

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
KAZAKHSTAN

ASTANA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

APPROVED BY  
President of Astana  
International University



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**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY  
OF ASTANA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

Astana  
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## 1. General Provisions

1. The Sustainable Development Policy (hereinafter referred to as the Policy) of Astana International University (hereinafter referred to as the University) defines the system for managing sustainable development. It is aimed at the consistent implementation of sustainable development principles, confirming the University's compliance with standards in this area, ensuring long-term improvement of key indicators, and serving as a foundation for the development of the University's activities in the field of sustainable development.

2. The Policy is developed in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated July 27, 2007 No. 319-III "On Education", the Programme "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", the Incheon Declaration "Education 2030", as well as the Charter and strategic documents of the University.

3. This Policy applies to all main areas of the University's activities, including educational, research, extracurricular, administrative, and investment activities, as well as the University's Strategic Development Programme.

4. The following terms are used in this Policy:

- **SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)** - a set of 17 interconnected goals developed in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly as a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all";

- **UN (United Nations)** - the United Nations Organization;

- **5P Concept** - an extended model including the aspects: people, planet, peace, prosperity, and partnership;

- **Social responsibility** - a principle implying consideration of the interests of broad social groups in decision-making.

## 2. Foundations of the Sustainable Development Policy

5. Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations for the period 2015-2030 are comprehensive in nature and cover economic, social, and environmental aspects, based on the 5P concept (people, planet, peace, prosperity, and partnership).

6. The concept of sustainable development is aimed at achieving the University's strategic goals and considers all aspects of its activities, including quality education. Environmental and social initiatives contribute to improving the University's reputation and reflect its innovative development and quality of governance.

Systematic management of sustainable development enables the establishment of priorities and evaluation of performance. The University considers economic, social, and environmental aspects of sustainable development by implementing advanced practices in education, environmental initiatives, ensuring occupational safety, and developing the social sphere.

All decisions of the University management are based on the principles of openness, accountability, transparency, ethical conduct, respect, legality, respect for human rights, and zero tolerance for discrimination and corruption.

7. Sustainable development principles are integrated into educational, research, and extracurricular activities, planning processes, human resource management, investments, reporting, and the University's development strategy.

8. The University aligns its activities with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations. The University's main objective is high-quality and sustainable development through research and the implementation of its results into the educational process and infrastructure.

### **3. Sustainable Development Goals**

The University strives to contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by integrating their principles into its activities. The specific measures undertaken by the University for each goal are presented below:

#### **9. Goal 1- No Poverty**

The University contributes to this goal through:

- providing preferential tuition conditions for students;
- providing scholarships and financial assistance to students from low-income families at both local and national levels, including cooperation with the "Kazakhstan Khalkyna" Public Foundation to support poverty reduction projects.

#### **10. Goal 2 - Zero Hunger**

- development and implementation of programs to prevent hunger among students and staff, particularly those from low-income families;
- organization of charitable food collection campaigns for students and employees in need.

#### **11. Goal 3 - Good Health and Well-being**

The University systematically works to improve health and ensure equal access to well-being support programs for students and staff through:

- provision of comprehensive medical services on campus, including mental health support;
- promotion of healthy lifestyles through educational programs and campus activities.

#### **12. Goal 4 - Quality Education**

The University implements an inclusivity policy aimed at ensuring equal access to quality education for all citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan and international students, regardless of ethnicity, gender, religion, health condition (including disability), and social or financial status. The University promotes lifelong learning and actively prevents discrimination in the educational environment.

#### **13. Goal 5 - Gender Equality**

The University:

- ensures equal opportunities in admissions, employment, and participation in academic and extracurricular life regardless of gender;

- prevents discrimination against girls and women and guarantees equal participation in academic, economic, social, and administrative activities;
- protects students and staff reporting discrimination and promotes a transparent institutional environment.

#### **14. Goal 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation**

- efficient water use in university buildings;
- ensuring access to clean drinking water and sanitation services for all students and staff.

#### **15. Goal 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy**

The University promotes sustainable energy consumption by:

- using energy-efficient technologies in university buildings;
- improving energy efficiency.

#### **16. Goal 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth**

The University is committed to:

- ensuring safe and decent working conditions;
- supporting graduate employment;
- compliance with labor legislation;
- ensuring fair and equal pay regardless of gender;
- supporting student entrepreneurship and innovation through incubators and programs.

