

Evaluating the Impact of Participatory Budgeting on Special Economic Zone Project Implementation

Joseph Owuondo

PhD in Spatial Planning, Candidate, Maseno University

DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.47772/IJRISS.2024.803358S>

Received: 28 March 2024; Revised: 20 April 2024; Accepted: 26 April 2024; Published: 14 November 2024

ABSTRACT

This study fills a significant research vacuum by examining the effects of Participatory Budgeting (PB) on projects inside Special Economic Zones (SEZs). The study first establishes the legitimacy of PB by highlighting its widespread recognition since its founding in 1989 and its support by powerful institutions such as the World Bank and the United Nations. Citing examples from China and Kenya, the study places the importance of SEZs in context by highlighting their critical role in economic development. It acknowledges the intricacy of the dynamics involved in decision-making in SEZ projects with various stakeholders. It points out the need for more systematic evaluations of how PB affects these procedures.

The review of the literature investigates how PB might enhance inclusiveness, openness, and innovative problem-solving in SEZ decision-making. It recognizes the advantages and draws attention to drawbacks like drawn-out decision-making procedures and resistance to change. In assessing the effectiveness of PB in SEZ frameworks, the review highlights the significance of stakeholder perceptions, including those of local communities, investors, and governmental bodies. Achieving equilibrium between these disparate viewpoints is considered essential for successful integration.

Using literature review, this paper's methodology analyzes literature from reliable books, peer-reviewed journals, official websites, and Google Scholar to conduct an extensive study. The findings highlight the need for a comprehensive understanding of how PB influences decision-making in SEZ projects and show that PB's effectiveness and the economic impact of SEZs are recognized globally. The report highlights the significance of ongoing stakeholder communication, capacity building, clear guidelines, adaptation to local contexts, and monitoring mechanisms while identifying opportunities and challenges related to PB implementation in SEZs.

The study concludes by recommending a strategic approach to maximize the benefits of PB on SEZs and offering suggestions to practitioners and policymakers. This study adds to the body of knowledge on participatory governance by addressing important research questions and providing insightful information that can be used to create inclusive, open, and effective SEZ frameworks worldwide.

INTRODUCTION

Participatory Budgeting (PB) has been widely implemented globally and successfully democratizes public resource distribution (Aziz & Shah, 2021). Since its founding in 1989 in Porto Alegre, Brazil (Falanga et al., 2020; Longuemare, 2020), PB has gained recognition on a global scale, travelling to many countries in North and South America, Europe and Asia (De Oliveira, 2017). Notable organizations such as the World Bank, OECD, United Nations, and the UK Department for International Development have endorsed PB

(Cabannes, 2014). The authenticity of PB and its overarching importance is greatly underscored.

However, Although PB is widely used and has received substantial funding, particularly in multimillion-dollar/euro schemes, only some thorough studies look at how PB affects SEZ projects. Additionally, while anecdotal evidence from Porto Alegre points to beneficial outcomes like more funding going to underprivileged areas, lower administrative costs, and more citizen participation (Biderman, 2008), a systematic evaluation of PB's effects SEZ projects is conspicuously lacking from the body of research that currently exists. A research gap is then imminent, forming the purpose of this study.

The excesses of the impact of SEZs cannot be properly quantified; understanding them in part rationalizes why they are an area of interest. According to research by Davies (2019), firm-level export dynamics are considerably impacted by Special Economic Zones (SEZs). In open economies, companies affiliated with SEZs are 25% more likely to export than their non-affiliated counterparts; the situation is the opposite in closed economies. Crucially, the influence on export value depends on the state of the local economy; in nations where import barriers exist, there is a 3.6% increase in export value. SEZ's impact on trade is notably refreshing.

Now turning attention to Cambodia, Brussevich's (2023) research shows that SEZs have a positive socioeconomic impact, especially when it comes to lowering income inequality through increased employment, especially for women. China's Xi et al. (2021) study emphasizes how important SEZs are as hubs for producer service industries, greatly boosting the nation's GDP and the job market. Other studies also elucidate the vitality of SEZs in capital investment, employment, output, productivity, and wages (Song et al., 2020). Understanding PB's impact on project implementation in SEZs is crucial for academics, practitioners, and policymakers.

