UNGC COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT

2025

ÖZYEĞİN UNIVERSITY

Sustainability Platform
Özyeğin University

Index

Statement of Continued Support **1**
President's Statement **2**
Our Core Sustainable Development Goals **3**
Description of Actions **4**
Performance and Results **5**

Statement of Continued Support

As a committed academic participant in the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), Özyeğin University reaffirms its dedication to the Ten Principles in the areas of human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption, as well as our contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our mission remains to advance sustainability, social responsibility, and ethical governance through evidence-based practices, stakeholder engagement, and innovative solutions. Over the past year, we have expanded our collaborative work with local, national, and international partners to generate measurable impact across multiple SDGs.

We continue to embed the Ten Principles into our strategies, operations, and organizational culture. This includes the integration of sustainability into decision-making processes, the promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and the adoption of responsible environmental practices.

The UN Global Compact framework has provided a strong foundation for aligning our projects with global priorities and ensuring accountability in the implementation of our commitments. We will continue to support and advocate for the Ten Principles and to report transparently on our progress through the Communication on Engagement process.

ÖZYEĞİN UNIVERSITY

Prof. Dr. Barış TAN
President

Nişantepe Mah. Orman Sok. No:34-36
34794 Alemdağ, Çekmeköy İstanbul
T:0216 54 9000
info@ozyegin.edu.tr
www.ozyegin.edu.tr

August 13, 2025

To our stakeholders, partners, and the United Nations Global Compact,

As the President of Özyeğin University, I am pleased to reaffirm our institution's continued support for the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact in the areas of human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption.

We recognize that these principles are more than just guidelines – they are a foundation for creating sustainable, inclusive, and ethical growth for our communities, stakeholders, and future generations.

Over the past year, Özyeğin University has worked to integrate these principles into our strategies, policies, and everyday operations. We have undertaken initiatives that:

- Promote and protect human rights in our community and beyond
- Ensure fair labour practices and foster diversity, equity and inclusion
- Advance environmental stewardship through sustainable resource use, climate action and innovation
- Uphold integrity and transparency, actively preventing corruption in all forms

In the coming year, we will continue to strengthen our actions and partnerships to advance the Sustainable Development Goals, share our progress through transparent reporting, and work closely with our stakeholders to drive meaningful change.

We look forward to continuing our journey with the UN Global Compact, contributing to a more sustainable and responsible global society.

Sincerely Yours,

Prof. Dr. Barış Tan
President

Our Core Sustainable Development Goals

Özyeğin University aligns its sustainability efforts with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on those where our research, education, and community engagement have the most significant impact. While all 17 SDGs guide our approach, we have identified the following as priority areas based on our institutional strengths, stakeholder needs, and measurable outcomes:

- **SDG 4: Quality Education** – Delivering inclusive, equitable, and high-quality education across disciplines, integrating sustainability literacy into curricula, and providing lifelong learning opportunities through training, workshops, and outreach programs.
- **SDG 5: Gender Equality** – Promoting equal opportunities and representation in academic and administrative positions, fostering an inclusive environment, and supporting initiatives that address gender-based barriers.
- **SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy** – Advancing research and campus initiatives that promote renewable energy solutions, energy efficiency, and innovative clean technologies.
- **SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure** – Collaborating with industry and local governments to develop sustainable urban mobility solutions, smart infrastructure, and climate-resilient systems.
- **SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities** – Enhancing social equity through inclusive policies, scholarships, and community programs that ensure participation of disadvantaged groups in education, research, and urban transformation projects.
- **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities** – Leading urban transformation projects that enhance resilience, inclusivity, and environmental quality, both locally and internationally.
- **SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production** – Implementing sustainable procurement policies, promoting circular economy practices, and integrating resource efficiency into campus operations.
- **SDG 13: Climate Action** – Conducting climate research, reducing institutional carbon emissions, and raising awareness among students, staff, and the wider community about climate challenges and solutions.
- **SDG 15: Life on Land** – Supporting biodiversity protection, habitat restoration, and sustainable land use in both urban and rural settings through research, campus practices, and community engagement.
- **SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions** – Promoting transparent governance, ethical conduct, and evidence-based policymaking through academic programs, advocacy, and collaborative projects.
- **SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals** – Strengthening cross-sector partnerships, locally and globally, to scale sustainable solutions and share best practices.

These priorities shape our strategic actions and are reflected in our annual projects, research outputs, and community programs. Through this focus, we aim to maximize our contribution to global sustainability while addressing critical challenges in our immediate context.

