



## BSU`s COMMITMENT TO SDGs



## "Empowering Change: Journey with the SDGs"



The United Nations (UN) and its partners in Azerbaijan have been actively supporting the country in its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which encompass 17 interconnected and ambitious targets addressing major development challenges faced by people in Azerbaijan and globally. Through collaborative efforts, Azerbaijan has prioritized 17 SDGs, 88 targets, and 119 indicators spanning the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. This concerted action underscores Azerbaijan's dedication to the 2030 Agenda.

**Government Commitment and Institutional Framework:** In 2016, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan issued a Decree establishing the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development. This council serves as a pivotal partner for the United Nations in channeling support to the Government of Azerbaijan. It acts as a coordinating body to streamline efforts towards achieving the SDGs, reflecting the government's commitment to sustainable development.

**Strategic Planning and Acceleration:** Azerbaijan has taken proactive steps to accelerate SDG implementation, exemplified by its participation in a MAPS mission (Mainstreaming, Acceleration, and Policy Support for the 2030 Agenda). This mission provided a comprehensive roadmap outlining concrete policy and programming measures to expedite national progress toward the SDGs. The experiences garnered

from this endeavor were shared at the 2018 Baku Forum on Sustainable Development, facilitating peer learning and regional collaboration. Notably, the adoption of the Baku Principles during this forum set forth provisions for integrating SDGs into national agendas and expediting their implementation.

**Data Monitoring and Reporting:** Recognizing the importance of data-driven decision-making, Azerbaijan, with UN support, launched the National Information Portal on SDGs. This portal serves as a centralized platform featuring an interactive dashboard that aggregates and presents real-time data on SDG progress. This initiative enhances transparency, accountability, and evidence-based policymaking. Moreover, the UN assists Azerbaijan in strengthening its national statistical capacities to ensure the production of quality data, with a particular emphasis on disaggregation to leave no one behind.

**Stakeholder Engagement and Multi-sectoral Collaboration:** The UN and its partners actively engage diverse stakeholders, including the private sector, media, parliamentarians, and the public, to promote awareness and mobilize action towards the SDGs. This inclusive approach fosters ownership and collective responsibility for sustainable development. By fostering multi-sectoral collaboration, the UN facilitates knowledge sharing, resource mobilization, and innovative solutions to address complex development challenges.

Azerbaijan, like many countries, aligns its governmental priorities with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which provide a framework for global development efforts. Here's a broad overview of how Azerbaijan may address the SDGs and its governmental priorities:

1. **Economic Diversification and Growth:** Azerbaijan's government likely prioritizes economic diversification beyond the oil and gas sector to foster sustainable economic growth (SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth).
2. **Infrastructure Development:** Investment in infrastructure projects, including transportation, energy, and telecommunications, to enhance connectivity and promote inclusive development (SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure).
3. **Education:** Improving access to quality education at all levels and ensuring lifelong learning opportunities for all citizens (SDG 4: Quality Education).
4. **Healthcare:** Enhancing healthcare services and infrastructure to ensure universal health coverage and address public health challenges (SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being).
5. **Poverty Alleviation:** Implementing social welfare programs and initiatives to reduce poverty and inequality, particularly in rural areas (SDG 1: No Poverty).

6. **Environmental Sustainability:** Protecting natural resources, promoting sustainable land use, and addressing environmental challenges, such as pollution and climate change (SDG 13: Climate Action, SDG 14: Life Below Water, SDG 15: Life on Land).
7. **Gender Equality:** Advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls in all aspects of society, including political participation, education, and economic opportunities (SDG 5: Gender Equality).
8. **Peace and Justice:** Promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions to ensure the rule of law, accountability, and effective governance (SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).
9. **Innovation and Technology:** Harnessing innovation and technology to drive economic growth, improve service delivery, and address societal challenges (SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure).



These priorities may vary depending on specific national circumstances and challenges faced by Azerbaijan. The government is likely to adopt a multi-stakeholder approach involving civil society, the private sector, and international partners to achieve these goals effectively. Additionally, periodic reviews and reporting mechanisms are likely in place to monitor progress toward the SDGs and adjust policies and strategies as needed.