This study assesses how Participatory Budgeting affects projects carried out in Special Economic Zones. The goal is to add to the body of knowledge on participatory governance and economic development policies by examining the relationship between participation-based budgeting methods and the dynamics of SEZ project implementation. The study looks at ways to maximize the positive relationship between community involvement and project outcomes and discusses the possible benefits of incorporating participatory mechanisms within the SEZ framework.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SIGNIFICANCE

Deploying a few research questions is pertinent to guide the study. As such, three research questions are formulated for this course:

- How much does including participatory budgeting affect decisions about which projects to pursue and how to carry them out in Special Economic Zones?
- What are the main advantages and difficulties of implementing participatory budgeting in the context of projects involving special economic zones?
- What is the perception of stakeholders—which include government agencies, investors, and local communities—about the impact of Participatory Budgeting on the transparency and effectiveness of project implementation in Special Economic Zones?

This study fills important knowledge gaps regarding the effects of participatory budgeting on project implementation in Special Economic Zones (SEZs), which has implications for academic research and practical policymaking. The research provides important insights that can help improve stakeholder collaboration, guide the customization of participatory approaches to account for regional and cultural variations, and inform the improvement of SEZ policies by examining decision-making processes, perceived

benefits and challenges, and stakeholder perspectives. The results could promote sustainable development objectives, expand the conversation on participatory governance, and help build more inclusive, transparent, and successful frameworks for SEZ projects worldwide.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Participatory Budgeting (PB) has been successfully implemented worldwide, proving that it can democratize the distribution of public resources (Aziz & Shah, 2021). Since its founding in 1989 in Porto Alegre, Brazil, PB has gained recognition on a global scale, expanding its influence throughout Europe, Asia, and North and South America (De Oliveira, 2017; Falanga et al., 2020; Longuemare, 2020). Reputable organizations like the United Nations, World Bank, OECD, and UK Department for International Development endorsed PB, demonstrating its legitimacy and general significance (Cabannes, 2014). Even with widespread use and substantial funding—particularly in multimillion-dollar/euro initiatives—few thorough studies examine how PB affects Special Economic Zone (SEZ) projects.

Nevertheless, what makes the Specific Economic Zones (SEZs) an area of interest is the robustness of its productivity. A study in China by Hu (2020) reveals that China's Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are a major economic engine of the nation, supporting over 30 million jobs, 22% of GDP, 46% of FDI, and 60% of exports. SEZs have transitioned from preferential policies to uniform market access rules. Kenya's 71 EPZs create over \$650 million in sales turnover annually, with over 90% coming from exports, and sustain 55,000 jobs in sub-Saharan Africa (Zeng, 2021). These statistics provide an imagery of the economic viability of SEZs, making it an interesting focus. Understanding the complex manner in which participatory budgeting would affect SEZs would add to the body of literature and be vital for policy recommendations.

The research on PB highlights how it can improve decision-making's social inclusivity, accountability, and transparency (Brun-Martos & Lapsley, 2020). However, in the particular context of SEZs, where projects carry substantial economic consequences, it becomes crucial to comprehend how PB affects decision-making procedures. Research on the application of PB in conventional settings highlights its potential to give citizens more control over how resources are allocated for social programs, infrastructure, and public services (Williams et al., 2019). According to Williams and his compatriots, the participatory process usually consists of several steps, such as public discussions and official government deliberations, ending with a final vote on budget priorities. This participatory approach encourages a feeling of local ownership and responsiveness to needs (Harrington et al., 2019). Including PB in decision-making processes adds another complexity to SEZs, where projects frequently have wider economic implications.

SEZ projects frequently entail complex negotiations between various parties, including local communities, investors, and governmental organizations, according to Adeney & Boni (2021). It is critical to comprehend how the participatory process might affect these negotiations, for better or worse, to forecast such initiatives' viability and longevity. While the extant literature notably needs more systematic assessments of how PB influences decision-making, particularly in the context of SEZ projects, a case study of Porto Alegre, Brazil, reveals insightful information. Anecdotal evidence from PB's birthplace of Porto Alegre, Brazil (Wampler & Goldfrank, 2022), indicates lower administrative costs, better citizen participation, and more public spending in the city's poorest neighbourhoods (Gonçalves, 2014). Inclusion in decision-making concerning what projects to undertake determines the extent of their successes.

