enforcement. Accordingly, the full institutionalization of the Party's directives and guidelines becomes a central, overarching political requirement. Concurrently, mechanisms for checking and supervising power are tightened to effectively prevent manifestations of group interests, local interests, departmental or localized legal thinking. For the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, as a research agency, it is imperative to proactively develop a system of theoretical and practical knowledge as the foundation for fully, timely, and accurately institutionalizing the Party's major directives in the context of comprehensive national governance innovation. Research focus must be placed on pivotal areas such as institutional reform, national digital transformation, sustainable social security, and the protection and promotion of human rights and citizens' rights within the Socialist Rule of Law State of Vietnam, etc. In addition to research and policy consulting activities, the Academy needs to vigorously promote its role in social oversight and critique through scientific activities, academic forums, and by contributing opinions on draft laws, strategies, and important state programs. This significantly contributes to ensuring a close linkage between the Party's guidelines and the State's policies and laws, enhancing the legitimacy and practical enforceability of laws. In fact, internal institutional development at the Academy has undergone positive changes. Accordingly, the Academy has synchronously implemented law enforcement activities to enhance the effectiveness of internal governance and ensure administrative discipline. Specifically, the Academy has issued and implemented important documents such as: Regulations on Scientific Research Activities Management; Working Regulations; Regulations on Public Asset Management and Use; Internal Spending Regulations; Regulations on Receiving Officials and Employees; Regulations on

Complaint and Denunciation Resolution; and Regulations on Decentralization of Official Management (VASS, 2025). On this basis, the Academy has widely disseminated these to all officials and employees; simultaneously, it has established mechanisms for monitoring and inspecting implementation to ensure uniformity and strictness in administration and governance. These efforts demonstrate the Academy's proactive spirit in realizing the requirements of Resolution 66-NQ/TW, affirming its role as a leading research agency in contributing to improving institutional quality, building a modern, transparent, effective state governance model, and serving sustainable development.

Second, innovating legal thinking in conjunction with social sciences and humanities, towards development, liberalization, and evidence-based approaches.

Resolution No. 66-NQ/TW has forged a fundamental shift in thinking, transitioning from approaching law as a mere tool for state management to viewing it as a driver of development, a foundation for modern policymaking, and a catalyst for comprehensive institutional reform. In that vein, the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, in its role as a leading strategic research institution, must pioneer the reform of legal thinking towards a developmental, enlightened, and evidence-based approach, closely integrated with Vietnam's practical realities. In practice, the Academy has progressively concretized this orientation through numerous state-level and ministerial-level projects, and foundational policy consulting assignments, prominently featuring studies on perfecting the socialist-oriented market economy institution, modern national governance models, digital transformation law, and energy transition, etc.

Besides, Resolution No. 66-NQ/TW emphasizes that law serves not only as a means of regulating behavior but also as a tool for fostering institutional trust, unlocking social resources, and unleashing national development capacity. To fulfill this mandate, the Academy must leverage its role as an academic gatekeeper by shaping a new conceptual framework for legal design, selecting appropriate institutional models, and quantifying policy impacts, particularly in fields such as digital technology, social rights, energy transition, and the green economy, etc. Additionally, comparative law research must be intensified, focusing on selectively adopting international best practices while remaining firmly rooted in Vietnam's practical context. This ideology aligns with the institutional reform viewpoint previously advocated by the late Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, who affirmed the necessity of engaging international expert opinions concurrently with incorporating domestic realities (Nguyen Khanh, 2022). Moreover, experiences from nations such as South Korea and the Federal Republic of Germany demonstrate that legislative quality, when coupled with the ability to formulate long-term strategies and profound academic knowledge, can become a distinct national competitive advantage. The Academy must assume a formative and guiding role in this thought process, not merely through its research outputs but also by enhancing the nation's prestige during this new period of transformation.

Third, promoting the cohesion between legal research and law enforcement in order to strengthen the Academy's capacity for policy consultation and critical review.

