

“TURAN-ASTANA” UNIVERSITY



APPROVED
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Chairperson of the Academic council
G.A. Japarova

ПРОТОКОЛ
in the field of sustainable development
of “Turan-Astana” University

ASTANA, 2025

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1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1 This Policy defines the strategic directions of the activities of “Turan-Astana” University (hereinafter referred to as the University) in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations, and also establishes unified approaches to integrating the SDGs into the educational, research, administrative and other activities of the University.

1.2 This Policy has been developed in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Development Program (Strategy) of “Turan-Astana” University for 2025–2029, and the internal documents of the University.

1.3 This Policy is an internal regulatory document of the University and is mandatory for all structural units, employees and students.

2. MISSION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Mission: “Turan-Astana” University strives to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations by training competitive specialists, developing applied research, and integrating the principles of sustainable development into its educational and management activities.

2.2 The objective of this Policy is to integrate the principles of sustainable development into all areas of the University’s activities.

2.3 Key Objectives:

- integration of SDG principles into educational programs;
- development of research in the field of sustainable development;
- formation of an environmentally and socially responsible university environment;
- strengthening partnerships with the government, business, and society;
- increasing the University’s contribution to the sustainable development of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

3. AREAS OF ACTIVITY IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

3.1 EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

3.1.1 In the course of its activities, the University is guided by the principle of equal opportunities and does not allow discrimination against students and employees in hiring, remuneration, access to education, promotion, or dismissal. Discrimination based on gender, race, language, religious or political beliefs, citizenship, national or social origin, disability, or any other grounds is prohibited.

3.1.2 The University guarantees the provision of educational services that meet modern academic and professional standards, taking into account labor market needs and the principles of sustainable development. Special attention is paid to ensuring equal opportunities for all categories of students, including representatives of socially vulnerable groups. In order to increase access to education, the University implements a system of educational grants, scholarships, and other forms of financial support, as well as develops digital educational technologies and distance learning formats. The University also promotes the development of students’ competencies in sustainable development, including critical thinking, social responsibility, and lifelong learning skills.

3.1.3 The University operates a system of continuous training and professional development for academic staff and management-level specialists using modern technologies and information management systems.

3.1.4 The University applies innovative teaching methods, including classes conducted by leading practitioners and experts; training internships; case-based learning; brainstorming; and other methods.

3.1.5 The University takes measures to ensure the proper organization of the educational process and employees’ working conditions and strives to create safe conditions in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

3.2 Research and Innovation Activities

3.2.1 The University recognizes the key role of research and innovation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and strives to integrate sustainability principles into all areas of its research activities.

3.2.2 The University supports scientific, innovative, and entrepreneurial initiatives of students and faculty, including startups, scientific and research projects, and collaboration with business partners. The Policy is aimed at stimulating the commercialization of research, the introduction of new technologies, and the development of the university innovation ecosystem.

3.2.3 The University's commitment to the Smart University concept is implemented through the introduction of digital technologies and artificial intelligence for managing educational, research, and administrative processes. The Policy is aimed at creating a "Smart Campus," improving the efficiency of learning, supporting research, and enhancing interaction within the university community.

3.2.4 The University annually organizes a competition of startup projects in the fields of production efficiency and economics with the participation of students, followed by the implementation of projects through the Entrepreneurship Center and research centers/laboratories.

3.3 Educational and Social Activities

3.3.1 The University considers educational and social activities as an integral part of fostering a culture of sustainable development aimed at developing responsible, socially active, and environmentally conscious individuals.

3.3.2 In order to implement the principles of equality, diversity, and inclusion, the University demonstrates its commitment and provides support to applicants and students from socially vulnerable groups, including individuals from low-income families and rural areas. All students are provided with educational grants, social scholarships, and other forms of financial support, and a system of discounts and grants is in place to reduce the financial burden on students.

3.3.3 The University supports the development of student communities and clubs as an important element of the educational and social environment. The Policy is aimed at creating conditions for the active participation of students in cultural, scientific, sports, and volunteer activities, as well as fostering teamwork, leadership, and social responsibility skills.

3.4 ESG Strategy in the Context of Sustainable Development:

E – Environment

3.4.1 In its activities, the University selects suppliers on a transparent basis in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan and internal regulatory documents, giving preference to the optimal combination of price, quality, delivery conditions, and business reputation.

