Relationships with regional NGOs and government for SDG policy

Organization of the First Technology Conference on Digital AJK & SDGs

In alignment with its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Women University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (WUAJ&K), Bagh, has actively collaborated with regional government bodies and NGOs to contribute to SDG policy development through evidence-based engagement. A key initiative by the WUAJ&K was the organization of the First Technology Conference on Digital AJK & SDGs, held on November 12, 2024, under the theme "AI and Digital Technologies for Sustainable Development in AJK: Local Challenges, Global Solutions." Led by the Department of CS&IT, the conference brought together national and regional stakeholders—including researchers, policymakers, academics, activists, and community leaders—to identify local challenges, propose digital strategies for sustainable development, and model future scenarios with and without technological interventions. This landmark event served as a collaborative platform for input into regional digital policy and infrastructure planning, with sessions focused on aligning AI tools with SDG targets. Notably, Dr. Khalid Rafique shared strategic insights on AJK's digitalization roadmap, while Prof. Dr. Wajid Aziz emphasized the dual impact of AI at global and local levels. The panel discussion, moderated by Dr. Anees Qumar Abbasi, critically engaged participants in shaping future-ready, inclusive policy approaches, reflecting the university's direct contribution to regional SDG strategies and adaptive management planning. Conference outcomes, including policy briefs and recommendations, were disseminated publicly, demonstrating transparency and ongoing commitment to SDG advancement.

The conference is also strongly aligned with SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, as it fostered multi-stakeholder collaboration across government, academia, civil society, and the technology sector. It created a shared platform for knowledge exchange, capacity building, and cross-sector dialogue—core elements of effective partnerships. By connecting local challenges with global technological solutions, the event strengthened networks that are essential for integrated and sustainable regional development. Some of the pictures are attached as evidence (**Annex I**), and the same is also available on the University website.

Participation of University Representative in National Security Workshop, Balochistan

As an official representative of the university, Dr. Anees Qumar Abbasi's participation in the National Security Workshop Balochistan (November 17 – Dec 12, 2024) reflects the institution's active commitment to SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, particularly in fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration and policy engagement. The Government of Balochistan organized this specific event in partnership with the Commander of the 12 Corps. The WUAJ&K, Bagh, showed keen interest by sending its representative to participate, considering the event's relevance to SDG 17. The workshop brought together a diverse group of stakeholders—ranging from federal ministers and chief ministers to the Chief of Army Staff and senior military officials.

Through Dr. Abbasi's involvement in these strategic dialogues, the university contributed academic insight to national-level discussions on governance, security, and sustainable development—highlighting its role as a thought leader and collaborative partner in addressing complex societal challenges.

This engagement exemplifies the university's broader strategy to build institutional partnerships with government and security institutions, enabling dialogue, trust-building, and joint problem-solving. It reinforces the university's role in policy influence, knowledge exchange, and capacity building, which are essential dimensions of SDG 17. By sending academic representation to national security platforms, the university not only strengthens inter-institutional networks but also ensures that higher education contributes meaningfully to the design and implementation of sustainable and inclusive national policies. Upon his return, Dr. Abbasi played a pivotal role in disseminating the insights gained from the workshop within the university. He conducted an internal seminar, where he shared critical takeaways regarding national security, governance frameworks, and inter-institutional cooperation. This step reinforced the university's internal knowledge ecosystem and extended the workshop's impact by building awareness and capacity among faculty, staff, and students. Such efforts exemplify the university's commitment to SDG 17 by ensuring that external partnerships translate into internal learning, innovation, and collaboration. (**Annex II**)

Baluchistan Civil Services Officers at WUAJ&K Bagh

On April 30, 2024, a high-level delegation of Balochistan Civil Service Officers visited the WUAJ&K as part of a strategic engagement initiative. This visit represents a concrete example of SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals in action, by fostering meaningful institutional collaboration between two provincial entities—the civil administration of Balochistan and a higher education institution in Azad Jammu & Kashmir. The event facilitated cross-provincial dialogue on governance, development, and capacity-building, providing a platform for sharing best practices, policy perspectives, and regional development strategies.

During the visit, university leadership and faculty interacted with civil service officers through presentations and discussions focused on education, public service, gender inclusion, and regional cooperation, creating space for multi-level, multi-stakeholder partnerships. The presence of provincial flags and formal seating indicates the official nature of this engagement, reinforcing the university's role as a contributor to national dialogue and intergovernmental collaboration.

This initiative demonstrates the university's commitment to building cooperative frameworks and knowledge exchange mechanisms that align with the core aims of SDG 17—namely, strengthening South-South cooperation, capacity-building, and policy coherence for sustainable development. (**Annex III**)

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17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Annex I

Women University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Bagh
2012

Annex II

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Annex III

Women University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Bagh
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