In the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) context, Participatory Budgeting (PB) provides many benefits that support better-informed and superior decision-making processes. First, by giving a thorough grasp of the needs and priorities within SEZs, the involvement of various stakeholders improves the quality of decisions made (Williams, 2019). Local communities benefit from this inclusivity by feeling more engaged and owned, which lowers opposition and increases support for SEZ initiatives (Pin, 2020; O'Hagan et al., 2019).

Research indicates that PB can promote social justice by creating jobs, particularly for underrepresented groups, according to Russel (2023). This is consistent with the overarching objective of fostering inclusive economic development inside the zones. Furthermore, by utilizing local expertise and creativity, the participatory process makes it easier to find creative answers to problems SEZ projects face, resulting in more successful and long-lasting results.

However, some things could be improved in implementing participatory budgeting in SEZs. Haniff and Galloway (2022) demonstrate how tortuous, drawn-out decision-making processes stall projects. Notably, although inclusive, the intricate decision-making process could result in drawn-out discussions that could postpone project deadlines and impair SEZ management. Torgerson and Edwards (2013) identify the need for more resources, including money, time, and experience, as barriers to community engagement. Such could restrict PB's inclusivity or lower the calibre of community engagement. Another significant obstacle is resistance to departing from established decision-making structures. Organizations such as government agencies and other stakeholders who are used to centralized control may need help to adjust to a more inclusive and decentralized approach Atisa et al. (2021). Notwithstanding these difficulties, the advantages of greater social justice, community ownership, and inventiveness highlight how critical it is to resolve these problems in order to realize the potential of participatory approaches in SEZ development fully.

An important factor to consider is how stakeholders such as local communities, investors, and government agencies perceive Participatory Budgeting (PB)'s effect on the efficacy and transparency of project implementation in Special Economic Zones (SEZs). Stakeholders' opinions are crucial in determining whether PB is successful and accepted inside the SEZ framework. According to research, government organizations value PB because it can increase decision-making process transparency, enabling more inclusive and accountable governance (Oh et al., 2019). Yelnikova and Barhaq (2020) advocate for transparency as an environment for investment. Investors might see PB as a benefit that supports socially conscious, transparent and sustainable business practices, which could draw more capital to SEZ projects. When local communities actively participate in PB, they frequently view the process favourably because it gives them a forum to express their preferences and concerns, which helps to ensure a more equitable distribution of benefits and resources.

Stakeholder perceptions, however, could present difficulties, especially if there is a reluctance to change or doubt the effectiveness of participatory methods. At first, government organizations used to conventional decision-making frameworks might see PB as challenging long-standing procedures, which could cause delays and raise questions about effectiveness (Atisa et al., 2021). If investors believe PB will introduce uncertainty into project timelines or resource allocation, they may also voice reservations (Rubinstein, 2011). Furthermore, based on past experiences with government agencies and the perception of the influence of community involvement on decision-making, local communities may have differing levels of confidence in the efficacy of PB. For the successful integration of PB in SEZs, it is imperative to balance the various stakeholders' perspectives, highlighting the necessity of open communication, education, and ongoing discourse to foster trust and guarantee a positive perception among all stakeholders.

The literature review highlights the potential of participatory budgeting (PB) to improve decision-making in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) by fostering social justice, inclusivity, and creative problem-solving. Although there are obstacles like protracted decision-making procedures and opposition to change, community ownership and transparency are essential for SEZ development. The opinions of various stakeholders, such as local communities, investors, and government agencies, are crucial in determining how well PB works in SEZ frameworks. In order to overcome obstacles and guarantee the successful integration of PB in SEZs, realizing its full potential for equitable and efficient economic development, it is crucial to strike a balance through open communication and continuous discourse.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study deploys a literature review research methodology. In the research methodology, there was involvement of a thorough examination of the extensive literature that is available on the online platforms pertaining participatory budgeting and the probable impact it has on Special Economic Zone Projects. This methodology required the utility of search terms like “community involvement,” “SEZ projects,” and “participatory budgeting.” From Google Scholar, government websites, and reliable online information sites. All the information received from the books, scholarly journals, peer-reviewed journal, government sites etc. were carefully triangulated to provide for their validity and reliability. Content analysis was then done on the already verified information to the end game of understanding the relationship that exists between participatory budgeting and SEZs. It is only that this study was able to produce a nuanced understanding of the connection between Special Economic Zone projects and participatory budgeting.