## Why Universities Should Engage in the SDGs?

Universities play a crucial role in advancing the SDGs through research, teaching, and community engagement. Here's why universities should be engaged in the SDGs and how they can contribute:

1. **Research and Innovation:** Universities are hubs of research and innovation, where scholars can conduct interdisciplinary research to address complex challenges related to the SDGs. This research can lead to the development of new technologies, policies, and practices that contribute to sustainable development.
2. **Education and Capacity Building:** Universities educate the next generation of leaders, professionals, and citizens. By integrating the SDGs into their curricula, universities can raise awareness about sustainability issues and equip students with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to address them effectively.
3. **Partnerships and Collaboration:** Universities can collaborate with government, businesses, civil society, and other stakeholders to implement projects and initiatives that advance the SDGs. These partnerships leverage the expertise and resources of different actors to achieve greater impact.
4. **Community Engagement:** Universities are deeply embedded in their local communities and can serve as catalysts for positive change. By engaging with local stakeholders, universities can address community needs, promote social inclusion, and support sustainable development at the grassroots level.
5. **Policy Advocacy:** Universities can contribute to evidence-based policymaking by conducting research, providing expert advice, and advocating for policies that align with the SDGs. By engaging with policymakers, universities can influence decision-making processes and promote the adoption of sustainable development policies.

## How Universities Can Contribute to SDGs?

SDG-engaged universities integrate sustainability principles into their operations and activities across three main pillars: environmental, social, and economic.

1. **Environmental Pillar:** Universities can reduce their environmental footprint by implementing energy efficiency measures, reducing waste generation, promoting sustainable transportation options, and conserving natural resources. They can also conduct research on environmental issues and develop solutions to mitigate climate change, protect biodiversity, and promote sustainable resource management.
2. **Social Pillar:** Universities can foster social inclusion and equity by promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus and in the broader community. They can also support community development initiatives, such as education programs,

healthcare services, and poverty alleviation efforts, to address social inequalities and improve the quality of life for marginalized groups.

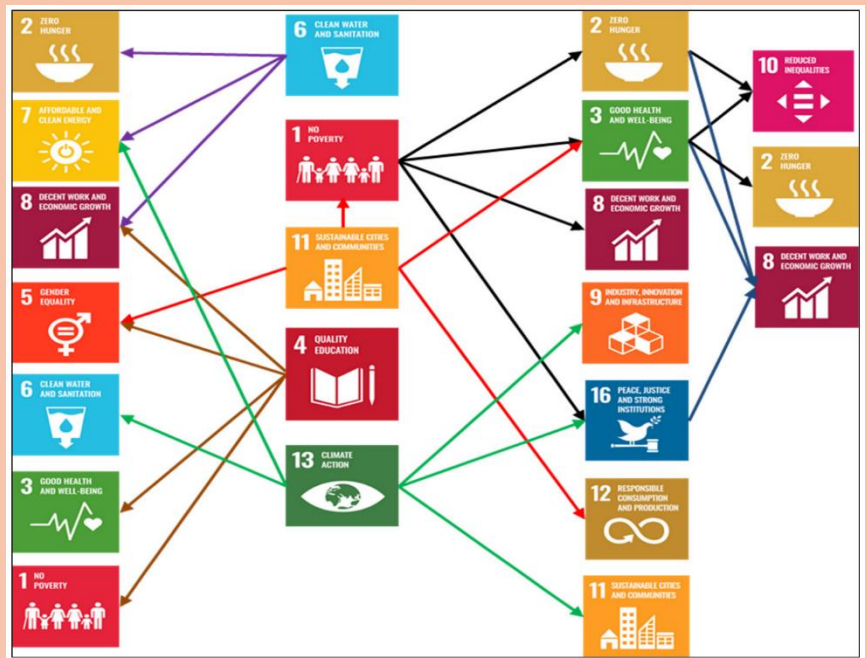
- Economic Pillar:** Universities can contribute to sustainable economic development by fostering entrepreneurship, innovation, and job creation. They can also support local economies through procurement policies, partnerships with local businesses, and investment in sustainable infrastructure projects. Additionally, universities can provide training and capacity-building opportunities to support economic empowerment and livelihood enhancement in their communities.

Overall, universities have a unique opportunity and responsibility to advance the SDGs through their teaching, research, and engagement activities, contributing to a more sustainable and equitable world for present and future generations.



## A Comprehensive Overview of Baku State University's Commitment to the SDGs

**Introduction:** Baku State University (BSU) stands as a beacon of commitment towards fostering sustainable development, both locally and globally. Through a multifaceted approach encompassing collaborations, academic initiatives, institutional policies, and awareness campaigns, BSU demonstrates its unwavering dedication to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set forth by the United Nations. This report offers a detailed examination of BSU's endeavors in aligning its mission with the SDGs, highlighting key initiatives and areas of impact.



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**Collaborations and Partnerships:** BSU actively engages in partnerships with governmental bodies, international institutions, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to organize events focused on the SDGs and their elements. Notable collaborations include efforts with the Water Experts Union, UNDP, and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization to address climate change and its impact on water resources. Through these collaborations, BSU leverages collective expertise and resources to drive meaningful action towards sustainable development.

**Youth Engagement and Empowerment:** Recognizing the pivotal role of youth in shaping the future, BSU participates in the Youth Ambassadors Program, a platform aimed at promoting SDG goals through various channels and activities. By empowering youth through training sessions, media engagement, and participation in regional and international events, BSU fosters a culture of leadership and activism in sustainable development among the next generation.

