POLICY ON ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

(This Policy has been made in accordance with section 4.1.7 (ii) of the First Statutes)

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1. PREAMBLE

The 2030 "Agenda for Sustainable Development" adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, has set out an ambitious and transformational vision for global development. The seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with their associated targets have a far-reaching scope to balance the three dimensions of sustainable development – Economic, Social and Environmental. It is the bounder duty of all nations and institutions to work towards achieving these SDGs.

"The NEP 2020 proposes the revision and revamping of all aspects of the education structure, including its regulations and governance to create a new system that is aligned with the aspirational goals of the 21st Century Education, including Sustainability Development Goals (SDG-4) while building upon India's Tradition and Value System".

This policy document outlines the comprehensive framework for Presidency University (PU) to actively contribute towards achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Recognizing the importance of sustainability in all aspects of higher education, this policy aims to guide the University's actions, strategies, and partnerships to foster sustainable development on campus and beyond. By integrating sustainability into research, education, operations, community engagement, and governance, PU shall strive to become a leader in sustainability and make a significant positive impact on society and the environment.

Further, the University is committed to becoming a sustainable institution that actively contributes to the achievement of the SDGs. By integrating sustainability into its core operations, Presidency University aims to inspire future generations, advance research and knowledge, and create a positive impact on society and the environment. This policy serves as a guiding framework for the University's sustainable development efforts and shall be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure its effectiveness and relevance in a rapidly changing world.

2. SHORT TITLE & COMMENCEMENT

2.1 This Policy shall be called the "**Policy on Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)".**

2.2 This Policy shall come into effect from the date of approval by the Board of Management of the Presidency University.

3. EXTENT AND APPLICABILITY

3.1. This Policy shall apply to all students, and employees, both academic and non-academic, whether probationary, permanent, or contractual, of the University.

3.2. To achieve the objectives of this Policy, all employees of the University shall adhere to and follow the guidelines provided herein.

4. SCOPE

The global community faces numerous environmental, social, and economic challenges that require immediate attention. The United Nations has outlined 17 SDGs as a blueprint for a more sustainable future. As an institution of higher education, Presidency University recognizes its responsibility to contribute towards achieving these goals by integrating sustainable practices into all aspects of its operations.

Presidency University shall be a champion of Sustainable Development and shall contribute to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as under:

4.1. Teaching and Learning

PU play a crucial role in SDGs implementation through extensive learning and teaching activities including undergraduate and graduate teaching, professional vocational training, executive and adult education, online learning, co-curricular activities, student clubs, and societies.

The University provide accessible, affordable, and inclusive education to all, and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. PU endeavors to provide new entrepreneurship, and employment opportunities in partnership with industry in achieving this Goal.

4.2. Research

To achieve this Goal, PU serves as an incubator for the rapid development and fusion of sustainable development technologies. PU provides the necessary support to mobilize resources and to build local capacities to undertake research and utilize the SDGs solutions to the community at large. In this regard, PU has a fully operational 'Presidency University LaunchPad Association" duly registered as a 'Not-For-Profit Section-8 Company'.

4.3. Institutional Operations and Governance

PU has developed various internal policies and operations that significantly contribute to achieving SDGs within their spheres of operations. The SDGs principles are followed for governance structure, operational policies, and decisions, specifically related to employment, finance, campus services, social responsibilities, facility, procurement, human resources, student administration, etc.

4.4. Leadership

PU facilitates cross-sectoral dialogue and develop leadership capacities to advocate for the importance of SDGs and strengthen public participation. PU provides a framework to drive cross-disciplinary partnerships, collaborations, and innovations to promote SDG.