FINDINGS

Participatory Budgeting (PB) and Global Recognition

The body of research highlights how widely accepted and effective Participatory Budgeting (PB) has been worldwide. Since its 1989 founding in Porto Alegre, Brazil, PB has been acknowledged and supported by many powerful institutions, including the United Nations, World Bank, OECD, and the UK Department for International Development (Cabannes, 2014). Its widespread application throughout Europe, Asia, North and South America, and other continents attests to its validity and significance (De Oliveira, 2017; Falanga et al., 2020; Longuemare, 2020). PB’s capacity to democratize the allocation of public resources has been praised, highlighting its legitimacy and overall importance (Aziz & Shah, 2021).

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Economic Impact

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) promote development and economic expansion. Studies demonstrate the significant economic benefits of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), including creating millions of jobs, GDP contributions, FDI attraction, and significant export activities (Hu, 2020; Zeng, 2021). Because SEZs are economically viable, especially in nations like China and Kenya, it is important to investigate the effects of participatory approaches in these zones (Xi et al., 2021; Brussevich, 2023). This research underscores the crucial role SEZs play in enhancing a country’s overall economic performance, serving as engines of growth, and facilitating global economic integration. Policymakers can leverage these insights to formulate effective strategies for harnessing the potential benefits of SEZs in fostering sustainable economic development.

SEZ Projects and Decision-Making Dynamics

Special Economic Zone (SEZ) projects involve complex decision-making that requires careful negotiations among stakeholders, including local communities, investors, and governmental bodies (Adeney & Boni, 2021). This complexity highlights the need for a sophisticated understanding of participatory methods, particularly Participatory Budgeting (PB), and how they impact decision-making dynamics in Special Economic Zones (SEZs). Understanding the interaction between participatory mechanisms and the complexities of SEZ decision-making is essential for fostering effective collaboration and guaranteeing the best possible project outcomes, as these processes involve varying interests and objectives.

Participatory Budgeting in SEZs: Opportunities and Challenges

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) can improve decision-making, transparency, and community involvement

through participatory budgeting (PB). However, obstacles still need to be addressed, including potential postponements in decision-making, limited resources, and opposition from current decision-making frameworks (Haniff & Galloway, 2022; Torgerson & Edwards, 2013). It becomes clear that maintaining a careful balance between these benefits and barriers is necessary to incorporate PB into SEZ development smoothly. In order to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of projects within these zones, navigating these obstacles calls for a strategic approach that recognizes the complexities of SEZ operations while maximizing the potential advantages of participatory methodologies.

Stakeholder Perceptions of PB in SEZs

The success of private business parks (PB) in special economic zones (SEZ) is significantly influenced by stakeholders' perceptions, such as government agencies, investors, and local communities. Government agencies appreciate PB because it can improve the inclusivity and transparency of decision-making processes (Oh et al., 2019). On the other hand, investors might see PB as helpful in promoting sustainable and socially responsible business practices (Yelnikova & Barhaq, 2020). However, diverse degrees of assurance and possible opposition from interested parties emphasize how crucial it is to maintain constant communication and education to promote favourable opinions.

Implications for Sustainable Development and Inclusive Governance

The results highlight the revolutionary potential of Participatory Budgeting (PB) in promoting sustainable development objectives, encouraging strong stakeholder engagement, and acting as a crucial source of information for policy formulation in Special Economic Zones (SEZs). Adopting PB allows SEZ projects to access a wealth of community knowledge, fostering inclusiveness, openness, and, eventually, success on a global level. This study emphasizes how important it is to take a well-rounded approach when navigating the complex environment of SEZs and the opportunities and challenges that present themselves when dealing with PB. A strategic balance of this kind is essential to guiding SEZ projects toward inclusive, long-lasting, globally significant success and efficiency.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Integration of Capacity Building Programs

One strong suggestion is to launch focused capacity-building initiatives as soon as possible to support the effective integration of Participatory Budgeting (PB) in Special Economic Zone (SEZ) projects. Comprehensive training sessions that aim to improve the knowledge and abilities of all parties involved in SEZ initiatives should be given top priority in these programs. These programs guarantee a collective ability to navigate the complex decision-making processes within Special Economic zones (SEZs) by providing government agencies, investors, and local communities with a nuanced understanding of private-public partnerships. Ultimately, investing in capacity building strengthens the sustainability and success of SEZ by enabling stakeholders to actively participate in PB discussions and by fostering a culture of cooperation, transparency, and informed decision-making.

