



REPORT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 16

Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

2024



Foreword

This document highlights Azerbaijan Technical University's (AzTU) commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) - "Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions." Through a robust governance framework, policies against corruption, student empowerment, and cooperation with local and government stakeholders, AzTU fosters an environment that upholds transparency, ethics, and academic freedom. This report provides a concise overview of AzTU's efforts in promoting peaceful, inclusive societies by embedding governance principles that align with SDG 16.

Introduction

Azerbaijan Technical University (AzTU) plays a significant role in advancing SDG 16 within its academic and administrative operations. AzTU's Scientific Council oversees key institutional strategies, while student organizations actively participate in university governance. Policies on anti-corruption, stakeholder engagement, and support for academic freedom illustrate AzTU's dedication to justice and institutional integrity. Collaborations with state bodies also reflect AzTU's contributions to local governance, economic upskilling, and sustainable societal development. This report outlines these efforts and their alignment with the broader objectives of SDG 16.

References

[National Information Portal on Sustainable Development Goals of the Republic of Azerbaijan](#)

[AzTU Sustainability](#)

[AzTU SDG 16 Report / November 2023](#)

SDG 16 KEYWORDS - Peace, justice and strong institutions

Abuse	Exploitation	Justice for all	Sexual abuse
Accountability	Flow of arms	Legal identity	Sexual violence
Accountable institutions	Freedom	National Security	Stolen assets
Arbitrary detention	Geography of poverty	Non - violence	Tax evasion
Arms	Governance	Organized crime	Theft
Arms trafficking	Hate crime	Paris principles	Torture
Birth registration	Human rights	Peace	Trafficking
Bribery	Human trafficking	Peaceful societies	Transparency
Combat terrorism	Illegal arms	Physical abuse	Un - sentenced detainees
Conflict resolution	Illicit financial flows	Police	Unstable societies
Conflicts	Inclusion	Prevent violence	Victims of violence
Corruption	Inclusive institutions	Psychological abuse	Violence
Discrimination	Inclusive societies / society	Public policy	Violence against women and children
Education	Institutions	Quality of life	Violence rates
Enforced disappearance	Internally displaced	Representative decision - making	Weapon seizures
Equal access	Judiciary	Rule of law	
Equity	Justice	Security threats	

SDG 16 TARGETS

- **Strengthen Governance and Decision-Making Transparency.** AzTU's governance is managed by the Scientific Council, which ensures transparent decision-making processes, strategic development, and accountability. This council, comprising various stakeholders including student representatives, exemplifies democratic governance and institutional transparency.
- **Empower Student Participation in University Governance.** AzTU recognizes and actively involves student organizations in governance. Through bodies such as the Student Youth Organization, the Student Scientific Society, and the Student Trade Union Committee, students contribute to decision-making, advocate for student rights, and support social initiatives.
- **Engage and Collaborate with Local and Government Stakeholders.** By engaging local enterprises and government bodies, AzTU aligns its educational strategies with market demands. This partnership-driven approach supports stakeholder involvement in student training, fostering local employment opportunities and strengthening ties with the public sector.
- **Commit to Anti-Corruption and Ethical Standards.** AzTU enforces strict anti-corruption policies as part of its ethical framework, prohibiting the exchange of undue benefits. These policies enhance integrity within the university, ensuring fairness in educational and administrative practices.
- **Promote Academic Freedom and Research Autonomy.** AzTU supports academic freedom across its eight faculties and 22 departments, enabling staff and students to pursue independent research. This freedom fosters innovation and encourages academic contributions that align with the needs of the industrial sector.
- **Ensure Public Involvement in Institutional Oversight.** Through mechanisms like the Public Council and the Council of Elders, AzTU facilitates public engagement in university governance. These councils promote transparency and allow local residents and civil society members to contribute to institutional decision-making.
- **Provide Financial Transparency and Accountability.** AzTU adheres to financial reporting requirements by submitting its financial data to national authorities, reinforcing financial accountability as a state-funded institution.

Statistics and Their Indicators

Concept	Indicator	Statistic/Detail
Governance and Transparency	Presence of Governing Body	Yes
	Members in Scientific Council	51
	Frequency of Governance Meetings	Regular sessions with documented decisions
	Transparency Practices	Published reports and strategic plans accessible to stakeholders
Student Participation	Recognition of Independent Student Union	Yes
	Active Student Organizations	4 (Student Youth Org., Student Scientific Society, Student Trade Union, Student Rector)
	Student Representation in Governance	Student leaders on Scientific Council, involved in university decisions
Stakeholder Engagement	Stakeholder Involvement in Strategic Planning	Employer input from the labor market considered
	Collaborating Enterprises for Internships	Multiple local enterprises
	Public Involvement Mechanisms	Public Council and Council of Elders participate in governance
Anti-Corruption and Ethics	Anti-Corruption Policy Publication	Yes
	Existence of Code of Conduct	Yes, prohibits bribery and illicit benefits
	Ethical Violation Reporting Mechanism	Direct reporting required in cases of gifts or benefits
Academic Freedom	Faculties Supporting Academic Freedom	8 faculties
	Research Autonomy	Staff and students choose research areas freely
	Industry-Focused Research Institutes	7 specialized research institutes
Public Participation in Oversight	Public Involvement Councils	2 (Public Council, Council of Elders)
	Public Council Meeting Frequency	Regular sessions with Scientific Council
Financial Transparency	Availability of Financial Data	Annual reports submitted to multiple government bodies
	Compliance with State Reporting Standards	Yes, as a state-funded institution

SDG 16's Positive Impact on other SDGs

SDG 4 (Quality Education):

- **Promoting Academic Freedom:** AzTU's policies supporting academic freedom and autonomy in research enhance the quality of education by encouraging innovation, critical thinking, and a robust research culture.
- **Student Governance and Empowerment:** Engaging students in decision-making helps develop leadership skills and encourages active participation, aligning with educational empowerment and quality standards.