5. DEFINITIONS

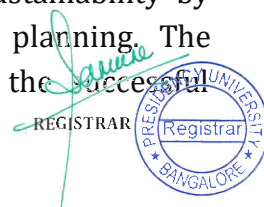In this Policy, unless the context otherwise requires:

i. "Act" means the Karnataka Act No. 41 of 2013 and the Presidency University Act 2013.
ii. "Board of Governors" means the Board of Governors of the University constituted under Chapter IV, Clause 23 of the Act and Chapter 2, Clause 2.1.3 of the First Statutes of the University.
iii. "Board of Management" means the Board of Management of the University constituted under Chapter IV, Clause 24 of the Act and Chapter 2, Clause 2.2.4 of the First Statutes of the University
iv. "Chancellor" means the Chancellor of the University.
v. "IQAC" means the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of the University
vi. "Registrar" means the Registrar of the University
vii. "Sponsoring Body" means the A.H. Memorial Education Trust, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
viii. "University" means the Presidency University, Itgalpur, Rajanakunte, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, Karnataka (hereinafter referred to as the University)
ix. "Vice Chancellor" means the Vice Chancellor of the University.

Words and expressions used herein and not defined but defined in the Act shall have the same meaning as assigned to them in the Act.

6. GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP:

6.1. Leadership Commitment:

The University's Leadership demonstrate a strong commitment to sustainability by incorporating it into the institution's vision, mission, and strategic planning. The University also provide adequate resources and support to ensure the successful implementation of sustainability initiatives.

6.2. Sustainability Committee:

The University shall establish a dedicated Sustainability Committee comprising of representatives from various departments and stakeholders. Ideally, the Committee should comprise of the following:

i.	Vice Chancellor	Chairman
ii.	Pro-Vice Chancellor(s)	Members
iii.	Director (Administration)	Member
iv.	Head (IT)	Member
v.	Director (Career Services)	Member
vi.	Dean (Academics)	Member
vii.	Dean (Research & Innovation)	Member
viii.	Director (IQAC)	Member
ix.	One Nominee of the Sponsoring Body	Permanent Invitee
x.	Registrar	Member Secretary

The committee shall be responsible for formulating, implementing, and monitoring sustainability initiatives across the university.

7. OBJECTIVES:

The primary objective of this policy is to create a roadmap for the University to align its activities with the 17 SDGs, which the Higher Education Institutes need to follow and imbibe. By integrating sustainability principles, knowledge, and practices, the University aims to promote sustainable development among students, staff, and the wider community.

The University's Strategy to attain the following SDG Goals shall be to:

7.1. SDG 1: Eradication of Poverty
- Provide equal employment opportunity for all economic and social classes.
- Introduce scholarship programs to support lower-income and financially weaker sections of the society.
- Collaborate with local communities to tackle poverty locally.

7.2. SDG 2: Eradicate Hunger and Malnutrition, achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition
- Organize nutrition awareness programs and make available sustainable nutrition and affordable food choices on campus.
- Reduce food wastage on campus.
- Collaborate on initiatives within the community to address hunger locally.

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7.3. SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages
- Create policies and provide infrastructure for physical and psychological well-being.
- Organize periodic health and well-being programs to create awareness on physical and psychological health.
- Organize programs for sanitation, hygiene, and substance abuse.
- Provide insurance policies, both for staff and students.

7.4. SDG 4: Achieve Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities
- Develop policies that emphasize on developing high-level cognitive and non-cognitive skills.
- Ensure that the programs' outcomes should center around problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity, teamwork, communication skills, conflict resolution, etc.
- Design courses and ensure mandatory credit work around sustainable development.
- Promote student volunteering activities through clubs and societies that address SDG.

7.5. SDG 5: Gender Equality and Empower women/girls
- Support gender equality by providing equal opportunities in employment.
- Provide for supportive HR policies: Maternity and flexible working hour policies for young mothers.
- Provide for creche on the campus.
- Implement stringent HR policies for gender discrimination and sexual abuse.
- Implement strategies for workplace gender equity including those for improving representation of women in University Leadership positions and other senior academic roles.

7.6. SDG 6: Improving Water Use Efficiency and Sanitation for all
- Encourage research for developing innovative strategies to improve water conservation and sanitation.
- Usage of water-saving irrigation techniques for the maintenance of green areas on the campus and develop a mechanism for achieving zero waste water on the campus.
- Develop plans for on-campus diversity and ecosystem management.
- Provide for water harvesting, storage, and reuse systems.

