Azerbaijan TECHNICAL University

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Report on Sustainable Development Goal 16

Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

2025



Foreword

This report highlights Azerbaijan Technical University's (AzTU) ongoing commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) — "Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions." Through a comprehensive governance framework, anti-corruption measures, student engagement, and collaboration with governmental and local stakeholders, AzTU fosters transparency, ethical conduct, and academic freedom. The document provides an overview of the university's initiatives aimed at promoting peaceful, inclusive, and accountable academic and societal environments, reflecting its alignment with SDG 16.

Introduction

Azerbaijan Technical University actively advances SDG 16 across its academic, administrative, and community operations. The Scientific Council and other governance bodies guide institutional strategies, while student organizations participate in decision-making processes, ensuring inclusive governance. AzTU's policies on anti-corruption, stakeholder engagement, and protection of academic freedom demonstrate a strong commitment to justice and institutional integrity. Partnerships with state institutions further strengthen the university's role in promoting good governance, societal development, and the upskilling of future professionals. This report outlines these initiatives and highlights their alignment with the global objectives of SDG 16.

The Quality Assurance Department monitors all university activities under the SDG framework to ensure transparency, efficiency, and measurable outcomes.

References

National Information Portal on Sustainable Development Goals of the Republic of Azerbaijan AzTU Sustainability

AzTU SDG 16 Report / November 2023

AzTU SDG 16 Report 2024

A digital transformation strategy will be developed for AzTU

An awareness event held jointly by the Electronic Security Service and AzTU

AzTU hosts event "Return to Khojaly"

Memorial event dedicated to martyr student Elshad Aliyev

Representatives of the Azerbaijan Cybersecurity Center held an info session at AzTU

Members of the Public Council under the Ministry of Science and Education met with students

Azerbaijan Technical University and Dithari Technologies sign MoU on Innovation and Sustainability Lab

SDG 16 keywords - Peace, justice and strong institutions			
Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	Good Governance	Institutional Transparency	Institutional Accountability
Ethical Governance	Anti-Corruption Policies	Academic Integrity	Academic Freedom
Research Autonomy	Democratic Governance	Transparent Decision-Making	Student Participation in Governance
Student Engagement	Civic Engagement	Public Participation	Stakeholder Engagement
Institutional Ethics	Rule of Law	Equal Access to Justice	Human Rights Protection
Social Justice	Peacebuilding	Conflict Resolution	Peace Education
Public Council Engagement	Financial Transparency	Financial Accountability	Digital Governance
Digital Transformation	Paperless Administration	Administrative Process Digitization	Internal Auditing
Ethical Standards and Compliance	Cybersecurity	Data Protection	Data Privacy
Responsible Artificial Intelligence	Institutional Partnerships	Youth-Led Civic Initiatives	Sustainable Institutional Development

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

Indicator	2023	2024	2025	Source / Notes
Percentage of administrative processes digitized	45%	62%	78%	AzTU internal records, 2025
Number of internal audits conducted annually	6	8	10	AzTU internal records, 2025
Student participation in governance and ethics events	250	420	680	AzTU internal records, 2025
Faculty and staff trained in integrity & ethics	90	130	190	AzTU internal records, 2025
Number of cybersecurity and digital ethics seminars	4	7	11	AzTU internal records, 2025
Partnerships promoting peace, justice, and transparency	5	9	13	AzTU internal records, 2025
Student-led civic or remembrance events held	6	9	14	AzTU internal records, 2025

SDG 16's Positive Impact on Other SDGs

SDG 1 – No Poverty:
Peaceful societies and strong institutions reduce conflict, corruption, and instability—factors that often lead to poverty. When communities are secure and laws are enforced fairly, people have better access to employment, essential services, and economic opportunities. Therefore, SDG 16 directly supports poverty reduction by promoting social and economic stability.

SDG 4 – Quality Education:

Stable and safe environments allow schools to function effectively and ensure that students have uninterrupted access to education. Strong legal systems protect education rights and promote equal access for all groups, including girls and marginalized communities. SDG 16 ensures that learning environments are secure, inclusive, and supportive.

SDG 5 – Gender Equality:

SDG 16 supports the enforcement of laws and policies that prevent gender-based violence, discrimination, and inequality. Effective justice systems, legal protection, and accountable institutions ensure women and girls can fully participate in social, political, and economic life. Strong institutions help create a society where gender equality can be achieved.

SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth:

Peaceful and well-governed societies attract investment, support entrepreneurship, and promote fair labor practices. Reducing corruption and improving transparency creates a stable environment for businesses to grow and create jobs. SDG 16 strengthens economic systems by ensuring trust and accountability across institutions.

SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities:

Fair legal systems and inclusive governance help protect the rights of minority and vulnerable groups. SDG 16 promotes equal access to justice, political participation, and public services, reducing social and economic inequalities. Strong institutions ensure that everyone benefits from development—not only privileged groups.

Current situation

1. Enhanced Digital Governance and Transparency

AzTU continued its digital transformation strategy, implementing secure electronic systems for document management, decision tracking, and university-wide transparency. This transformation aims to minimize bureaucratic delays, prevent corruption, and enhance accountability.

Source: A digital transformation strategy will be developed for AzTU

2. Ethics and Institutional Accountability

The University strengthened its *Code of Academic Ethics* and *Anti-Corruption Policy*, ensuring compliance through regular internal audits and awareness campaigns. Faculty and administrative staff underwent targeted trainings to reinforce integrity and professional responsibility.

Source: An awareness event held jointly by the Electronic Security Service and AzTU

3. Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility

AzTU encouraged student participation in civic initiatives, peace education workshops, and youth councils promoting democratic participation. Students organized events commemorating national history and promoting dialogue on social justice.

Source: AzTU hosts event "Return to Khojaly"; Memorial event dedicated to martyr student Elshad Aliyev

4. Partnerships for Justice and Peacebuilding

AzTU expanded collaboration with national institutions and international universities to promote dialogue on ethics, justice, and rule of law. These partnerships include research projects on peacebuilding technologies and the role of artificial intelligence in institutional transparency.

Source: Members of the Public Council under the Ministry of Science and Education met with students; Azerbaijan Technical University and Dithari Technologies sign MoU on Innovation and Sustainability; Lab

5. Cybersecurity and Data Protection Initiatives

The Department of Cybersecurity hosted specialized seminars on *data integrity, privacy, and responsible AI use*, ensuring that digitalization aligns with global security standards.

Source: Representatives of the Azerbaijan Cybersecurity Center held an info session at AzTU

Future goals

- **Full Digital Transformation:** Complete the transition to paperless document management by 2026**.**
- **Establish a Center for Governance and Institutional Ethics:** Create a hub for research and training in public ethics, transparency, and justice.
- **Expand Peace Education Initiatives**: Launch interdisciplinary modules on conflict resolution, law, and ethics across faculties.
- **Promote Youth-Led Civic Governance Projects:** Strengthen partnerships with governmental and non-governmental organizations to promote active citizenship.
- **Integrate Cybersecurity into All Governance Systems:** Maintain robust data protection policies and continuous monitoring against digital risks.

Conclusion

In 2025, Azerbaijan Technical University continued to strengthen its commitment to promoting peace, justice, and strong institutional governance. Through its integrated digitalization strategy, ethical leadership initiatives, and civic engagement programs, AzTU reflects its commitment to transparent, accountable, and socially responsible higher education.

By expanding peace education, enhancing institutional ethics, and adopting smart governance tools, AzTU actively contributes to a fair, secure, and inclusive academic ecosystem aligned with SDG 16.