#### **17. Goal 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**

- development of innovation infrastructure;
- support for innovation through incubators and accelerators;
- collaboration with industry partners.

#### **18. Goal 10 - Reduced Inequalities**

The University:

- develops policies preventing discrimination and harassment;
- guarantees equal rights for students and staff;
- ensures fair recruitment, employment, and protection from harassment.

#### **19. Goal 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities**

- improvement of campus infrastructure;
- creation of a safe and comfortable environment;
- cooperation with the city of Astana on sustainable urban development projects.

#### **20. Goal 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production**

The University:

- ensures ethical selection of suppliers;
- organizes safe waste disposal;
- minimizes single-use plastics;
- promotes efficient water consumption.

#### **21. Goal 13 - Climate Action**

The University implements climate-related policies and supports related research.

## **22. Goal 14 - Life Below Water**

The University contributes to reducing water pollution and participates in environmental clean-up activities.

## **23. Goal 15 - Life on Land**

The University:

- conducts research on land ecosystem protection;
- participates in greening initiatives;
- implements waste separation and proper disposal practices.

## **24. Goal 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**

The University:

- ensures transparency of operations;
- implements anti-corruption measures;
- provides legal support to students and staff.

## **25. Goal 17 - Partnerships for the Goals**

The University promotes partnerships with governmental, regional, and international organizations to implement sustainable development initiatives.

## **4. Social Responsibility**

26. The University considers social responsibility as its contribution to social, economic, and environmental spheres related to the University's activities and capabilities.

27. The University is guided by the following principles:

- **Transparency** - the University adheres to a policy of openness regarding its intentions and actions. Information on performance results is regularly published in the media and on the University's official website. This policy helps remove barriers to achieving strategic goals and builds trust within society;

- **Proactiveness** - the University not only responds to events but actively participates in managing societal development, striving to meet best international standards;

- **Economic efficiency** - University initiatives are considered social investments aimed at qualitative improvements in educational, scientific, and cultural life.

28. The University assumes responsibility for:

**Respect for human rights to accessible and quality education and zero tolerance for discrimination, violence, and corruption:**

1. Ensuring equal access to education for all, regardless of ethnicity, religion, disability, gender, or migration status;

2. Conducting systematic work to prevent workplace discrimination, including in recruitment, remuneration, and protection from harassment. Various forms of discrimination are addressed, including those based on religion, sexual orientation, age, disability, and gender;

3. Supporting academic freedom of faculty and researchers, including freedom in research, teaching, and academic expression;

4. Ensuring the development of infrastructure accessible to persons with disabilities;

5. Ensuring equal opportunities and non-discrimination regardless of age, gender, gender identity, disability, race, ethnicity, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, marital status, and other protected characteristics.

**Provision of access to sexual and reproductive health services, including awareness and anti-smoking initiatives:**

1. Conducting awareness activities among students and staff on the harmful effects of smoking;
2. Ensuring smoke-free zones on campus;
3. Supporting student organizations and sustainability competence centers;
4. Providing medical rooms on campus.

**Implementation of climate action and sustainable environmental practices:**

1. Organization of recycling and waste management, reduction of single-use plastics, and engagement of students and staff in environmental volunteer initiatives;
2. Activities for protection and restoration of ecosystems, including greening initiatives and emission reduction measures;
3. Research and implementation of renewable energy sources (solar panels, wind generators, etc.) and ensuring energy efficiency in buildings;
4. Promotion of responsible water consumption and sustainable food use in campus facilities;
5. Educational activities promoting biodiversity conservation.

**Development of partnerships with regional and international organizations to implement the SDGs.**

## **5. Final Provisions**

This Policy reflects the commitment of Astana International University to the principles of sustainable development and its role in achieving the United Nations goals by 2030. It is aimed at creating a more equitable, prosperous, and future-oriented environment through education, research, and international cooperation.

29. The Department of Quality Assurance and Employment, together with relevant structural units of the University, in accordance with their responsibilities related to the Sustainable Development Goals, monitors the implementation of this Policy.

30. Schools, institutes, and centers of the University conduct research activities aimed at the implementation and integration of the SDGs in accordance with their profiles.

31. Reporting periods for the implementation of the Action Plan and other activities related to this Policy are semi-annual and annual (12 months of the calendar year).

32. Amendments to this Policy are introduced as necessary, based on the University's performance, development, and emerging challenges and opportunities.