

# **2023-2026 Strategic Sustainability and Social Commitment Plan**

Sustainable Development Commission

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2022 – 2023 Academic year

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## Introduction

UIC Barcelona is committed to the third mission as an institution dedicated to education, research, and social commitment. It has accepted the task of seeking, disseminating and applying ethical alternatives to the socioeconomic and environmental challenges faced by today's society.

As an educational space for future generations, the university plays a fundamental role as a tool for transformation, especially at a key moment of social and economic reconstruction after the pandemic.

The current 2023-2026 Strategic Plan for Sustainability and Social Commitment is designed at a time when the concept of sustainable development is of maximum importance. The health, economic, social and environmental crisis has confirmed the need to rethink our economic development model, the importance of equality between people, the protection and conservation of the planet, the promotion of peace and solidarity and the construction of alliances to face global challenges as recommended by the Creu-Sustainability Manifesto on "University, Culture and Sustainable Heritage".

UIC Barcelona is aware of the importance of training professionals and guiding research and the transmission of knowledge towards the common good. Sustainability and social commitment are the key to a path towards caring for human beings, the planet, prosperity and peace.

## **UIC Barcelona 2023- 2026 Strategic Sustainability and Social Commitment Plan**

In 2022 after several meetings with the members of the sustainability commission, the preliminary draft of this strategic plan was prepared to specify the objectives, actions and indicators linked to sustainability and the social commitment of the entire university community.

The new 2023-2026 Strategic Sustainability and Social Commitment Plan follows the previous plan with the three areas of Organisation, Teaching and Research, and Environmental Management. With the addition of Social Commitment, this plan includes a new fourth area and introduces new actions and new indicators, while renewing and updating the previous information.

It stresses the introduction of transversal competences in sustainable development in the teaching and learning systems of the different degrees of the University.

This new plan presents guidelines, evaluable tools and priorities to promote a transformation towards sustainability at the University, supporting the concept of comprehensive sustainability – social, economic and environmental – according to UIC Barcelona’s mission, vision and values.

Each axis contains a series of strategic lines and corresponding objectives, outlining the relevant actions to be carried out. In turn, each action is defined based on indicators and their value, facilitating a specific follow-up of the various actions proposed.

### **General objectives**

- I. Setting up a new action framework in the field of sustainable development so that UIC Barcelona can take the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs as a guide for actions carried out from 2023 to 2026. This means adding the commitment to society to the areas of action.
- II. Promote sustainable development in a comprehensive way by showing the

interconnections between the social, economic and environmental aspects of the different issues or problems.

- III. To move towards comprehensive sustainable development at the University, through strategic planning that guarantees effective and coherent coordination between the areas of Organisation, Teaching and Research, Environmental Management and Commitment to Society over the next four years.
- IV. Be aware that measures to reduce and adapt to problems such as climate change, loss of biodiversity or forced emigration do not depend solely on technical or scientific solutions, but above all on values and ethical attitudes that inspire a change of habits. Therefore, the UIC Barcelona educational community must promote and adopt habits and values promoting sustainability and social commitment in all areas of university life, thus making it easier for students to acquire them throughout their learning, and for staff to be examples for this commitment.
- V. Understand that policies and projects for development cooperation, solidarity, equality between men and women and, the promotion of healthy habits and the improvement of quality of life in universities are a tool for reducing social inequalities and promoting sustainable development. This must be accompanied by awareness-raising work that promotes the social commitment of the university community, in line with the third mission of the University to serve society as part of the core mission of UIC Barcelona.

These general objectives are divided between the four **strategic areas or axes**: Area 1, Organisation; Area 2, Teaching and Research; Area 3, Environmental Management; and Area 4, Commitment to Society.

Each axis has been divided into sections outlining the necessary actions to be carried out to achieve the objectives. The indicators to be measured will take into account those requested in the international and national metrics of sustainable development and environmental management of the universities, and their level of priority.

The priority criteria are:

- Priority 1: Short-term goals: 2023-2024
- Priority 2: Medium-term goals: 2024-2025
- Priority 3: Long term goals: 2025-2026

In each area, the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been indicated.