Establishment of Clear Guidelines

Encouraging the creation and broad distribution of clear policies and procedures is essential to ensuring that Participatory Budgeting (PB) is implemented smoothly in Special Economic Zone (SEZ) projects. By ensuring a methodical and transparent implementation of PB, a structured approach helps to minimize decision-making delays. Well-defined guidelines function as a guide, allaying the fears of stakeholders who are used to conventional decision-making frameworks. This proactive measure lowers uncertainty and resistance while increasing efficiency and fostering a common understanding among various stakeholders.

These guidelines, which offer a strategic framework, facilitate a more seamless and inclusive decision-making process, thereby increasing trust and garnering greater support for PB in SEZ initiatives.

Continuous Stakeholder Communication

It is essential to emphasize that stakeholder communication must be ongoing and transparent if Participatory Budgeting (PB) is to be successfully integrated into Special Economic Zone (SEZ) projects. Continuous communication builds rapport, allays worries, and increases faith in PB's effectiveness. Open lines of communication make it easier for ideas to flow and guarantee that all parties involved feel heard, which reduces any doubts that might surface during the decision-making process. Frequent updates and feedback channels allow stakeholders to express their worries, show PB's dedication to inclusivity, and promote a favourable impression of the company. Maintaining stakeholder support throughout SEZ initiatives and balancing divergent interests are made possible by this dedication to open communication.

Adaptation to Local Contexts

Stakeholders should make a strong case for the flexible customization of Participatory Budgeting (PB) techniques to be sensitive to the particular cultural and regional quirks found in Special Economic Zones (SEZs). For PB to succeed in SEZ projects, acknowledging the diversity of communities and investors is a suggestion and a strategic requirement. By ensuring a more complex and culturally aware decision-making process, tailoring PB approaches fosters inclusivity and resonance with local values. This flexibility builds a foundation for trust and cooperation while also acknowledging the complex nature of SEZ environments. Ultimately, this strategy improves PB's efficacy and guarantees its smooth assimilation into the diverse sociocultural fabric of SEZ projects.

Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms

Putting in place reliable monitoring and assessment systems right away in order to measure the concrete effects of Participatory Budgeting (PB) on Special Economic Zone (SEZ) project results is advisable. Frequent and methodical evaluations are essential for giving insightful information about the effectiveness of PB and a current grasp of its impact on SEZ decision-making procedures. This proactive approach guarantees the improvement of PB methodologies and enables quick adjustments and enhancements based on stakeholder feedback. Putting such mechanisms in place is not only a strategic need but also a means of oversight to support PB's responsive, flexible, and ultimately successful integration into the ever-changing SEZ initiative landscape.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this research addresses the understudied intersection of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and participatory budgeting (PB), contributing significantly to existing knowledge. The findings underscore the potential of PB in enhancing stakeholder engagement, transparency, and decision-making within the context of SEZ projects. The study advocates for a strategic approach to leverage the benefits of PB in SEZs, emphasizing the importance of capacity building, well-defined guidelines, continuous communication, adaptation to local contexts, and robust monitoring mechanisms despite potential challenges. These recommendations serve as practical insights for policymakers and practitioners seeking to implement more inclusive, transparent, and efficient SEZ frameworks globally. By bridging this research gap, the study contributes to the broader discourse on participatory governance, offering valuable analyses that guide efforts toward fostering openness, inclusivity, and productivity in SEZ initiatives worldwide. This research sets the stage for further exploration and refinement of participatory approaches within the realm of economic development and governance.

