

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



17.2 Relationships to support the goals

17.2.1 - Does your university have direct involvement in, or input into, national government or regional nongovernment organisations SDG policy development - including identifying problems and challenges, developing policies and strategies, modelling likely futures with and without interventions, monitoring and reporting on interventions, and enabling adaptive management?

Yes

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I. Introduction: The Mandate of Policy Partnerships

The pursuit of the global 2030 Agenda relies fundamentally on Sustainable Development Goal 17, "Partnerships for the Goals," which calls for strengthening implementation means and revitalizing global partnerships for sustainable development. SDG 17 is crucial for universities, as it is the only mandatory goal for reporting in frameworks such as the *Times Higher Education* (THE) Impact Rankings and accounts for 22% of the overall institutional score.

This report details the University of Business and Technology's (UBT) compliance with a key qualitative metric under this goal: Indicator 17.2.1: Relationships with regional NGOs and government for SDG policy.

Compliance requires documenting direct involvement in, or input into, national government or regional non-government organizations' SDG policy development. This input must cover critical functions such as:

- Identifying problems and challenges.
- Developing policies and strategies.
- Monitoring and reporting on interventions.

The examples provided demonstrate UBT's active role as an expert resource contributing to policy and strategy formation within its operating region.

II. SDG 17.2.1 Compliance: Policy Engagement

UBT strategically engages with civil society organizations and public authorities to ensure its academic and professional expertise is mobilized to advance sustainable development objectives, directly meeting the mandate for multi-stakeholder partnerships (UN Targets 17.16 and 17.17).

UBT's partnerships successfully translate knowledge into actionable policy contributions at both the regional non-governmental level and the national governmental level.

III. Compliance Evidence: Input into Regional NGO Policy

UBT demonstrates direct involvement in the strategy and policy development of regional non-governmental organizations (NGOs) through expert engagement and capacity building initiatives.

1. Direct Strategy Development for the Al-Faisalya Women's Welfare Society:

In December 2024, UBT provided high-level policy input during a Strategy Ideation Workshop held at UBT's Corniche campus in Jeddah. This event was specifically organized to develop the Al-Faisalya Women's Welfare Society's strategic plan for 2025–2030, providing direct input into a regional non-government organization's strategy.

- Policy and Strategy Development: UBT faculty members played a key role in designing innovative initiatives intended to enhance the society's services.
- Targeted Policy Tracks: UBT faculty contributed specialized expertise across three critical developmental tracks for the NGO:
 - Human Capital Development Track.
 - Digital Transformation Track.
 - Development of Emerging Non-Profit Organizations and Stakeholder Engagement Track.
- Strategic Outcome: The workshop was recognized as demonstrating a genuine model of synergy between the private and third sectors, contributing to social development and integration, which exemplifies the required cross-sectoral policy contribution.

UBT Strategy Building with Al- Faisalya Women's Welfare Society



2. Enhancing Strategies for Orphan Empowerment (Ekhaa Foundation) UBT faculty provided concrete recommendations aimed at enhancing the strategies of a non-profit organization focused on social services.
 - Policy Recommendations: During the “Leadership in Empowering Orphans” workshop hosted by the Orphan Foundation “Ekhaa,” Dr. Sarah Zakour (UBT Assistant Professor) presented valuable insights and recommendations on how to enhance strategies for orphan empowerment.
 - Knowledge Exchange: The engagement of UBT faculty members with the non-profit sector builds effective partnerships that foster the mutual exchange of knowledge and expertise across different sectors.

Ekhaa foundation in UBT



3. Support for Inclusion and Disability Policy (The First Autism Center):

UBT has demonstrated commitment to strengthening social partnerships that align with SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by engaging directly with institutions supporting disadvantaged groups.

- Collaboration Focus: A UBT delegation, including the Director of the Community Responsibility Center, visited The First Autism Center in Jeddah to learn about its services and explore avenues for collaboration.
- Policy Context: The Center itself is a non-profit working to raise public awareness of the rights of people with autism and actively supporting their access to education, employment, and social participation. UBT's proactive engagement supports the Center's efforts in these social policy areas.

University of Business and Technology Visits the First Autism Center in Jeddah to Strengthen Collaboration



IV. Compliance Evidence: Input into National/Regional Government Policy

UBT engages with governmental and regional authorities, fulfilling the requirement for input into national and regional SDG-aligned policy and key strategic national development mandates.

1. National Human Capital Development (Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development):

UBT participated in a national campaign directly supporting the Kingdom's overarching sustainable development strategy (Vision 2030).

- High-Level Participation: UBT actively participated in the Waad 2 Forum held in Riyadh under the patronage of the Minister of Human Resources and Social Development.
- Policy Alignment: The forum focused on strengthening partnerships between the public and private sectors to achieve Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 by investing in the development of national human capital.
- Institutional Advocacy: UBT representatives played significant roles in showcasing the university's vision and commitment to supporting these national initiatives, which directly contribute to sustainable development goals.

University of Business and Technology's Participation in the National Training Campaign "Waad 2"



2. Regional Development Initiatives (Jeddah Municipality/Makkah Region)

UBT contributed to regional governance and developmental planning by assisting with a high-profile forum.

- Operational and Policy Support: UBT's Deanship of Student Affairs and Center for Community Responsibility actively assisted in organizing the Development Initiatives Forum for the Makkah Region.
- Strategic Focus: The forum aimed to foster the exchange of developmental expertise across the Saudi region and support community service initiatives aligned with the goals of Vision 2030. This collaboration with the Jeddah Municipality shows direct support for regional governance focusing on developmental expertise.

UBT students participations in organizing the Development Initiatives Forum for the Makkah Region



3. Collaboration on Health Policy Implementation (Ministry of Health)

UBT formalized a relationship with a national ministry to support its human capacity needs, demonstrating compliance with policy implementation support.

- **Formal Agreement:** UBT signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Health.
- **Policy Impact:** This collaboration aims to provide opportunities for cooperative training and offer scientific qualification support for Ministry staff, thereby supporting human capital capacity within the national health sector.

UBT students participations in organizing the Development Initiatives Forum for the Makkah Region



V. Conclusion: UBT's Commitment to Multi-Stakeholder Governance

UBT consistently adheres to SDG 17 Indicator 17.2.1 by operating as a high-value partner capable of influencing and shaping regional development strategies and government policies. The evidence confirms UBT's capacity to provide direct, specialized input to regional non-governmental policy, as demonstrated by the detailed initiatives designed for the Al-Faisalya Women's Welfare Society's 2025-2030 strategic plan. Simultaneously, UBT actively supports national policy objectives by aligning its participation with key governmental campaigns like the Waad 2 Forum, which focuses explicitly on achieving national developmental goals related to human capital and Vision 2030.

By facilitating knowledge exchange, providing expert advice, and integrating its resources with both civil society (NGOs) and public authorities (Government Ministries and Jeddah Municipality), UBT fulfills the central mandate of SDG 17: mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, and resources through multi-stakeholder partnerships. This approach positions the university as a critical nexus for translating global sustainable development goals into localized, implementable policies and measurable outcomes.