**Academic Programs and Curriculum Integration:** BSU integrates sustainability principles into its academic programs, offering a diverse range of courses that cover specific subjects related to the SDGs. From gender equality to urban planning, BSU ensures that students receive comprehensive education on sustainable development issues. Furthermore, the introduction of a bachelor's degree program in Sustainable

Development Management underscores BSU's commitment to preparing future leaders equipped with the knowledge and skills to address global challenges.

**Policies and Institutional Framework:** BSU has established robust policies addressing various sustainability issues, including accommodation, sustainable procurement and investment, anti-harassment and anti-discrimination, climate action, equity, diversity and inclusion, anti-bribery and anti-corruption, and holistic ethical organizational culture. These policies serve as guiding principles to foster a culture of sustainability within the university community and align with the overarching goals of the SDGs.

**Awareness and Literacy Campaigns:** BSU actively promotes awareness and literacy on the SDGs through dedicated initiatives such as the SDG-focused website and surveys aimed at assessing knowledge and understanding of the goals. By engaging stakeholders and fostering dialogue, BSU creates opportunities for the exchange of ideas and collective action towards achieving the SDGs.





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**Baku State University plays a significant role in shaping national government and regional non-governmental organizations' policies related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**

#### **Direct Involvement and Input:**

1. **Identifying Problems and Challenges:**  
The university actively participates in identifying key issues and challenges related to the SDGs, ensuring that both local and global perspectives are considered.
2. **Developing Policies and Strategies:**  
Baku State University collaborates with government bodies and NGOs to formulate effective policies and strategies, aiming to address pressing societal and environmental challenges.
3. **Modeling Likely Futures:**  
The university engages in modeling various scenarios, both with and without

interventions, to predict potential outcomes and impacts on sustainable development.

**4. Monitoring and Reporting on Interventions:**

BSU is involved in the ongoing monitoring and reporting of interventions, providing valuable data and insights to assess the effectiveness of implemented strategies.

**5. Enabling Adaptive Management:**

The university supports adaptive management by contributing to the development of flexible and responsive approaches that can be adjusted as new information and challenges arise.

Through these actions, Baku State University demonstrates its commitment to advancing sustainable development initiatives at both national and regional levels.

**Baku State University actively initiates and participates in cross-sectoral dialogue regarding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), fostering collaboration between academia, government, and NGOs.**

**Initiation and Participation in Cross-Sectoral Dialogue:**

**1. Hosting Conferences and Workshops:**

Baku State University regularly organizes conferences and workshops that bring together stakeholders from various sectors, including government officials, non-governmental organizations, industry leaders, and academic experts, to discuss and promote SDG-related initiatives.

**2. Collaborative Research and Projects:**

The university engages in collaborative research and projects that involve cross-sectoral partnerships. By working alongside government agencies and NGOs, BSU contributes to innovative solutions for achieving the SDGs.

**3. Participation in National and International Forums:**

Baku State University actively participates in national and international forums focused on sustainable development, ensuring that its voice and expertise are included in broader discussions about the SDGs.

**4. Facilitating Dialogue and Networking:**

The university serves as a platform for dialogue and networking, encouraging open communication and the exchange of ideas among diverse stakeholders committed to sustainable development goals.

**5. Public Engagement and Awareness:**

Through public engagement initiatives, BSU raises awareness about the importance of the SDGs and the role of cross-sectoral collaboration in addressing complex global challenges.

By initiating and participating in these dialogues, Baku State University demonstrates its dedication to advancing the SDGs through collaboration and partnership across different sectors.

**Baku State University actively participates in international collaborations focused on gathering and measuring data for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). International Collaboration on SDG Data Collection and Measurement:**

**1. Global Research Partnerships:**

Baku State University partners with international research institutions and organizations to collect and analyze data related to the SDGs. These collaborations facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise, enhancing the university's capacity to contribute to global sustainability efforts.

**2. Joint Projects and Initiatives:**

The university is involved in joint projects and initiatives that aim to measure progress toward the SDGs. Through these collaborations, BSU contributes to developing standardized methodologies for data collection and reporting.

**3. Participation in Global Networks:**

Baku State University is a member of various global networks focused on SDG-related research and data collection. These networks enable the university to share its findings and learn from international best practices.

**4. Data Analysis and Reporting:**

The university plays a crucial role in analyzing and reporting data on SDG indicators. By working with international partners, BSU helps to ensure that the data collected is accurate, reliable, and useful for informing policy and decision-making.

**5. Capacity Building and Training:**

Baku State University participates in capacity-building and training programs aimed at improving data collection and analysis skills among researchers and practitioners involved in SDG-related work. These efforts contribute to a more robust global data ecosystem for sustainable development.