



TERMEZ STATE UNIVERSITY

**CROSS-SECTORAL, NATIONAL, AND
INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION ON THE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



TERMEZ 2025

Introduction

Termez State University (TerSU), one of the most dynamic and progressive higher education institutions in southern Uzbekistan, has established itself as a key regional driver of sustainable development. In alignment with the United Nations 2030 Agenda, the University plays an active and strategic role in promoting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through education, research, innovation, and community engagement.



Recognizing that sustainable development cannot be achieved in isolation, TerSU embraces a holistic approach based on cooperation across different sectors and scales — academia, government, industry, civil society, and international partners. The University serves as a platform for dialogue, experimentation, and joint action aimed at transforming both local and global sustainability challenges into opportunities for innovation, knowledge creation, and community improvement.

TerSU's approach rests on three interconnected pillars:

Cross-sectoral collaboration that strengthens dialogue between academia, government, and civil society;

Partnerships with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that enable community-based and environmental initiatives; and

International cooperation and benchmarking that integrate global best practices into teaching, research, and institutional management.

Through this multidimensional engagement, TerSU actively contributes to building an inclusive, knowledge-based, and environmentally responsible

society — fully in line with Uzbekistan’s national development priorities and the UN’s Sustainable Development framework.

Institutional Commitment to the SDGs

The mission and strategic plan of Termez State University highlight sustainability, innovation, and social responsibility as core institutional values. The University seeks to cultivate an academic culture that not only promotes intellectual growth but also fosters civic responsibility and environmental awareness among students and staff.

TerSU’s institutional strategies are directly aligned with the *Strategy for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the Republic of Uzbekistan (2018–2030)*. This alignment ensures that university-level activities — from curriculum design and research to campus operations and outreach — contribute to the national and international sustainability agenda.

To measure and enhance its performance, TerSU actively participates in the **UI GreenMetric World University Ranking** and the **QS Sustainability Ranking**. These frameworks serve as essential tools for continuous self-assessment and improvement. They help the University monitor progress across key sustainability indicators such as energy efficiency, waste management, biodiversity conservation, carbon footprint reduction, and community engagement.

TerSU’s efforts are primarily directed toward the following SDGs:

SDG 4 – Quality Education: Enhancing teaching and learning to foster knowledge, innovation, and ethical responsibility.

SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth: Equipping students with employable skills and entrepreneurial capacity.

SDG 13 – Climate Action: Promoting environmental awareness and resilience against climate change.

SDG 15 – Life on Land: Protecting and restoring ecosystems through education and community engagement.

SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals: Strengthening cooperation among local, national, and international partners.

1. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Sustainable Development

1.1. Fostering Collaboration and Policy Dialogue

TerSU has become a recognized convener of multi-stakeholder dialogue in southern Uzbekistan. By bringing together experts from academia, government agencies, industry, and international organisations, the University facilitates evidence-based discussions on how to localize and accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.

These cross-sectoral dialogues encourage the sharing of knowledge, experiences, and innovative approaches that link research outcomes with real-world challenges. They also foster mutual understanding among sectors that traditionally operate separately — aligning education, governance, and community needs under one sustainability framework.

1.2. UNDP “Termez Youth Hub” Initiative

A flagship example of this approach is the **UNDP-supported “Termez Youth Hub,”** launched in October 2024 in collaboration with the **Government of Japan.** The Youth Hub operates as a vibrant platform for training, innovation, and entrepreneurship for young people in the Surkhandarya region.



Through structured programs in information technology, English language learning, and innovation management, the Hub enhances employability and entrepreneurship among youth while promoting social inclusion and creativity. The initiative also encourages young people to develop environmentally friendly business ideas and community solutions, linking directly to **SDG 4 (Quality Education)**, **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)**, and **SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)**.

The high-level attendance of international and national representatives at the launch — including TerSU’s Rector, the Japanese Ambassador, and UNDP’s Resident Representative — symbolizes the depth of cooperation among sectors and the University’s reputation as a trusted regional partner in sustainable development.

1.3. Academic Participation in National and Regional Forums

TerSU’s faculty and researchers regularly contribute to academic and policy forums that address the intersection between law, environment, and economic development. The University’s representatives actively participate in conferences such as “*Green Climate and Legal Issues of Quality and Food Safety*,” organized by the **Tashkent State University of Law** with participation from the **Ministry of Ecology, UN FAO**, and national research institutions.

Through such events, TerSU scholars present policy-oriented research on topics such as food security, water management, agricultural law, and climate adaptation. Their participation strengthens the connection between academic inquiry and public decision-making, reinforcing TerSU’s role as a source of evidence-based solutions to pressing sustainability challenges.

1.4. Environmental and Community Engagement



Beyond research and dialogue, TerSU is deeply engaged in practical sustainability actions on and beyond its campus. The University takes part in the nationwide “*Ziyolilar Bog‘lari*” (*Scholars’ Gardens*) greening campaign initiated by the **Ministry of Higher Education, Science and**

Innovation, through which faculty, students, and staff have planted thousands of trees across the Surkhandarya region.

In addition, student-led eco-clubs organize waste collection drives, biodiversity awareness campaigns, and sustainable lifestyle workshops. These initiatives nurture environmental consciousness, promote civic participation, and directly contribute to **SDG 13 (Climate Action)** and **SDG 15 (Life on Land)**.