SDG 5 (Gender Equality):

- **Inclusive Governance Structures:** The involvement of diverse stakeholders, including students, in governance structures supports equal opportunities and representation within the university, fostering a more inclusive environment that champions gender equality in leadership roles.

SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth):

- **Stakeholder and Industry Engagement:** AzTU's collaboration with local enterprises provides students with practical experience and job readiness, bridging education with labor market demands. This directly contributes to sustainable economic growth by equipping students with skills relevant to the workforce.

SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure):

- **Strengthening University-Industry Research:** AzTU's focus on research that aligns with industry needs promotes innovation and strengthens ties between academia and industry, fostering technology transfer and industrial growth.
- **Infrastructure for Innovation:** Research institutes within AzTU and partnerships with enterprises support the development of infrastructure and innovative solutions that benefit both industry and academia.

SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities):

- **Transparency and Ethical Standards:** AzTU's strict anti-corruption policies and commitment to ethical standards create an environment of fairness and equity, which helps reduce inequalities within the institution and its partnerships.

- **Public Engagement and Inclusion:** Public involvement mechanisms, such as the Public Council and Council of Elders, ensure that community voices are heard and considered, helping to reduce social inequalities.

SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities):

- **Collaboration on Local and Regional Planning:** Through its partnerships with government and local stakeholders, AzTU contributes expertise to urban mobility and regional development planning, supporting the creation of sustainable cities and communities.
- **Capacity-Building for Policy-Makers:** By offering training in urban planning, technology, and climate change, AzTU supports the development of sustainable cities through improved local governance and planning expertise.

Current situation

Governance and Transparency

Azerbaijan Technical University is governed by the Scientific Council, which is composed of 51 members, including senior administrative staff and student representatives. This council plays a pivotal role in decision-making by approving strategic plans, academic programs, and policies that shape the university's operations. Student involvement in governance is encouraged, with several student-led bodies, such as the Student Youth Organization and the Student Scientific Society, participating in council meetings and governance discussions. This inclusion fosters a transparent and democratic environment, ensuring that the voices of various stakeholders are represented in institutional decisions.

Anti-Corruption and Ethical Standards

AzTU has established a strict anti-corruption policy as part of its code of conduct. This policy prohibits any exchange of illicit benefits, both material and non-material, in university operations. Ethical guidelines are clearly defined, requiring employees to report any attempts to offer gifts or incentives that might compromise impartiality. This policy reflects AzTU's commitment to transparency and integrity, aligning with Azerbaijan's national anti-corruption legislation to ensure fair and ethical practices within the institution.

Academic Freedom and Research Initiatives

The university prioritizes academic freedom across its eight faculties, allowing faculty, researchers, and students to explore diverse research areas without restrictions. To promote innovation and applied research, AzTU has established seven specialized research institutes focusing on industry needs, facilitating technology transfer and practical solutions. This support for research autonomy is further strengthened by partnerships with local enterprises, enhancing the relevance of academic work to industry challenges and technological advancements.

Public Involvement and Stakeholder Engagement

AzTU actively engages local stakeholders, including businesses, government bodies, and civil society, in its strategic planning and educational programming. Through councils like the Public Council and the Council of Elders, local voices contribute to university governance, ensuring public participation and transparency. These councils provide a platform for local feedback, which is integrated into AzTU's planning processes, creating a collaborative environment where the community's needs and perspectives are valued.

Financial and Operational Transparency

As a state university, AzTU submits regular financial reports to various government bodies, including the Ministry of Science and Education, the Ministry of Finance, and the State Tax Service. These reports contribute to financial transparency and accountability, ensuring that AzTU's operations align with state requirements and public expectations for responsible governance.

Future goals

- **Enhanced Student Participation in Governance.** Increase student representation in decision-making bodies and provide more opportunities for student input on key university policies.
- **Strengthened Partnerships with Industry.** Expand collaborations with local enterprises to align educational programs with current labor market needs and provide students with practical training opportunities.
- **Expanded Anti-Corruption and Ethics Awareness.** Broaden anti-corruption and ethics training for staff and students, promoting a culture of integrity and transparency within the university.

- **Increased Public Engagement and Accountability.** Deepen interactions with community stakeholders, including more frequent consultations with the Public Council, to ensure community feedback guides university planning.

Conclusion

AzTU demonstrates a strong commitment to SDG 16 through its governance, ethical standards, academic freedom, and community involvement. By fostering transparency and collaboration, the university sets a foundation for peaceful and inclusive institutional practices that contribute significantly to local and national development goals.