## Area 1: Organisation

### Specific objectives:

1. Draw up, approve and implement the UIC Barcelona 2023-2026 Strategic Sustainability and Social Commitment Plan with strategic objectives and indicators for periodic evaluation.
2. Plan and implement sustainability policy and structure the resources involved in its implementation.
3. Development of a budget model that takes into account the sustainability and social commitment of the University.
4. Involve the university community in environmental issues and social commitment to promote changes in values, habits and attitudes and encourage research and studies towards cooperation and sustainable development.

## Area 2: Teaching and Research

### Specific objectives:

1. Introduce cross-disciplinary skills in sustainable development in the teaching and learning systems of the degree programmes.
2. Complete a comprehensive review of the reports from the bachelor's degrees, introducing priority areas for sustainable development: health and well-being, human rights, education in equality, poverty reduction and inequalities, sustainable economy and responsible consumption, climate action, etc., as appropriate in the different degrees and sections of the report.
3. Incorporate social service activities, such as the methodology of service learning in the curricular field as a tool for comprehensive training of students.
4. Promote the introduction of sustainable development and social commitment in teaching and research, through an initial reflection and a process of continuous teacher training and strengthening teaching resources. The process should include training days in sustainability, social commitment and training-oriented programmes for teaching staff in the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.
5. Assess good practices of teachers in line with the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda and penalise academic works that are not made with sustainability and social commitment criteria.
6. Carry out a comprehensive review of the lines of research and promote research aimed at achieving the SDGs, which include the following topics: promotion of health and well-being; education in equality; human rights; reduction of social inequalities and poverty; circular economies; education for sustainable consumption; climate action; social and environmental justice; clean water, etc.



## Area 3: Environmental Management

### Specific objectives:

1. Reduce UIC Barcelona's ecological footprint through combined strategies to reduce resource consumption (energy, water, materials, etc.), improve efficiency, change fossil fuel sources to renewables and promote energy production with renewable sources on campus with sustainability policies.
2. Consider sustainability in the University's acquisition and investment processes.
3. Evaluate the Government of Catalonia's Climate Action commitments that UIC Barcelona has reached on climate change and the mitigation of its impacts.
4. Adopt sustainable practices in acquisition in our supply chains and food services.
5. Promote sustainable mobility for the entire university community and raise awareness of the benefits of its use for people and for the planet.
6. Promote a programme for prevention of waste generation and food waste, reduction of single-use plastics, and reuse and recycling of goods that cannot be deleted at source.
7. Promote more sustainable lifestyles.
8. Optimise water resources with a comprehensive plan of water cycle management on campuses.
9. Promote responsible consumption, establish strategies to optimise and minimise the use of resources and rationalise the flow of matter and energy in all the activity carried out at the university.
10. Develop environmental protocols for event organisation that include calculating the carbon footprint and offer the possibility of compensating it while spreading UIC Barcelona's commitment to sustainability.
11. Establish a line of sustainability action on green purchasing.

## Area 4: Social commitment

### Specific objectives:

1. Develop strategies that promote solidarity, volunteering, gender and opportunity equality, and healthy and sustainable habits at university in collaboration with external agents and developing countries.
2. Raising awareness among the university community through training and information on the importance of achieving the SDG to promote involvement in projects and initiatives linked to the 2030 Agenda.
3. Enhance development education programmes in a cross-disciplinary manner within university studies and give priority to higher education as a tool for development.
4. To make the university community aware of the importance of volunteering programmes and actions, their benefits for society and the environment and to promote their participation.
5. To strengthen UIC Barcelona's role as a transformative agent towards a fairer society and a more sustainable and healthier environment.
6. Promote the development cooperation projects promoted by the UIC in collaboration with other entities and organisations by creating strong alliances that allow a continuous working towards achieving the SDGs.
7. To strengthen the relationships and alliances established with other universities, companies, NGOs and other entities with the aim of developing and carrying out specific initiatives that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.
8. Encourage research by students and teaching and research staff in the field of international development cooperation.