3.4.2 The University ensures the rational use of water resources and supports access to safe drinking water and sanitation for students and staff. The Policy is aimed at reducing water consumption, preventing pollution, and implementing efficient water supply and treatment technologies. In addition, the University promotes a culture of responsible water use among students and staff.

3.4.3 The University ensures the rational use of energy resources and implements energy-saving technologies and the use of renewable energy sources. The Policy is aimed at improving the energy efficiency of buildings and infrastructure, reducing the carbon footprint, and fostering a culture of responsible energy consumption among students and staff.

3.4.4 The University supports the development of innovation and research activities, the creation of modern educational and scientific infrastructure, and the implementation of new technologies. The Policy is aimed at stimulating scientific research, technological startups, the

digitalization of educational processes, and strengthening partnerships with the real sector of the economy and research organizations for the sustainable development of the University and society.

3.4.5 In order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 11 “Sustainable Cities and Communities,” the University promotes the creation of a safe, accessible, and sustainable environment around the campus, including infrastructure and green areas on the University territory, the application of sustainable solutions in the modernization and construction of new facilities, and the use of environmentally friendly and high-quality construction materials and engineering systems. It also aims to create architectural and interior environments based on sustainable development principles and to foster a culture of responsible attitude toward space among students and staff.

3.4.6 The University promotes the principles of rational resource use and sustainable production, reduces waste, and minimizes the environmental impact of its activities in line with Sustainable Development Goal 12 “Responsible Consumption and Production,” through responsible consumption and research in this field. In this regard, the University conducts activities for students and staff to foster a culture of responsible consumption and environmentally conscious behavior and sets the following objectives:

- reducing the consumption of resources (energy, water, materials) in University activities;
- minimizing waste, including food waste, and organizing systems for separate collection and recycling;
- implementing environmentally safe technologies, sustainable production practices, and efficient use of all resources;
- fostering a culture of responsible consumption among students and staff, including conscious attitudes toward nutrition;
- raising awareness and informing the University community about the principles of sustainable consumption, resource conservation, and waste reduction.

3.4.7 The University follows the principles of sustainable development and implements measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency, and adapt facilities and resources to the impacts of climate change. It also carries out activities aimed at fostering a culture of environmental responsibility among students and staff and promoting research in this area.

3.4.8 In support of Sustainable Development Goal 14 “Life Below Water,” the University implements principles of sustainable water use through efficient consumption, pollution prevention, and protection of aquatic ecosystems. The Policy includes research and educational initiatives aimed at preventing water pollution and preserving biodiversity, as well as fostering a culture of responsible water use.

3.4.9 The University promotes the development of green and environmentally sustainable modern facilities and strives to create a “Sustainable Campus,” which includes landscaping, rational use of natural resources, and reducing environmental impact. Within the framework of this Policy, research and educational projects are carried out aimed at environmental protection, sustainable land management, and fostering environmental culture among students and staff.

3.5 ESG Strategy in the Context of Sustainable Development: S – Social Aspects

3.5.1 In order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 1 “No Poverty,” the University contributes to reducing poverty and enhancing social mobility by expanding access to quality higher education, educational resources, and social support programs for students.

3.5.2 In pursuit of Sustainable Development Goal 2 “Zero Hunger,” the University implements a set of measures aimed at improving food security, creates conditions for the organization of nutrition services, promotes a culture of balanced and healthy eating, and supports socially vulnerable groups of students.

3.5.3 The University’s activities under Sustainable Development Goal 3 “Good Health and Well-being” are aimed at creating a safe and supportive environment, developing sports

infrastructure, providing psychological support to students and staff, promoting healthy lifestyles, and strengthening the physical and mental well-being of the university community.

3.5.4 The University ensures the implementation of the principles of quality and accessible education in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal 4 “Quality Education,” aimed at expanding equal access to educational opportunities and improving the level of professional training.

