



Integration of SDGs in

- ☒ Institutional governance/strategic level
- ☒ SDGs in research
- ☐ SDGs in campus operations
- ☒ SDGs in curriculum development
- ☒ SDGs in student engagement activities
- ☒ SDGs into community activities
- ☐ SDGs at a whole-institution level

Focus on

- ☐ Goal 1 - No poverty
- ☐ Goal 2 - Zero hunger
- ☐ Goal 3 - Good health and wellbeing
- ☒ Goal 4 - Quality education
- ☐ Goal 5 - Gender equality
- ☐ Goal 6 - Clean water and sanitation
- ☒ Goal 7 - Affordable and clean energy
- ☐ Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth
- ☐ Goal 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- ☐ Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities
- ☐ Goal 11 - Sustainable cities and communities
- ☐ Goal 12 - Responsible consumption and production
- ☒ Goal 13 - Climate action
- ☐ Goal 14 - Life below water
- ☐ Goal 15 - Life on land
- ☐ Goal 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions
- ☒ Goal 17 - Partnerships for the goals

Summary

In 2020, Dr Minnerop led the application process of Durham University to become an observer to the UNFCCC (confirmed at COP26). This new status has intensified the University's engagement with Agenda 2030 and the SDGs at the individual and institutional level, in the run up to COP26 and after the climate summit. Before COP26, Dr Minnerop established the COP26 Steering Group and a delegation of 14 members of staff attended COP26 in Glasgow. The Steering Group organised in preparation of COP26 a "STEAM for ACE" event series across departments and research institutes of the University, providing insights into the University's research on climate change from different perspectives. In addition, and with international partners IUCN WCEL and NUS/CIL a preparatory lecture series "On the Road to COP26 Preparatory Lecture Series" was organised. The series offered expert insights into various topics that were negotiated at COP26 and has strengthened the institutional collaboration with partners. The lecture series was followed by a post-COP26 roundtable with all lecturers. Dr Minnerop convened with colleagues from NUS, Imperial College London, Oxford University, Dundee University, London School for Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Ohio State University, an international conference on the theme of "Challenges to a Sustainable Recovery: International Law, Climate Change and Public Health". Following COP26, the new observer status has created a new space for strategic alignment with SDGs, research opportunities and engagement of students with climate change research and action. Dr Minnerop set up the new Sustainable Development Research Centre in the Law School, and a new LLM programme on International Environmental Law will be launched in 2023. One student who participated in the September Conference on Sustainable Recovery stated; "The Conference led me to choose the climate change law and policy module, it was very engaging to be part of such an academic event".

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres addresses the plenary at COP26



Outline the benefits of integrating this theme:

- 1. Increased research cooperation within the University and with international partners**
- 2. A new strategic focus in the Law School on sustainable development with a new research centre that will serve to communicate research into the UNFCCC system**
- 3. Increased institutional awareness for the role of law in tackling global issues**

Conclusions and recommendations

The institutional engagement of the University with the UNFCCC in this case study was primarily driven by individual research interests on the part of academic staff. This is now developing into a long-term engagement process that can be further intensified, through attending subsidiary bodies' conferences and making submissions to the UNFCCC on relevant themes, where strong research exists.

Taking institutional engagement to the next level will require determining communication channels and approval processes for research based submissions, knowledge transfer and strategic decisions.

Climate change is a challenge that needs the involvement of non-party stakeholders and the University has chosen an active role in this process. The role must now be defined and aligned with research strategies and impact activities. This includes taking Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) as required under Article 12 Paris Agreement and Article 6 UNFCCC seriously.