One of the consistent and enduring guiding values of Resolution No. 66-NQ/TW is its insistence on the robust linkage between law-making activities and the organization of law enforcement, considering implementation effectiveness as the most authentic gauge of public policy. In this milieu, the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences must recalibrate its role, not merely as a generator of academic legal knowledge but also as a strategic post-legislative advisory institution, proficient in quantifying implementation effectiveness, discerning nascent legal gaps, and identifying institutional bottlenecks arising from practical realities. This formidable task necessitates that the Academy intensifies in-depth interdisciplinary research, integrating quantitative and qualitative

analysis, and undertaking legal sociological surveys, particularly in domains such as voluntary social insurance, ethnic minority policies, administrative reform, and digital transformation in law enforcement, etc. For instance, reports monitoring the implementation of the Law on Support for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises reveal a considerable disparity between the law's stipulated content and the actual benefits accrued by enterprises, thereby necessitating an objective, evidence-based post-enactment policy evaluation. In that capacity, the Academy not only articulates the perspectives of the legal community but also contributes to constructing a closed policy cycle, wherein practice iteratively guides legislation, rendering law truly responsive to societal dynamics, equitable, practicable, and sustainable.

Fourth, establishing an enabling legal environment aimed at expanding research on legal economics, human rights, and innovative institutions.

Currently, one of the strategic requirements emphasized by Resolution No. 66-NQ/TW is the establishment of an enabling legal environment for development. Simultaneously, new academic frontiers such as legal economics, human rights, and innovative institutions are to be expanded, etc. Building upon this foundation, the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences must assume a pioneering role in establishing an interdisciplinary knowledge system to facilitate the formation of a transparent, effective, and nationally competitive legal framework. In the context of Vietnam's growth model transformation, research concerning economic law, freedom of business, property rights, freedom of contract, digital asset protection, and fair competitive markets bears not only theoretical significance but also profound practical value in perfecting Vietnam's socialist-oriented market economic institutions. Concurrently, the Academy must broaden and elevate the quality of legal research on artificial intelligence, big data, tokenized assets, and digital transformation, through a multidisciplinary approach integrating law, sociology, economics, and philosophy. International practice demonstrates that countries such as those in Asia-Pacific or the Federal Republic of Germany have successfully built digitalized institutions owing to proactive legal systems capable of establishing legal corridors for new technologies ahead of time (Pramila Crivelli & Rolando Avendano, 2025). Therefore, the Academy is required to form specialized research groups and connect interdisciplinary expert networks, with the aim of providing scientific insights that possess both sufficient academic depth and comprehensive practical coverage, thereby contributing to national-level policy formulation in the era of digital transformation and the knowledge economy.

Fifth, developing high-quality legal human resources – one of the Vietnam Academy's crucial tasks in training, academic development, and expertise.

It can be said that developing high-quality legal human resources constitutes one of the pivotal breakthroughs established by Resolution No. 66-NQ/TW to meet the requirements for building a modern, effective, and efficient socialist rule-of-law state. In this context, the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, by virtue of its position as a science and technology institution leading academic discourse in the social sciences and humanities, must pioneer the mission of fostering a generation of strategic legal experts for the nation. To fulfill this imperative, the Academy must, first and foremost, proactively design and implement master's and doctoral training programs with high theoretical content pertaining to public policy, the theory of the rule-of-law state, development-oriented legal thinking, and interdisciplinary legal research methodologies, ensuring adherence to international academic standards. Simultaneously, it is imperative to establish specialized research and policy consulting centers to address strategic legal issues. Furthermore, the Academy must promote the formation of interdisciplinary expert networks, both domestic and international, thereby enhancing internal research capacity, augmenting academic influence, and directly

contributing to the development of a body of legal intellectuals possessing strategic vision, critical analysis capability, and high social responsibility. This is not merely a development requirement for the Academy but also an academic commitment to the endeavor of building and safeguarding national institutions during a period of profound transformation.