Description of Actions

Human Rights

During the reporting period, our institution strengthened its human rights commitment by embedding equity, diversity, and inclusion across both academic and operational spheres. Implementing inclusive education programs that ensure access to quality learning for students from diverse backgrounds.

Specific examples include:

- **Gender Equality & Inclusion**: We conducted targeted programs to empower women in STEM fields and leadership positions, aligned with SDG 5. Scholarships and mentorships were provided to underrepresented groups.
- **Accessible Learning & Participation**: Campus infrastructure and digital platforms were adapted to be accessible for individuals with disabilities, reflecting our belief that education is a fundamental right.
- **Community Empowerment**: Collaborations with local communities such as Gökmaslı (Şile) and Behramkale (Ayvacık) focused on sustainable rural development, preserving cultural heritage, and enabling community-led decision-making.

Labour

We upheld international labour standards by promoting fair, safe, and inclusive working environments. Initiatives include:

- **Decent Work Opportunities**: We expanded internships and research assistantships that integrate sustainability and innovation skills, preparing students for green economy careers.
- **Occupational Health & Safety**: Continuous safety training and risk assessments were implemented for both academic and support staff, particularly in laboratory and field environments.
- **Capacity Building**: Faculty and staff participated in training programs on sustainability, climate literacy, and ethical research practices, ensuring alignment with SDG 8's goals for productive employment and decent work.

Environment and Safety

Environmental stewardship is central to our mission. Actions taken this year include:

- **Climate Resilience & Green Infrastructure**: Through projects like ACCTRA, we collaborated with local and international partners to implement micromobility corridors and climate-resilient urban designs.
- **Biodiversity & Green Spaces**: The "Seed Fund Project" introduced climate-resilient tree species to improve urban biodiversity and mitigate urban heat island effects.
- **Sustainable Operations**: Campus energy efficiency projects, waste segregation systems, and awareness campaigns reduced our environmental footprint, supporting SDGs 7, 11, and 13.

Anti-Corruption

Our commitment to integrity is reflected in governance and operational transparency:

- **Ethics & Compliance Framework**: Updated codes of conduct were communicated to all employees, outlining zero tolerance for bribery, fraud, and academic dishonesty.
- **Training & Awareness**: Staff and students engaged in workshops on research ethics, responsible procurement, and transparent financial practices.
- **Transparent Partnerships**: All collaborations with external partners were subject to due diligence, ensuring alignment with ethical and sustainability principles.

Performance and Results

Our efforts have produced measurable outcomes that reflect our contribution to the UN Global Compact principles and the Sustainable Development Goals. Results are assessed through both qualitative and quantitative indicators, ensuring a balanced understanding of impact.

1. Organisational Development and Workforce Impact

- Achieved a **balanced gender representation** across management, with 51% women and 49% men in leadership roles, reinforcing our commitment to gender equality (SDG 5).
- Increased **training participation rates** significantly, with over 78% of employees engaging in sustainability-related learning opportunities, averaging **14 hours of professional development per employee annually**.

2. Environmental and Social Impact

- Introduced **comprehensive sustainability reporting** frameworks aligned with the SDGs, leading to transparent tracking of energy efficiency, waste reduction, and carbon footprint management.
- Advanced social inclusion projects benefiting marginalized groups, including targeted employment pathways and community engagement initiatives.

3. Programmatic Achievements and SDG Contributions

- Supported climate resilience and sustainable urban mobility projects, directly contributing to **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)** and **SDG 13 (Climate Action)**.
- Implemented educational outreach programs reaching over 2,500 beneficiaries, promoting **SDG 4 (Quality Education)** and lifelong learning.
- Strengthened ethical business practices and transparency in supply chains, reinforcing **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)**.

4. Cross-Cutting Impact Examples

- In partnership with municipal and international partners, we piloted **micromobility infrastructure projects**, reducing reliance on private vehicles and cutting urban CO_2 emissions by an estimated 8% in target areas.
- Conducted targeted **workforce inclusion programs**, integrating women, youth, and underrepresented groups into sustainable employment opportunities.
- Delivered climate adaptation workshops to local governments, enhancing capacity to respond to environmental risks.

5. Looking Ahead

We are committed to continuous improvement in our sustainability performance. For the next reporting period, our focus will include:

- Expanding data-driven sustainability monitoring systems.
- Scaling community-based climate resilience projects.
- Strengthening partnerships for innovation in sustainable solutions.