

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

The American University of Beirut (AUB)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement July 1, 2021- June 30, 2023

From: AUB

To: UNGCNL

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent

October 11th, 2023

Esteemed stakeholders,

Amidst what has continued to be a challenging year, it is a pleasure to report many positive initiatives across the American University of Beirut (AUB). This report covers the period from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2023. Despite the country's unprecedented, deep, and multifaceted internal and external crises, including the Covid-19 pandemic, the national economic and financial crisis, the Beirut Port explosion, the war in Ukraine, and the global inflation surge, and the challenges that institutions had to face during this turmoil, the university was able to make progress on its plans.

It has been a year of uncertainty; nevertheless, the university was able to overcome obstacles, capitalized on opportunities, and learned from the new normal. In the midst of this backdrop, the American University of Beirut reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment, and Anti-Corruption. This commitment is articulated through our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact.

Within this Communication on Engagement, we provide a comprehensive description of the actions that our organization has undertaken to uphold and advance the UN Global Compact and its Principles, tailored to the recommendations for an organization of our nature. Furthermore, we pledge to share this valuable information with our stakeholders through our primary communication channels.

As we navigate these complex times, we welcome feedback on the contents of our engagement and actions. Despite the prevailing challenges, we remain steadfast in our dedication to the ideals of the United Nations Global Compact and are resolute in our pursuit of a better future aligned with its principles.

Yours in Solidarity,

Ammar Olabi



Interim Dean, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, AUB-UNGCNL Partnership Point.

Part II. Description of Actions

In alignment with our commitment to the United Nations Global Compact, the American University of Beirut has undertaken a series of robust actions to support sustainable practices and principles across our institution. These actions span various facets of the university and underscore our dedication to integrating sustainability into the core fabric of university life.

Governance:

At the heart of our sustainability endeavors is the understanding that sustainability is a collective responsibility that permeates every aspect of university operations. We view sustainable development as both a leadership imperative and a task of integration, interwoven throughout our university community.

Our governance actions serve as exemplars of this commitment:

Environmental Health, Safety and Risk Management (EHSRM): EHSRM is dedicated to upholding the university's environmental responsibilities, embedded within our vision and mission. This is achieved by actively cultivating a culture of environmental concern and pursuing policies of environmental best practices. We play a leading role in fostering an environment that is not only conducive to education but also safe, healthy, and ecologically conscious.

Equity/Title IX Office: We actively advocate for a safe, respectful, and ethical work and academic environment that promotes inclusivity and safeguards against discrimination and harassment. Our Equity/Title IX Office ensures that all members of the AUB community are shielded from discriminatory practices related to protected traits and from various forms of sexual harassment.

Office of Student Affairs: Within the student domain, our Office of Student Affairs acts as a catalyst for sustainability integration. We foster sustainability consciousness within student activities, thereby cultivating environmentally mindful leaders of tomorrow. Additionally, we create a student-centered living-learning environment by providing leadership, guidance, and programs that encourage community participation and support diversity acceptance.

University-wide Engagement:

To amplify our commitment, we have instilled a set of sustainable practices across the entire AUB community, [embracing staff, faculty, and students alike](#). Student clubs were recently invited to present about their contributions to the SDGs, and the University Library has committed to document their activity through an online repository to safeguard the continuity of their work and archive their predecessors' work.

All staff, faculty, and students are expected to adhere to the university's sustainability policies and practices, ensuring that sustainable values resonate in all actions and decisions.

We actively encourage proactive participation in [promoting sustainability across campus](#). This extends to refraining from activities that could lead to pollution, safeguarding our environment and community.

Embracing a holistic approach, our university community members are urged to engage with sustainability-related events, thus fostering knowledge sharing, networking, and a deeper understanding of the importance of sustainability.

In summary, our comprehensive approach to sustainability embodies a commitment that transcends boundaries, integrating sustainability into every corner of our institution. From governance to community-wide participation, the American University of Beirut stands as an exemplar of sustainable practices and principles in action, working in harmony with the United Nations Global Compact and its guiding principles.

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

For a complete and detailed description of our SDGs oriented actions please refer to our complete report: [2022 Sustainability Report](#).

Report on Outcomes:

Sustainability in Education and Research

The American University of Beirut (AUB) remains steadfast in its commitment to sustainability, evident in the remarkable achievements and outcomes across various spheres of education, research, and knowledge transfer. This report highlights the impressive accomplishments that underscore AUB's dedication to advancing sustainability principles and practices.

Sustainability in Education and Research:

Courses Offered: AUB has demonstrated its commitment to sustainability education by offering an impressive 558 sustainability-related courses. This robust curriculum enriches students with the knowledge and skills needed to address pressing global challenges.

Research Impact: Over the past three years, AUB has consistently published an average of 686 annual publications on sustainability. This research output signifies the university's active engagement in generating knowledge to drive sustainable solutions.

Course Distribution: The Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences (FAFS) leads in offering sustainability-related courses, accounting for 72% of all such courses, closely followed by the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) at 64%.

Focused Research Goals: AUB's research efforts align with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) being the most researched goal (1,888 publications), followed by SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy, 166 publications) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, 162 publications).

AUB's SDG Ranking: AUB's SDG Research Assessment Index (RAI) is particularly high in SDG 5 (Gender Equality, 2.23), SDG 1 (No Poverty, 2.16), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, 2.06), and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being, 2.02).

Research Funding: Sustainability-related research at AUB thrives with an average annual funding of \$14,923,216 over the last three years, indicating strong institutional support for innovative research in this domain.

Citation Impact: The Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI) further highlights the impact of AUB's sustainability research, with SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) leading, followed by SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), achieving impressive FWCI scores of 3.26 and 3.11, respectively.

Sustainability in Transfer of Knowledge:

Environmental/Sustainability Events: AUB organizes 135 environmental/sustainability-related events annually, fostering dialogues and knowledge sharing within the academic community and beyond.

Student Involvement: With 14 student organizations dedicated to various aspects of sustainability, AUB empowers students to take an active role in driving sustainability initiatives.

Cultural Activities: More than 10 cultural activities are conducted annually on campus, encompassing diverse aspects of sustainability and promoting awareness.

Community Engagement: Through the Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service (CCECS), students participate in 57 activities, including volunteering, internships, and significant events, enhancing their real-world engagement.

Expert-Community Collaboration: AUB facilitates over 600 working sessions between experts and local community teams through the Environment Academy, fostering collaborative problem-solving.

Community Service Projects: AUB actively organizes more than 30 sustainability-related community service projects involving and benefiting students and the wider community.

Sustainability Startups: The university's vibrant ecosystem has given rise to over 39 sustainability-related startups, reflecting AUB's role in nurturing innovation.

Student-Led Initiatives: AUB supports eight student-led community service projects through the CCECS, providing scholarship students with opportunities to make a positive impact.

Community Involvement: The Environment Academy has brought together more than 4,000 community members to participate in solution-oriented initiatives, demonstrating AUB's commitment to co-creating sustainable solutions.

The American University of Beirut continues to make significant strides in embedding sustainability across its educational, research, and community engagement efforts. Through these accomplishments, AUB reinforces its position as a global leader in promoting a sustainable future.

For a complete and detailed description of our SDGs oriented actions please refer to our complete report: [2022 Sustainability Report](#).