Sixth, promoting digital transformation in legal research and the dissemination of legal knowledge.

One of the important contents emphasized by Resolution No. 66-NQ/TW is the requirement to modernize the work of law-making and law enforcement on the foundation of science and technology, in which digital transformation plays a crucial role. Accordingly, the application of new technologies such as Big Data, Artificial Intelligence (AI), open knowledge systems, and digital platforms will contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of state management by law, creating a breakthrough in the methods of researching, storing, disseminating, and spreading legal knowledge throughout society. For the Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences, this presents both a challenge and an opportunity for a comprehensive renewal of the operating methods for legal scientific knowledge. Firstly, the Academy needs to build an in-depth digital data ecosystem in the field of law and public policy, aiming to form an open digital academic database that interconnects with national and international data systems. This knowledge repository will not only serve internal research activities but also provide valuable reference materials for legislative and executive bodies, as well as the academic community both domestically and internationally. Additionally, the digitization of research products is an essential step to enhance the accessibility and utilization of scientific outcomes. Each work, project, consulting report, or policy critique needs to be standardized in terms of content and format and integrated into the digital knowledge system, ensuring inheritability, transparency, and wide accessibility. Concurrently, the Academy needs to develop legal knowledge dissemination platforms towards modernization, visual appeal, and user-friendliness, combining various forms such as analytical articles, scientific videos, infographics, electronic newsletters, open forums, etc., through multi-platform digital channels (web, social media, mobile applications). Above all, digital transformation in legal knowledge research and dissemination needs to be established as a strategic task, linked to the Academy's responsibility for institutional knowledge innovation in the digital era. This requires not only investment in technological infrastructure but also a change in the mindset of research organization, development of digital skills for the expert team, and the establishment of a close coordination mechanism with state agencies, training institutions, research institutes, and technology enterprises. Only when legal knowledge is effectively digitized and disseminated can the Academy truly fulfill its role as a national center in leading legal thought, advising on policy, and contributing to the sustainable development of the country in the spirit of Resolution No. 66-NQ/TW.

4. SOME SHORTCOMINGS AND CHALLENGES IN PROMOTING THE ROLE OF LEGAL POLICY RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY AT THE ACADEMY AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT.

Firstly, limitations in the coordination mechanism between research activities, policy formulation, and law promulgation.

One of the major obstacles to effectively promoting the policy advisory role of the Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences is the lack of synchronization and rigor in the coordination mechanism between scientific research activities and the process of formulating and promulgating legal policies. In practice, the link between research institutions and policymaking bodies remains loose, seasonal, and lacks a clear institutionalized mechanism. Consequently, the reception and utilization of research results in the policymaking process are often perfunctory and have not yet become a mandatory and systematic procedure within the legislative process. This situation leads to scientific

arguments provided by the Academy not being fully leveraged, and even being disjointed or lost during transmission to policymaking bodies. Research often focuses on theories or ideal models, whereas policymaking bodies are constrained by technical, administrative, budgetary, and time pressures. Furthermore, the lack of an effective liaison between the two systems means that the Academy's policy advisory capacity has not been deeply integrated into the State's policy cycle.

Thus, the pressing requirement now is to establish a clear institutionalized coordination mechanism, in which the Academy serves as a strategic link in the value chain of “research → consultation → legislation → implementation → supervision”.

Secondly, there is a lack of a strategic commissioning mechanism, insufficient data, and limited long-term research funding.

A structural challenge facing research and policy consulting activities at the Academy is the absence of a strategic commissioning mechanism from state agencies. The majority of current research tasks are developed through a proposal process from affiliated institutes, with content primarily based on existing capabilities and internal academic orientations, rather than originating from the practical needs of the legislative process. This significantly widens the gap between research outputs and policy demands. Besides, data serving research, particularly interdisciplinary data, administrative data, and in-depth legal data, remains fragmented, outdated, and not shared through an open mechanism. The lack of reliable data sources reduces the capacity for evidence-based assessment and evidence-informed policy analysis, a trend prioritized by developed nations. Moreover, funding for long-term, in-depth research programs on institutional and legal policies is severely limited, disproportionate to the requirements and scale of strategic tasks.