3.5.5 The University guarantees adherence to the principles of gender equality in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal 5 “Gender Equality,” aimed at creating a fair, inclusive, and safe educational and working environment. To achieve this goal, the University sets the following objectives:

- ensuring equal access to educational programs, resources, and professional development opportunities;
- integrating non-discrimination principles into the University’s HR and educational policies;
- improving gender balance among students, faculty, and management staff;
- creating a safe educational and working environment free from discrimination, violence, and harassment;
- conducting educational and awareness-raising activities on gender equality;
- supporting initiatives aimed at empowering women/girls and other underrepresented groups;
- ensuring transparency in recruitment, promotion, and staff evaluation processes;
- monitoring and analyzing gender indicators to assess the effectiveness of implemented measures;
- integrating gender equality principles into the University’s strategic and operational processes.

3.5.6 In line with Sustainable Development Goal 8, the University ensures fair working conditions, develops professional skills, and supports innovative and entrepreneurial initiatives among students and staff, as well as equal and decent remuneration regardless of gender. In this regard, the University creates conditions for employment and career development through the introduction of additional educational programs (Minors), massive open online courses (MOOCs), participation in startup projects, support for entrepreneurial initiatives, and cooperation with business, governmental, and international organizations to expand students’ professional opportunities.

3.5.7 The University strives to reduce social and economic inequalities by ensuring equal access to education and resources for all categories of students. Special attention is given to supporting socially vulnerable groups, fostering an inclusive educational environment, and providing psychological support.

3.6 ESG Strategy in the Context of Sustainable Development:

G – Corporate Governance

3.6.1 The management of sustainable development at the University is carried out within a unified management system of its activities and is an integral part thereof.

3.6.2 The University administration provides overall strategic leadership in the field of sustainable development and ensures control over the implementation and compliance with sustainable development principles.

3.6.3 Sustainable development activities are included in the University’s Development Program (Strategy).

3.6.4 The University’s sustainable development management system is an integral part of the corporate governance system. All employees and officials at all levels contribute to ensuring sustainable development.

3.6.5 Overall coordination of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is carried out by the SDG Coordinator under the Academic Affairs Department of the University. The Coordinator's functions include reviewing relevant issues, developing internal regulatory documents, action plans and initiatives in the field of sustainable development, formulating recommendations to improve the University's activities in this area, as well as interacting with stakeholders.

3.6.6 To ensure effective management and implementation of the sustainable development policy, the University prioritizes systematic engagement with stakeholders.

3.6.7 The University strives to develop strategic partnerships at the local, national, and international levels for the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. In pursuit of SDG 17, the University promotes knowledge exchange, joint educational and research initiatives, and the attraction of resources and expertise to enhance the quality of education, research, and social projects. To achieve this, the University defines the following objectives:

- developing cooperation with government bodies, international organizations, and business partners;
- creating joint research and educational projects, including those focused on sustainable development;
- promoting the exchange of knowledge, experience, and best practices among universities and partners;
- attracting financial, technological, and informational resources for the implementation of sustainable initiatives;
- supporting international academic mobility of students and faculty;
- strengthening partnership networks to integrate the SDGs into the University's strategic planning.

3.6.8 To ensure transparency of business processes, the University engages with all stakeholders (students, employees, the Board of Trustees, partner universities, and other interested parties). The main forms of interaction include concluding memoranda of cooperation, implementing joint educational and research programs (projects), establishing joint working and expert groups, providing activity reports, holding meetings and conferences, publishing in mass media, conducting interviews, organizing internships and training, as well as other forms of engagement.

3.6.9 The University promotes transparent and efficient management processes, strengthens TAU's corporate values, and ensures a safe and fair educational environment. These efforts are aimed at fostering a legal and ethical culture among students and staff, preventing corruption, violence, and human rights violations, and increasing trust in university institutions.

3.6.10 The University ensures a systematic approach to risk management in the field of sustainable development, aimed at the timely identification, assessment, and mitigation of factors that may negatively affect environmental, social, and governance aspects of its activities, in accordance with the Risk Management Regulations.

4. FINAL PROVISIONS

4.1 This Policy shall enter into force from the date of its approval in accordance with the established procedure.

4.2 This Policy is an open document and shall be published on the official corporate website of the University for free access by all заинтересованные лица (interested parties).

4.3 The University shall ensure, on a regular basis, disclosure of information on the results of the implementation of this Policy for stakeholders by publishing relevant information on the corporate website, as well as including it in the annual report.

4.4 Amendments and additions shall be made in connection with changes in the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan and as the University develops.