TerSU's **2024 Sustainability Report** documents continuous improvements in campus operations — including energy-efficient lighting systems, water management, and reduction of single-use plastics. The University's *Green Campus Initiative* exemplifies how academic institutions can serve as living laboratories for sustainability education.

2. Cooperation with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

2.1. Expanding Civil Society Partnerships

TerSU actively collaborates with a wide range of NGOs operating in education, environmental protection, social inclusion, and community development. These partnerships bridge academic expertise with grassroots initiatives, ensuring that university-led projects are community-responsive and socially relevant.

Through such cooperation, TerSU strengthens the capacity of civil society actors, supports inclusive social change, and amplifies the voice of local communities in sustainable development dialogues.

2.2. Education and Awareness (SDG 4 – Quality Education)

The University works closely with NGOs to promote sustainability education through seminars, public discussions, and capacity-building workshops. The **Termez Youth Hub**, jointly implemented with UNDP, exemplifies this collaboration by providing young people with learning opportunities that blend technical skills with environmental awareness.

Through education for sustainable development, TerSU encourages students to become active agents of change who apply their knowledge to real-world social and environmental challenges.

2.3. Environmental and Climate Initiatives (SDG 13 – Climate Action)

In cooperation with **EcoLife Uzbekistan** and other environmental NGOs, TerSU conducts projects on climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and green innovation. The University also participates in environmental monitoring and research initiatives aimed at reducing

carbon emissions and improving waste management systems in the Surkhandarya region.

The *Green Campus Initiative* fosters a culture of environmental stewardship among students and staff, positioning TerSU as a model for sustainable campus management within Uzbekistan's higher education system.

2.4. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (SDG 5 – Gender Equality)

TerSU's engagement with NGOs extends to advancing gender equality and empowering women in academia and society. Joint mentoring programmes, leadership training sessions, and awareness campaigns encourage female participation in science, technology, and entrepreneurship. These initiatives create an inclusive academic environment that supports diversity and equal opportunity for all.

2.5. Community Development and Public Health (SDG 1 & SDG 3)

TerSU partners with social and health-focused NGOs to improve community well-being. Projects include training for low-income families, rural entrepreneurship programmes, and health-awareness campaigns addressing issues such as nutrition, sanitation, and mental health. These initiatives promote holistic development and foster strong, resilient communities.

2.6. Coordination and Monitoring

All NGO collaborations are coordinated by the **Department of International Relations** and guided by the **Sustainability Committee**. Formal agreements and memoranda ensure mutual accountability, and annual progress reviews track measurable impacts. Results are integrated into institutional sustainability reports and shared through national and international platforms.

3. International Collaboration and Development of Best Practices

3.1. Global Research Networks and Partnerships

Termez State University maintains strong academic partnerships with universities and research centres in **Germany, Poland, Malaysia, Turkey, Latvia, and China**. These collaborations foster faculty mobility, joint publications, and shared research initiatives on themes such as renewable energy, digital transformation, and social innovation.

Through the **Erasmus+ TRIGGER Project**, TerSU has significantly expanded its international research capacity. The University's publication

output now includes over 47% co-authored works with foreign researchers, reflecting its growing role in global sustainability scholarship.



3.2. Adoption of International Standards

TerSU integrates international best practices into its operations through systematic participation in the **UI GreenMetric** and **QS Sustainability Rankings**. These frameworks provide benchmarks that help the University enhance its performance in sustainable infrastructure, climate action, and social responsibility.

The University's cooperation with **UNDP** under the *Termez Youth Hub* further illustrates the effective adaptation of global models to local contexts. It demonstrates how global SDG frameworks can be contextualized for regional needs, ensuring local ownership and practical impact.

3.3. Knowledge Sharing and Academic Dissemination

TerSU regularly organizes international conferences, roundtables, and webinars that bring together academics, policymakers, and NGO leaders. These events promote the exchange of innovative ideas and comparative approaches to sustainability, strengthening the University's role as a regional think tank.

The findings from these activities are published in international journals and used to inform curriculum reform, policy advice, and institutional development. This cyclical process of learning, applying, and sharing knowledge ensures continuous improvement and institutional growth.

3.4. Future Strategic Directions

Looking ahead, TerSU is committed to further deepening its global engagement. Planned actions include:

Establishing a **Regional Center for SDG Research and Innovation** to coordinate interdisciplinary research and training;

Expanding participation in **international SDG consortia** and benchmarking networks;

Launching **joint academic programmes** in sustainability, environmental management, and green technologies;

Publishing **annual sustainability reports** aligned with UN indicators; and

Hosting an annual **TerSU Sustainable Development Forum** to connect academia, government, NGOs, and private sector stakeholders.

Conclusion

Termez State University stands as a model of how a regional higher education institution can make a global impact through strategic collaboration. By integrating sustainability across education, research, governance, and community life, the University has established a comprehensive framework that embodies the principles of the SDGs.

Through strong partnerships with government agencies, NGOs, and international organisations, TerSU transforms global sustainability principles into local realities. Its initiatives — from the UNDP Youth Hub to environmental restoration and global research cooperation — demonstrate that meaningful change begins with knowledge, dialogue, and collective action.

As TerSU continues to expand its partnerships and institutional capacity, it reaffirms its commitment to serving as a **regional hub for sustainable transformation** — driving progress not only within Uzbekistan, but across Central Asia and beyond.

Signed by the Rector:

Prof. Abdukodir Toshkulov



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