

City, University of London Students' Union signatory membership of United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Accord

Proposer: Annette Yunus Pendrey, SU Ethics and Environment Officer

Seconders: Tuna Kunt, SU VP Education

The Union Notes:

1. That the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. In 2015, 193 countries, including the UK, signed up to the SDGs, with the aim of achieving these global goals by 2030.
2. The Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC) is the sustainability champion for universities and colleges in the UK. The EAUC represents 194 UK institutions with over 2 million students and nearly 400,000 staff with a spending budget of over £25 billion. City, University of London, is a member of the EAUC.
3. In 2017, the EAUC established the SDG Accord which:-
 - seeks to inspire, celebrate and advance the critical role that education has in delivering the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and the value it brings to governments, business and wider society
 - is a commitment learning institutions are making to one another to do more to deliver the goals, to annually report on each signatory's progress, and to do so in ways which share the learning with each other both nationally and internationally. An objective is that sector SDG reporting metrics will be presented at the annual UN High Level Political Forum.
4. On 8th October 2018, a City, Students' Union Executive Policy proposal in support of **City, University of London's** signatory membership of the SDG Accord was unanimously approved by the Students' Union Executive Committee.
5. City, University of London Students' Union is currently not an Accord signatory.
6. This Policy proposal for **City, University of London Students' Union** to also be a SDG Accord signatory member alongside City, University of London would increase the impact if both institutions were to become signatories, to show their commitment to the UN SDGs. This is particularly the case as City, University of London Students' Union and City, University of London have different stakeholders, who place greater importance on the actions of the Students' Union or the University, depending on their point of view.
7. The Executive Committee and Student Council's approval of this proposal for City, University of London Students' Union to become an Accord signatory would signal their favourable position towards this initiative.

The Union Believes:

1. City, University of London Students' Union signatory membership of the SDG Accord will be beneficial:-
 - to global society by helping higher education member institutions of the EAUC contribute towards meeting the SDGs by 2030
 - to City, University of London Students' Union, by enhancing its reputation as a sustainability leader
 - to City, University of London Students' Union, by allowing it to have its own mandate and commitment to support the UN SDGs, which would support its ongoing activities that are stand-alone from City, University of London.
2. City, University of London Students' Union signatory membership of the SDG Accord will complement current related initiatives that City, or its Schools, is involved in including:-
 - being the top ranked London university and 10th ranked university nationally according to the 2017 People and Planet University League
 - Cass Business School's Champion-level membership of the United Nations' Principles for Responsible Management and Education (UNPRME).
3. There will be no mandatory SDG Accord reporting for City, University of London Students' Union. Where relevant and desirable, City, University of London Students' Union activities/information can be included in City, University of London's SDG Accord report.

This Union Resolves:

1. To approve this proposal in favour of City, University of London Students' Union, becoming a SDG Accord signatory.