REFERENCES

1. Adeney, K., & Boni, F. (2021). How China and Pakistan Negotiate.
2. Atisa, G., Zemrani, A., & Weiss, M. (2021). Decentralized governments: Local empowerment and sustainable development challenges in Africa. *Environment, Development and Sustainability*, 23, 3349-3367.
3. Aziz, H., & Shah, N. (2021). Participatory budgeting: Models and approaches. *Pathways Between Social Science and Computational Social Science: Theories, Methods, and Interpretations*, 215-236.
4. Biderman, C. (2008). Toward a more inclusive and effective participatory budget in Porto Alegre. *Centro de Estudos de Política e Economia do Setor Público (CEPESP)*.
5. Brun-Martos, M. I., & Lapsley, I. (2020). Democracy, governmentality and transparency: participatory budgeting in action. In *Public Budgeting in Search for an Identity* (pp. 102-117). Routledge.
6. Brussevich, M. (2023). The Socioeconomic Impact of Special Economic Zones: Evidence from Cambodia. *The World Economy*.
7. Cabannes, Y. (2014). Contribution of Participatory Budgeting to the provision and management of basic services. London: IIED, p. 55.
8. Davies, R. B., & Mazhikeyev, A. (2019). The impact of special economic zones on exporting behaviour. *Review of Economic Analysis*, pp. 11, 145–174.
9. De Oliveira, O. P. (2017). International policy diffusion and participatory budgeting: ambassadors of participation, international institutions and transnational networks. Springer.
10. Falanga, R., Lüchmann, L. H. H., Nicoletti, A., & Domingos, H. C. (2020). Participatory budgets in Canoas (Brazil) and Cascais (Portugal). A comparative analysis of the drivers of success. *Journal of Civil Society*, 16(3), 273-293.
11. Gonçalves, S. (2014). The effects of participatory budgeting on municipal expenditures and infant mortality in Brazil. *World Development*, 53, 94-110.
12. Haniff, A. P., & Galloway, L. (2022). Modelling strategic alignment in project networks. *International Journal of Project Management*, 40(5), 517–530.
13. Harrington, C., Erete, S., & Piper, A. M. (2019). Deconstructing community-based collaborative design: Towards more equitable participatory design engagements. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 3(CSCW), pp. 1–25.
14. Hu, J. (2020). From SEZ to FTZ: An evolutionary change toward FDI in China. *Handbook of international investment law and policy*, pp. 1–22.
15. Longuemare, E. (2020). The emergence of Participatory Budgeting on the international stage. An analysis of its history, its international diffusion and its local implementation in two European countries: France and Italy.
16. Oh, Y., Jeong, S. H., & Shin, H. (2019). A strategy for a sustainable local government: Are participatory governments more efficient, effective, and equitable in the budget process? *Sustainability*, 11(19), 5312.
17. O'Hagan, A., Hill O'Connor, C., MacRae, C., & Teedon, P. (2019). Evaluation of Participatory Budgeting in Scotland 2016-2018. Scottish Government.
18. Pin, L. (2020). Race, citizenship and participation: Interrogating the racial dynamics of participatory budgeting. *New Political Science*, 42(4), 578–594.
19. Rubinstein, M. (2011). A history of the theory of investments: My annotated bibliography (Vol. 335). John Wiley & Sons.
20. Song, Y., Deng, R., Liu, R., & Peng, Q. (2020). Effects of special economic zones on FDI in emerging economies: Does institutional quality matter? *Sustainability*, 12(20), 8409.
21. Torgerson, M., & Edwards, M. E. (2013). Demographic determinants of perceived barriers to community involvement: Examining rural/urban differences. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 42(2), 371-390.

22. Wampler, B., & Goldfrank, B. (2022). *Rise, Spread, and Decline of Brazil's Participatory Budgeting*. Springer International Publishing.
23. Williams, E., St Denny, E., & Bristow, D. (2019). Participatory budgeting: An evidence review. n/a.
24. Xi, Q., Sun, R., & Mei, L. (2021). The impact of special economic zones on producer services productivity: Evidence from China. *China Economic Review*, 65, 101558.
25. Yelnikova, Y. V., & Barhaq, A. R. (2020). Transparency of responsible investment environment.
26. Zeng, D. Z. (2021). The past, present, and future of special economic zones and their impact. *Journal of International Economic Law*, 24(2), 259–275.