In order to overcome these limitations, it is imperative to establish a strategic, state-level policy commissioning mechanism, involving coordination among ministries and sectors with the Academy from the problem identification and research design stages through to the application of results. Simultaneously, there is a need to establish a shared open database system for research institutes, alongside improving research budget allocation methods towards flexibility, long-term commitment, and alignment with output effectiveness.

Thirdly, there is a gap between scientific arguments and the legislative process.

A persistent issue in legal policy research and consultation activities in Vietnam is the significant gap between scientific argumentation and the actual process of policy formulation and legal enactment. Accordingly, while research conducted by the Academy holds high academic value, it is often not directly integrated into the legislative cycle of state agencies. The causes stem from both sides. On one hand, research tends to be overly theoretical, lacking empirical evidence and the capacity to translate into concrete policy solutions. Meanwhile, policy-making agencies lack a mechanism for systematically receiving, screening, and utilizing independent research outcomes. Consequently, in many instances, policies and laws are enacted as situational reactions, lacking a robust scientific basis, leading to low sustainability and enforceability. This disconnect between science and policy creates delays in institutional reform, diminishing the strategic advisory role of research institutions like the Academy. This becomes even more critical in a context where policy requirements are increasingly complex, interdisciplinary, and linked to global issues such as climate change, digital transformation, and non-traditional security, etc.

The proposed solution is to build a knowledge dialogue mechanism between the research community and the policy-making community, with the Academy serving as an intermediary, a bridge, and an interpreter between academic language and policy language. Concurrently, it is

necessary to promote a co-creation cooperation model between scientists and legislators from the very beginning of the policy cycle to ensure substantive cohesion.

Fourthly, challenges from the requirement to innovate thinking, update digital transformation trends, artificial intelligence and globalization.

In the context of deep globalization and the explosion of digital technology, especially artificial intelligence (AI), digital transformation, and Big Data, the requirement to innovate thinking in legal policy research and consultation has emerged as a critical challenge for research agencies, including the Academy. Accordingly, traditional research thinking is in the direction of linearity, unidisciplinary analysis, separating theory and practice, between science and technology, etc. are no longer in line with the complex and interdisciplinary nature of current policy issues. The Academy is facing pressure to modernize its technological infrastructure, organizational structure, research methodologies, knowledge management models, and the digital competency of its scientific staff. Therefore, the application of new technologies in research necessitates systematic investment in human resources, tools, and methodologies. Concurrently, the Academy must transform itself from a purely academic research center into a multi-functional knowledge complex encompassing research, forecasting, consulting, and policy communication on a digital platform. This challenge also presents a strategic opportunity; if successful in this transformation, the Academy could evolve into a national center for policy intelligence, connecting global knowledge with Vietnamese realities. However, to achieve this, resolute engagement is required from the Academy's internal capabilities and from the State, through the promulgation of institutional frameworks supporting innovation in legal policy research.

5. CONCLUSION

In the context of comprehensively renewing the development and enforcement of the law in the spirit of Resolution No. 66-NQ/TW, promoting the role of the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences is an urgent requirement and a strategic impetus for the formation of a modern, synchronized, and effective legal system. Accordingly, with its mission of fundamental research and policy consultation, the Academy must become a leading national hub for connecting knowledge, policy, and law. To achieve this, it is imperative to dismantle institutional barriers, innovate research organizational models, promote digital transformation, and establish robust coordination mechanisms with legislative and executive bodies. Only through institutional changes will the Academy contribute valuable scientific arguments and become a pioneer in transforming knowledge into policy actions, fostering a constructive and sustainable legislative foundation.

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