7.7. SDG 7: Ensuring Energy Security and Efficiency
- Provide for on-campus renewable energy production.
- Develop policy and plans for net zero emissions.
- Establish a biogas plant on campus powered by campus biowaste.

7.8. SDG 8: Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth and Full and Productive Employment
- Provide for courses to explain the concept of the circular economy.
- Provide scholarship schemes and financial assistance for students in need.
- Promote entrepreneurship and innovation.
- Enhance opportunities for lifelong learning.
- Develop strong links with business and industry to maximize employment.

7.9. SDG 9: Providing Reliable and Resilient Infrastructure to Promote Economic Growth and Development and Foster Innovation
- Provide opportunities for living lab projects on sustainability.
- Adopt energy-efficient, water-efficient, and material-efficient construction practices.
- Organize hackathons and entrepreneurship initiatives to develop solutions leading towards sustainability.

7.10. SDG 10: Reducing Inequality and Promoting Social and Economic Opportunities for all
- Create scholarships for students from deprived backgrounds.
- Create awareness programs for social justice.
- Develop policies to eliminate all forms of discrimination.
- Institute an agenda that commits equal opportunity in all processes and activities.

7.11. SDG 11: Promotion of Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable Urbanization
- Provide for green belt development and enhance the ecosystem within the campus and the community at large.
- Create a safe environment on campus for all and develop a Safety Policy.
- As an outreach activity, work with the local community and authorities to improve the sustainability of the local area.
- Implement best practices for pollution control.

7.12. SDG 12: Promoting Resource Efficiency, Green Economy and Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns
- Develop a procurement policy for checking the supply chain for sustainable practices and ensuring that the resources are being used in the most efficient manner.
- Develop a robust policy for waste handling.
- Develop a policy and create initiatives to discourage waste and develop a re-cycle policy.
- Move towards digital coursework and submission of assignments, projects, and dissertations to reduce the usage of paper.

7.13. SDG 13: Combat Climate Change and its Impacts
- Audit of campus and green rating for their built-up infrastructure.
- Embed the "Urgency of Climate Change" action plan into the curriculum.
- Promote carbon literacy programs.
- Participate in Global Climate initiatives.
- Active participation of students and faculty members in Global Climate Change program activities.

7.14. SDG 14: Conserve and Sustainably use Oceans, Seas, and Marine Resources
- Develop awareness programs around marine litter, toxic chemicals, etc.
- Develop research activities for plastic alternatives.
- As a part of outreach activities, encourage students and faculty to participate in the cleaning drive of nearby water bodies.

7.15. SDG 15: Protecting, Restoring, and Promoting Sustainable Use of Terrestrial Ecosystem.
- Policy to improve bio-diversity on campus.
- Create projects that help students to understand the importance of protecting, restoring the conservation and sustainable use of land and water.
- Encourage student clubs to organize activities that promote awareness and learning on bio-diversity.
- Develop a robust landscaping plan within the campus.

7.16. SDG 16: Promoting Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development
- Develop a policy for audit of sustainability measures and ESG compliance.
- Organize free legal aid camps for disadvantaged communities.
- Develop policies for involving key stakeholders in University's governance decisions.
- Develop policies for anti-bribery and anti-corruption.
- Develop stringent policies to discourage violence and other interdisciplinary activities on campus.
- Provide a safe campus for employees, students, and visitors.

7.17. SDG 17: Revitalize Global Partnerships for Sustainable Developments
- Build strategies and promote culture to support develop, maintain, and enhance partnerships to promote sustainability internally and externally.

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8. MONITORING AND REPORTING:

8.1. Time Frame:

The University is committed to attaining the SDGs to the extent applicable by 2030 in a phased manner.

8.2. Annual Sustainability Report:

The University shall publish an annual sustainability report to communicate its achievements, challenges, and future goals regarding sustainable development. This report shall provide transparency and accountability to stakeholders while inspiring further action and improvement.

9. AMENDMENTS

This Policy shall be reviewed periodically to rectify anomalies, (if any), and to incorporate feedback received from the stakeholders through impact analysis, and deliberations of the Focus Group, constituted by the Vice-Chancellor.

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